



# Advent Greetings from Ceresco Baptist Church!

Ceresco Messenger, December 2020

## SEASON OF ADVENT

As we prepare our hearts for the season of Advent, I hope that we can do so with a shared focus on the goodness and greatness of God. Advent marks the start of a season of preparation that looks forward to the celebration of Christmas and the second coming of Christ. It is a time of reflection. It is a time for us to quieten our spirits and gladden our hearts because of the indescribable gift that we have received in Jesus Christ.

We must remember how our Savior humbled Himself to be born as a baby and live among those He would save.

We must remember the perfect life He lived doing the will of His Father, His sacrificial death on the cross, and how He was raised from the dead three days later, having paid the penalty in order to save all who would believe.

Christians remember Jesus' promise to return again one day and restore everything fully. This season invokes feelings of expectation and hope! Advent is a reminder of how the Jewish people waited for the Messiah and how Christians and Messianic Jews wait for the second coming of Christ, today. Let us reflect together throughout this time.

**November 29, 2020**

**First Sunday of Advent Reading: Hope**

[Isaiah 9:2](#), [Isaiah 9:6-7](#):

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. [...] For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”

**Alternate readings: [Psalm 122](#); [Isaiah 2:2-5](#); [Romans 13:11-14](#)**

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent Readings: **Preparation**

[Isaiah 40:3-5](#):

“A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’”

Alternate readings: [Psalm 72:18](#); [Isaiah 11:1-10](#); [Luke 1:26-38](#)

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent Readings: **Joy**

[Matthew 2:10-11](#), “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” (NIV)

Alternate readings: [Psalm 146:5-10](#); [Isaiah 35:1-10](#); [Luke 2:8-14](#)

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent Readings: **Love**

[John 3:16-19](#), “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.”





# Want to Save Money?

Marshall Academy is again selling KeyCards for use at area businesses in the Marshall, Battle Creek, and Albion area. They are \$15 each and make great stocking stuffers! Please contact Darlene Anthony 269.961.1269 to purchase one. Sale ends January 8, 2021.

## Who can add to Christmas?

The perfect motive is that God so loved the world.  
 The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son.  
 The only requirement is to believe in Him.  
 The reward of faith is that you shall  
 have **EVERLASTING LIFE.**

CORRIE TEN BOOM



And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them...And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:9-11



### Martha Circle, Minutes - November 11, 2020

**Devotions** were given by Joanne Henley, reading from Tapestry of Life Devotion Book for Women, "Aging" – everyone wants to age gracefully. Don't be concerned about the outward looks, the inside is what counts. She also read from Becoming a Woman of Worth Devotional, "The Thankful Woman" – keep thanking God because of Jesus Christ – our attitude should be one of gratitude. Joanne then gave our opening prayer.

**Secretary / Treasurer Report** – read minutes from last month. Checking balance is \$892.14 (before tonight's activities).

**Missions** – Sharon Hadley – gave an update from Jon & Amanda Good in Hungary, and an update from the missionary that we gave the roller bandages to. She was very thankful for them. They will be taken to Romania.

**Sunshine** – Joanne Henley – Sent cards to Linda C., doing well now. Barb Hoppe – lymph nodes on lungs, Penny Wood, Kathy Straub, Gretchen King.

**Scholarship Girl** – Veronica – will be doing community service, CAA, working with early childhood, helping get books ready for distribution.

**RMMO Offering** – motion by Ruth St. John to give \$25, second by Joanne Henley.

**Scripture** – Ecclesiastes 1:1-11 "Everything is Meaningless"

Devotional \$14.31, Love Gift \$17.57

Meeting closed in prayer at 7 pm with prayer by Darlene. We then enjoyed refreshments.

## *The 12 Days Of Christmas*

There is one Christmas Carol that has always baffled me! What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially the partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning:

The surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember.

