



The *Light* is here

A Christmas series at Crossroads Church of God



CONTENTS:

Page 4

Introduction to “The Light is Here”

Page 6

Spiritual Practice: Praying in the Scripture

Page 11

November 30, 2025:

Week 1: Light of Hope

Pastor Brian Robertson

Page 19

December 7, 2025:

Week 2: Light of Peace

Pastor Brian Robertson

Page 27

December 14, 2025:

Week 3: Light of Joy

Pastor Brian Robertson

Page 35

December 21, 2025:

Week 4: Light of Love

Pastor Brian Robertson



Join us for our special

Christmas Eve Services

Christmas is a wonderful time for families, friends, and neighbors to come together to celebrate Jesus' birth.

You're invited to join our family at Crossroads as we explore the meaning of Jesus' birth.

Our Christmas services will include special candlelighting, music, and a Christmas devotional for all.

Service Times

3, 5, & 11pm

Childcare available for ages 5 and younger @ 3 & 5pm.



INTRODUCTION:

Advent is a season of anticipation. As Christians, the season is more than the decorations, meals, gifts and traditions. It is a season to specifically retell the story of the birth of Christ. The Christ child was no ordinary child. Jesus is the eternal Second Person of the Trinity - fully Divine yet fully human. It is a mystery we will never fully understand.

His birth is the fulfillment of prophesy and God's plan to rescue lost humanity and restore us to our original intent. We celebrate His birth because at it a Light has come that the "darkness has not overcome" (John 1:5).

Light is a good metaphor for the work of Jesus. Without the love of God, we are lost in complete darkness. A number of years ago, Jeanna and I did some cave exploring. It was exciting and thrilling to be hundreds of feet below the surface with only our headlamps as light.

At one point, our guide had us all turn off our lamps - total darkness! We could not see our hands inches away from our face! Then one light made a tremendous difference - it changed our experience of the surroundings. I am not sure if you have ever been in utter darkness like that before, but you can imagine the bleakness of darkness.

That is us apart from life with God - stumbling around without a sense of direction. Which is why the coming of Jesus marks a change in everything. Suddenly there is a Light that guides, directs, rescues, and restores. Jesus, the Light, has come that we may have life and have it to the full.

INTRODUCTION CONTINUED:

We, of course, must receive and stay close to the Light. For if we choose to navigate life without Him, it is like being hundreds of feet below the surface with no sense of direction - not a good option.

During the Advent season, with all the decorations, dinners, gatherings, songs and gifts, we celebrate the gift of God's love for us to descend into humanity in order to bring Light into our darkness!

Pastor Brian Robertson



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE

We invite you to weekly pray the Scripture. Praying Scripture is using the words of the Bible to inform/shape our prayers. When we slow down to meditate on the words of Scripture it keeps us grounded in the heart of God and keeps our eyes on that which is true and praiseworthy. We can sometimes get 'stuck' in our prayers and they become more like mindless repetition rather than communing with the Almighty God.

When we use the words of Scripture, it not only shapes our words but focuses us on God's heart for others. In this way, prayer can serve as transformative both for the situation before us as well as within us.

Here's how we can Pray the Scripture:

Request: Quietly ask God to guide your thoughts and impressions by the Holy Spirit as you come into your time of prayer.

Read: Read the passage all the way through. Pay particular attention on thoughts/phrases that stand out to you. Get the overall picture of the passage and what is being said.

Reflect: Before moving too quickly, reflect on the impressions and what you are gleaned from your reading. What moves you about the heart of God? What do you notice about humanity's response to God?

Use the words to pray: Use the words of Scripture to inspire your prayer/request. Do not rush past this. Look for ways the passage encourages you to worship God for who He is; confess your sins; pray for the needs of yourself and/or others.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE CONTINUED:

For this Advent Season, we are using John 1:1-14. Carve out some time (5-10 minutes) each week to spend praying. You will find the passage and a place to write/journal your thoughts.

