



“THE STARTER”

December 2020

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How to Be Perfect

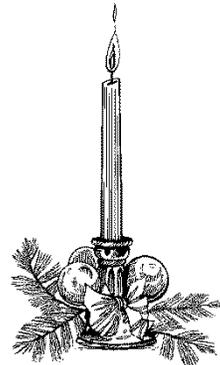
Christmas is the time of year when the pressure to be perfect intensifies. We imagine the perfect celebration and then put forth our best effort to make it happen. We shop for the perfect gifts. We plan the perfect Christmas Day meal. We choose the perfect greeting cards or write the perfect family letter. But our striving leads to discouragement and disappointment when our ability to image perfection exceeds our ability to implement it. The carefully chosen gift receives only a halfhearted thank you. Part of the meal is overcooked. We find a typo in our Christmas greeting after we've mailed the cards. Children fight over toys. Adults resurrect old arguments.

Instead of being discouraged, however, we can use our disappointment to remind ourselves of the reason Christmas is so important. We need Christmas because none of us is or can be all that we want to be – not for a month, a week, or even a day. How much more meaningful our celebrations of Christ's birth would be if we would give up our faulty concept of perfection, then focus instead on the perfection of our Savior, in whom we are made righteous. (Rom. 3:22).

If your Christmas celebration this year is less than ideal, relax and let it be a reminder that the only way to be 'made perfect forever' (Heb. 10:14) is to live by faith in the righteousness of Christ.



*Peace rules the day
when Christ rules the heart.*



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 9:00 & 11:00 p.m.

To accommodate all who wish to celebrate the birth of our Savior and King, two services are necessary to stay

within number limits as restricted by COVID. Please sign up on the Welcome Table for either the 9:00 or 11:00 worship service. Masks will be required, but we will still be singing lots of wonderful Christmas hymns.



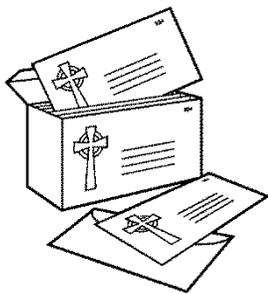
🎵 Kids Christmas Program 🎵

Our children will be providing some very special music during our December 13 worship service. We hope you'll plan to come to see them present their songs to the Lord.



A new year will be upon us very soon. I'm sure many of us will not be sad to see the end of the challenges of 2020. Our Annual Meeting will be January 31, 2021. Those responsible for reports to be included in the annual report are asked to have them submitted by January 19, 2021.





The offering envelopes for 2021 are soon available for pick up on the Welcome Table. If you would like to start using offering envelopes, please see Dawn. She'll take care of you.



From Supply & Multiply

Every child deserves an education. In Haiti, even government run schools have tuition and uniform fees (along with textbook fees, exam fees, and uniform codes- black shoes, hair kept within school standards).

The annual per capita income in Haiti is \$450 (US) with more than 60% of the country being underemployed.

You can help put a child in school, giving them an education and helping come alongside a family to lighten financial concerns.

If you are a current school sponsor THANK YOU! If you are not, we need you. We have 85 students this year in our program.

For \$21 a month you can make a difference in their lives! When you become a sponsor, we will match you with a student!

If the Lord leads you to help partner with a student's needs, please contact them at supplyandmultiply.com



Support PADS

PADS has asked for supplies to replenish their coffers. They are in need of sugar, creamer, Kleenex, kool-aid and lemonade, antibacterial wipes, plaster silverware, paper plates, gas gift cards from HyVee or Becks and gift cards for any fast food. The receiving basket is in our hall.



Office Closed

The Marincics will be in Florida the weeks of December 6th and 13th celebrating an early Christmas. The office will be closed.



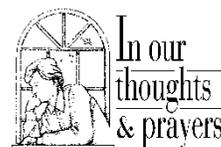
Mitten Tree

We will once again be collecting gloves, mittens, scarves and hats for our mitten tree. All items will be distributed to area schools.



Food Pantries

Both IV Food Pantry and Hall Township Food Pantry have limited their received donations to new store purchases. Anything coming from your pantry shelves cannot be accepted due to Covid concerns.



**Pray for the health of Jane McClintock, Char & Pete Belski, Sonny Whittington, Roger Gabrielse, Ruth Martin, Sandy Starr, Marilyn Cobb, Linda Hoadley, Diana Dornbusch, Cyndee Walters & Ruth Martin

**Please pray for daily grace for our shut-ins:

- Myrle Sapienza Beth Flaherty
- Carol Edgcomb Don Walker
- Jane McClintock Daryl & Lin Stuhr

** Pray for Pastor Roy Jacob & Peace Mission in India caring for children and widows

** Pray for Ed & Jane Skowron

** Pray for Jews for Jesus

** Pray for the Surbers and Supply & Multiply

** Pray for Abigail Women's Clinic

** Pray for Berean Prison Ministry

** Pray for Transport for Christ

** Pray for PADS providing shelter to the Homeless



October Finances

Tithes and Offerings	\$ 7536.00
Expenses	\$ 5196.39



The Meaning of Advent

The circular green wreath symbolizes the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. Green represents eternal life.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. One tradition says that each candle also represents 1000 years. They total 4000 years – the time from Adam and Eve until the birth of Christ.

Purple, ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle stands for Hope. The second purple candle stands for Peace. The pink candle for the third Sunday symbolizes Joy and signifies the halfway point and Advent. The final purple candle is for Love.

The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior – the light of the world.

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people.



God Said "No"

Me: "God, take away my habit."
God: "No. It's not for me to take away, but for you to give up."
Me: "God, make my Autistic grandson whole."
God: "No. His spirit IS whole, his mind and body are only temporary."
Me: "God, grant me patience."
God: "No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned."
Me: "God, give me happiness."
God: "No. I will give you blessings. Happiness is up to you."
Me: "God, spare me pain and suffering."
God: "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."
Me: "God, give me all things that I might enjoy life."
God: "No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things."
Me: "God, help me to love others as you love me."
God: "Ahhh, finally you have the idea."

I Had a Dream, Joseph

I had a dream, Joseph. I don't understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for weeks. They had decorated the home and bought new clothes. They'd gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar, though, them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They'd decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was beautiful. Everyone was laughing and happy. They were all excited about the gifts. They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don't think they even knew Him. They never mentioned His name. Doesn't it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone's birthday if they don't know Him? I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration He would have been intruding. Everything was so beautiful, Joseph, and everyone so gay, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus – not to be wanted at His own birthday party. I'm glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real.

Author Unknown



Let Us Worship Him

I love to watch the Christmas lights
Glistening on the tree,
Remembering why God sent His Son
To die for you and me.
Let's forgo the endless shopping
And focus on His birth;
Jesus came to bring salvation
To a sinful, fallen earth.
This Christmas let us worship Him
And spend our time in prayer,
Offering God our thankfulness
For His protection and His care.
May God's presence fill your heart with love
And cast out every fear.
May you have a blessed Christmas
And a peaceful, safe New Year.