

# The Messenger

Official Newsletter of the Church of Christ Wetaskiwin



December 2024



## HOW CAN IT BE?

The True Essence of Christmas

By: Pastor Ted Matira

The Christmas story is not a myth. It is not just a story. It is a fulfillment of more than 4,000 years of a promise, a plan, and a purpose to redeem, to reconcile, and to restore human beings to their rightful place in God's kingdom. It is a story of a long-expected saviour and an unexplainable joy to the world. It is a story of disruptions and scandalous events and yet a great story of truth and realities. Matthew recorded 3 men who have questionable moral character (Abraham, Judah and David). He also recorded 3 out of 5 women with questionable characters who are directly link to the family of Jesus. (Tamar who was pregnant by Judah, his Father in law; Rahab who is a prostitute in Jericho; and Bathsheba who had an illicit affair with King David). It is so controversial that a virgin is going to give birth not just to a son but to The Son-the Saviour of all creation. It is so scandalous because Mary is already betrothed, meaning considerable married but not yet. That's the reason why Joseph decided to divorce her secretly. But the truth rings out so loudly that the Lord of all creation was born in the flesh so that the redemptive work could happen. That's the grace upon grace. A gift to the world would become a sacrifice for us all (John 1:14-18, John 3:16, Romans 3:24-27) Didn't you know? That's okay. Mary, Joseph, cousin Elizabeth and other characters of the first day of Jesus on earth didn't know. Jesus! Could He be the Messiah? Is all that is going to happen be part of the plan? Nobody knows how cruel it could get. A brutal death sentence on the cross. They all exclaimed, "HOW CAN IT BE?"

It is a mystery! Nobody could really understand why God had to sacrifice His Only Son for the sins of the world. Since all have sinned and fall short of God's glory, everyone deserves to die for their own sins. But God is so gracious that He gave His only Son that they may have eternal life (Romans 3:23; 6:23). It is so significant to believe that it is by grace that we will be saved and not by our good works. It is so important to know that this good news will be shared into all the world and everyone who believes and is baptized will be forgiven of their sins, will unite with Christ to a new life and be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:28; Romans 6:3-6). Christmas is a long story of an indescribable gift to a lost humanity (2 Corinthians 9:15). That's How It Could Be!

In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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Church Event

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Fellowship  
Nights

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Stories of  
Inspiration

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December  
Birthday  
Celebants

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Christmas  
Celebration

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## Church Events

### Thanksgiving Celebration

There are a lot of things to be thankful for despite of the challenges that we go through everyday. God's mercy is never-ending, it is unfailing.

And so, our church family have gathered once again and celebrated this year's Thanksgiving with gratitude and gratefulness in their hearts. Everyone have prepared and brought food, drinks, laughter and their stories of what we are all being thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving indeed!



## Fellowship Nights

Want to learn more about God's word?  
Reach out and connect with us:

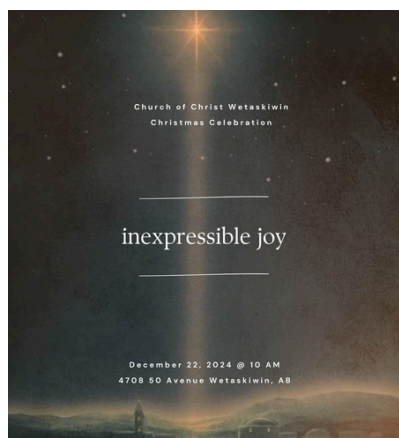
Bible Study  
Monday & Tuesday  
Contact: Hannah 780-335-4071

Prayer Meeting  
Wednesday  
Contact: Loverlee 403-913-4841

Worship Leaders Bible Study  
Thursday  
Contact: Bong 780-361-798  
Loverlee -403-913-4841

Bible Study Leaders Class  
Sunday

Interested in joining a small group?  
Contact Ptr. Ted 403-913-4713



## Event News

Invite your family & friends and join us  
for our Christmas celebration 2024.  
Here are the details:

- Date: 22 Dec 2024
- Time: 10am
- Location: 4708 50 Ave Wetaskiwin

Lunch Buffet will be served and  
everyone is welcome to join.

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# December Birthday Celebrants



**Chris Sampayan**

Dec 1

Chris is a dedicated member of our church. He is known for his passion commitment to his service to God.

His unwavering support and dedication to the church community is something that the church appreciates with him.



**Lyndon Schmidt**

Dec 4

Lyndon is a joy not just in the church but to his family. We see his commitment and happiness in serving the Lord whenever he is at church.

His presence alone gives happiness and hope to the people around him.



**Shalee Marie Fergusson**

Dec 27

Shalee is a passionate and hardworking woman of God. She shares a genuine relationship to people around her as she continue to seek God in her life. Her friendship to all is truly a blessing.



**Joshua Somook**

Dec 23

Joshua is loving son and brother who enjoys his time being with his family. At a young age, he knows how to be grateful to God for the blessings that he and his family receives.



**Emily Smith**

Dec 16

Emily is known for dedicating her heart to the Lord. She always has the commitment to help her fellow christian in their spiritual journey and continuously share the word to non-believers.



**Tiffany Oboh**

Dec 16

Tiffany is known to be a jolly and light hearted person at church. She is a strong-willed woman and passionate with everything that she does.

Her devotion and eagerness to serve the Lord is something that she values.



**Jahziel Matira**

Dec 7

Jahziel is a free-spirited woman who knows what she wants. She consistently seek God first in everything that she does.

Her service to the Lord is something that she values above all.

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# STORIES OF INSPIRATION



## A Testimony of Faith: Through the lens of the Prodigal Son

A life testimony of Kaisa Muscosa

I was born into a Christian family. Where I would wear Sunday dresses as I attend Sunday school. I grew up singing in the choir and as a youth leader.

This brings to my one of my favorite passages in the bible; Luke 15- *"The Parable of the Prodigal Son."*

I was 16 when I move for university - I immediately went with the wrong crowd. God was the farthest thing in my mind. I was preoccupied with how the world comforted me- it felt good at that time.

But God knew what I wanted. It has been said that Jesus does not work according to our timetable, but He is never late. He rescued us; He changed me; I know personally how much I can lean hard on Him.

Jesus' call to me isto trust that He knows what is best for me and who He is shaping me to be. Anybody else's experience will be different, because He loves us enough not to make our story like anyone else's. How could we expect anything less of the One who knows my heart, the end from the beginning, the right time to answer, and every good gift, which He gives sovereignly as He pleases?

That was my lesson And now I always have the benefit of looking on experiencing His grace through those times of despair and seeing patience stretched to new limits and of watching Him accompany me through a shadowed valley to the other side.

Maybe God is drawing alongside you as you read this and whispering to your heart:

*"I love you so very much  
I sent my Son to pay the price for you  
I gave up my only Son  
So that you could live."*

*Thank you for reading!*

CHURCH OF CHRIST WETASKIWIN	403-913-4713
<a href="http://www.churchofchristwetaskiwin.com">www.churchofchristwetaskiwin.com</a>	4708 50 Ave Wetaskiwin, AB T9A0R7

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