



Christmas Lessons & Stewardship

The Christmas story - the story of Jesus being born in a manger, shepherds coming to visit and kings following a star to find this infant child - is a story filled with stewardship messages. As you remember the Christmas story this year, talk about the stewardship lessons we find with your family.

Part 2 of 3: Lesson from the Shepherds

We all have gifts to give.

The shepherds came from the fields bringing only themselves and their sheep. Yet their interest in Jesus was enough to win them a place in the Christmas story for all times. What is their stewardship message to us? Even if all we have to give is our interest, our caring, and our time to come and visit; those are important gifts to give.



Advent Scripture Readings for week of December 11 ...in preparation for Sunday, December 18

Prophecy: Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

New Testament: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

O Come Let Us Adore Him

The Christmas season is a time of excitement and anticipation for young and old. It's a season to reflect on our lives and to remember that God's kingdom became tangible to us in Jesus that first Christmas long ago and that Jesus has promised to return. Even those who do not yet have a personal relationship with Christ seem to be more open to spiritual things at this time of year. As you make your plans for celebrating Christmas, consider inviting a friend, co-worker or family member to join you at one of the upcoming opportunities for worship.



Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24

Family Worship at 5:00pm

Multi-generational worship with drama, multi-media, dance, children's choir and worship band. *(Childcare available through age 3)*

Candlelight Worship at 11:00pm

Service of Lessons and Carols with Scripture readings, choir, organ and handbells. *(No childcare)*

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25

Worship at 10:00am followed by fellowship time.

South End Community Outreach Ministries (SECOM)

Poverty rates in Burton Heights are some of the highest in Kent County. SECOM needs your help to feed the families in our neighborhoods. Items especially needed are canned vegetables, pinto beans, tortillas, and pastas. You can also purchase a donation card at the Cascade Meijer to directly benefit SECOM. Donations may be dropped off in the church lobby Sunday, December 18. Monetary donations are also accepted.

Quick Links

Message Audio

www.fifthrc.org/media/media.html

Home Page

www.fifthrc.org/index.html

Adult Ministries

www.fifthrc.org/ministries/adult/adult.html

Children & Youth

www.fifthrc.org/ministries/children/children.html

Worship

www.fifthrc.org/music_worship/music_worship.html

Ministry Multiplication

When it comes to the strategy of planting new churches, some might ask, "Will another church really help? Why not just grow the churches we have? Can't we work on filling the empty church buildings before we start talking about planting new churches?" In short, some wonder why church planting is so important. The answer is very straightforward. New churches focus on the development of people:

New Churches Challenge Young People

Historically, we know that new churches are a very effective way to reach a new generation. We are called to share the faith with the generations that follow us, and to do that effectively we need to adapt the way we communicate the unchanging message of the gospel to younger generations within a changing cultural landscape.

Wednesday, December 14

Mid Week Meal 5:45-6:30pm:

- King's Kids Choir Rehearsal: 5:15pm, contact Janna Kooi at jkooi@fifthrc.org
 - Vantage Point³ and Disciple Classes: 6:30pm, contact Bruce Mulder at bmulder@fifthrc.org
 - GEMS (Girls Club) and Boyz Club: 6:30pm, contact Krista Batdorff at kbatdorff@fifthrc.org
 - Community Prayer: 6:30pm, contact Jon Sherrill at jsherrill@fifthrc.org
 - Junior High at Fifth (JHAF): 6:30pm, contact Christian Verwys at christianverwys@gmail.com
 - Video Café: 6:45pm, contact Greg Wilkins at gwilkins@fifthrc.org
 - Chancel Choir Rehearsal: 6:30pm, contact Janna Kooi at jkooi@fifthrc.org
-

Community Life

2012 Offering Envelopes

If you would like to receive a set of offering envelopes for 2012, sign up in or call the church office at 245-9247. Please note: If you contribute cash donations to Fifth, you MUST use a personal offering envelope (or a generic envelope with your name on it) in order for the church to give you a receipt for tax purposes at the end of the year.

