

What Will You Hear and See This Christmas?

The Christmas season is upon us once again. As we drive around and listen to conversations about the meaning of Christmas, it seems like the significance of it is losing ground. Today more and more ideas about the true meaning of Christmas are floating around in our culture. But we might say that if we had been there in Bethlehem, that night when the Savior of the world was born, we would have seen it and understood. We would have known it was the Christ child and would have realized that the Advent season was really about celebrating the birth of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. Would we *really* understand? One way we might know is by asking ourselves . . .

What will we *see* this Christmas Season?

- When we watch the 6:00 news, will we see chaos and strife, or will we see sheep without a shepherd?
- When we go out to do our shopping, will we see only hordes of people in the stores, or will we notice the worried expressions on some of their faces—worried because they are facing this Christmas without employment or enough money and they don't know how they are going to make ends meet?

What will we *hear* this Christmas Season?

- Will we hear only the blast of music and carols, or the silent sighs of the lonely and the bereaved who may be dreading Christmas because it accentuates their loneliness?
- And in the midst of the sounds of the stressful honking of horns, people arguing over parking places and fighting snowy roads, will we hear faint sounds of laughter coming from the local food shelf and homeless shelter because we furnished food and toys for needy families and children?

You see, so often what you and I see and hear this Christmas will not be dependent upon the *event* but upon *you*. If we really do hear the cry from the lonely, the laughter of poor children, if we see the sheep without a shepherd, then, and only then, will we realize the significance of the event that took place in Bethlehem that night—the night when God became a human being, giving the gift of His only Son, Jesus Christ, to one day die in our place and be our rescuer and closest friend.

—Pastor Josh

Join a Home Small Group!

Are you interested in a small group? You can meet new people and have an opportunity to study the Word at a deeper level. Groups meet at different locations and times throughout the week. New groups forming now!

_____ Yes! I/We would like to join a home group.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Place form in the Offering or turn in at the Information Desk.)

Sunday Schedule at BPEFC

9:00 AM

Worship Service	Sanctuary
Nursery (Birth to two years)	Room 100
Chicks (Birth date in 2007)	102
Lambs (Birth date in 2006)	103
Giraffes (Birth date in 2005)	104
5's and K (Birth date in 2003 & 2004)	105

Adult Bible Fellowships

Young Marrieds (and Committed Couples)	112/113
Mosaic (Multi-generational, singles/marrieds)	108/109

10:30 AM

Worship Service	Sanctuary
Nursery (Birth to two years)	Room 100
Chicks (Birth date in 2007)	102
Lambs (Birth date in 2006)	103
Giraffes (Birth date in 2005)	104
5's and K (Birth date in 2003 & 2004)	106
<i>K.Z. & Company</i> (Grades 1—6)	Fellowship Hall
Youth Worship Service (Grades 7—12)	Youth Room

Adult Bible Fellowships

Salt (Elem. & Youth Parents)	108/109
In-Betweeners (Singles/Marrieds, 50+)	112/113
Prime Timers (Senior Adults)	114

BPEFC Pastoral Staff

Rick Ensrud, Senior Pastor - ext. 11

Dan Carlson, Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 12

David Durey, Executive Adult Ministry Pastor - ext. 13

Jeff Gagnon, Executive Ministries/Missions Pastor - ext. 22

Leane Gondek, Children's Ministries Director - ext. 27

Josh Major, Young Adult Ministries Pastor - ext. 14

David Myles, Community Outreach Pastor - ext. 29

Jena Pietari, Student Ministries Director - ext. 15

Luke Turner, Worship Ministries Director - ext. 37



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Welcome to Brooklyn Park Evangelical Free Church!

We're so glad you have joined us today. Our goal is to help you connect with God in worship and connect with others in meaningful relationships. Please let us know if we can help you in any way.

Worship Services Offered:

- 9:00 AM:** Traditions
- 10:30 AM:** Multi-cultural
- 10:30 AM:** Youth Worship Service (Grades 7–12)

Guests . . . after the service, you are invited to the Guest Reception Area (in the West Foyer) to meet with staff and learn more about our church.

December 6, 2009—All-Church News

- Remembrance Service:** TODAY at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Come to honor your loved ones who have passed away, or come to support others in their time of grief.
- December Sermon Series:** The preaching team will share a new series, *The Jesus Chronicles: Rediscovering the Christ of Christmas*.
- Angel Tree Ministry:** Help support families who have an incarcerated loved one. Stop by the Angel tree in the Foyer and pick up a gift tag.
- Seniors Luncheon:** Wednesday, December 16, 12:00 PM. Cost: \$5.00. Bring a friend! If you plan on attending, sign up at the Information Desk.
- Let's Go Loafing:** Saturday, December 19, 9:30 AM. Welcome new neighbors to the community. Deliver a loaf of bread and church literature. It's an easy, effective way to show that we care. Contact the Office if you are interested.
- Baker's Square Pie Gift Certificates:** Support *Celebrate Recovery* (and its training of leaders) by purchasing \$13 pie certificates, good for specific pies, at any time. Stop by the Care Ministries Kiosk today. They make great gifts!
- Sounds of Christmas:** Sunday, December 20, 9:00 & 10:30 AM Services, special musical numbers featuring our Celebration Choir, kids and orchestra!
- Christmas Services:** Christmas Eve—4:30 PM Candlelight Service, featuring African Choir, *Total Praise*, AND 10:00 PM Candlelight Service featuring Tonia Hughes; Christmas Day—10:00 AM Celebration Service.
- Second Harvest:** Please note: We will NOT be hosting a food distribution in November or December. The next giveaway will be Friday, **January 22**, 2010.
- Celebration Jam Concert Event:** Saturday, January 30, 2010. Mark your calendar! Enjoy a FREE dinner at 5:30 PM and FREE concert at 7:00 PM. Don't miss a great event for your friends and family! More details to come.
- Important Note:** To respect our worship time together on Sundays, please turn off all electronic equipment (cell phones, pagers, etc.). Thank you!

