



# The Holy Post

December 2021

The lights are shimmering and blinking and the air is crisp and fresh. It's cold enough to snow, but not to be uncomfortable, It's perfect weather for Christmas. The church is decorated beautifully and everyone has a really good cheery attitude.

It was very normal to have lots of snow on Christmas in Indiana. The lake effect from Lake Michigan always insures that. We lived on a two lane country highway that didn't really get that much traffic. We had an acre and a half of ground and in the back it ran off to a game preserve. A long wide driveway meant that you had to have a lawn tractor and snow blower. We loved it there and the house really decorated nicely at Christmas.

For Christmas, the Fire Department always brought Santa to town on the back of the Aerial Ladder Truck. From the Court house, where I proposed to Dorri, through town to the Mall, Santa brought cheer to all the little ones. At the Mall, Santa would get absolutely swamped with children trying to maneuver to the front of the line. I always enjoyed watching the melee.

What I enjoyed more, was the children at our church during the Christmas Eve Service. What a contrast to Santa. With the lights down low the alter gleamed with the Christmas candles and other adornments. The smaller children were falling asleep in the pews and the preschoolers and early elementary children were in awe. As the Christmas Carols became slower, softer and reverent, everyone settled in to the REAL message of Christmas. The Pastor told the ever present story of the birth of the Christ child and the struggle He had just to enter this world. The prayers seemed more meaningful and the giving plate was full!

Here was the true message of Christmas being shared with the next generation. They recognized that this was different from the Santa experience. They were much more disciplined for it and saw that their parents received it differently too. *Let us always make this a special time of the year and never forget why it is so special.* Let us always over power the experience of Santa with the message of the Christ child's birth. We can and have lived with both... but it is up to us to help our children understand which is REAL... and which is entertainment.

Phil



© Ron Leishman \* www.ClipartOf.com/437636



## *Anniversaries*

**Mary Blaylock 3rd**  
**Joel Dahlby 14th**  
**Sherisse Smith 15th**  
**Helen Dahlby 19th**

**Joe & Qailia Nasise 2nd**  
**Deb & Dave Goodwin 20th**  
**Eric & Elizabeth Brosha 23rd**  
**Lee & Kathy Anderson 27th**  
**John & Mary Blaylock 28th**



## *Fun at the Trick or Treat on Main Street*

Many of our church members made a memorable Halloween for our community. Moses, Giraffes and other characters helped to hand out treats to our hungry little ghosts and goblins.



*Under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved*

“For Unto Us...” is the title I’ve given to the series of sermons that will take us through the Advent and Christmas season. Advent is when we focus on the prophecies that foretold Jesus’ birth and how those prophecies were fulfilled on the four Sundays leading up to Christmas day, and on the Sundays that fall during the 12 days of Christmas we focus on what happened next in Bethlehem.



11/28/2021	Isaiah 9:1-7	A child will be born (Prophecy)	1st Sunday of Advent
12/05/2021	Micah 5:1-5a	In Bethlehem (Prophecy)	2nd Sunday of Advent
12/12/2021	Luke 1:26-38	A child will be born (Fulfillment)	3rd Sunday of Advent
12/19/2021	Luke 2:1-6	In Bethlehem (Fulfillment)	4th Sunday of Advent
12/24/2021	Luke 2:7-20	The child is born in Bethlehem	Christmas Eve
12/26/2021	Matt 2:1-12	Magi come to Bethlehem	New Year's Eve (31)
01/02/2022	Matt 2:13-23	The child flees Bethlehem	

You can enjoy the ones that you might miss on our church’s YouTube Channel: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCyL1N\\_30gkMjvgDozAyFn5A](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyL1N_30gkMjvgDozAyFn5A)

Advent and Christmas are seasons of tradition, things that we typically do every year. So, I have been asked by a lot of people if we are going to do some of the things this year, that we’ve done in the past. Questions like, “Are we going to help families in need?” Yes, we took boxes for 23 families to Pojoque Elementary school today! Thank you for your generosity. “Are we going to decorate the church?” – Yes, our building dresses up well. “Are we going to go caroling at the prisons?” No, that is not being allowed this year, at least not to our knowledge. “Are we going to have a children’s pageant?” Not a pageant, but our children are going to get together to decorate cookies on Friday, Dec. 10th and will sing on Sunday, Dec. 19th. “Are we going to go caroling around town?” That’s still undecided, most of the people who usually participate are not going to be around when we usually go. “Are we going to have a Christmas Eve service?” Absolutely. I hope that you can join us.

