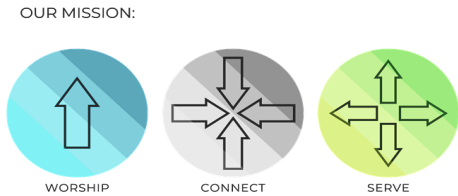


Athens Christian Church



December 20, 2020



If this is your first time at Athens Christian Church, thank you for joining us! We'd like to stay in touch, so please complete a visitor card while you are here today and place it in the offering plate. If you would like to receive our monthly church newsletter electronically, please include your email on the visitor card.

We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today! During our service, the Lord's Supper is open to all believers. Please make yourself at home. We invite you to stop by our foyer on your way out for a complimentary Bible. We hope to see you again next week!

Every Member Is A Minister Here at ACC!
Please call on us when we can help:

<u>Elders:</u>	<u>Stephen Ministers:</u>
Jeremy McDaniel/971-9416	Donna Douglas, Contact Person
Curt Reichling/636-9252	522-1134/971-6732
Doug Wendler/652-2133	Steve Gutierrez, Contact Person
	414-0126
<u>Deacons:</u>	
Brendan Bachman/309-824-3226	Debbie Richardson
Larry Barregarye/502-0086	Gwen DeRosa
Anthony Bolton/309-221-2994	Rhonda Briest
Jason DeBoer/616-970-4003	Frank Platt
Terry Henrikson/636-8611	Gwen Staab
Bob Hill/636-7416	Sara McDaniel
Jeff Lopian, Sr./528-2096	Sandra Taylor
Randy Miller/309-252-1845	Sharon Schirding
Craig Reichert/553-1927	Deb Selby
Greg Roat/414-2399	

Download the new ACC app for free and sign-in today to access the many important features and keep in touch with what's happening at Athens Christian Church!



1411 E. Route 29 • Athens, IL 62613
217-636-8463 • www.athenschristian.net
www.facebook.com/athenschristianIL

8am, 9am Traditional Services

Prelude • Dick Bachman

Call to Worship

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear #197 (v. 1-3)

Prayer Requests & Praises • Ken Gennicks

Special Music • Ashley Cantrall

Sermon • Ken Gennicks

Gospel Stories: "The True Meaning of Christmas"
(Luke 2:8-14)

Invitation Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus #168

Announcements Video • Vonda Laffey

Communion & Offering Meditation • Ken Gennicks

Quietly move to Communion & Offering tables
before exiting the building

10am, 11am Contemporary Services

Prelude • Ashley Cantrall

Song of Praise

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Prayer Requests & Praises • Ken Gennicks

Special Music • Ashley Cantrall

Sermon • Ken Gennicks

Gospel Stories: "The True Meaning of Christmas"
(Luke 2:8-14)

Invitation Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Announcements Video • Vonda Laffey

Communion & Offering Meditation • Ken Gennicks

Quietly move to Communion & Offering tables
before exiting the building

Ken Gennicks, Senior Minister	ken@athenschristian.net • 415-5724
Shane Baker, Associate Minister	shane@athenschristian.net • 415-9035
Lorna Baker, Children's Minister	lorna@athenschristian.net • 502-1256
Gary Frank, Associate Minister	gary@athenschristian.net • 502-4494
Tyler Basso, Youth Minister	tyler@athenschristian.net • 622-0803
Morgan Wells, After School Director	morgan@athenschristian.net • 414-5433

Sermon Notes

Gospel Stories: "The True Meaning of Christmas"
(Luke 2:8-14)

INTRODUCTION

Our Bible studies are from Gospel Stories: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The Christmas season has come! But what is "The True Meaning of Christmas" according to the Bible?

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CONCLUSION

"The True Meaning of Christmas:" to God the Father it meant giving His only Son; to God the Son it meant leaving Heaven's glory to become a servant obedient unto death; to the world it means God has provided a Savior; to you it means God offers you eternal life as a gift to be received! "O Come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!"

Upcoming Events for Your Calendar

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTION

Begins January 13 through March 24th
Watch for details in the coming weeks!

ACC INDOOR ARCHERY

Monday evenings 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Begins January 18 through March 22
Free for all ages and levels
Free equipment available for use

Prayer Requests

Today's Worship at 8, 9, 10 & 11 am

At Memorial: Donald Clark (Glen's brother/Heritage), Doug Wendler (ICU)

At St. John's: Kristie Stoneking (Judy Bryant's daughter), Glen Clark

At Bloomington hospital: Harlan Starkey (Gail Farrell's dad)

At FL hospital: Ryan Miller (Randy's brother)

