



First Sunday after Christmas Sunday 26th December 2021

Christ Church Lutheran
31 Swanport Rd
Murray Bridge

Holy Cross Lutheran
31 Florence St
Murray Bridge

Zion Lutheran
427 Schenscher Rd
Monarto

We want everyone in the Murray Bridge regional communities to know the love of Jesus and be in a saving relationship with Him.

WELCOME... TO OUR BULLETIN. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND LEAVE YOU STRENGTHENED FOR THE CHALLENGES AND JOYS OF THE COMING WEEK!

All Services and Events subject to COVID restrictions. *Due to the COVID 19 situation, the rules, restrictions and guidelines for our safety are changing. Sometimes this is very quick and late, there may not be enough notice to let everyone know, we thank you for your understanding.*

Please follow the directions of the people in charge at our services.

*****Masks are required until further notice*****

Sunday: 26th December - 1st Sunday after Christmas

Monarto – No Service
9am Holy Cross – Lay Reading Service
9:30am Christ Church - JD Hall, Worship service led by Ian Kluge,
9am Cuppa and fellowship before Worship.

Sunday: 2nd January - 2nd Sunday after Christmas

9am Holy Cross – Holy Communion – Pastor Paul
9:30am Christ Church - JD Hall, Worship service led by Pastor Wayne Kerber,
9am Cuppa and fellowship before Worship.
11am Christ Church – Traditional Worship in the church, led by Pastor Kerber
11am Monarto – Holy Communion Pastor Paul

Sunday: 9th January - 1st Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Cross – No Service
9am Monarto – Lay Reading
9:30am Christ Church - JD Hall, Holy Communion,
9am Cuppa and fellowship before Worship.

Visitors most welcome to join any of our services

Christmas Office Hours:

Both Offices are closed and will reopen Tuesday 4th January

****Please note that there will be no bulletin for next week, Sunday 2nd January'22****

PASTOR PAUL ON LEAVE from 7th to 31st January if Holy Cross members require pastoral assistance please contact David Schirmer 0459 943 682 Ministry Team or Jeff Henschke Church Council chairperson 0428 519 252

Church office hours when we re-open:

Christ Church Office hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 9am-12noon – **Closed Wednesday.**

Ph 8532 6553 email: christchurch.murraybridge.sa@lca.org.au

Website: www.cclutheranmb.org.au Add: 5 Marchand St, Murray Bridge

After Hours please phone: Chairperson, Warren Doecke - 0417 804 663

Holy Cross office hours: Tues, Wed 10am-1pm; Thurs, Fri 9am-2pm – **Closed Monday.**
Ph 8532 4577 email: hcoffice@internode.on.net Add: 31 Florence St, Murray Bridge
Pastor Paul Calnan is available by phone Tues to Fri 9am to 6pm Mobile: 0417 466 611 or
email: paul.calnan@lca.org.au *If you require pastoral care outside of these hours please
contact Ministry Team Chair: David Schirmer or Council Chairperson: Jeff Henschke*

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES ETC:

Church Offices closed from 24th Dec'21 re-open 4th Jan'22
Lutheran Care counsellor closed from 23rd Dec'21 re-open on 4th Jan'22
Emerge Counselling closed from 19th Dec'21 re-open on 10th Jan'22
Christ Church Tuesday morning Bible Study in recess, recommences 1st Feb'22
Holy Cross Monday Morning Bible Study in recess, recommences 31st Jan'22
Holy Cross Cards break from 18th Dec'21 and return on 8th Jan'22
Crafty Capers in recess, recommences 2nd Feb'22
Holy Cross Recycling Shed: closed from 23rd Dec'21 re-open on 4th Jan'22
Teen Challenge: Closed from 24th Dec'21 re-open 10am 13th Jan'22

SINGING UPDATE:

