

January 2012



# The Messenger

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## This Will be a Sign to You!

At Christmas it is normal to hear the word incarnation used frequently in connection to the birth of Jesus at this time of year particularly. The incarnation is the event of God becoming human and living among humans. Besides salvation what was God's purpose in becoming human

We are inundated with language from TV, radio, and other new media that convinces us that we are deserving of having everything we desire and that there shouldn't be anything that is beyond our reach.

"You deserve a break today!" That is a phrase we have all heard numerous times on the television. Phrases like this can make us feel like there isn't anything we should deny ourselves. More than any other time in history we are flooded with messages about getting all the best that life can offer.

We are living in an entitlement age. We have been told that nothing should be beyond our reach. We can have it all. The best job, the best house, the best car, the best big screen TV, the best internet service, the best cell phone or the best whatever.

I want to compare the stark contrast between these types of entitlement attitudes with what the scriptures tell us about Jesus' birth. The time came and Mary gave birth to her son and wrapped him in strips of cloth and placed him in a bed of straw in a feeding trough where the cattle, sheep and donkeys ate grain from throughout the day. There would have been numerous strong odors which would hang heavy in the air of the stable. It wasn't warm, it wasn't cozy, it wasn't comfortable, it was dark and poorly lit. All the things that we would consider adequate care for the birth of a new born did not exist for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.

He wasn't found where normal Royalty would be found... in a palatial palace or a grand mansion. He made his entrance into human existence in a barn. He enters our world in the lowest and humblest of circumstances. Entitlement was not on God's agenda for his own Son.

When I was thinking about the epitome of entitlement I thought of the royal wedding. When Prince William and Catherine Middleton got married last April they were accorded a truly royal wedding. It was also Jesus birthright to experience a royal birth, to have all the privileges which come with a royal blood line, the descendant of King David.

Between his birth and his death on the cross, Jesus lived a very ordinary and meager life. He said of himself... Foxes have holes and birds have nest, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head. Clearly not the life that royalty would be expected to live.

Somewhere between the story of Jesus being born in a manger and dying on the cross this generation has lost the significance of why he came. I believe that God literally and intentionally orchestrated Jesus birth to occur in the humblest location because he was leaving a message to the world. Jesus led a very common life...that of a carpenter's son and from his earliest years the scripture tells us that he was about his father's business, not his earthly father, but his heavenly father's business. At age 12 he was found in the temple talking with the teachers of the law, he could always be found teaching a crowd about the God's kingdom. In scripture he says "I and the father are one."

So my question for you is this. If God never answered another prayer for you, and the only thing you had was Jesus would that be enough for you? How does Jesus compare to the stuff in your life? This is the sign...Jesus came as a helpless babe born in the lowest of circumstance. He had nothing he could give that Christmas day over 2000 years ago except himself. In fact his parents had to take care of him because he was just a baby with all the normal needs of a human baby. Throughout his whole life he lived the life of a servant... not the life of royalty. The reason Jesus came was because **he is the blueprint for an intimate relationship with God.** A relationship in which we can be able to say along with Jesus, "I and the father are one." We need to let go of some of the superficial trappings of life. We need to latch onto an intimate relationship with Jesus. Because this is the sign for you and me...Jesus is the only blessing we will ever need.

Pastor Joyce

# BCC Student Ministries

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Another productive and surprising year makes its way into history! On behalf of myself, my family, and our students we say "Thank you" to all for your support and encouragement in so many ways this past year! 2011 saw beginnings and endings, openings and closures, smooth sailings and transitions, but through it all we continue to love and serve a God who loved us first. I pray that the 2012 year is embraced and lived to the fullest by all of us. Here's to looking for opportunities to serve and love others, quiet down and listen for the God's whisper, and to take our individual steps of faith...whatever those may be. Thanks to all of you who set a great example for me...it doesn't go unnoticed and I doubt you even realize the great example that you are....which makes it even more awesome! Thanks for living great lives gang! Sooo...on we go to the upcoming in Student Ministries! All aboard...here we go...!