* * * * *

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1-14 NIV

Spend a period of time in reflection, follow the four steps outlined (Request, Read, Reflect, and Use the words to pray) on page 6. Write your prayer here:

YEAR-END OFFERING

Each year, we prayerfully consider what ministry initiatives we would like to make a significant investment through a 'year-end offering'. This is an above-and-beyond offering that will go towards a special project.

Our goal is **\$80,000**. It will take all of us prayerfully and sacrificially giving in order to meet/exceed our goal. Our year-end offering will be split in Tithe and 3 Emphases:

Tithe: 10% (\$8,000):

Food bank support (West Ohio Food Bank) to support families/individuals in times of need.

Emphasis #1:

Kitchen Upgrade (\$34,000), Commercial oven/stove, cabinets, flooring, repairs and paint. To be completed: February 2026

Emphasis #2:

Cafe Update (\$8,000), 1.5 gal coffee carafes, instant hot water, electrical and water needs. To be completed: March 2026

Emphasis #3:

Continued building needs (\$30,000), "Punchlist of items" close to \$200,000. Payment plans and other financial resolutions. To be completed 2026.

While you can give to the 'year-end offering' at any time, we are targeting Sunday, December 21st, 2025, as the specific Sunday. We are asking each of us to prayerfully consider participating in this year-end offering.

Thank you for being such a supportive and generous community. If you have any specific questions regarding the year-end offering, please do not hesitate to reach out.



Thank you for all who have donated and were able to give 170 children a blessing.

**Gifts are to be returned by
Sunday, November 30th**



COMFORT IN GRIEF

***Wednesday, December 3rd @ 6:30pm
in the Chapel with Childcare available***

A reflective, communal worship event that recognizes the pain and grief experienced by some during the Christmas season. This service will offer a safe and caring space for people to mourn a loss and find comfort and hope through scripture, prayer, music, and candle lighting.



**LEARNING
TREE**
**LEARN • GROW
• BECOME**

***Learning Tree Christmas Program
Tuesday, December 9th @ 6:30pm***

Come enjoy listening to the children sing, celebrate the joy of Christmas, and share a wonderful evening with our Learning Tree families.

WEEK 1: LIGHT OF HOPE

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

NOV. 30, 2025

WORSHIP RESOURCES**Advent Candle Reading:****First Reader:**

The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation.

When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more"

- *Isaiah 2:4 NIV.*

Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

Second Reader:

We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today and in the days to come.

The first candle of the Advent wreath is lit.

Community Prayer:

New Life Christian Ministries - Damian & Brooke Tibbs
Soldiers of Honor - Aaron & Veronica McLaurine



This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

How do you see hope?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYING IN THE SCRIPTURES

Spend time quietly reflecting on John 1:1-14:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1-14 NIV

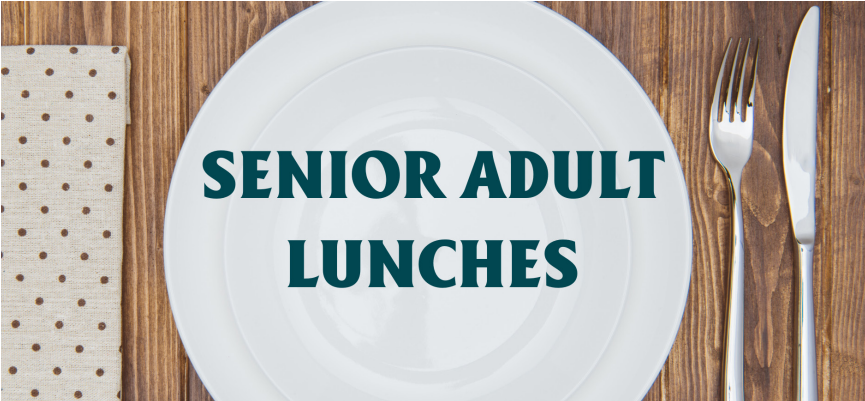
SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Week 1: Light of Hope

1. Hope is a joyous anticipation of good that is not yet here or 'unseen'. How does this definition help when thinking about the hope we have in Christ?
2. Describe a time when it felt like your hope was weak.
3. Why do you think we often turn to ourselves when problems arise rather than to God in prayer?
4. How does the birth of Jesus invite us to hope?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



SENIOR ADULT LUNCHES

Wednesday, December 10th @ 11:30am
Fat Jack's Pizza on NW St. in Lima

Connect with other senior adults for lunch,
 conversation, and fellowship.