From the 28th December the new direction from SA Health to keep people safe is that there will be no singing / chanting / choirs unless all attendees are vaccinated. Following communication from the LCA we will not be identifying anyone's vaccination status so there will be no singing at any of our services or gatherings from 28th December until notified otherwise

Shared Ministry Task Group:

CALL MEETING - SUNDAY 12TH DEC 2021

CALL MEETING: POSTPONED DUE TO PASTOR PAUL'S UNVACCINATED STATUS FOR COVID-19

1. Prior to the meeting last Sunday, Bishop Altus informed the Shared Ministry Task Group of Pastor Paul's unvaccinated status for the Covid-19 virus. Bishop Altus wrote to the meeting and his letter is attached for you all to read. In it the Bishop requests that members be informed; and for you all to have time to prayerfully consider your own thoughts. To have conversations with one another and with your leaders about how you are feeling as a consequence of this new information.

The Bishop therefore asked for the Call Meeting to be POSTPONED at this stage.

2. When Pastor Paul returns from holidays; Pastor Kuss has been installed and together with the leadership teams the Bishop indicated that the District will hold the necessary meetings to find the way forward.
3. Pastor Paul has given permission for the following explanation:
"Pastor Paul has his own personal health concerns for him to have a current vaccination. He continues to investigate the situation with his doctor and is hoping to be vaccinated as soon as an appropriate vaccine becomes available".
4. It is extremely important that everyone understands and accepts unreservedly that Pastor Paul is **NOT** an anti-vaxer.

Members need to prayerfully consider the implications and/or limitations for any unvaccinated Pastor's ability to actively minister in all areas of his Call especially with visiting Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Aged Care facilities and vulnerable people.

Those members at the meeting last Sunday indicated that the Call Meeting should be re-adjourned as soon as possible in early February following the District led discussions.

Please speak with your Leaderships with any queries or concerns about this issue.

A recent communique statement from Bishop Altus and the SA-NT District Assistant Bishops that appeared in the on-line *Together* is also available after service and from the office for your reflection.

Shared Ministry Task Group members are

Holy Cross: Greg Herrmann, Joanne Pfeiffer, Barry Stoddart;

Christ Church: Warren Doecke, Yvonne Stiller, Trent Mueller;

Monarto: Colin Wegener, Raelene Barolo.

UPDATE FROM SHARED MINISTRY TASK GROUP

At the Information Meeting held last Sunday 12th Dec, the Task Group informed members of the following:-

1. **Pastors Accommodation.** In order to settle on where the two Pastors should be housed, the meeting asked the Task Group to investigate further the opportunities for both Pastors to be housed together at either Christ Church or Holy Cross eventually. At the moment Pastor Kuss will have his office at Christ Church.
2. **Office Accommodation.** This is a “work in progress” and early in the New Year a small group including all the Office Staff will be working on this.
3. **Finance.** The meeting approved the recommended % split for the individual congregation contributions to the Pastor’s salaries ie 53% CC: 7% Monarto: 40% HC. The Office Secretary’s will continue to be paid by the individual congregations at the moment.
4. **One Name.** The meeting considered the recent Name suggestions for the Shared Ministry that have been in the Bulletin. “Lutheran” is definitely to be included. There was varying debate for Churches v Community but it was felt that in looking forward to use Community would be welcoming for the outside community. The task group will continue to look into using Unity in the title but some felt this could be confusing. All agreed that we need to settle on the new one name as soon as possible.
5. **Webpage/Social Media.** Emily Mueller presented a proposal for a joint webpage and associated social media platforms to be supplied through V interact. The meeting approved the recommended initial setup fee (\$1140) and ongoing monthly payments (\$179) to be shared across the 3 congregations. Thank you to Emily for offering to coordinate this activity.
6. **Safe Place Coordinator.** This activity will be done as one team across the 3 congregations. The 2 new Christ Church volunteers have offered to work with Holy Cross to bring this together. This is a big task and we need to thank Tamra Lees, Joan Martin and Pastor Peter Welke.
7. **Prayer Team.** Bob Martin (CC) has offered to coordinate this new Shared Ministry team. You are welcome to speak with Bob or put your name forward through the Task Group.
8. **Combined Bulletin and Bi-Monthly Combined Newsletter.** The combined Bulletin has been well received and will be ongoing. The meeting supported the proposal for a combined Bi-Monthly Newsletter that the office Secretary’s will now put in place.
9. Task Group briefly indicated other areas that they are discussing ie:
 - Combining the various Worship teams as one, along with current activities that are already working across congregations eg, Ladies Guild, Men’s Group and Music Ministry.

