

Generations

Together on God's Abundant Journey

What Gift Will You Bring Others?

Just like that, Christmas is here again. Likely, your living room has a lovely Christmas tree displayed, stockings are hanging from the mantel, and your favorite winter candle is lit. You may have a list of gifts left to purchase and a plan for the last few weeks of this year. Hopefully written into the plan includes a few church services, maybe even a special Christmas service or worship night. That is fantastic!

However, I'm worried that we're too casual about Christmas. Christmas today seems to represent a society that emphasizes purchasing the nicest, most expensive gift. You are probably now waiting for the line about how Jesus is the best gift you could ever receive. While that is true, that isn't the goal of this article.

Instead, let's focus on this moment in the Christmas story, specifically Luke 1:26-38, where Mary, the mother of Jesus, learns she is about to conceive a child. This moment comes as a surprise, considering she is a virgin. An angel comes and tells Mary not to be afraid of what is about to happen. The angel says in verse 30, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God."

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In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-38



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Mary served as the fulfillment of a prophecy. She was the vessel for bringing the Son of God into this world. She stood afraid. Afraid of the implications, the risk and the judgment she would surely face. This moment changed everything. I'm sure at some point she would have thought, "Are you sure about this, God?"

I don't know that I've related to the Christmas story more than I do in this moment. I often feel like things around me are changing, probably for the better. Usually however, I find myself asking God, "Are you sure about this?"

We all have similar moments. Right before a breakthrough, there is a pivotal point where we have to choose surrender. That was happening for Mary; she had to surrender her plans so she could literally nurture the Savior of the world.

Although we will never be given the same circumstances and call as Mary, we face a similar task. We are required to be a vessel for the Son of God.

I can't help but wonder what would be different during this Christmas season if we focused on the gift of salvation as much as we did on the ones placed under the tree. Yes, we will have to face our fears, and likely an angel won't appear.

The urgency is the same. Just as Mary was the vessel for bringing Jesus into the world, we must be vessels for bringing him to the world. This is far greater than any gift, Christmas party, or scented candle could ever be.

This is eternal life. Immanuel, God is with us, entered this world through a virgin's womb so he could save each and every one of us. Our great and wonderful commission is to spread that message to all nations. We can't lose sight of the true reason for the season.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:4-20

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December Bible Reading Plan

See YouVersion's "30 Pictures of Jesus" for additional reading and info.

Date	Scripture	Image
December 1	John 1:1-18	The Word
December 2	John 8:12-20	Light of the World
December 3	John 4:1-26	Living Water
December 4	John 6:25-51	Bread of Life
December 5	John 10:1-18	Friend of Sinners
December 6	Matthew 9:9-13, 11:16-19	Redeemer
December 7	Ruth 4:1-12	Lamb of God
December 8	John 1:19-34	The Branch
December 9	Jeremiah 23:5-9	Image of God
December 10	Colossians 1:19-23	Firstborn Son
December 11	Exodus 4:22-23, Romans 5:12-21	Bridegroom
December 12	Hosea 2:14-23	The Rock
December 13	Exodus 17:1-7, 1 Corinth. 10:1-4	True Vine
December 14	John 15:1-8	Son of David
December 15	2 Samuel 7:1-17	The Judge
December 16	Acts 17:22-31	The Priest
December 17	Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-10	Passover Lamb
December 18	Exodus 12:1-30	The Resurrection
December 19	John 11:1-44	and the Life
December 20	1 Peter 2:1-12	The Temple
December 21	Romans 5:1-21	The New Adam
December 22	Matthew 2:13-23	True Israel
December 23	Deut.18:15-19, Acts 3:22-23	True Prophet
December 24	Psalm 118	The Cornerstone
December 25	Hebrews 4:1-11	Sabbath Rest
December 26	2 Corinthians 5:11-21	New Creation
December 27	Isaiah 53:1-12	Suffering Servant
December 28	Revelation 19:11-21, 20:1-15	King of Kings
December 29	Daniel 7:9-14, Matt. 26:63-64	Son of Man
December 30	Isaiah 7:10-17, Matt. 1:18-23	Immanuel

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Church Spotlight: Iglesia Bautista Logos/Logos Baptist Church

Logos Baptist Church in Columbus is launching, "Generacion Vital" or Vital Generation. This program includes a special event for collecting and packaging items that are essential for living, to be distributed to the Hispanic communities in Columbus, Seymour and Edinburgh.

Logos Baptist Church hopes that this program will grow from a one-time event into a continuous and permanent program that consistently provides support to families. Many of these families have faced severe loss and family separation affecting their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Logos Baptist aims to respond with love and care during this difficult time.

This effort aims to collect necessary items to be distributed and delivered to participating families and individuals at the first of the year. Each box will include scripture and a message of love to provide spiritual nourishment alongside physical assistance.

If you wish to support this effort, consider assisting in the following ways:

- Donating items to be distributed
- Contributing financially so materials and items can be purchased
- Volunteering to collect, prepare, and deliver the boxes.

