

Sooner or later, and often, you will find yourself where different plans intersect, moments and occasions at the crossroads of God's plans, your desires and dreams, the devil's temptations, and the decisions and designs of others that include or affect you. Whenever and wherever you find yourself there, you have to decide which path to follow, and neither procrastination nor indecision will save you because life never stands still and they are still a choice.

The official record of Jesus' birth in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke illustrates this collision of plans and the choices it requires. Like us, the people involved, end up being defined by their choices, their lives have vastly different outcomes because of their decisions in the intersection of plans. Some kept following the script of their own desires and dreams, others barreled right through the intersection sticking with what they knew, a good number had their fears make the decisions for them, and some succumbed to outright evil, but the heroes of Christmas adjusted to and trusted God's plans more than their own.

It takes faith to embrace God's plans in both the big and small things. We are told that Joseph was a "righteous man" (Matthew 1:19), which tells us that he consistently chose what was right before God. He ran an honest carpentry business, treated people right, and cared about what God thought. So when God spoke to him about not divorcing Mary, who had turned up pregnant with a child who wasn't his, he chose to believe God and changed his plans.

God's plans are both best and prevail, that is why the wisest choice we can make is to embrace and adjust ourselves to his plans, to his will. All plans, other than God's, have inherent uncertainties, they have no guarantees, the wisdom of Proverbs sober us, "**There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death**" Proverbs 14:12 (NLT2). Ultimately all of our plans die, in contrast, God's plans prevail because He is life, He is eternal, omnipotent, and good. God's plans are not wishful thinking, what He is hoping will happen, no, his plans are certain, what He decrees will happen, what He promises will come to pass.

Old and childless Zechariahs and Mary the virgin both wondered how they possibly could have a child. Heck, we still wonder how a baby can be conceived by the Holy Spirit. But God reminded both of them that this was his determined plan announced long ago (Luke 1:5-17, 26-35, Acts 2:22-28). When we puzzle over how in the world God is going to do what He said He would do, how what He has announced will come to pass, or how He will keep what He has promised, we do well to remember the angel's reassurance to Mary, "**Nothing will be impossible with God**" (Luke 1:27).

We get caught up in our own plans, Zechariahs was contemplating retirement plans, Mary and Joseph were busy with wedding plans, Herod had political plans, the wise men were living out their career plans, and the shepherds' plans revolved around sheep. And then, they got interrupted by God, were faced with having to respond to God's plan, and had to decide whether or not they would adjust their lives to what God had revealed to them.

Joining God's plan required Mary to put her reputation and upcoming wedding on the line, Joseph had to overrule the scientific answer to Mary's pregnancy with what God told him in a dream, the wise men had to take their vacation time, finance an expensive trip, and risk looking like fools. We would be foolish to think that embracing God's plan will not require anything of us as well. Our own plans, our fears, our reluctance to live by faith, and the cost of adjusting our lives to God, are often what hinder us, keep us from changing direction, torpedo the embracing and doing of God's will, the carrying out his plans. What is encouraging is that Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, the wise men, and shepherds testify to us that is possible, that there is no better way to live.

Christmas still calls us to surrender our plans, embrace God's plan, and fully commit our lives to Christ.

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



Lord Hear Our Prayers

PRAYER REQUEST

Bob Clayton, Philip Law, Deanna (recovering from a stroke),
Claire Wendel (pneumonia), for our Country, Our community,
Our Church, Our Families,
and those dealing with addiction(s).

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,
Farney, Peter, Jimmy, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Noah Martin,
John Michael Chavez, Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker,
Brian Sula, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,
Christopher Sula, Dylan Briggs

CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us
know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and/or
e-mail **Judy Mahar** at ldpbcprayer@gmail.com with your
prayer requests.

Church Board Members:

Hans Frei - Pastor , Richard Mayes - Head Deacon ,
Sue Kluding, Gabi Cox, Chuck Arndt, Barb Deibler

Christmas Schedule



**Help Decorate the Church on
Monday, December 2nd at 10 am
Thank you!**

Christmas Baskets -

Saturday, December 21st
LDPBC Food Ministry
(9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.)

**Sign up at the Food Ministry during regular hours of
operation**

Christmas Caroling -

Saturday, December 21st
(Meet at the Church at 4:30 P.M.)

Candlelight Communion Service

Tuesday, December 24th (6:00 P.M.)

Christmas Sunday Worship Service

Wednesday, December 25th (10:00 A.M.)

November Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesday @ 6:00 P.M.
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages @ 7:00 P.M.
- Food Ministry - 1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday 9-11 AM
- Women's Ministry - Wednesday @10:00AM

Fellowship Refreshments were provided by:
"Merle's Class & Youth"

Thank you

Next week "Han's Class" is up!!

Annual Church Business Meeting TODAY

(After the service & open to all)

It's Important that All Church Members attend
as we will be discussing
New Church Board members, Deacon positions,
2025 Church Budget and so much more.

Giving

November 24, 2024

Offering:
\$971.00

Facilities:
\$5.00

Youth:
\$202.00

Books:
\$38.00

World Hunger:
\$283.00

Attendance:
82

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday

Food Ministry:

9:00 AM -11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM

GriefShare - 6:30 PM (On Hiatus)

Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

Saturday: Youth Hang-Out 6-9 PM

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Yearly Bible Reading Plan - 2024

December 2nd - December 8th

DAY 1 - 1 Chron. 17-18
(Proverbs 2)

DAY 2 - 1 Chron. 19-20
(Proverbs 3)

DAY 3 - 1 Chron. 21-22
(Proverbs 4)

DAY 4 - 1 Chron. 23-24
(Proverbs 5)

DAY 5 - 1 Chron. 25-26
(Proverbs 6)

DAY 6 - (Proverbs 7)

DAY 7 - (Proverbs 8)

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.