The Task Group is always keen to hear from members with their thoughts, suggestions and comments. Our names are listed in the Bulletin, please contact us.

Blessings

Joanne Pfeiffer - Shared Ministry, Coordinator

General Notices

SHARE MINISTRY PRAYER GROUP: A new Shared Ministry Prayer Group is being established. If you are interested in attending and/or being involved please leave your name, phone number, and preference for a day/time to meet at Christ Church office. Thank you, Bob Martin Shared Ministry Prayer Group Coordinator

RENEW Young Adults Camp

4 - 7 February 2022, Ankara Campsite, Walker Flat. \$190 Full Camp | \$160 Two Nights - \$130 One Night. 50% off for 2021 School Leavers. Registrations close 23 January 2022

ROSTERS:

Christ Church: Roster is out, please pick up your copy

Holy Cross: Rosters for next year are being drawn up – please let the office or Trudy Gogel know if there are dates you are unavailable. Many thanks.

2022 - DEVOTION BOOK FOR A YEAR - "Time Out to Reconnect" - **\$25 each** if you would like one please contact: **Christ Church** - Dennis Pfeiffer (0437 506 345)
Holy Cross - Trudy Gogel (0407 600 529)

CATERING HELP: Can you help with donating food and/or assisting on the day for Funerals? If you can, please contact; **CHRIST CHURCH** – Julie Mueller 0407 045 149 or Joyce Stiller 8532 1116.

HOLY CROSS – Service Guild Velma Zerk 0438 325 611 or Rhonda Packer 8532 2876.

REG – Regular Electronic Giving: Have you considered using REG for your weekly offerings? Forms are available from either church office to set up with your LLL account or use the following details:

Christ Church: BSB 704942 Acc # 100311504

Holy Cross: BSB 704942 Acc # 51176

DVD MINISTRY DISTRIBUTION: Helpers are needed to distribute the Holy Cross Service DVD's to the Swanport Village, Murray Heights and house bound in Murray Bridge if you can assist please speak to Bob Eggers or ring him on 85311207

LUTHERAN MEN OF AUSTRALIA Newsletter: The latest LMA Newsletter (Dec21-Feb22) is available from the office or halls.

PRINTED SERVICE ORDERS: Holy Cross members who have vision impairment and are having trouble seeing the service on the screen please let Annette at the office know if you would like a printed order of service.

TEEN CHALLENGE THANKYOU: Teen Challenge would like to say how much they appreciated the support of the Lutheran Community throughout the year! It has been a challenging year for everyone and our continued faithfulness to help them to help those who are struggling is a huge blessing. They wish us all a Happy and Blessed Christmas and New Year.

LOWER SOUTH EAST CHRISTIAN LIFE WEEK TEAM would like to thank everyone who assisted at their Bunnings BBQ on the 18th December. Your support was very much appreciated!

CHURCH LIFE SURVEY: will run from 19/12/2022 to 16/01/2023 we encourage all members to participate in this survey online if possible. Paper copies are available from both offices or at services, please speak to either Yvonne or Annette if you require a paper based survey. Return to the office ASAP.

To complete online go to: attendersurvey.ncls.org.au (remember to click finish when done)

Church Codes:	Christ Church	LA413401
	Holy Cross	LA404202
	Monarto	LA413402

PRAYERS:

Prayer of the day: Lord, help us, in all our dealings with one another, to be subject to you, the Father of all. May we follow the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ, who was obedient to your will, and gave up his life for us. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Also pray....