**January 20 -21** will be a rummage sale fundraiser for **CHIC**. Please bring items in to the youth room by Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. We're offering this a fundraiser, but more importantly as an opportunity for both our congregation and our community. Now that the Christmas season is closing up, go through those closets and walk through those rooms and hallways. If you have larger items that you would like to include in the sale, please let Derek know and we'll schedule to come pick them up for you. We'll gladly take whatever you have to give and nothing will go to waste. Leftover items from the sale will be donated to the Salvation Army, Rockford Rescue Mission or other organizations. Please consider helping us out in our endeavor and as a result, let's help out our community! Thanks in advance!

**February 10 -12: DEEP FREEZE 2012 at Covenant Harbor!** If you're part of Roots then you're invited to take part in this amazing weekend! A frozen Lake Geneva awaits us for a great weekend of worship, goofy contests and games, bizarre skits and stories, authentic speakers with solid messages, rock climbing, broomball, Bible study, small group hangtime, polar bear dip (of course), praise and worship bands, and numerous surprises and twists along the way. Maybe you'll even see yourself on film...it's possible!! We'll be heading out on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and if you're interested, you can **sign up at the next Roots meeting which falls on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Cost will be around \$130.** Great times await!!

**February 17 – 20: Overhaul's 2012 Ski Retreat!** Due to some scheduling issues, we're deviating from ONELIFE this year and creating our own ski weekend at WHITECAP SKI RESORT in Hurley, Wisconsin. We'll enjoy a mountainside chalet and 2 days on the hill. We'll couple that with solid group time and relevant talkback that will challenge our students. We'll serve each other, teach and learn from those around us, enjoy God's creation, and may just weave some goofy fun into the who deal! There's nothing like halving the ski days with hot lunches and ski stories (some true, some embellished J ) before trekking back out! **Space is limited so make sure you sign up at Overhaul's next meeting on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. Cost is about the same as Onelife: roughly \$170.** I pray you choose to join in again this year!!

As we kick off 2012, Overhaul will continue to unpack the "To Save a Life" movie through the use of their study guides and movie clips. It's been a great fall, and we look forward to much more! For the last several weeks in Roots, we've been using quotations as our talkback. I put together a list and our students pull them apart and then we apply them to Biblical principles on how we should be living. So awesome...but now it's time to shift into other things. There's a set entitled "Avalanche" that just might make an appearance in the youth room!

**Journey will** continue through May and will **start up** again on **January 4<sup>th</sup>**. I wish you all the best as we move into a new year. May we be a people who do what's right, not just what's easy. I'll leave you with a quote from a Roots talktime. Ralph Waldo Emerson said "**What lies before us and what lies behind us are small matters compared to what lies within us.**" Smile and embrace the truth! J

Peace, *Derek*

# January

1	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 10:30 Worship	2 Legal Holiday observed OFFICE CLOSED	3 8:30 Morning Prayer Meeting	4 12:00 Prayer 4:30 Journey 5:30 Supper 6:00 Roots Adults Crosswalk 6:30 Choir 7:30 Band	5 6:30 Homeless Breakfast Program	6	7
8 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	9 6:30 Search Committee	10 8:30 Morning Prayer Meeting  6:00 Rolling Green Mtg 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg. 7:00 Overhaul	11 12:00 Prayer 4:30 Journey 5:30 Supper 6:00 Roots Adults Crosswalk 6:30 Choir 7:30 Band	12	13	14
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	16 9:00 Patchwork Quilters  6:30 Search Committee	17 8:30 Morning Prayer Meeting 11:30 60 Plus  7:00 Overhaul	18 12:00 Prayer 4:30 Journey 5:30 Supper 6:00 Roots Adults Crosswalk 6:30 Choir 7:30 Band	19 6:30 Homeless Breakfast Program	20	21
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	23 6:30 Search Committee	24 8:30 Morning Prayer Meeting  7:00 Overhaul	25 12:00 Prayer 4:30 Journey 5:30 Supper 6:00 Roots Adults Crosswalk 6:30 Choir 7:30 Band	26	27	28
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	30 6:30 Search Committee	31 8:30 Morning Prayer Meeting  7:00 Overhaul				

