

The story of the Birth of Christ Jesus in Luke.



“About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was the governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's hometown, for the census. As a descendant of David he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped Him in a blanket and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the hostel. There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: "Glory to God in the heavenly heights; Peace to all men and women on earth who please Him."

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!" (Luke 2:1-20).

It was a simple scene that first Christmas – a rough room, a young couple and nothing but a feeding trough to put the child in. It was probably quite cold and with family far away there was little help. Not exactly the Hallmark moment we like to show in Christmas pageants. And yet this rustic scene marked the greatest event in the history of mankind.

God's Son became human and came to earth to save us. God had promised to send a Messiah, one who would save His people. He could have easily burst on the scene as a full grown man, a seven foot warrior with fiery eyes and arms of steel. This was what many people were looking for, but it wasn't how God did it. He arrived in the arms of a young girl. He was, as another of our authors put it, "a very small package, wrapped in rags, given from the heart of God. The perfect gift." God gave His only Son to die in our place so that we, in all our brokenness, could know forgiveness. He came so that we could know what love feels like, real love – love that never leaves, love that never disappoints, love that is never betrayed. He sent His Son into a corrupted world to bring us hope.

How are you doing this Christmas?

Are you having a hard time finding hope in the world? Are you having a hard time finding peace? It doesn't have to be that way. You can have peace and find hope and know forgiveness through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **You can receive Christ right now by faith through prayer. Praying is simply talking to God.**

God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart.

Here's a suggested prayer: *Lord Jesus, I want to know You personally. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life to You and ask You to come in as my Saviour and Lord. Take control of my life. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Bring peace to my world this Christmas. Make me the kind of person You want me to be.* If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart, pray it right now and Christ will come into your life as He promised. If you invited Jesus Christ into your life, thank God often that He is in your life, that He will never leave you and that you have eternal life.

Ladies Luncheon

Saturday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.
at **Piccadilly Cafeteria** in Chesapeake
Square Mall. Join us for some
Christmas fellowship and a time to
shop with each other.

Isaiah 9:6-7 - "For to us a child is
born, to us a son is given; and the
government shall be upon his shoul-
der, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Ev-
erlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government
and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his
kingdom, to establish it and to up-
hold it with justice and with right-



Christmas Banquet

The Annual Christmas Banquet is scheduled for
Friday, December 16th at 6:30 P.M. The dinner
will consist of your "favorite" Christmas covered-
dishes, served buffet style in the fellowship hall of
the Church. We are asking each family to **bring
two prepared dishes.** The dishes may be meat or
casserole, vegetable, salad or dessert.

In addition to enjoying food and fellowship, this
event will provide another opportunity to bless our
ministers. The Hospitality Committee will provide a
basket to hold cards, gifts, baked goods, or home made
items you would like to bring to bless our ministers -
Pastor Larry, Pastor Shaun and Brother Ruben. Be sure
to mark your calendar and plan to attend this special
occasion on Friday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m.

- The Hospitality Committee

Note: We are asking that "dressy" Christmas
attire be worn this year. No jeans please!



No Wednesday suppers in December!

Friday, Dec. 9th, 7:00 p.m. -

Elevate Youth Christmas Party

Wednesday, Dec. 14th, 7:00 p.m. - Christmas parties
for Rangers, Girls Ministries and Rainbows.

Friday, Dec. 16th, 6:30 p.m. -

Annual Church Christmas Banquet

Saturday, December 17th, 11:00 a.m. -
Women meet at Chesapeake Square Mall for
lunch at Piccadilly Cafeteria and shopping.

Sunday, December 18th, 10:30 a.m.-

Special music and Christmas message.

Wednesday, December 21st, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. -

The Live Nativity (outside)

Saturday, December 24th, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. -

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 25th (Christmas Day) - 10:30 a.m. -

Worship. No Sunday School or evening service.

Sunday, January 1st (New Year's Day) 10:30 a.m. -

Worship, No Sunday School or evening service.

Please note changes due to Christmas and
New Years falling on Sunday this year.



Live Nativity - December 21st