- ✠ Lord, as we are moving in a new direction, opposite to our comfort, we need Your strength, Your wisdom, Your confidence. We believe You will empower us as we step out in faith. We pray that the power of Your love will bring lasting transformation throughout our communities as we continue our journey of working together.
- ✠ Pray for Pastor David Kuss, and Pastor Paul Calnan and their families and for all leaders of our churches. May they seek your counsel daily, seeking your wisdom and guidance as they give spiritual guidance to others. Fill them with patience, peace, and joy for their work, remembering you are with them even when the work is hard, for you are faithful to equip those who obey your call.

Please Pray for... *(Please note, before visiting check with family for any visitation allowances and/or restrictions)*

Christ Church: Martha Aartsen, Jasmine & Winston Dance, Lores Frahn, Audrey Jaensch, Flo Kerkham, Irene Kuchel, Margaret Kuchel, Bryan Lees, Joy Lienert, Andy & Colleen Nicholls, Oscar, Amelia & Josh Noye, Joyce Pope, Leo Schulz, Vena Shinnick, Sandra Thiele, June Walker & their Carers.

Holy Cross: Ian & Fay Baxter, Judy Brereton, Olga Burgemeister, Lila Grocke, Maxine Gogler & Vicki Gollasch and family, Trevor, Christabel and Kyle Hage, Bert & Nita Hyam, Elizabeth Klitscher, Leila Koehler, Glen Koop, Matt Kruschel, Joy Leighton, Erin, Travis, Cooper, Brady & Taylor Lienert, Brenda O'Reilly, Stephanie Pietsch, Jim & Marion Poole, Erwin Rohrlach, David Schirmer, Neil Schubert, Reg Schwartz, Barb Taylor, Clarita Venn & their Carers.

Resthaven: Joyce Ahrns (CC), Norm Bensch (HC), Lorna Burrett (HC), Doris Hein (Mon), Margaret Koop (CC), Dot Noller (CC), Murray Piltz (CC)

Lerwin: Phyllis Courtney (HC), Glad Hausler (CC), Stewart Jaensch (CC), Dorothy Klitscher (HC), Phyllis Koop (HC), Eric Kuss (CC), Alice Kowald (HC), Betty Paech (HC)

Craigmore Resthaven: Ivy Roennfeldt (CC) **Golden Grove Helping Hand:** Joyleen Rosenzweig (CC)

Meningie Hospital Aged Care: Kurt Unger (HC), Felicity Woods (HC)

St Paul's Aged Care, Hahndorf: Margaret Pfeiffer (HC) **Warner Close, M/Bridge:** Colleen Fawcett (CC)

Tailem Bend Hospital: Pat Gogel, Bevan Schulz (both HC)

If you would like to be included in our Prayers or have your Birthday, Anniversary or any other special occasion announced, please email or call your church office.

Baptismal Birthday Celebrations This Week

26 th Norman Bensch (HC)	31 st Estelle Lees (CC)	3 rd Tamra Lees (CC)
27 th Jackson Koch (CC)	Lynette Little (HC)	6 th Bryan Lees (CC)
Maddison Hill (HC)	Marlene Schubert (CC)	7 th Marleen Dunthorne (CC)
28 th Dennis Pfeiffer (CC)	2022	Tania Klemm (CC)
29 th Roxanne Rowland (CC)	1 st Barry Stoddart (HC)	8 th Trent Mueller (CC)
31 st Sarah Doecke (CC)	2 nd Amelia Noye (CC)	9 th Greg Herrmann (HC)

COMING EVENTS – Subject to COVID restrictions *(Please advise the offices of any changes)*

Sun 2nd Jan 2nd Sunday after Christmas

9am	Holy Cross – Holy Communion
9.30am	Christ Church Family Worship in JDH
11am	Monarto – Holy Communion
11am	Christ Church service in the Church

