



The Crest Connection

Connecting people with the Life that counts for eternity!

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CREST BAPTIST CHURCH, CRESTON, IOWA

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DECEMBER 2016

LMCO During November and December, all of our undesignated mission offerings will go to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® 2016 which supports the SBC's International Mission Board. Our Goal: \$4,850.

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Weekly Schedule

Sunday:
 9:30 am Bible Study
 10:45 am Worship
 6:00 pm Cancer Support Ministry

Tuesday:
 9:00 am Women's Bible Study
 6:30 pm GriefShare

Wednesday:
 7:00 am Prayer Meeting
 6:30 pm TeamKID, Youth and Adult Bible Studies

Thursday:
 6:30 pm Celebrate

Beloved,

Having just spent time giving thanks as a church body, I am so thankful to have experienced my 23rd Thanks/Praise Banquet at Crest. We have had a variety of off-site venues over the years (Harvest Room at the Coop, Salem Lutheran Fellowship Hall, YMCA, Gits Mfg), but we have always had such a good time of food, worship and sharing. It is an inspiring time to hear God's people express praise and thanksgiving to Him...even in the difficult times of life. We rejoice in adding to our numbers each year and are grateful for the way God is building His church. Thanks to Patty Marean for her coordination of this event and the many volunteers, who give in service to make this a highlight of our church year!

As we move into the Christmas season, we will be celebrating the blessings of hope, peace, joy and love, on which the Advent celebration helps us focus. May this time of the year be a time of spiritual renewal as we are reminded of the wonder of the incarnation.

One of my favorite thoughts on the incarnation comes from Max Lucado's words in "Just a Moment." Picturing the point of Spirit-breathed conception, Lucado writes: "The omnipotent, in one instant, made himself breakable. He who had been spirit be-

came pierce-able. He who was larger than the universe became an embryo. And he who sustains the world with a word chose to be dependent upon the nourishment of a young girl." These words amplify Paul's words of Christ's incarnation: *6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.* (Philippians 2:6-7).

Truly, Christ humbled Himself as Lucado's words continue: "The hands that first held him were unmanicured, calloused, and dirty. No silk. No ivory. No hype. No party. No hoopla. Were it not for the shepherds, there would have been no reception. And were it not for a group of star-gazers, there would have been no gifts. Angels watched as Mary changed God's diaper." Maybe crass, but correct. The eternal God became a man! Incredible! And why? That we might know Him—His love, truth and salvation. And it all comes as a gift—by His grace.

My prayer is that this Christmas season is one in which you continue to unwrap His gift as you work out your **salvation** with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12)

In His love!

Pastor Chuck

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES ON SUNDAYS

SUNDAY MORNING (9:30 A.M.):

Spoken: The Rhythm of God's Word — Just as each musical note has its proper place and time, God spoke His Word with the same systematic, measured approach. Each of the 66 books of the Bible, while different in style, purpose and human authorship, together present a complete picture of God's revelation. Senior Adults (Fellowship Hall) and Young Adults (Room 5)

A Hunger for the Holy: Nurturing Intimacy with Christ—In Calvin Miller's inimitable style, he graciously invites us to satisfy our hunger for the holiness of God as we meditate on the Psalms and are challenged to know the God of the universe in a personal, intimate relationship. Adults (Room 4)

Acts 13-28 —First there were 12. Then 120. Suddenly there came an explosion of spiritual fire, and 3,000 were added. By

digging deep into Acts, today's Christ-followers can reconnect with our dramatic early story, renew our passion to obey the Lord, and refocus our vision as Christ's global witnesses. Adults (Room 9)

SUNDAY EVENING

Cancer Care Ministry: We are reaching out to families who are living with cancer. Contact Joe or Gay Lynn Owens at 641-202-5004. (Fellowship Hall, 6:00 p.m.)

ADDITIONAL CLASSES

TUESDAY: Women's Bible Study—We are continuing in the study of Israel and the Minor Prophets. Join us as we study how to remain faithful in a divided and pagan kingdom. We will study the lives and words of Elijah and Elisha, and the warning and promises of the prophets, and the unchanging and powerful character of our God. Come, bring a friend, your Bible and a notebook. (Room 9, 9:00—10:30 a.m.)