**The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ .**

**Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.**

**Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.**

**The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.**

**The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.**

**The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.**

**Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.**

**The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.**

**Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruit of the Holy Spirit-Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.**

**The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.**

**The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.**

**The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.**

## **TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

**T'was the night before Christmas, And all through the town, Not a sign of Baby Jesus. Was anywhere to be found.**

**The people were all busy, With Christmas time chores, Like decorating, and baking, And shopping in stores.**

**No one sang "Away in a manger, No crib for a bed". Instead, they sang of Santa, Dressed-up in bright red.**

**Mama watched Martha Stewart, Papa drank beer from a tap. As hour upon hour, The presents they'd wrap**

**When what from the TV, Did they suddenly hear? 'Cept an ad.. Which told, Of a big sale at Sears.**

**So away to the mall, They all flew like a flash, Buying things on credit, And others with cash!**

**And, as they made their way home, From their trip to the mall, Did they think about Jesus? Oh, no... Not at all.**

**Their lives were so busy, With their Christmas time things, No time to remember Christ Jesus, the King.**

**There were presents to wrap, And cookies to bake. How could they stop and remember Who died for their sake?**

**To pray to the Savior, They had no time to stop. Because they needed more time, To "Shop til they dropped!"**

**On Wal-mart! On K-mart! On Target! On Penney's! On Hallmark! On Zales! A quick lunch at Denny's**

**From the big stores downtown, To the stores at the mall, They would dash away, dash away, And visit them all!**

**And up on the roof, There arose such a clatter, As grandpa hung icicle lights up on his brand new step ladder.**

**He hung lights that would flash. He hung lights that would twirl. Yet, he never once prayed to Jesus...Light of the World.**

**Christ's eyes... How they twinkle! Christ's Spirit... How merry! Christ's love... How enormous! All our burdens... He'll carry!**

**So instead of being busy, Overworked, and uptight. Let's put Christ back in Christmas and enjoy some good nights!**



- Dec 13 Glennie Swann
- Dec 18 Ryan Boysen
- Dec 21 Rayna Sommers
- Dec 28 Donna Ruthruff
- Dec 28 Candace Ivey
- Dec 30 Viviana Anthony
- Jan 1 Michael Meng
- Jan 4 Avery Goodman
- Jan 13 Bob Beltz
- Jan 18 Brian Gary
- Jan 25 Emily Ivey
- Jan 28 Harlynn Casey



### Jupiter and Saturn Will Align to Create the First "Christmas Star" in Nearly 800 Years

As 2020 comes to a close, the solar system has decided to grace us with a cosmic Christmas miracle that hasn't been witnessed in nearly 800 years. On Dec. 21 (aka the December solstice), Jupiter and Saturn will align so closely in the night sky that they'll almost appear to collide from our vantage point here on Earth, creating a radiant point of light often referred to as the "Star of Bethlehem" or the "Christmas Star."

To catch a glimpse of the phenomenon for yourself, make sure you have a clear view to the southwest about 45 minutes after sunset. The planets will be at their closest on Dec. 21, but the "Christmas Star" will be visible from anywhere on Earth for about one hour after sunset in the northern hemisphere for the entire fourth week of December. If you're viewing with a telescope, you may also be able to see Jupiter and Saturn's largest moons orbiting them that week.



- Dec 23 Ken & Kay Davis
- Jan 2 John & Ruth Paschen

### True Christian Christmas

Christmas isn't showy gifts, Or glittering decoration;  
It's honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ In humble adoration.

It's serving those less fortunate, Meeting their needs before our own;  
It's making sure at Christmas time That no one is alone.

It's taking what we would have spent On things that no one needs,  
And using it to help someone With service and good deeds.

Our Savior showed us how to live With charity, faith and service.  
It makes the holidays a joy, More peaceful, and less nervous.

So let's remember Christmas is About our Savior's birth;  
That's the way to happiness, The way to peace on earth.



# December 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
Starting Dec 1st, read one chapter from the Book of Luke each evening. There are 24 chapters. On Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up Christmas morning knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate Christmas!						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>Communion &amp; 2nd Sunday of Advent</b>  <b>PREPARATION</b>  Isaiah 40:3-5						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b>  JOY  Matthew 2:10-11						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>4th Sunday of Advent</b>  LOVE  John 3:16-19	Jupiter & Saturn will align to create the first Christmas Star in nearly 800 years! Watch for it!			Christmas Eve		
27	28	29	30	31	01/01/21	
			Information for January 2021 Messenger is due by noon.		Happy New Year!	

## Ceresco Baptist Church

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## Christmas Contentment

At Christmas,  
May Jesus fill your hearts with peace,  
May God grant you abundant grace,  
And may you have sweet contentment  
In the New Year.

*By Joanna Fuchs*