

December 2019



 Omega Baptist Church

A circle of believers with Christ at the center.

BEACON

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

Good News for Our Times

Bad news sells. Our curiosity is sometimes morbid as evidenced by the truth of the previous sentence. These days an avalanche of bad news is available but too much consumption of it is not healthy.

In contrast to that, the Good News of the Christmas message is still good all these years after the birth of Jesus. It has an ageless, timeless quality because the need for the Good News is still with us as well.

I am delighted to have the opportunity, Lord willing, to present some of the most cherished truths of the Bible at this time of year. Here are some of the wonderful aspects of Jesus that I hope you will embrace.

In “He Had to Be Named Jesus,” I hope to bring out some of the rich meaning of that name. I hope that every time you hear or read that name that some of what we cover that morning will come back to your mind. I want you to have a growing appreciation for what Jesus means.

“Immanuel, God with Us” focuses on the aspect of Jesus that makes him unique among the Trinity. What are some of the ways that Jesus’ humanity is significant to us? The answers are so encouraging.

“Bread of Life” is one of the ways Jesus refers to himself. This also has a rich history in and tremendous significance to us. The truths that Jesus wants to convey to us with the use of this

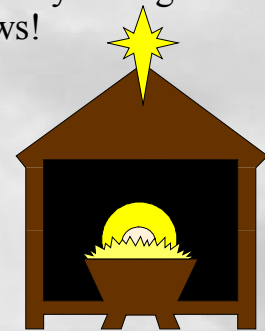
term are great and precious. Even if you’re gluten intolerant, this bread is good for you!

On Christmas morning, we will rejoice that “Jesus Is King.” Part of the Good News of the Christmas message is oriented to the future when Jesus returns to reign. As we look forward to the fulfillment of these prophecies, we can rejoice knowing that all of the prophecies related to his first coming have been fulfilled.

I hope you will be here with us this season and be praying about who you might bring with you! It’s Good News!

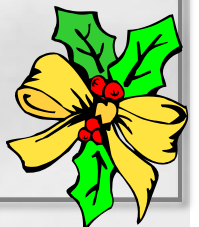
In His Grace,

Pastor Rodney



DECEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE

- 1 2 Peter 3:14-18
“An Ongoing Challenge”
- 8 “He Had to Be Named Jesus”
- 15 “Immanuel, God With Us”
- 22 “Bread of Life”
- 25 Julotta - “Jesus Is King”
- 29 Guest Speaker





YOUTH MINISTRY



So I was thinking...

about some of the myths that are so prevalent in our culture right now. Myths, such as, God does not exist, God is not good, God made me gay, there's nothing wrong with porn, and Christians and Muslims worship the same God. There are so many more out there. So, early in the month of November we (Rick and I and 11 students) attended a **reTHINK Apologetics Student Conference** in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, put on by the organization *Stand To Reason*. The entire conference was focused on these (and other) myths.

One of the goals of this year's conference was to equip students with understanding, identifying and guarding against false ideas. The very first night of the conference, Greg Koukl, Tim Barnett and Alan Shlemon presented truths, rooted in scripture, to explain that we are at war. A war that not everyone understands. A spiritual war of TRUTH encounters, not a war of power encounters. The chief weapon of the enemy, Satan, is lies and our chief weapon is truth. Which means in order to effectively fight in this war, we need to know accurate ideas about God and His world.

A few years ago I went through the Priscilla Shirer, *Armor of God*, Bible study. It quickly became one of the most important studies I have ever done and it is still my favorite. So I was thrilled to see them put Ephesians 6:11-18 (they did not have time to cover all the verses) into context for the students. The full armor of God is our battle plan! And being an apologist, informed and ready to stand against the lies, is the job of every Christian. The apostle Paul teaches us a few important things about being an apologist in 2 Timothy. First, in chapter 2, verses 24-26, Paul writes that we are not to be quarrelsome, but patient when wronged and gentle when correcting the opposition. He states that we are to act that way so that "they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will." They are blinded by the lies and we are to be the antidote to their blindness with our kindness and grace. He also says in chapter 4, verse 2, "Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction." So again, speak up about the truth, but do it with great patience.

We no longer live in a time where we can protect our children from the false ideas that exist. Neither can we pretend they will go away. With computers in our pockets we cannot afford to ignore the fact that they will hear them, see them or seek them out. We also can't assume they will voice the false ideas they hear to us when they find them. Blaise Pascal, a mathematician, physicist and religious philosopher back in 1623 said, "Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that unless we love the Truth, we cannot know it." How much more does that seem to apply to today's culture? We need to make it a priority to teach our children about the false ideas enough so they understand it, the reasons people believe it, and what's wrong with those reasons. Then, equip them with truth, practice, resolve, and confidence to be leaders in their circle of influence. To stand up to for truth, to love Truth, and to tear down the false ideas and not the people holding them.