Sun 9th Jan 1st Sunday after Epiphany

	Holy Cross – NO Service
9am	Monarto
9.30am	Christ Church Worship in JDH

26th DEC READINGS & HYMNS/SONGS:

- ✠ **Holy Cross:** *Readings:* Psalm 148; Matthew 1: 18-25; *Songs:* Angels from the Realms of Glory; Holy, holy, holy; Let us all with joyful voice; Jesus name of wondrous love; Lets go out and keep on singing.
- ✠ **Christ Church** *Readings:* Acts 7: 51-60; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52. *Songs:* When a child is born, Joy to the World (Shout for Joy), Living Sacrifice, Glory (Let there be peace), Come People of the Risen King.

2nd JAN READINGS:

Readings: Psalm 147:12-15(16-18)19-20; Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9)10-18

OTHER WAYS TO WORSHIP:

FACEBOOK: Holy Cross Lutheran Church Murray Bridge / Christ Church Lutheran Murray Bridge / Music Ministry Online

YOUTUBE Holy Cross Lutheran Church Murray Bridge / Christ Church Lutheran Murray Bridge / Music Ministry Online

Christ Church Web Page: <http://www.cclutheranmb.org.au/>

Music Ministry email: musicministrymb@gmail.com

Christian radio now live! – Murray Bridge 87.6 FM SA

Other Livestreamed Services etc – Go to LCA Church@Home:

<https://www.lca.org.au/worship/wpp/churchhome/>

click on View@Home to see services online, Pray@Home for prayer resources and Faith@Home for other options.

Sermons4Kids- Stories of the Bible: <https://sermons4kids.com/>



ROSTERS

Monarto Rosters

Christmas Day: **Wardens:** Rob & Liz F.

2nd Jan: **Wardens:** Haydn & Penne. **Reader:** Trevor H.

9th Jan: **Wardens:** Colin & Raelene W. **Reader:** Haydn H

Holy Cross

	25 DEC 9AM	26 DEC 9AM	2 JAN 9AM
Sign In Greeter	Velma Zerk E Waldhuter	D Steinborner A Pearce	T Gogel Kathy Pfeiffer
LS Server	Charmaine Paech	N/A	Myrna Gerlach
Lector	Charmaine Paech	Annette Pearce	Judy Sacco
PA/MM	Peter Welke Joel Weincke	Bruce Kuchel	Amy Gates
Video	Bob Eggers	N/A	Allen Wegener
Marshal	Peter Welke	Joanne Pfeiffer	Sandra Gates
Ushers	Bruce & Joyleen Kuchel	Matt Woidt C Schache	Kerry Lienert Bob Gerlach
Bell Ringer	Roger Waldhuter	Bruce Kuchel	Bob Gerlach
Altar Guild	Dulcie Pfeiffer	N/A	L Rosenzweig
Flowers	Velma Zerk	Velma Zerk	Petrina Altmann
Musicians	Maxine Gogler	Joyleen Kuchel	M Gogler, R Packer, K Ahrens
Morning Tea	N/A	V Zerk H Heuppauff R Packer	C Schache S Kramer Y Patterson
Ministry Team	P & E Welke	P & E Welke	D Steinborner