For any questions or if you need a ride, please contact either
 Sharon Hooker, 419 - 303 - 2221 or Terri Ward, 419 - 234 - 4067



CHOIR REHEARSALS

Sunday, December 14th

Children: @ 12pm with lunch provided and singing on
 Sunday, December 21st

Adult: @ 6:30pm and singing on Wednesday, December 24th

ALL CHURCH CAROLING

Wednesday, December 17th @ 6:30pm

Join with others as we bless our neighbors by
singing and coming to Crossroads
for snacks, fellowship, and hot chocolate.



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Crossroads Students' Christmas Party
Sunday, December 21st from 6-8pm

Students are invited to a special party
full of activities, laughter, friends, and dinner!

WEEK 2: LIGHT OF PEACE

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

DEC. 7, 2025

WORSHIP RESOURCES**Advent Candle Reading:****First Reader:**

Advent reminds us that we are people who share a story, the story of Jesus, who enacts peace by judging in favor of the poor and deciding with equity for the meek of the earth.

We long for the day when “the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them”

- *Isaiah 11:6 NIV.*

Today, we choose to live the story of peace, believing that true peace comes when we seek the flourishing of all God’s creation.

Second Reader:

We light this candle of peace as a sign of our commitment to bring Light to the places the world seeks to hide until that day when all creation lives together in harmony and abundance.

The second candle of the Advent wreath is lit.

Community Prayer:

Elm Street Church of the Nazarene - Jonathan Burkey
CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) - Zach Reneau



SERMON NOTES

SERMON NOTES:

SERMON NOTES

SERMON NOTES:

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

What are some ways God has shown you peace?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYING IN THE SCRIPTURES

Spend time quietly reflecting on John 1:1-14:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1-14 NIV

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYING IN THE SCRIPTURES

Spend a period of time in reflection, follow the four steps outlined (Request, Read, Reflect, and Use the words to pray) on page 6. Write your prayer here:

Week 2: Light of Peace

1. What stops people from living with a supernatural peace?
2. “Peace is not the absence of conflict; peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish...”
How does this definition expand what we typically think of peace?
3. Read Isaiah 9:6-7. How do the names given to Jesus portray action towards peace?
4. If the Kingdom is to establish peace, what is our role as citizens of Heaven?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

FORMATION RETREAT

Friday, Feb. 20th @ 6:30pm

Saturday, Feb. 21st @ 9am

“An Attentive Life”

Special Guest: Rob Loane

President of VantagePoint3

(author of The Journey course)

“We do not learn by experience ... we learn by reflecting on our experiences” (Trevor Hudson).

Taking moments to be attentive to the movement of God in our life lays the groundwork for an experience of a with-God life that brings goodness to our days.

Cost: \$20/person

Where: Crossroads Church of God

Scan the QR Code to register:





Families of Learning Tree & Crossroads Kids are invited to come together for a Family Movie Night

***Saturday, January 24th at 6pm
in the Gym***



**Looking for a fun way to connect
with others at Crossroads?**

Dinner Rounds are monthly informal gatherings around a dinner table to casually connect and deepen relationships. Many have found these gatherings to be life-giving and a place to be known. Families are encouraged to bring kids when possible – it is a great way to put into practice hospitality for one another and build cross-generational relationships. We will be starting a new round of Dinner Rounds in early 2026. Look for more information soon!

WEEK 3: LIGHT OF JOY
PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

DEC. 14, 2025

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Advent Candle Reading:

First Reader:

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

Second Reader:

We choose to believe that the day Isaiah prophesied about is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away"

- Isaiah 35:10 NIV.

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

The third candle (pink) of the Advent wreath is lit.