Items may be delivered to:

Logos Baptist Church
(located in Memorial Baptist Church)
2320 7th Street
Columbus, IN 47201

Donation drop-off:

- Saturday, December 6th, 10am - 3pm (EST)

To coordinate times to volunteer or receive additional information about items needed, reach out to the church:

317.603.7600
logosadm1@gmail.com

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. - Galatians 6:9

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Deck the Halls

What You'll Need:

- Paper or cardstock
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

Optional:

- Hole punch
- String

Instructions:

1. Each day, read the daily scripture on Page 3.
2. Cut out a star from paper or cardstock.
3. Decorate the star with words or pictures that reflect the daily image of Jesus.
4. Hang the stars on the tree or use them to decorate the house.

Optional:

- Hole punch all of the stars and string them together to create a garland that can be hung around the house or placed on your tree.



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December Events around the Region

Please note all times are listed in EST unless otherwise stated. Many regularly scheduled gatherings were adjusted for the holiday season. Please double-check that your meeting time has not changed.

Date	Event	Location	Time
December 1	Northeastern Central Pastors and Spouses CANCELED!	Culvers (6386 S Scatterfield Rd. Anderson, IN)	6:00 PM
December 2	Monticello and Tippecanoe Association Pastors	Country Cafe (705 Sagamore Pkwy W. West Lafayette, IN)	10:00 AM
December 3	North Pastors	Vinatelli's (615 Annette Dr. Markle, IN)	12:00 PM
December 4	Bethel Association Pastors	Mission BBQ (1213 Veterans Parkway, Clarksville, IN)	11:30 AM
December 8	Laughery Association Pastors	Versailles Baptist Church (228 S. Washington St. Versailles, IN)	10:00 AM
December 8	Coffee Creek Association Pastors	Denny's (175 S Honeyrun Pkwy. Scottsburg, IN)	1:00 PM
December 11	Region Board	Greater Hope Christian Church (1228 Lodge Ave. Evansville, IN)	9:30 AM EST 8:30 AM CST
December 15	ABC-IN/KY Region Staff Lunch	TBD	12:00 PM
December 24 - January 2	Region Office Closed	Reopens Monday January 5	
	Save the Dates:		
January 23-24	Fusion Youth Ministry Weekend (Grades 6-12)	See Page 7.	7:00 PM
April 20-22	Great Lakes Leadership Retreat (for Pastors and Church Leaders)	Cedar Lake Ministries (13701 Lauerman St. Cedar Lake, IN)	TBD

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Fusion

YOUTH MINISTRY *Weekend*

To register, go to:

www.abc-indiana.org/event/fusion-weekend/

6-12th Grade Students
\$50/student

January 23 at 7pm - January 24 at 3pm

Location: Terre Haute First Baptist Church
4701 E. Poplar St. Terre Haute, Indiana
Theme: Growing as One



Ephesians 4:15-16
Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will
grow to become in every respect the
mature body of him who is the head, that is,
Christ. From him the whole body, joined
and held together by every supporting
ligament, grows and builds itself up in love,
as each part does its work.

Speakers:

John Campbell



Josh White



Mikayla Myers



Worship Leaders:

Logan and Katie Oakes



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For the upcoming Fusion Weekend, ABC-IN/KY has started a T-Shirt design contest. Students who plan to attend the event can submit their best design. The student whose design is selected gets to attend the weekend for free.

Rules and Guidelines:

1. Students are encouraged to be creative but must remain appropriate.
2. Students may suggest 2 colors for the design and one color for the shirt. Colors may be modified after submission depending on availability.
3. Students should create a design for the front and back of the shirt.
4. "Fusion 2026" should be included somewhere on the design.
5. Digital designs can be submitted in .pdf or .jpeg format.
6. All designs are due by Monday, December 8.
7. Follow @abcofindiana on Instagram to vote for your favorite design.
Voting will begin on Monday, December 15.
8. Entries that include the weekend's theme and verse will be favored.
(Theme and verse are listed below.)

Questions and submissions can be directed to Clara Thompson at clarathompson@abc-indiana.org.

Sponsored by:



Theme: Growing as One; Ephesians 4:15-16

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work".

Generations

Thank You to Our Supporters

We are grateful to these sister churches who have given to the Region Offering in the month of October to support the Ministry of the Region. (Please note that fiscal months do not follow a regular calendar.)

Bear Creek Baptist Church
Calvary Baptist Church
Clayton First Baptist Church
Dabney Baptist Church
Deer Creek Baptist Church
First Baptist Church of Bedford
First Baptist Church of Bicknell
First Baptist Church of Camden
First Baptist Church of Columbus
First Baptist Church of Decatur
First Baptist Church of Dillsboro
First Baptist Church of Fort Wayne
First Baptist Church of Jeffersonville
First Baptist Church of Madison
First Baptist Church of Monticello
First Baptist Church of Plainfield
First Baptist Church of Peru
First Baptist Church of Rochester
First Baptist Church of Warren

Greencastle First Baptist Church
Hayden Baptist Church
Hope First Baptist Church
Iglesia Bautista de Lake Station
Judson Baptist Church
Kimberlin Creek Baptist Church
Lancaster Baptist Church
Lebanon Baptist Church
Mill Creek Baptist Church
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Oakdale Baptist Church
Sardinia Baptist Church
Tell City First Baptist Church
Versailles Baptist Church
Zion Baptist Church