## Birthdays

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1	Wilhemina Kirkwood
2	Michele Johnson
4	Ryan Woodrow
8	Marilyn Hjelm Michael Woodrow
9	Carolyn Bergmark
15	Cyndy Miericke Kathy Adams
16	Kathy Knight Gordon Samuelson
17	Mabel Johnson
18	John Haase Robin Robinson
18	Ginny Woodrow
25	Fred E. Pearson Teri LeJeune
26	Tim Braun Cheryl Ecklund
27	Merrilee Meyers
29	Lois Ecklund
31	Brett Holmertz

## Anniversaries

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22 David & Karen Holmertz

## Adult Education

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Who is this guy Paul ....not Bischoff.... Beginning Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and continuing for six weeks through Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 2012, Gary Ecklund will lead a Sunday School class on *The Life of Paul the Apostle* at 9 AM. Please join us in the alcove area off the dining room in the lower level.

Beginning Wednesday night January 11, 2012, and continuing for six weeks through February 15, 2012, Colleen Felts will be leading a study on *Nehe-miah* at 6:15 PM in the alcove off the dining room in the lower level. Please join us.

## Serving in January

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Head Usher: Steve Schweitzer

Counters: Randy Price & Gene Peterson

Nursery Workers:

1/1

1/8 Kathy Holmertz, Shelby Holmertz and Kelsey & Kendra Ecklund

1/15 Ann & Jeff Chapetta and Stacey Parlapiano

1/22 Colleen Felts, Kari Whitney and Kevin McCulloch

1/29 Jon Brown, Kathy Melin and Kim Lape

Coffee Schedule

1/1 Dan & Aina Hitchcock

1/8 Anders & Arline Gredenius

1/15 Karen & Dave Holmertz

1/22 Ryan & Kara Woodrow

1/29 Roy & Janel Leidahl



## Remember in Prayer

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**Betty Lockett** at Provena Cor Mariae for rehab..

**Orville Roen** home from Swedish American Hospital.

## Thank you

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To the members of the church in a time of need and confusion - Thank You. Specifically the pie was excellent and the ham will make a wonderful Christmas dinner. The thought behind it was deeply felt. I hope to be of help to any other member or just any other period.

**Leo Hartman**

Thank you for all of your calls, cards, thoughts and prayers for our family during this time of grieving the loss of my dad. Love, Matt, Stephanie, Jacob & Katie Link

THANKS to all who prayed for Kim and me, and wished me well during the time of uncertainty. Your prayers were answered and the extent of the procedure was reduced, and my recovery time was minimal. God is Good, All The Time, **Steve Schweitzer**

Thank you for helping Jan, me and our families celebrate Ruth Hopkin's life. We have so many fond memories of growing up at Broadway. The church provided our spiritual base many years ago. We are thankful for the memorial gifts to BCC and pray they glorify God.

Blessings, **Joyce Parlin and Jan Andersen**

Broadway Friends, I feel I should take out a permanent section in the messenger for our continued "Thanks". Each of you have been faithful to encourage me following my knee replacement by your prayers, cards, calls and hugs. Doug and I hope to be the ones giving back next year since I think we have been on the prayer chain for six months now. We truly feel blessed by Broadway. Thank you again for all that you are to Doug and I. **Kristi Swanson**

## Mission Report

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Our church is joining with Alaska Christian College to help provide funds for student scholarships.

Many of the ACC's students are unable to support their educational and spiritual goals at ACC due to lack of resources, broken homes, poor life choices, and families that are unable or unwilling to support them.

ACC helps bring healing, hope and the support and encouragement needed to pursue academic goals.

How can you make a difference in Western Alaska this year?

- Stop by the table in the foyer and chose one of the student cards.
- Pray for that student throughout the year.
- Return the bottom portion of the card to the address listed on the card with your scholarship gift.