Community Prayer:

Lima Community Church - Chip Bullock
Big Brothers Big Sisters - John Neville



[illegible][illegible]

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

How has God restored your joy?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYING IN THE SCRIPTURES

Spend time quietly reflecting on John 1:1-14:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1-14 NIV

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Week 3: Light of Joy

1. What are things that threaten to steal your joy?
2. "Joy is the pervasive sense of well-being". How does this differ from happiness?
3. Why is joy part of the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-26)?
4. Read Psalm 51:10-12. Describe the connection between the joy of salvation and a willing spirit.

[illegible]

DESSERT AUCTION & CHILI COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 1st @ 5pm in the Gym

Each year this event is to raise money to help with a special ministry of the church. This year the funds are being designated towards a project the Honduras team will aid in when they travel to Honduras in August 2026. Set aside the evening to come and have fun with our Crossroads family as we auction off desserts, share a meal together and witness the chili cook-off.

More information to come as we get closer to the event.



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18th @ 6:30pm

**Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten season
of preparation as we consider
our brokenness and need for a Savior.**

We invite you and others to join us!



Share your story

We would love to hear how God has been moving in your life. If you have witnessed God's goodness, seen His hand at work, or experienced His presence in a meaningful way, we invite you to share it with us.

Send an email to catie@limacrossroads.org of your story and we cannot wait to celebrate God's faithfulness alongside you and share in the joy of what He is doing.



DEEP WOODS

Are you looking for a space of peace and Quiet?

The Deep Woods where we have our cabins are the perfect retreat. The cabins are for personal reflection, solitude, and meaningful time with God. **To reserve a cabin, please call our church office at 419-229-4074.**

WEEK 4: LIGHT OF LOVE

PASTOR BRIAN ROBERTSON

DEC. 21, 2025

WORSHIP RESOURCES**Advent Candle Reading:****First Reader:**

Today, we come face to face with the scandal of Advent: Mary, the unmarried mother; God Incarnate growing in Mary's womb as a vulnerable baby; Joseph contemplating leaving Mary because of her pregnancy; God's love at work in ways that society and propriety could not understand; God calling Mary and Joseph to faithfulness despite the fear of disgrace.

Second Reader:

With Mary and Joseph, we choose to wait, watch, and listen for the way of Love instead of responding in fear to the world's judgment.

Third Reader:

We light this candle of love as a sign of our faithfulness as we seek, find, and follow Emmanuel, God with us.

The fourth candle of the Advent wreath is lit.

Community Prayer:

Lima Baptist Temple - Ben Anderson
Cornerstone of Hope - Kari Taylor



[illegible]

SERMON NOTES CONTINUED:

How can you show love to others around you?

How can you show love to others around you?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYING IN THE SCRIPTURES

Spend time quietly reflecting on John 1:1-14:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:1-14 NIV

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYING IN THE SCRIPTURES

Spend a period of time in reflection, follow the four steps outlined (Request, Read, Reflect, and Use the words to pray) on page 6. Write your prayer here:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Week 4: Light of Love

1. “Love is not desire. It is to will the good for others.”
How does this definition differ from what our culture often thinks of love?
2. Read 1 John 4:7-12. How does the Christmas story exemplify God’s love for humanity?
3. What is necessary to receive the love of God?
4. Why do we resist receiving the love of God for us (and others)?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



BASKETBALL CLINIC

Do you want to have some fun mornings by helping with the Basketball Clinic?

You can be apart of an outreaching community for the children to learn life-long skills, character development, and making friends!

Scan the QR Code to sign up to help or email Jake, at jake@limacrossroads.org with any questions you may have about the clinic.



PASTOR BRIAN'S BOOK CLUB

Looking to dive into rich conversations about life, faith and growing in your apprenticeship to Jesus? Join Pastor Brian in the upcoming book club! While books do not guarantee spiritual growth, God often uses our engagement with thoughtful writing to spur us towards maturity. We hope you will plan to join us.

Coming Soon in Spring 2026



“Inviting people to **apprenticeship** to Jesus”

Sundays: 9 & 10:45 am

Online: 10:45am

Follow Us:



Address: 775 S Thayer Rd. Lima OH 45806

Phone: 419-229-4074 | **Website:** LimaCrossroads.org