

★ THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

1. To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
2. To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
3. To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
4. To examine my holiday activities in light of the true meaning of Christmas.
5. To initiate an act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

ADVENT ✨ ✨ ✨

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the LORD and my spirit rejoices in God my savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of his servant."
Luke 1:46-48a



HOW TO START 2024 RIGHT



1. Choose to release all your hurts and glory from the past year.
2. Choose to deny yourself and carry your cross.
3. Choose to focus your eyes on Jesus.



With Jesus, we're forever safe.
Forever accepted. Forever held.
Completely loved and always
invited in. -Lysa Terkuerst



CHRISTMAS TOGETHER

Dec 03 » Together for Purpose
Dec 10 » Together for Support
Dec 17 » Together for Glory
Dec 24 » Wrapped Up in Love

WHEN LIFE IS TEARING THINGS APART, JESUS IS BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER.

Prayer REQUESTS

▶ SALVATION

- Walter Miner III Gearen Family Tom M. Stein Family
- Ryan K. Tyler M. Mandy W. Dave. O

▶ HEALTH ISSUES

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Art B. » Health Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Armando » Back Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Mandy W. » Cancer <input type="checkbox"/> Merle » Health Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Carlos V. » Health Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Angie & Family » Life Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Bob A. Healing/Kidney <input type="checkbox"/> Camilia S. » Cancer/Leg <input type="checkbox"/> Robert G. » Health Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin K. » Health Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Angela A. » Health Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Michelle H. » Leukemia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lucille S. » Health Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Laura S. » Health Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Augustin A. » Sobriety <input type="checkbox"/> Hector S. » Job Issues <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Miner III. » Health Issues |
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METRICS THAT MATTER (12/17/23)

ATTENDANCE ▶ 30 GIVING ▶ \$1,050 GUESTS ▶ 0
 VOLUNTEERS ▶ 15 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST ▶ 0

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. Galatians 4:4-5

Wrapped up in self

Like hobbies, diversions and yes, sometimes extreme sports. Some folks have been so “wrapped up” that they take some of their possessions for the “afterlife”.

Here are some famous people that requested some items be placed in their coffin for the afterlife.



Grave Goods

Frank Sinatra; Tony Curtis; George Burns; John Kennedy and Leonard Bernstein.

Wrapped up in traditions

When we read the Christmas story, we are confronted with a king that was wrapped up in traditions. The king was Herod the Great. Matthew 2:1-6



He was one of the greatest builders of the ancient world. He built many hippodromes, amphitheatres, and pagan temples.

Old cities were revived; new cities were built.

He rebuilt Strato's Tower on the Mediterranean Coast.

He built race facilities for both men and horses.

He built a royal palace in Jerusalem and one on Masada.

He owned a monopoly for salt extraction from the Dead Sea.

His most notable construction was the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem.

He was a very brutal king:

He ordered deaths by hanging, stoning, strangulation, fire, the sword, live animals, serpents, and beating.



He tried to murder anybody who threatened his throne.
He replaced Jewish high priests with pagan priests from Babylon.
He levied unbearable taxes upon the people.
He issued a decree to kill all the male infants newly born to 2 yrs. old.



Wrapped up in love Matthew 2:7-12



Mary and Joseph made this difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph traveled more than 80 miles to comply with the census demanded by Caesar Augustus. Mary was nine months pregnant.



- There are no royal privileges for this birth—no attendants to help them over the mountain, no cooks to tend their meals or servants to soothe her aching back and feet.
- This baby would not be born into a soft-cushioned life.
- In an incomprehensible, humbling move, the Son of God left the majestic splendor of heaven and stepped down into our world to become an infant, to become a man.
- There were no royal robes or parades, no trumpeted arrival.
- At a birth where there should have been the finest marble and linens, there was only dirt, a few bales of hay, and the filthy rags of animals.
- Where there should have been a legion of angels, there was just a handful of bleating sheep, a couple of anxious camels, a few tethered donkeys.
- And where there should have been a king and a queen and the pomp and circumstance of a royal court, there was only a frightened teenager and her tradesman spouse.
- Angels did announce the birth of the King but only to a few shepherds guarding their flocks.
- And that brilliant star was shining in the night; but with the exception of three foreigners, no one even bothered to notice it.
- The mystery and the miracle: God encased in human flesh.