Christ Church

	9:30am Church 25-Dec	9:30am JDH 26-Dec	9:30am JDH 2-Jan	11am Church 2-Jan	9:30am JDH 9-Jan
COVID Marshal	L Schiller	K Franklin	A Hampel	D Schmerl	L Schiller
Elder Assist	I Kluge ♥ D Schiller	W Doecke ♥ G Korzeba	D Hampel	D Pech	D Shiller ♥ I Kluge
Wardens	P&V Jaensch	D Lienert	Y Stiller	I Kluge M Mueller	P&V Jaensch
Greeters	R&M Herrmann	B&Y Lablack	J Herrmann I Schulte	C Coulter J Bahr	L Schiller L Penhall
Tea/Coffee			D Borchardt L Penhall		J Herrmann J Bahr
PA	T Lees	N Mann	R Hampel	W Taylor	T Lees
Data Projector	S Kuchel	E Mann	Y Stiller	J Irvine	C Doecke
Reader	M Herrmann			C Coulter	
Flowers	H Schirmer		V Jaensch		G Taylor
Video	R Jericho	R Jericho	R Jericho		R Jericho
Counter	B Schubert	G Korzeba	V Jaensch	B Schubert	G Korzeba
Grounds Roster	T&Y Koch	T&Y Koch			
Water & Care		T Koch	Y Koch		Harry & Inez

Monarto Congregation Contacts

<u>Elders</u>	Haydn Hein	0428 898 639	Maurice Wegener 8531 1060
<u>Chairman</u>	Trevor Hilton	0439 839 022	
<u>Treasurer</u>	Colin Wegener	0407 030 241	
<u>Secretary</u>	Jan Brodde	8532 5050	

Christ Church Congregation Contacts

<u>Elders:</u>	Dawn Hampel	8532 4138	Denise Lohmeyer 8531 0935
	David Pech	0420 849 344	Janelle Traeger 8535 4290
	Graham Schubert	0408 848 920	Ian Kluge 0427 313 537, 8531 3449
<u>Chairman</u>	Warren Doecke	0417 804 663, 8572 6019	
<u>Cong. Secretary</u>	Cheryl Doecke	0427 804 663, 8572 6019	
<u>Treasurer</u>	Carlien Hohls	0415 919 043	
<u>Church Secretary</u>	Yvonne Stiller	8532 3445	
<u>Prop. & Maintenance:</u>	Nathanael Mann	0439 506 826	

Holy Cross Congregation Contacts

<u>Chairperson:</u>	Jeff Henschke	0428 519 252
<u>Ministry Team</u>	David Schirmer (chair)	0459 943 682
	Myrna Gerlach	Matthew Woidt
	Edna Welke	Pastor Peter Welke
	Dennis Steinborner	Lesley Rosenzweig
	Helen Heuppauff	Coral Eggers
<u>Treasurer</u>	Barry Stoddart	0459 590 302
<u>Property Chair</u>	Greg Herrmann	0438 785 040

Wishing you all a Christ filled Christmas and Happy New Year, may 2022 be a peaceful and blessed year for everyone from the Christ Church and Holy Cross Office Staff:
Yvonne Stiller, Janelle Traeger, Annette Pearce.



Growing FAITH at home

26th December 2021
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
My Father's house



SHARE

share your highs and lows of the day, or respond to the following questions:

1

As a boy, Jesus grew wiser and stronger. He grew *mentally*, *physically*, *spiritually* and *emotionally*. In what ways would you like to grow?

2

In spending time at the temple, Jesus showed his desire to grow spiritually. What steps are you taking to grow as a Christian?

Devotions



READ Daily Bible Readings

S	Luke 2:41-52	The boy Jesus at the temple
M	1 Sam 2:18-20, 26	Samuel was ministering
T	Col 3:12-17	Living as those made alive in Christ
W	Luke 2:21-40	Jesus presented at the temple
T	Mark 11:15-18	Jesus clears the temple
F	Luke 20:1-8	Jesus teaches at the temple
S	Psalms 148	Praise the Lord
S	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh



TALK

Talk about the Bible verse. What word or phrase was important to you as you read these verses?

Rituals and Traditions



PRAY

Lord God, help me to grow wiser and stronger as your servant. Amen.



BLESS

May God's favour rest on you.
May you grow wise and strong as his child.

Christmas

WHITE is the colour of purity, light and completeness. It is used at Christmas to celebrate Jesus' purity and glory as the Son of God and the joy we find in him.

Creative Response

Colossians 3:16 invites us to take in God's Word like a rich treasure.

