

Continued from front page. . .

come, as it were, the functioning body of Jesus, walking among our peers and living out a life in tribute to him. It modifies our behavior in the most basic of all ways.

Paul describes this in the phrase, 'For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain... For it is no longer I who lives, but it is Christ living through me.'

It is a shallow view of this commission to attempt to only avoid sin. A Christ-like life is not simply avoiding sin, it is the active pursuit of righteousness, goodness, and blessing others. It is walking through the streets of one's community with an eye watchful of a place to bless. It is hearing the cries of the bitter and offering sweetness. It is sensing the plaintiff needs of the ignored and offering attention and value. It is recognizing the image of God in the most fallen of mankind and offering respect, concern, and attention.

We have in our blessings from God, perhaps the most fulfilling of all that could be offered. We live to bless others as Christ has blessed us. We become a conduit of the blessings of God on all of mankind. Our task, as God's child, is to be like him. We are to see the world as God sees it, not as an expanse, but each individual having the spark of God within them.

We bless because we have been blessed.

*Grace and Peace,*

*Carl*

*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*

St John Church of Christ  
609 N Pearl  
St John, KS 67576  
620-549-6146



## The Day Is At Hand

St John Church of Christ

Dec 16, 2018

Grace to you and peace from God our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. His indescribable gifts surround us this day, among them being life itself, a place in the kingdom of God, and expectations we can strive to achieve.

Empowered by the Spirit of God we embrace each day with the awareness that God has an expectation of us continuing the Abrahamic blessing to all nations of the earth. Our Jesus, the seed of Abraham, blesses each nation of this planet with occasions of grace, peace, and mercy. Forgiveness offered to each inhabitant of the earth with the price having been fully paid with the sinless life of Jesus sacrificed for each of us.

Like the lamb of Passover, perfect in every manner, spotless and without blemish, Jesus fulfilled the requirements for a life to atone for the transgressions of man. Willingly offered, for as Jesus said, 'No one takes my life, but I lay it down.' This voluntary sacrifice assured the hope for all of mankind who had been tainted with the stain of sin.

Tasked to bless this world, following in his steps, we offer blessings for curses, hope to the hopeless and help for the helpless. We be-

Continued on back page . . .

**SUNDAY:** Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am  
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am  
Worship Service—10:45 am  
**WEDNESDAY:** Varies by Time of Year (*refer to Bulletin News*)  
**ELDERS:** Richard Brensing, Teddy Gingrich, Terry Sallee,  
George Shelton, Tom Turner  
**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril  
**TREASURER:** Richard Brensing

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### WORSHIP ORDER FOR DECEMBER 16, 2018

SONG LEADER: Jerry Kinnamon  
GATHERING SONG: No. 997—O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs 1)  
WELCOME: Tom Turner  
SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:26-33 (Orrin Feril)  
SONGS: No. 1018—Joy to the World  
No. 1001—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing  
No. 995—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
No. 996—O Little Town of Bethlehem  
PRAYER: Chris Mansel  
SONG: No. 387—Tell Me the Story of Jesus  
COMMUNION: Tom Turner  
Stan Aldrich  
Fred Johnson  
Gary Hornbaker  
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril (Romans 13:11-12)  
SONG: No. 1003—Silent Night! Holy Night!  
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
SONG: No. 948—I Am Resolved (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Richard Brensing

(CCLI #2440129)

Church website: [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)

### WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship; please come again!

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASS

A parenting class is offered for young parents on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm at Carl & Janet's home. Childcare & a children's Bible Class are offered here at the church building. Parents can drop their kids off at church at 7:00 pm and pick them up when class is over. Help is needed each week with the childcare/Bible Class.

### NEWS FROM RICK OWENS

Dec 15th—Greetings from New Mexico:

October marked the completion of 30 years for Sherry and I working for the church in Mexico. We left Alaska in Oct of 1988. Our work continues, with plenty of obstacles, but as opportunity permits progress continues. All the members of "Team Mexico" are getting older. We have lost many, recently among them Lloyd Ratts from St John Kansas who worked with us for 25 years. Lloyd was 103. Many experience health issues including my long time partner Hector Holguin and David Kail who arranges all the photos you see. We are all on the same road and these things are to be expected. Please keep all of us in your prayers, especially Chuy Chairez who is full time on the front line.

Mexico is a very different and very dangerous place right now. No one could have predicted what has happened there. The violence is not publicized like it was a few years back but it continues and is very intense. Mexico is not a safe place.

Life goes on, things change, the obstacles and challenges are different, but we are grateful to be associated with you and to have been blessed with this common interest and effort that has brought us together for so many years.

May God bless all of you at this end of another year. Thank you for what you do and what you have done for the church in Mexico.

More soon and Merry Christmas,

Rick and Sherry Owens

*(Please see letter posted that includes all the locations where they built in 2017 & 2018, as well as some pictures.)*

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Sara Schneider** (Baylee's friend) - had her twin baby girls, who weighed just under 3 lbs each; they will stay in NICU at Wesley until they get bigger; Sara appreciates all your prayers!

**Karla Tillery** (Gayle's friend) - now home & is better

**Maggie Harris** (Lisa's mother) - fractured wrist/pelvis; in rehab

**Jesse & Justeen Mayer**—high risk pregnancy; prayers are requested for their baby

**Dena Mansel**—health concerns

**Barbara Schuette** (Marla's sister) - improving

**Marilyn Huffman** (Dylan's sister) - improving

**Rick Toland** (Marla's cousin in Topeka) - cancer

**Vince, Teddy's brother-in-law**—heart problems

**Gayle Sears** (Marla's friend) breast cancer; chemo

**Kim Staub**—Parkinson's

**Diane Campbell**—MS

**Jim Walton** (Stafford) - throat cancer

**Katherine Suiter**—cancer

**Crystal Easley** (Terry/Linda Welch's daughter) - cancer

**David Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) - Emphysema

**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) - in Leisure Homestead in Stafford

*(If there have been any changes or updates on those listed here, please let Janet know.)*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**Jazzlyn Mayer—Dec 22**