For more information on other church news, see *News & Notes*.

Christ: The Word of God

John 1:1–5

Today we begin a new four-week Christmas series called *The Chronicles of Jesus*. The purpose of these messages is simple: to help us *Rediscover the Christ of Christmas*. What we need more than ever this Christmas is a refreshing look at who was in that manger 2,000 years ago. More and more ideas about the true meaning of Christmas are floating around in our culture. This has created a warped understanding—even among some Christians—of what this season is about. We will see how the beginning of John helps us *Rediscover the Christ of Christmas*.

I. Why is it significant that John refers to Jesus Christ as “the Word”?

A. Jewish conception of “the Word”

- It had _____ power. (Psalm 33:6, 107:20; Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14)
- † “*By **the word** of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their hosts.*” Psalm 33:6
- It had _____ control. (Isaiah 55:11; Ezra 17:24)
- † “*...so shall **my word** be...it shall accomplish all that I intend.*” Isaiah 55:11
- It had _____ with God himself. (Genesis 1)

B. Greek conception of “the Word”

- It _____ all things and set them in motion.
 - “All things come to be in accordance with the **logos** [the Word].” —Heraclitus
- It _____ all things and kept them in order.
 - “The **logos** keeps all these things in order and the one Providence which watches over them.” —Plutarch
- It _____ people to God Himself, but it was unreachable.
 - “Although all things come to pass in accordance with this **Logos**, men seem to be quite without any experience of it.” —Heraclitus

III. When we celebrate Christmas, we're celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ because...

A. He's the One who _____ everything and showed us who God really is. (John 1:1–3, 14:9–10; Colossians 1:15–20; Hebrews 1:1–3; Revelation 22:13)

- † “*Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father?” Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?’*” John 14:9–10
- † “*I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’*” Revelation 22:13

APPLICATION: The Advent season reminds us that Jesus Christ is the Creator of all, and we can remain calm in the midst of a chaotic world for He has the world in His hands.

B. He's the One who would _____ us to God and who gives us eternal life. (John 1:4, 3:16, 36, 14:6; 1 John 5:11–12)

- † “*And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*” 1 John 5:11–12

APPLICATION: The Advent season should remind us that God loves us so much that He sought us out by giving His only Son so that we might come to know Him personally.

C. He's the One who would _____ Satan and sin and give us the right course for life. (John 1:5, 8:12, 16:33; 1 John 1:7, 5:4–5)

- † “*Take heart; I have overcome the world.*” (John 16:33)

APPLICATION: The Advent season should remind us that Jesus Christ is the victor over darkness and we can have hope in overcoming evil in this world and the world to come.

Weekly Calendar

(For more details, visit www.BrooklynParkChurch.org.)

Sunday, December 6

- 4:00 PM Remembrance Service
- 5:30 PM *Alpha*, Freedom, Overview Courses

Monday, December 7

- 7:00 PM *Community Bible Study*

Tuesday, December 8

- 5:45–7:00 AM Intercessors' Prayer Time
- 5:15 PM Prayer Gathering/W. Foyer/Join us!
- 6:00 PM Support Group Meal and Worship
- 6:30 PM Quilters' Fellowship
- 7:00 PM Support Group Meetings

Wednesday, December 9

- 5:45–7:00 AM Intercessors' Prayer Time
- 5:30 PM Kids *Studio K.Z.*
- 6:30 PM Kids *K.Z. Disciples*
- Grades 7–12 Small Groups

Thursday, December 10

Friday, December 11

Saturday, December 12

- 2:00 & 6:00 PM Kids' Musical Presentations

Stewardship Matters

2009–2010 Annual Budget:	1,493,000
Budget needed fiscal year-to-date:	631,664
Giving/Revenue year-to-date:	547,777
Difference in budget needed and giving YTD:	(83,887)
Weekly budget needed:	28,712
Amount received November 29:	18,397
4 Our Future (Capital Campaign) Commitments:	1,100,000
4 Our Future Giving:	440,677

Next Step Class

You are invited to attend the *Next Step Class* on Wednesday, January 20, from 6:00–9:00 PM, to explore ministry and membership at BPEFC. We highlight our Core Values, Beliefs, Missions, Local Ministries, Steps to Membership, and create a Personal Ministry Profile based on your personality, possessions (gifts and abilities) and passion (to help you select a place of service). After attending the class, you have the opportunity to join the church.

Yes! I'm/We're interested in attending the class on January 20.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(Place form in the Offering or turn in at the Information Desk.)