Agree on one or more goals as a household to help you grow in God's Word.

For example:

- Learn a Bible verse together each month
- Read through a book of the Bible together
- Listen to Christian music in your home
- Learn some Christian songs
- Have some personal devotion times



mealtime prayer

Lord Jesus, we join together these Christmas days, with shepherds and angels, to give you praise. Be present here, as at the stable, and bless the sharing around our table. Amen.

Service



December 26 was observed as "Boxing Day" in many parts of the world.

The name of the day is derived from a tradition of giving gifts (a "Christmas box") to the less fortunate members of society.

Do you have excess non-perishable food items in your home after Christmas? Gather these together in a box to donate to a household in need or to a local charity.



"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



IS CHRISTMAS ONLY?

PART THREE: GOD TELLS THE WORLD.

The baby Jesus was born. God's Son was there laying in the hay. How would the world ever know of this wonderful thing? Once again, God springs a surprise. There is no Facebook, no Twitter, no emails, no blog pages. So God uses shepherds. Blokes out on the hills looking after their sheep, resting on one elbow around a campfire yarning, discussing who's got the best mob of sheep.



When "Hey! Look at that!" Suddenly a great light which they had never seen before. It's an angel, and he is waving his arms and saying, Hey! Listen up fellas! No need to be scared. I've got terrific news. God's Son has been born. Just like God promised. If you go look, you'll find him lying in a manger in Bethlehem." Then to show he wasn't

kidding, suddenly there was a mob of the angel's mates in the sky, all singing, "Praise God. Peace to everyone on earth."

Then the angels returned to heaven, and the shepherds took off to Bethlehem. They found the baby Jesus, a smiling Mary and proud Joseph. They told God He had done a great thing and praised Him. Full of excitement, they told everyone they met what had happened. Using shepherds (who most people thought were unimportant) to get the message about this exciting thing God had done out to the rest of the world was a "cool" idea.



What do you think of God's message of love?

God bless you,

Kevin.

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



IS CHRISTMAS ONLY? PT 4

END OF THE STORY – OR THE START OF SOMETHING MORE GRAND?



About two years after the birth of Jesus, a king, King Herod, was boss in this country. He was mean, nasty, bad-tempered and got mad if anyone suggested there might be another king. Well, guess what? Suddenly he had these blokes turn up at his palace door with a strange request.

They respectfully met with Herod (after all, he was the king) and told him they were wise men from a different country. They study stars and believe a new star that travels, had led them to a "new king". Herod thought, "New king! Not likely!" But he hid his anger and instead said, "You beaut! Tell you what. You find him, then I can come and worship him too". But he was actually thinking, "You find him and I'll get rid of him".

The wise men continued following that star. Finding the young Jesus, they gave Him the presents they had brought; Gold, frankincense (that smells good - sweet), and spicy smelling myrrh. Later God told these men not to go back to Herod (remember he had terrible plans for Jesus)



God also sent a messenger (probably one of his angels) to Joseph, warning about King Herod's "not nice" plans and telling Joseph to take his family and migrate to Egypt until God let him know it was safe to come home. That is just what Joseph did.

So, is Christmas only about presents, tinsel & holidays? No, it's about God and ordinary people who believed in God's love, listened to Him and did as He said. Ordinary people like you. You might ask, "But how can I know what God wants?" It might seem hard at first, but He has promised to help. First, despite all that might be going on in your life, try to believe **HE DOES LOVE YOU AND WANTS WHAT IS BEST FOR YOU AND YOUR LIFE**. Find a couple of "Jesus Followers" and talk to them. That might mean going to a church – where they do try to be friendly. Read God's words in the Bible (The book of Luke is an excellent place to start). Take time to be silent and let Him talk to your heart. Give it a try. You have nothing to lose, lots to gain.

God bless you, and may you have a very blessed and joyous Christmas

Kevin .

Image: Paula Nash Giltner/Good News Productions International/Freebibleimages