Tests: Kathy Becker, Al Betz, Richard Sandidge, Annie Maliongas' brother, Jerry Basso (cancer surgery/treatment), Barb Siddons' brother, Mike Austin, Tracy Scales, Elijah Staab, Debbie Rohlf, Mike Gronewald, Fran Petersen/Bollmans' friend, Leslie Montgomery's brother, Zach Alderman, Michelle Bloomquist, Roy Hinds, Sharon Mester, Rhonda Leinberger, Rhonda Briest, Tom Tobias, John Wasilewski, Steve Laffey (eye surgery/5th), Ken Weatherby (after surgery), Melba Baker, Albert Beard (knee), Darrell Wells (after kidney surgery), Mikey Kean (Jackie Hines' nephew/cancer)

At home: Beverly Hall, Brian/Cindi Setzer, Eddie Miller, Terry Wunderle, Jen VanPelt, Roberta Clark, Ella Grace Magee, Diane McCormick's niece/uncle, Cathy Wiseman, Marie Novy/Jen Weitekamp's neighbor, Rhonda Davis/Esther Fricke, Rick Miller (Randy's dad), Josh Purcell, Elaine Bachman, Jo Tibbs (Les Carter's sister/Country Lane/Riverton), Vince Gurski

Touched by death: Jim Newell family (Mary Buttry's brother), Peggy Stanberry family (Mary Buttry's sister), Autumn Beatty family (Bill's mother)

Transitions: Imogene Way, Sara Melton's brother, Wyatt Alderman/Aaron Reiterman/Michael Ray/Everett Shuck/Wallace Christy (military), Tom Halberstadt (Quincy), Kaiti Earl, Sue Williams, Wes Jockisch/hospice, Mike Chrysler/Bobby Croft/Brandon & Cana Austin (job search), Mike Sleight's grandma (Pittsfield), Barbara Miller (Juanita Davis' great-niece/hospice), Bill Dolan (Amy Bolton's friend), Ike Hedden (Villa)

Wednesday Night Connection: Jan. 13-Mar.24

GriefShare: Jan. 13/Heather Parks/621-1359

Indoor Archery: Mon., 6-8 pm, Jan. 18-Mar. 22

Virtual Volunteer Training at ACC by LCU: Sat., Feb. 20, 9-noon

ACC Sportsman's Dinner/Program: Sat., Feb. 20

Christ in Youth Conference: July 12-16/Lincoln/NE

Kyle Gennicks: missionchurchmontgomery.org

Capital Stewardship Campaign: *Run The Race* (2020-2022)

Our missionaries/military/families/terrorism/economy

Each other/unspoken needs

Thank You for Worshipping with us !

We are so excited to be together in person as a church family! We have temporarily reconstructed our usual 8 & 10:15 am worship service schedule to four services at 8, 9, 10 and 11 am. Sunday School for all ages is now 10-10:45 am. Many safety measures are in place throughout the morning:

- The building will be thoroughly cleaned between each service by our cleaning team
- Volunteers and staff will open doors for you
- We are asking families to sit with their family group and leave space between other family groups when seated
- All helpful doors have been propped open or opened by our greeters and staff
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building
- Bulletins may be picked up from several locations
- We will not be passing offering or communion trays but will have them available at the end of each service placed throughout the Worship Center
- Overflow rooms in the youth room, kids’ check-in area and lobby are available for viewing the service live on screens.
- The high school room is set with tables, some color pages, and activities which may be more conducive for family worship. The service is live streamed to the high school room at the 8, 9, 10, and 11 services.
- During the 10 am service only, nurseries for birth-3 years are open for those families who wish to use the nursery .

ACC Kids' CORNER



Christmas Eve
Candlelight & Communion Services

Thursday, December 24
2pm • 3pm • 4pm • 5pm • 6pm
(30-minute services)

Celebrate Christmas with candlelight, music, and a devotion during each service. Communion is open for all who wish to participate. Family snapshots can be taken in front of a Christmas backdrop in the foyer.

- 2:00 pm participants include: Rebecca Logan, Morgan Wells, Karol Howard, Sarah Gennicks, Shane, Lorna, Kenneth & Olivia Baker, Tyler Basso, Anthony Bolton, Ken Gennicks, Dick Bachman, Jason Coleman, Chris Thomas, Braydon McNeal, Ashley & Amber Nicholson, and Leilah Link will play instruments for the prelude. Jack Harris will provide special music.
- 3:00 pm participants include: Anthony Bolton, Dick Bachman, Ken Gennicks, Jason Coleman, Chris Thomas, Tyler Basso, Shane, Lorna, Olivia, Kenneth Baker, Sarah Gennicks, Karol Howard, Morgan Wells, Rebecca Logan. Mo Williams will provide special music.
- 4:00 pm participants include: Vonda Laffey, Jason Coleman, Dick Bachman, Ken Gennicks, Doug Wendler, Tyler Basso, Rebecca Logan, Sarah Gennicks, Shane, Lorna & Kenneth Baker. Special music will be provided by Hattie Bachman & Olivia Baker. Ruth & Naomi Bandy will play the prelude and communion music.
- 5:00 pm participants include: Hannah Groce, Barb Siddons, Rebecca Logan, Shane, Lorna, Olivia & Kenneth Baker, Sarah Gennicks, Tyler Basso, Dick Bachman, Terry Henrikson, Vonda Laffey, Ken Gennicks, Jason Coleman. Izzy Sokolis will share a special dance.
- 6:00 pm participants include: Rebecca Logan, Shane, Lorna, Olivia & Kenneth Baker, Tyler Basso, Sarah Gennicks, Dick Bachman, Terry Henrikson, Curt Reichling, Ken Gennicks, Jason Coleman, Vonda Laffey. Ethan Reichling will sing a song for the prelude. Special music will be provided by Jenna and Lindsay Roemer.