GriefShare—a Christ-centered 13-week series for those grieving the death of someone close.

Cost is \$15 for materials. Sign up on the Tear-off, or contact Brian Cramer, 344-6249, or Crest, 782-2018. (Room 5, 6:30 p.m.)

WEDNESDAY: Adult Bible Study—Joshua, Judges, and Ruth are the first three books from what are called the historical books of the Bible and are a special illustration of the perils, pressures and problems which come upon the believer and life of faith, as well as the means of victory over them. If you want to know what history can teach you, join us on Wednesdays. (Worship Center, 6:30 p.m.)

THURSDAY: Celebrate Recovery—a Christ-centered 12-Step Ministry. The evening begins with worship and lesson/testimony, followed by open-share small groups. Contact Amanda Davis, 344-2440. (Youth Room, 6:30 p.m.)

Preschool, Children and Youth studies also meet Sundays at 9:30 a.m.



We would like to invite you to join us for our Children's Christmas Program at 10:45 on Sunday, December 11th. The children in our Sunday School classes and TeamKID will challenge us to join in "Celebrating" the nativity this year!



New Year's Eve Game Night

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

Join us for a church-wide game night, on New Year's Eve from 8:00 p.m. – Midnight. Sign up on the Tear-off or at the Welcome Center. Bring games and goodies to share.

December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30 a.m. Bible Study (all ages) 10:45 a.m. Worship Service 6:00 p.m. Cancer Care Ministry		Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study; 6:30 p.m. Grief-Share	Wednesdays 7:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting 6:30 p.m. Pre-school/Children TeamKID; Youth and Adult Bible Studies	1 6:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery 9:00 p.m. The Light Company (SWCC, Room 120) Birthdays: Ty Looney	2	3 Birthdays: Brayden Emerson
4	5 Birthdays: Hannah Johnston, Suzie Johnston Anniversary: Scott and Lisa Sawtelle	6 6:30 p.m. Grief-Share: Surviving the Holidays	7	8 Birthdays: Tom Danilovich, Mark Eblen, Palmer Scott	9 Birthdays: Andrea Corbino, Bige Fienhage	10
11 Birthdays: Amanda Davis	12 4:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting	13 6:30 p.m. MHCS Christmas Program	14 Birthdays: Abby Walker	15 Birthdays: Gay Lou Lechtenberger	16 Birthdays: Rob Hoffman Anniversary: Robert and Robin Meyer	17
18 Birthdays: Wayne Hanson, Ed Thompson Anniversary: Chuck and Myra Spindler	19 Birthdays: Ayden Deemer, Isaac Herrera Jr, Alice Negethon	20 Birthdays: Debbie Henry	21 5:30 p.m. Soup Supper and Community Caroling Anniversary: Bob and Wendy Pringle	22 Birthdays: Gracie Deemer	23 Anniversary: Brian and Vicky Mullin	24 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service Birthdays: Violet Antisdal, Tim Fisher,
25 10:45 a.m. Worship Service only 	26	27 Birthdays: Nicole Webber	28 Birthdays: Lexie Starlin	29 Birthdays: Haylee Ellis	30	31 8:00 p.m. New Year's Eve Fellowship Birthdays: Matt Emerson Anniversary: Tom and Leisa Frey



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Make plans to come on December 21, 5:30 p.m., for some hot soup before we go out into the community to sing Christmas carols. We'll head to some of our seniors' homes and senior adult housing. Sign up to bring your favorite soup, salad or dessert at the Welcome Center.



When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our **Surviving the Holidays** seminar helps participants prepare for the holidays and even discover hope for the future.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Tuesday, December 6
at 6:30 p.m.
Contact Brian Cramer
for more
information at 344-6249

Give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

"Is not the festive season when families and friends exchange gifts in memory of The Gift laid on the altar of the world for the redemption of the human race, the most appropriate time to consecrate a portion from abounding riches and scant poverty to send forth the good tidings of great joy into all the earth?" - **Lottie Moon**, Tungchow, China—1887

According to IRS Guidelines, all year-end donations must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31, 2016.

**Crest Baptist Church is... Committed to Christ—Connecting with Each Other—
Commissioned to Serve Our Community and World**