

But off of the negative and on to the positive. I spend most of my life looking for openings to bring Jesus into conversations. Now, the opportunities are abundant. From talking to little children about why so many people place a star on the top of the tree to remembering that when we exchange gifts it is an imitation of the great gift that God shared with the world in sending Jesus... each is an occasion to reflect, remember and connect.

My favorite expression in the story of Christmas is the announcement of the angel that Jesus would be called Emmanuel, God is with us. Jesus is forever the presence of God in our world. God is not distant, disconnected or uninterested... Jesus demonstrates that he is present, powerful, and involved.

God is here. God is with us. God loves us. Such language causes my spirit to soar. After whispering from heaven through the voices of angels, in the process of dreams and the mystery of visions the boldest statement of all time was the arrival of an infant who embodied God. As he grew, developed, and matured in life, the world around him was awakened to the notion that God has come.

Traveling from village to village bringing a message of grace and truth to all who would hear, touching with healing and mercy lives of the desperate and those who were hopeless, Jesus showed God's presence in the world.

Now, living in us, serving through us, he continues his mission. Around us, if you listen, you hear the world celebrating it. Can we but smile?

*Grace and peace,
Carl*

Where belonging to God means belonging to each other

*St John Church of Christ
609 N Pearl
P. O. Box 241
St John, KS 67576*



Flying to the Rock

St John Church of Christ

December 17, 2017

HOME! I'm home this week and on a Sunday. I've never been gone this much from my home church in my life. I've missed you. Not only have I missed seeing you, I've missed telling you the stories of Jesus.

We've come into my favorite time of the year for ministry. It is the season that many in the world shift their focus for a portion of the time to Jesus. From the Nativity displays to the Christmas carols, I love to hear people talk about sharing, families coming together, and the importance of Christ to the world.

Now, in all fairness, lots of folks sing carols without much awareness about the meanings. But the reality is, that many people read Scripture without much awareness of the meaning. This isn't that far removed from those who sing songs of praise on Sunday assemblies without any reflection on the meaning of the words.

SUNDAY: Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am
Worship Service—10:45 am
WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm
Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)
ELDERS: Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich, Terry Sallee,
George Shelton, Tom Turner
DEACONS: Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril
TREASURER: Richard Brensing

WORSHIP ORDER FOR DECEMBER 17, 2017

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon
GATHERING SONG: No. 1012—Go Tell It on the Mountain (vs 1)
WELCOME: Tom Turner
SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:26-38 (Orrin Feril)
SONGS: No. 264—Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him
No. 997—O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1)
No. 1018—Joy to the World
No. 781—Thank You, Lord
PRAYER: Chris Mansel
SONG: No. 359—I Love the Lord
COMMUNION: Tom Turner
Stan Aldrich
Teddy Gingrich
Joe Cornwell
Memory Work: Carl Feril
SONG: No. 1017—Away in a Manger (Lead by Jerry & Jayce)
(vs 1, 2)
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)
SONG: No. 948—I Am Resolved (vs 1)
PRAYER: Terry Sallee

AV System: Chase Mansel

(CCLI #2440129)

WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS

The parenting class on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm at Carl & Janet's home will take a break over the holidays—resuming again on Wed, January 10th.

WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD

The Women Walking with God conference hosted by the North-side congregation in Wichita will be April 13-14, 2018. If you register before January 31st, the rate is reduced at \$63.00.

THANK YOU

All of the cards, calls, texts, flowers, prayers and condolences are so appreciated after the death of my brother, Fred.

—Carl—

LUNCH PLANS

Due to the holidays, there will be NO potluck lunch the next two Sundays. We will resume these on Sunday, January 7, 2018.

UPDATE FROM UBALDO CORDONA

Please take time to read the latest newsletter from Ubaldo that is posted, to learn how the church is doing in Parral, Chihuahua.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Katherine Suiter—cancer
Elmer Schuette (Marla's brother-in-law) shoulder fracture
George Shelton—eyesight issues
Orvalee Aldrich—heart arrhythmia
Dominic Rogers—will be in Prairie View until the end of December; no visitors, please
Crystal Easley (Terry & Linda Welch's daughter) - Stage 4 cancer
Sherri Owens
Clint Bonner—diagnosed with multiple myeloma
David Ivy (Marilyn's brother, in Washington) - Emphysema, on oxygen and has difficulty breathing
Jim Sorensen (Tara's brother-in-law) brain cancer
Larry Carter (Gary's friend in Missouri)
Marilyn Sprawka (Don Rukan's sister) - cancer
Jenny Walker (Carol's sister)
Roger Dick—ongoing cancer treatments
Theo Birkett (Tara's mother)
Jim Soukup (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])
June Cornwell—Kenwood Plaza
Glennys Sallabedra (Tom's mother) - Stafford Leisure Homestead

Church website: www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org