Applying Today’s Sermon to Your Life

- Our 2020 sermon series is a Bible study of Jesus in the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Read Luke 2:8-14. What is your favorite sacred Christmas carol? Why? What memories return when you hear it? How does its words teach the Gospel?
- To celebrate Jesus’ birth, Luke started his Gospel with four songs! Read each one and explain who was singing and what was being celebrated:
 - A. Mary’s song (Luke 1:46-56)
 - B. Zechariah’s song (Luke 1:67-79)
 - C. Angels’ song (Luke 2:14)
 - D. Simeon’s song (Luke 2:28-32)
- How does knowing that Jesus’ birth and ministry was actually predicted centuries before it happened affect your life and your faith? Compare:
 - A. Isaiah 9:7 to Luke 1:32-33
 - B. Isaiah 53:12 to Matthew 27:38
 - C. Zechariah 6:13 to Hebrews 7:24-25What does all this tell you?
- Answer the following as TRUE or FALSE:
 - T F Everyone knows the true meaning of Christmas.
 - T F Many are more receptive to the Gospel in this season.
 - T F My goal is to share the light of Christ with others.
 - T F I know Jesus died for my sins and the sins of the world.
 - T F I’m responsible to get the news about Jesus to others.
 - T F People are sometimes more open to church at Christmas.
 - T F I will invite people to church with me during December.
 - T F Sharing my faith could be awkward so I don’t do it.
 - T F We are Christ’s ambassadors; we try to persuade people.
- Read Hebrews 6:19 and 11:1. Note the words *anchor*, *firm*, *secure* and *certain*. Why is it so helpful to remember these four words during these times?
- Read Matthew 2:2. How can this same *joy* be ours today?
- Isaiah 9:2 says, *We who were walking in darkness have seen a great light*. How has Jesus replaced *darkness* with *light* in your heart and mind? Describe this *enlightenment* to a friend.
- Imagine having lived through this year of 2020 without faith, without knowing Jesus, without knowing how to pray, and without a supportive church family. Now think about your neighbors, your coworkers, your relatives, your classmates, your friends, and people in your circle of acquaintance. Who needs your touch, your outreach, your invitation? Will you pray, reach out, and invite this week?
- In light of today’s Bible study, I will:

Today & This Week

All services below are available to watch live in the foyer, kids’ wing check-in area, youth room and nursing mothers’ room. —»«—

9 am & 11 am services will be live-streamed. Access services at [www.athenschristian.net/on-line worship](http://www.athenschristian.net/on-line-worship) (SUNDAY MORNING) or on the new ACC app! Services are also available on YouTube. —»«—

An audio recording of today’s sermon will be downloaded to [athenschristian.net/on-line worship](http://athenschristian.net/on-line-worship) (MEDIA). You can listen to today’s message and past sermons.


TODAY, Sunday, December 20
7:30 am Prayer with Pastors at the Pulpit/everyone welcome!
8, 9am Traditional Services/10, 11am Contemporary Services
8:30-11:00 am Christmas Coffee & Pastries (FLC)
9, 10, 11am Family Worship Area available for families in Youth Room (Room 112/113)
10:00-10:45 Nurseries available for birth through 3 years
10:00-10:45 Adult Sunday School Classes

- » The Ambassadors, led by Dan Haynes (Rm. 203)
- » Kingdom Seekers, led by Gary Frank (Rm. 105)
- » Christian Living, led by Harry Schirding & Doug Wendler (Rm. 223)
- » *That the World May Know*, led by Anthony Bolton (*temporary room change: Room 202*)

Monday, December 21 Read Revelation 13
6:00am Men’s Group/Rm. 105 All men should join us!

Tuesday, December 22 Read Revelation 14
8:00 CLEAN Retired Men’s Bible Study in FLC
7:00 Ladies With a Heart to Pray Zoom chat

Wednesday, December 23 Read Revelation 15

Thursday, December 24 Read Revelation 16
 Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Services
2, 3, 4, 5, 6 pm

Friday, December 25 Read Revelation 17
Church office closed 

Saturday, December 26

Sunday, December 27
7:30 am Prayer with Pastors at the Pulpit/everyone welcome!
8, 9am Traditional Services/10, 11am Contemporary Services
10:00-10:45 Adult Sunday School Classes