It is almost Christmas! Hooray! Jesus Christ has come to us! No matter what people may say, this IS Jesus’ holy day. Where do they think those first five letters come from? It is Christ’s Day! I have no problem saying Merry Christmas. I often say Blest Christmas. It is His day! Nothing can change the historical reality of that.

But we do not need to argue it with others. We simply need to live it & celebrate it & share it with people. That way they too can truly celebrate what this season is all about. Folks need to know that this wonderful holiday is about Jesus Christ’s birth. Christmas is about when God came to us as a human being.

We Americans have no problem saying that Independence Day is about our nation, or that Labor Day is about the worker & the celebration of work, or that Thanksgiving is about giving thanks, or that Memorial Day is about remembering those who have gone before us, and that our other holidays are what they are. Let’s make sure that we Christians have no problem with saying that Christmas is about Christ!

But let’s not shove it in peoples’ faces. Let’s not fight & argue about it. Let’s not divide & despise over it. Let’s just share with people all around us what Christmas is truly about:

- God is real!
- God loves us totally!
- God wants a relationship with each of us!
- God wants to rescue us from the things in this life that hurt us!
- God himself came to us at Christmas as Jesus Christ to bring all this to us!

These are the things that Christmas is actually, truly, honestly all about. Easter & Pentecost & the other Christian holy-days are also about these wonderful truths. People deserve to know the true & honest meaning of this season. Jesus Christ wants everyone to know these truths.

As part of our Christian Christmas, let’s share with everyone we know what Christmas is actually, truly & honestly all about. There is no better Christmas gift we can share with others than this.

Merry, Blest Christmas, my Beloveds!!

In Christ, Thom
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Dec. 24 – Sunday School 9:00 AM
Worship 10:00 AM
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service at 6:00 PM
This will be our service of candlelight, music
and worship.
Plan on participating in this special service.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a Bible study of Philippians on
January 17th at 10:00 AM. Thom will be leading
the study. This is a great way to start off the new
year! Plan on attending this study!

PRAYER REQUEST LIST

Pray For  Request
Vivian  Healing
Ryan Catlett  Leg healing
Joseph McDaniels  Health decisions
Mark Moore  Cancer surgery
Jana Rowe & family  Death of father
Ramona Adkins  Health and relationships
Pete  Health and relationships
Russ Lyons  Hospice care
Doris Wise  Health issues
Stevie Olson  Afghanistan deployed
Beth Maurer  Healing prayers
Paul Maurer  Healing prayers
Don & Carol  Strength, healing & joy
Kent  Needs prayers
Joey Lombardi  Deployment

Christmas Offering for Regional Ministry

Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up
in every way into him who is the head, into
Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and
knit together by every ligament with which it is
equipped, as each part is working properly,
promotes the body’s growth in building itself up
in love.  Ephesians 4:15-16

Regional Ministry knits the church together
by equipping leaders, encouraging
congregations, and building relationships.
We will take our Disciples Mission Fund
JESUS IS BETTER THAN SANTA

Santa lives at the North Pole.
JESUS is everywhere.
Santa rides in a sleigh
JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.
Santa comes but once a year
JESUS is an ever-present help.
Santa fills your stockings with goodies
JESUS supplies all your needs.
Santa comes down your chimney uninvited
JESUS stands at your door and knocks, then enters your heart.
You have to stand in line to see Santa
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.
Santa lets you sit on his lap
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.
Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?"
JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.
Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly
JESUS has a heart full of love.
All Santa can offer is HO HO HO
JESUS offers health, help and hope.
Santa says "You better not cry"
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.
Santa's little helpers make toys
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.
Santa may make you chuckle but
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.
While Santa puts gifts under your tree
JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison. We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in Christmas. Jesus is still the reason for the season. Yes, Jesus is better, he is even better than Santa Claus!

TWO Snow Daze trips in 2018!

Want to ski, snowmobile, cross-country-ski, snow shoe, go sledding, eat, relax, and fellowship? Talk to Brad and Carol Steele for more information and sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

9 – Chuck Clute
12 – Laura Olson
16 – Patricia Johnston
30 – Carol Steele

ANNIVERSARIES

7 – Tony & Carol Bilello
19 – Larry & Sena Collier
21 – Joe & Tia McDaniels
ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

It was the beginning of December. Their trip had gone reasonably well, and the family, ready to return home, had arrived at the airport. The airport had long been known for its winter-weather flight delays, cancellations, long security-check lines, and lost luggage. It had turned a tacky red and green, and loudspeakers blared annoying elevator renditions of cherished Christmas carols.

Going to check in their luggage they noticed mistletoe hanging over the weigh in-scale. Not real mistletoe, but very cheap plastic with red paint on some of the rounder parts and green paint on some of the flatter and "pointier" parts.

The little boy in the family piped up and said, "Why is that mistletoe hanging up there?" Without missing a beat, the father replies, "Well, my guess is so you can kiss your luggage goodbye."
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# JANUARY SERVING SCHEDULE

### January 7, 2018
- **Elder:** Stan Lewis  
- **Lectern:**  
- **Deacons:** Dave Perryman, Kara Van Horn, Taran Gingery  
- **Preparer:**  
- **Hospitality:** Edie Gamet  
- **Greeters:** Steve & Laura Olson  
- **Scripture Reader:** Mary Ullmer  
- **Kids Life:** Kids in Worship

### January 14, 2018
- **Elder:** Sally Bishop  
- **Lectern:**  
- **Deacons:** William Spalding, Ole Linden, Pam Hohnstein  
- **Preparer:**  
- **Hospitality:**  
- **Greeter:** Beth Maes  
- **Scripture Reader:** Debbie Reher  
- **Kids Life:** Dena Catlett

### January 21, 2018
- **Elder:** Brad Steele  
- **Lectern:**  
- **Deacons:** Carol Bilello, Albert Arias, Michele Arias, Alvin Hawkins  
- **Preparer:**  
- **Hospitality:**  
- **Greeter:** Tia McDaniels  
- **Scripture Reader:** Edie Gamet  
- **Kids Life:** Kids in Worship

### January 28, 2018
- **Elder:** Debbie Reher  
- **Lectern:**  
- **Deacons:** Clair Mamigonian, Ken Smith, Edward Laso  
- **Preparer:**  
- **Hospitality:**  
- **Greeter:** Ray Stockham  
- **Scripture Reader:** Ole Linden  
- **Kids Life:** Candy Faber