...until next time,

Rebecca Anderson, Youth Director

1 Peter 3:15 *But in your heart revere Christ. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.*





Moms' Night Out

Sunday, December 1
7:00-9:00 p.m.

All moms with kids at home are invited to a special FREE night out. Come make an evergreen Christmas Wreath and enjoy Christmas snacks, discussion, and fellowship!

Sr. Adult Christmas Party



Friday, December 6
11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

This special time of fellowship includes lunch, entertainment, and door prizes! For everyone 60 years old and up.

A Christmas Hymn Sing

The Ogema Baptist Church Choir invites you to join us as we sing treasured songs of Christmas together.

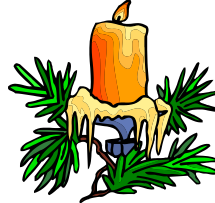
December 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.



Featuring: The Blessed Bell Ringers
Refreshments to follow

Julotta

December 25, 6:00 a.m.



Join us bright & early on Christmas Morning to worship Immanuel, God With Us!

Breakfast breads & snacks after the service.

December Birthdays

- 1 Nathan Blomberg, Cale Ulrich
- 2 Julie Jast
- 4 Sara Donahoe, Dawn Kornuek
- 5 Sarah Gasser, Gavin Jones
- 7 Dan Bruner, Mary Jo Ulrich
- 9 Annette Johnson
- 10 Don Rhody, Kelly Lind
- 11 Dave Polzin
- 12 Eric Gasser
- 13 Kati Isaacson, Autumn Gedde, Kortana Blomberg
- 15 Dawn Smalley
- 16 Brenda Isaacson, Luna Donahoe
- 17 Mary Pearson
- 18 Elliott Rhody
- 21 Christina Hallstrand, Tarek Scott, Chase Swan, Josiah Moore
- 22 Ed Blomberg
- 23 Mike Gasser, Doug Mattson
- 25 Matthew Swan
- 26 Jayne Gilge, Bryce Swanson
- 27 Jane Smugala, Jim Swan, Lizzie Olson
- 28 Jared Belan, Landon Page, Boaz Stolhammer
- 29 Jody Isaacson, Georgeanne Ulrich
- 31 Laura Blomberg, Dawn Thums, Melinda Price, Ethan Winter



Children's Christmas Program

"Christmas,
A Heavenly Perspective"

Sunday, December 15,
during the morning worship service



There will be no regularly
scheduled Wednesday programs
on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1



New Year's Eve Family Fun Night

Tues., Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m.

Enjoy a special time of potluck food,
open gym, table games, and fellowship!

Please contact us if:

- You or someone in your family has an address change
 - You no longer want to be on our Beacon mailing list
 - You would rather receive your Beacon by email
- Email: info@ogemabaptistchurch.org

OGEMA BAPTIST CHURCH

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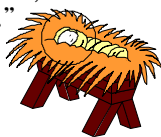


Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am
Sunday Worship - 10:15 am
Wednesday Youth & Ladies' Ministries - 6:30 pm
Wednesday Adult Prayer Meeting - 7:00 pm



Whatever your age or stage in life,
YOU are WELCOME here!

"The Word became flesh
and made His dwelling among us.
We have seen His glory,
the glory of the one and only Son,
who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth."
John 1:14



Missionary Spotlight

*Ryan & Heather Reissner
Forest Springs, Westboro, WI*

Ryan and Heather Reissner are on missionary staff at Forest Springs Camp where they serve as Resident Program Specialist and Stores Manger.

"What a summer it has been! Once again God showed up in such HUGE ways...

*4,059 people attended camp between Memorial Day and Labor Day this year (including youth and family camps, retreats, and school groups). Counselors reported that at least 112 youth campers made significant life decisions during their week here!

*We were blessed to partner with a new group this summer called Special Touch Ministries, who serves those with physical and intellectual disabilities.

*Over 120 young adults served on our summer staff this year! God used this ministry to shape and mold our leaders of tomorrow!

We are entering our "empty nester" stage this fall. Although Ryan would say we are never empty. Many nights you will still find young adults from our staff eating dinner around our table...sharing concerns and joys.

We covet your prayers and ask that you would be praying for...

*Our girls...that they would continue to live in community that points them to Christ in the midst of our ever changing world.

*Ryan...as he practices three nights a week for dinner theatre. Pray that he stays focused...and healthy... with the many additional hours he will be putting in.

We thank you and praise God for...

*The amazing ministry that happened this summer at camp!

*Ryan's parents' house sold in April. This is a huge weight off of our shoulders!

*Ryan turned 50 on October 21!!! I am especially praising God for the man I call my husband!!

*Our girls are both walking with the Lord and searching for His direction in life!

Again...we are so blessed to be a part of the Ogema Baptist family!! Thank you for all of your love and support...

Ryan and Heather" You can contact Reissners at Forest Springs, 715-427-5241, or email them at reisguys4him@gmail.com