Elizabeth/Ruth Circle

The Elizabeth/Ruth Morning Circle will meet at church on Tuesday, December 20 at 10:00am for a lesson. Lunch will follow at the Great Lakes Shipping at 11:30am.

Mary/Martha Circle

On Wednesday, December 21, at 6:30pm we will meet at Church and everyone is asked to bring an appetizer or salad. We'll be studying Lesson 3. Any questions contact Kathy McConnell at 949-7812 or Carol DeGoede at 243-1028.

Name Tag Sunday

If you were here Sunday, December 4 you might have noticed the table with name tags and sharpie markers. The first Sunday of each month we would like everyone to take part and wear a name tag. Please participate and get to know who is worshipping with us as a family.

Worship and Sunday School Opportunities

Worship: begins at 10:00am.

Children and Youth Education:

- **The Gate** (4-4th grade): during 10:00am Worship (The Gate uses a small group/ large group format during the 10am service and rotates between learning stations for the 11:15am hour).
- **Sunday School:** (youth through adult) is from 11:15am-12:15pm.
- **College and Young Adults:** meet in the bell tower at 11:30am.
- **YAF** (Youth at Fifth): high school large group at 6:00pm upstairs in the YAF room.

Adult Education: 11:15am-12:15pm

- **Christian Issues:** topic: *3rd in series "A Study of John Bunyan's Pilgrims Progress"* leader: Dave Bast, meets in the west community room.
Topics change from week to week. Visitors are welcome to stop in anytime.
 - **Message Continued...:** discuss the day's sermon with others. Coffee, juice, and donut holes are provided! Meets in the east community room.
-

Moment for Mission



Pray for Rick and Stephanie Peterson as they continue to study the Turkish language in Istanbul, Turkey. Thank God for the increased convenience of their new apartment. Help them to make friends with their new neighbors and show the love of Jesus in all their relationships. Help their two little ones to grow strong in body, mind and spirit. Help them to make contacts with Kurds in preparation for their future work with that group.

Community Life (cont.)

Apples of Gold 2011

Apples of Gold will begin **Monday, January 9, 2012**. Apples of Gold is a six week Bible study where older women nurture younger women in the Word of God. Along with the Bible study, participants will learn cooking, relationship and hospitality skills. Interested in attending or mentoring? Contact Betsy Broene at broenefam@comcast.net or 942-1683. Pick up a brochure on the hub!



Knitted / Crocheted Items for Mulick Park School

Do you knit or crochet? Would you consider making some mittens, hats and/or scarves? These items will be donated to children from impoverished homes who attend Mulick Park School. The knitted / crocheted items will be placed on the Angel Tree after the angels are removed. Items may be purchased from a store are greatly appreciated.

Do you need yarn? An easy pattern? Or don't know how to knit and would like to learn? Contact Lori Kane, 949-9700 or lkane-321@sbcglobal.net.

Financial Peace Class

Beginning January 11, 2012, Fifth will be offering Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University class on Wednesday nights that will teach you God's way of handling money. Together we'll climb out—one family, one church, one community at a time. Stay tuned for more information.

2012 'Dine With Nine' Groups

Dine With Nine is an intergenerational group where Fifth folks and friends meet for meals and fellowship at homes or restaurants once a month, or as set by the groups. Everyone is invited! All you have to do is sign up for any of the following options:

- Dine with Nine combination (restaurant and potluck)
- Breakfast Only
- Potluck Only
- At Fifth with Babysitting
- Dessert Only
- For Snowbirds (we'll place you in a group that begins when you return).

To sign up for Dine With Nine: email/call Diane Jones at diane@cjonessgroup.com, or 942-7615.

Nursery Ministry Opportunities

One of the most important ministries here at Fifth is caring for the little ones in the nursery. The nursery and preschool room are in need of helpers. Contact Rashel Workman at 540-4660 or grworkman@gmail.com if you love working with kids and are able to help.