In addition to our church’s traditions, you probably have a lot of your own traditions at home. We started a lot of our family traditions when our children were young. We did so intentionally because we wanted to keep “Christ” in our celebration of Christmas. We wanted it to be focused on Him. So, we sang Christmas songs and Christmas Carols at home and in the car when we drove around. We didn’t do it to perform for others, or to “go caroling,” it was just a way that we put the focus on Christ. We also listened to a lot of Christian Christmas music. And we watched Christmas specials, those hallmark romance ones, and those old cartoons that were popular back when we were kids. And we talked about them. We made an event out of going out to cut down a Christmas tree and decorate it, and as for our house, we decorated it too, inside and out. We don’t always send out a Christmas letter or Christmas Cards, but we often do. We give Christmas gifts, and we receive them. We adopt a family and go shopping together for them, asking ourselves, if we were opening this box, what would we want to find? We hang up stockings and they get filled up. And we go to a Christmas Eve service, rather than just going to a party, it has been something which Marci and I have done long before we had children. But, we added throwing a birthday party for Jesus on Christmas Morn. We turn the pancakes we make for breakfast into a birthday cake for Jesus as we take turns reading Scriptures and lighting candles and singing happy birthday to Jesus. I wouldn’t call it an annual tradition; but some years Marci and I will discover that a local choir is performing Handel’s Messiah. And we try to make it to that performance. There is something special about hearing an orchestra and choir proclaim, “For Unto us, a child is born, unto us a child is given.”

Most of us recognize those prophetic words. They come from verse six of Isaiah chapter 7, and it goes on to proclaim, “And the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” Even if you’ve never heard of Handel’s Messiah, you’ve probably heard of Isaiah’s prophetic words, “For Unto Us a Child is born...” because those words show up in many of the Christmas songs we sing; and they are often emblazoned on the Christmas cards we send; and they are highlighted in the Christmas devotions we use. The popularity of Isaiah’s prophecy soars at Christmas time because He really did foretell Jesus’ birth about 700 years before it happened. I hope that you celebrate that God’s child was sent to save us.



## The sound of harps! - Dec 5th

To God be the glory! During Sunday's worship, Dec. 5, Celeste El-Darazi and Adrianna Tuzel will be playing their harps with their teacher Elizabeth Brosha.



## Decorating (and nibbling!) Christmas Cookies!



Save the date! Friday, December 10, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the church's fellowship hall and kitchen. We will create some memories along other families of the church. Of course we have a chance to nibble our creations, AND prepare some gift boxes for our neighbors and friends. Cookies and decorating supplies provided. *Please let Pastor Steve know of your intentions of attending **by Thursday, Dec. 9.** Thanks!*

## Christmas singing special, Sunday, Dec. 19, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

We need volunteers! Two children to be readers at the start of the song. And as many children as we can get to help sing "O Glorious Night" by the Sidewalk Prophets. You can preview this song at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aGLV5CfoTU>

*Please make it a priority to work with your children in advance to learn the song and let Pastor Steve know **by Sunday, Dec. 12** if they will be participating Sunday, Dec. 19. There will be two chances to practice: (1) Sunday morning 10:00 a.m., December 12 with video in a classroom. (2) Sunday morning 10:00 a.m. December 19 with the worship team.*



## Christmas Eve Service for the whole family: Friday, December 24, 6:00 -7:00 p.m.



Our Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service is a special time of worship. It is a great way for the whole family to celebrate Jesus' birth. There are special songs, special devotions, communion, and candles (We have battery operated ones for children). We hope that you and your family will join us on Christmas Eve.

## Who's Who in the Pews?

### Morgan and Makoa Irish :

Morgan was born here in LA and just returned here from Pensacola, Florida in August. She wanted her son raised in a good community with her family.

She likes to do arts & crafts, reading and movie watching.

She likes our church for its non-judgmental love and she hopes to raise her son Makoa Makaanaliani to be a well rounded young man. Makoa is 6 months old.