The Rock River Food Pantry is moving to a new location at 421 S. Rockton. They re in need of funding and donations of skilled labor, building materials, and volunteers. If you can help please call. RRVP averages over 7,000 persons served each month.



Every year in January, pro life organizations celebrate Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. In 2012, SOHLS falls on January 22nd which is the 39th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Our moment for Missions on January 8th will feature a representative from RAPCC. Change for Life baby bottles will be distributed at that time.



### Missionaries BCC Supports:

Robert & Joyce Widman  
Leonid & Leanna Regheta  
Tim & Andrea Johnson  
Peter & Ruth Dutton  
Byron & Sue Bruckner  
David & Judy Dolan

## Women Ministries

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### Spring Celebration 2012

You are invited to Refresh! Re-focus! Rejoice! – the spring celebration of Women Ministries of Central Conference. This year it will be held at Hillcrest Covenant Church in DeKalb-just an hour away. When? Friday, March 16, 2012 beginning at 5:00pm – Saturday, March 17 ending at 3:30pm. Registration is \$30.00. Friday night is an informal time beginning with supper served from 5:00 – 7:00pm. Saturday has registration beginning at 8:30am with the day's events beginning at 9:30. There will be worship times and a variety of break-out sessions. Of course, lunch is included. Meagan Gillan the new Executive Minister for Women Ministries will be the speaker. We can plan to car pool. Contact Carolyn Augenson if you're interested in going. For more information and to register please use the following link: [wmccares10@gmail.com](mailto:wmccares10@gmail.com).



### Pecans

There are still some Chocolate Covered Pecans available. Cost is \$9.00 for a 12 oz. bag. They would make a great Valentine's Day gift. See Carolyn Augenson.

## Pastoral Search Committee Update

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The Pastoral Search Committee is continuing its work of searching for the right person to call to be our senior pastor. On December 5th Jerome Nelson, the Superintendent of the Central Conference, came out from Chicago to meet with the committee. He brought with him profiles of candidates for the committee to consider. Many of these were matches to our church profile, others asked to have their profile submitted and a few were submitted by their conference superintendents. We have completed our initial sorting and have whittled the initial pile to a few candidates that seem to best fit our congregation.

We covet the prayers of the congregation as we take the next steps in the process.

**January 2012  
Broadway Covenant  
Church**

3525 Broadway  
Rockford, IL 61108

Interim Paul Bischoff  
Youth Pastor - Derek Melin  
Associate Pastor - Joyce Cosman  
Music Director - Jerry Jacobs  
Phone - (815)399-9296  
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**We're on the Web**  
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## 60 Plus

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60 Plus will start 2012 with our first lunch outing at Hoffman House, 7550 East State Street, Tuesday, January 17th at 11:30. Call Peggy Frint, 815-282-0640 by January 15th to make your reservation and let her know if you need a ride. Let the committee, Peggy, Dave & Karen, Doug & Mary and Dan & Aina know before January 8th if you have a favorite restaurant or place you would like to go to this year. The committee gets together the second week in January to plan the year so let them know your choices.

## Christmas Card Greetings

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Neva Anderson  
Carolyn and Wayne Augenson  
Lorna Bjurstrom  
Karl & Cris Burdick  
Roger and June Carlson  
Tim & Erin Clark  
Al & Gladys Damrose  
Ralph & Maryiln Dirkson  
Bertil Erickson  
George & Evelyn Elia  
Gene & Colleen Felts  
Eric Filkin family  
Peggy Frint  
Dan & Aina Hitchcock  
Dave & Karen Holmertz  
Keith & Kathy Holmertz  
Betty Lockett  
Fred & Darlene Pearson  
Jon, Erin, Hailey & Dylan Penne  
Barbara Rehnberg

Bob & Arlene Schweiger  
Wally & Lois Sorensen  
Alice Tsai  
Ginny, Mike & Megan Woodrow  
Covenant Village of Northbrook  
Ceroni Piping  
Jim Horn at J-Mar