Pine Rest

Lonely? Feeling down? Need someone to talk to? Talk to a professional, confidentially. Call our Pine Rest hotline, 455-6210, 24 hours a day. REMEMBER: two face-to-face sessions with a counselor are part of this free service! We provide this service because we care.

Children's Ministry

The Gate—where kids meet and learn to live for Him! (Sunday mornings)

The Gate provides an opportunity for kids to meet God through a number of different ways: interacting with volunteers, participating in lessons, worship, and creative expression. We use small group/ large group formats during the service and rotate between learning stations for the 11:15am hour. The Gate is for children ages 4-4th grade.

GEMS (Girls Club) & Boyz Clubs

Children ages 4yrs-6th grade meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm. Check in starts at 6:25pm. Contact Krista Batdorff at kbatorff@fifthrc.org.

Student Ministry

Junior High (JHAF)

- Sunday Mornings: 11:15am in the JHAF room.
- Wednesday Evenings: 6:30 - 8:00pm in the JHAF room.

Senior High (YAF)

- Sunday Mornings: 11:15am in the YAF room.
- Sunday Evenings: large group at 6:00pm in the YAF room.

Questions? Contact Christian Verwys at christianverwys@gmail.com.

Worship Arts

Jubilation Ringers:

The Handbell Choir rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 7:00pm. Check it out! Contact Colette Akers at cmainenow@gmail.com.

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir rehearsals are Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. You are invited!

Liturgical Dance

Meets Sunday evenings in the sanctuary at the following times: 5:00pm (7th grade-high school); 6:00pm (2nd-6th grade) No experience is necessary! Contact Sue Wilson at 247-4976 or ww930egr@aol.com. *Extra Rehearsal Saturday, December 17 at 10:00am.

Kings Kids

King's Kids Choir (grades 1-6) rehearsals are at 5:15pm Wednesday evenings. Questions? Call or email Miss Janna at 245-9247, x20 or jkooi@fifthrc.org.

Prayer & Encouragement

Person to Remember: Anne Brommet who lives at 1050 Four Mile Rd NW #415, Walker, MI 49546.

Remember in Prayer: Cherri and Dwayne Mastbergen as they grieve the death of their father Gerald who died Sunday, December 11; Tim and Sharon Blower as they grieve the death of Tim's father; Lee Daane who is scheduled for knee replacement surgery on Wednesday, December 21; Nicholas Kerns who is recovering from eye surgery; Ruth Nieusma recovering from a fractured pelvis and a broken collar bone; Rick and Stephanie Peterson as they learn the Turkish language and culture in Istanbul, Turkey. Help them to show the love of Jesus in all their relationships there.

Congratulations and God's Blessing to Bryan and Erin Pack on the birth of Julia Frances born Monday, December 5, 2011.

Thank you

Our family would like to thank everyone for their prayers, gifts and support over the past several months. At the Thanksgiving service someone shared that since God could not be here to physically show his love, he sent others to do it for him. We certainly felt God's love through our Fifth family. During this challenging time its been a reminder of God's love that I really needed. Thank you.

Lisa Scherpenisse

Approximately 40 gently used coats and vests and a box of mittens, hats and scarves were brought to the day center at Family Promise. Thank you for your donations.

Nicole Dana and Lori Kane



Sunday, December 18

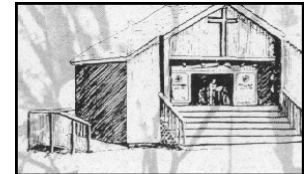
Title: "The Title Son of God"

Text: Luke 1:26-38

Preacher: Verlyn Verbrugge

Leader: Ken VandenBerg

www.driveinchurch.org



Unsubscribe

If you would like to remove your name from our mailing list, email Renae Kindle at rkindle@fifthrc.org and type UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line.

Deadlines for Information Submission

- eNews@fifth: Monday, 12:00pm
- Worship Guide: Wednesday, 10:00am

Contact Renae Kindle at rkindle@fifthrc.org

Fifth Reformed Church
2012 Griggs SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616.245.9247
www.fifthrc.org