### The Frame Game Who is this?

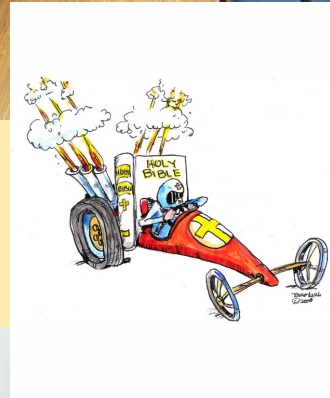
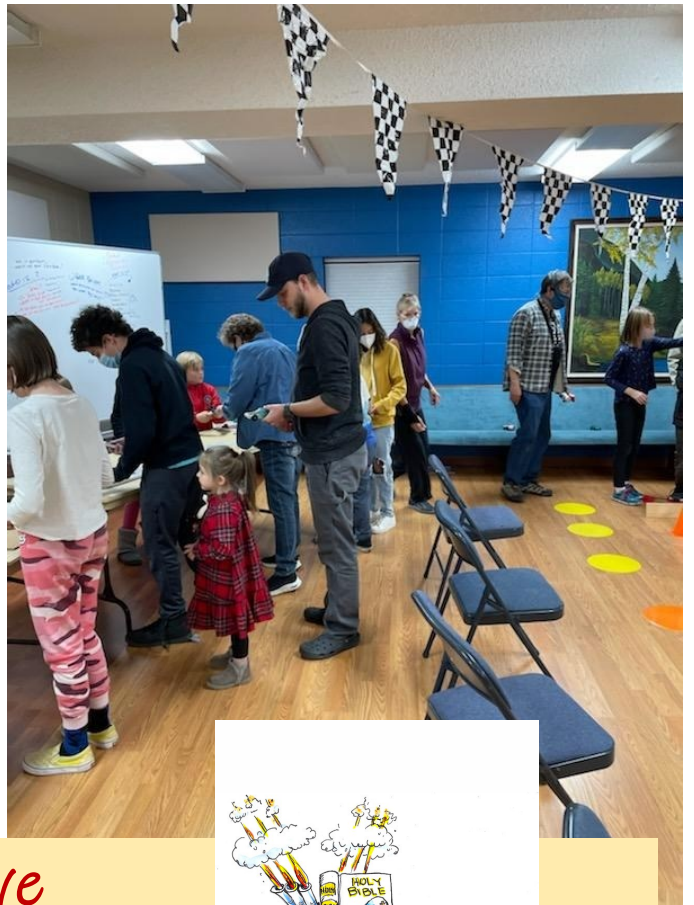


Last month was  
Steve Bublitz



***From the mouth's of Little Ones  
"I only know two of the angels, Hark  
and Harold"***





Wednesday Night Live  
Hot Rod Derby Night







## DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

### *Decorating (and nibbling!) Christmas Cookies!*

Activity for families with infants through children.

**When:** Friday, December 10th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Church Fellowship Hall and Kitchen

**What:** Create memories with your children and other families of the church.



*We will get a chance to nibble our creations, plus prepare some gift bags for our neighbors and friends. Cookies and decorating supplies provided.*

Let Pastor Steve know of your intentions of attending by Thursday, Dec. 9.

Thanks!



See our website at:

[www.lachristian.org](http://www.lachristian.org)

Although Tammy taught elementary school (3rd grade through 6th grade) for the last 25 years, she has gone back to using her original degree and is now the Budget Manager for the Los Alamos Public Schools. Although she misses her kids (students), she is enjoying the challenges of learning a new job and playing around with budgets. Tammy hopes to use her developing understanding of budgets when working with the elders and board to prepare the church budget.

## YOUR 2022 STEWARDSHIP MAC TAMMY HINCKLEY WELCOMES YOU

Christian stewardship is primarily a theological concept, it asks who our worldly treasures belong to. The answer of course is, "It all belongs to God." It requires people's spiritual commitment. It connects faith and money in our daily living. It challenges potential donors to ponder questions such as, "How much money am I able to give faithfully as a spiritual response to God and to God's great works?" It also requires administrators to use that treasure as God would want it to be used. It becomes a hand to hand commitment of those who give...those who receive...those who pay the bills and those who target the best places for monies to be used to further God's work and message!



\*\*\*\*\*



*The 2021 Thankful Graffiti Board*



With all that the world has been dealing with... and with that we have had to change in our lives, we recognize that it has been a difficult year. Yet, many in our family have stepped up and carried us through. We would like to thank all of you who have served our congregation with your love and treasure to continue in God's work. God bless every one of you! *Merry Christmas*







**CHRISTMAS PAST**







*RECENT EVENTS*

at the  
The Christian Church



Taking care of Business



Christmas Give away Gifts



Hula  
Sunday





## Mayhem with the Mertzzes

Bert asked John Hughes what he had gotten Sandra for Christmas this year and he replied:

"I got her a new bag and a new belt."

"Well that sounds really nice, John." said Bert.

"Yah" said John. "Now the vacuum cleaner will work real nice again."

Will John be seen at Urgent Care?  
Will John be sleeping in the garage?  
Does John need a sensitivity class?  
Look for the answers next month,  
In Mayhem with the Mertzzes

