



December 2020

BBC Family,

Advent has begun. We also mark our calendars with the month of December...the time of year that brings the most darkness in our part of the world. It is a remarkable irony that during the darkest time of the year...the cold of the nights...the still quiet...We anticipate and celebrate the coming of the true light.

Jesus. The Messiah.

Though darkness continues to exist in our land, through this pandemic, through painful consequences of sin, through the loss of loved ones... The true light has once and for all defeated darkness and has given us the best gift ever secured, salvation and inclusion into His family. So that we might be "... children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness." (1 Thess. 5:5) May we be those Children of Light as we walk through this present darkness and therefore show how the silence has been broken by light.

Anticipate, celebrate, and display your light this Christmas Season!

Light in darkness together,
Pastor Nate

Sunday School meets weekly at 9:15am

Sunday School during a global pandemic looks different. We will stay small and then expand as the needs of the church grow as well.

For adults we offer a time of learning from the book of *Romans* while socially distanced in the Fellowship Hall **For children** we are concentrating our efforts on Children's Church during the worship hour, and again, expand Sunday School hour as the needs expand as well.

Christmas Eve

Many have asked, "Are we having Christmas Eve service?" The short and confident answer is, "YES!" However it will undoubtedly look different in some ways on account of the COVID restrictions that are currently in place. More information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. So, look forward to no matter what, in some way celebrating the birth of Immanuel at Becker Baptist Church on Christmas Eve!



"Operation Christmas Child" report:

We collected 112 shoeboxes + \$300 for shipping! Many will be blessed.

Please pray for all the children who receive the love of Jesus this year!

Join in prayer weekly in December vbia Zoom on Wednesdays at 7pm. Contact Jan Miller (320.444.1322) for Zoom link information.

Covid-19 Gathering

Throughout this changing time of our current pandemic situation, we as a church have continued to monitor and adjust as things change. The Deacon & Church Boards met and discussed what are our current practices and what our moving-forward practices will be within the current climate. At this time it was agreed upon that we will abide by the current government expectations; masks and social distancing are expected within our facilities. After looking through scripture at what was expected of us as followers of Christ, we found that we are able to abide by the current government mandate and biblically adhere to what Christ has called us.

We do still ask that you register [ahead of time via our website](#) in order to have a record in case we need to contact people. We have room for more people on a Sunday morning and we would gladly like to have the issue of having so many people that we have to get creative to fit people in. We have started some programming for Sunday School and Children's Ministry and will expand as the need grows!

We are excited to welcome you back, we hope and pray that you are longing to be back together, may we continue to look forward to seeing your faces, even if its only half while we're inside!



This year, after a long hard year, we need all the reminders we can get that our joy begins (and ends) with the love displayed from the manger to the cross. Jesus' birth is our hope for today! Isn't it? Mary may have been in pain in the night, but joy still comes from a baby born that first Christmas morning. Let's spread more joy than ever before this Christmas!



DECEMBER SERIES – “MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ME”: Christmas today vs. Christmas in Bethlehem? Well, let's just say they are two very different worlds. But they don't have to be. Christmas tends to turn into a holiday where we think about what we will get instead of what we have the opportunity to give. By looking at the Christmas story and wondering about everything that each person gave, you'll be able to give some incredible encouragement to students wanting to make Christmas less about “me” and more about Jesus. On the first Christmas, **Mary and Joseph gave up their comfort, the shepherds gave their stories, the wise men gave their worship, and God gave everything.** Knowing all of that, can inspire us to give things too.

Our midweek program during the month of December will be done virtually. The weekly teaching video/live can be found on our social media sites at 6:30pm on Wednesday nights. Immediately following the teaching time, will be an online Zoom event for small group discussions, prayer, time to catch up with each other and more. More information about these activities can be found each week via email/text or social media.

NO MOMENTUM (CHRISTMAS BREAK) – DECEMBER 23rd & 30th: We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Because They Matter,
Pastor Kevin



The 2020 Christmas catalog for BBC-supported *Jesus in Haiti Ministries* is available from the Welcome Center or online at jesusinhaiti.org/christmas/. You may select a financial gift to support the Lighthouse ("A Safe Place to Call Home"), Grace Emmanuel School or Victory Bible Church, or... select from handmade gift items that provide jobs in Haiti. (Order by December 16; while supplies last). Visit their [website](#) for more information on their ministries.



Just a reminder — you can help support Becker Baptist when you shop through AmazonSmile... 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products will be donated to Becker Baptist when you log in to smile.amazon.com and choose “Becker Baptist Church” as your charity. Donations will credited to BBC's General Fund.



As December begins to arrive, it's such a strange feeling to see an almost empty calendar. That is unusual for this time of year. Normally, it's jam-packed with all kinds of activities and events that we can barely keep it all straight. But what an opportunity we have this year, without the hustle and bustle. To really just be still and stop and recognize the greatest gift of all.... Jesus Christ and the salvation HE makes possible.

Here is a look at what is happening this month:

CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERIES – "MAIN EVENT": The Christmas season is filled with many celebrations but Jesus being born is the biggest reason to celebrate! Even though we have heard the story of baby Jesus many times by now, for your youngest kids, it's still a fairly new story that they usually only hear once a year. Help them feel the wonder and excitement of Christmas each week, in anticipation of the big day! In addition to all the holiday tidings, remind your kids that they can **celebrate God's plan for Jesus' birth. We can worship Jesus and celebrate because God keeps promises!**



AWANA: Our midweek program has gone to a digital/virtual format for the month of December. Check your emails each week with information, teaching videos and more to complete the lesson and sections at home!
*NOTE: Thanks to all who participated and donated items for Operations Christmas Child. Many will be blessed. Please pray for all the many children who receive the love of Jesus this year!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SONG: We are putting together a video for you and all our church family to enjoy this Christmas. We need you to send us a video of your kids singing https://youtu.be/t7q4kTC_bW8 (Rend Co Kids, We Wish You A Merry Christmas!). Please email the video horizontally to me at amy.drehmel@beckerbaptist.org. If you're kids don't want to sing, just send in a family photo to be shared. Please have all videos/pictures email by December 4th.



FAMILIES ON A MISSION: Put your *GENEROUS DECEMBER* calendar challenge on your fridge! The December calendar invites your family into a daily conversation with each other in a fun, engaging and organic (unscripted) way. It is a gentle invitation to make room and time for God and for others. Contact me if you need a copy of the December calendar.

May we all be blessed with hope, joy, peace and the love of Jesus! The reason for the season!

In Christ,
Amy Drehmel, BBC Kids Director

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means, 'God with us'). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus." ~Matthew 1:18-25

