



# TRUE LIGHT

*Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105*

**December 13, 2020**

## **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

### **SUNDAY**

Worship:

8:45 a.m. (masked)

10:30 a.m. (masks optional)

### **WEDNESDAY**

Bible Study.....7:00PM

### **MINISTER**

Stan Dauck  
573-293-5620

### **ELDERS**

David Burleson  
573-820-0329  
David Carson  
573-276-5567  
Stan Dauck  
573-293-5594

### **DEACONS**

Wayne Reams  
Joe Watson  
Rodney Williams  
Tim Woods

**OFFICE: 573-293-5620**  
**Bernie Church of Christ**  
**P.O. Box 366**  
**Bernie, MO 63822**

**EMAIL:**  
berniechurchofchrist@gmail.com

**WEBSITE:**  
www.berniechurchofchrist.com

**FIND US ON FACEBOOK:**  
Bernie church of Christ

*"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

Psalms 118:24

***We Welcome You  
To All Of Our  
Services***

## **OUR INTERSECTION WITH JOY**

My first experience with an Asian traffic jam occurred thirty years ago at 11:45 p.m. in Bangkok, Thailand. We had just landed from a very long flight, gone through the baggage claim (there were eight missing bags for our group of thirteen), immigration, visa and passport checks, and a mad rush to the restrooms. We were bone-weary. As we headed to the hotel in a red taxi truck, we entered into a sea of vehicles and were soon engulfed in an awful, ninety-minute traffic jam at a traffic light.

AARGH! Welcome to Bangkok, Thailand!

At first, we were all upset and cranky. After thirty-plus hours of traveling, we were more than ready for a hotel where we could, as mom likes to say, "Fall through the mattress!" We were caught up in the moment of our frustration and had forgotten the big picture God was now placing before us. After a few minutes of whining, however, either the Holy Spirit or delirium kicked into action.

We suddenly realized we were in Thailand and on the opposite side of the planet from where we usually lived. The sounds, smells, sights, language, and pace of life were all different ... fascinating...exotic...and new!

As we looked around, we realized that cars were six across at an intersection with four lanes. In between, in front, and behind each car were 10-12 motor scooters with at least two and sometimes six people on each one of them. The air was humid and full of strange, spicy, savory, exhaust-laden, and open trash propelled aromas.

*The difficulty, weariness, and frustration of the moment were all swallowed up in the greater reality of God's grace and what the Holy Spirit was going to do with us...Our irritating traffic jam became our intersection with joy!*

At about that time, we began to laugh and giggle. Among the many things we were smelling, we realized that some of the aromas were coming from us! Then, we began to joke that five of us had brought backpacks with extra underwear and clothes. Except, those five were the only five to get their luggage. The other eight had no change of clothes, and each was smelling quite "odiferous"! We began to speculate just how odiferous they would be in fifteen days! Then, I began to explain to all of these lovely-smelling friends how to use one hanger to make a windsock, so underwear and socks could be washed in the humid air of Bangkok.

Next, we realized that we would soon be getting up and going to church with all sorts of other believers from all over the world. Genuine excitement began to build in our hearts. The discussion turned to speculation of what it would be like worshipping in a language none of us had really experienced. Who would we meet? How would God use us? Why were we so blessed to be able to come and be God's representatives in a place so far from home and yet so welcoming to us?

Before we realized it, bleary eyes gave way to hope-filled expectations. Foggy minds gave way to excited and holy speculation. And the irritations of a traffic jam at midnight gave way to the anticipated tales we would tell our friends and family when we went home. The difficulty, weariness, and frustration of the moment were all swallowed up in the greater reality of God's grace and what the Holy Spirit was going to do with us. For the next two weeks, we were not disappointed with what happened. (Well, none of us except the three guys who roomed together and never got their luggage until we returned to the Thailand airport.) Our irritating traffic jam became our intersection with joy!

Luke reminds us that Jesus' coming - his incarnation and birth as Jesus Christ the Son of God - was a traffic jam of political oppression, deep Jewish resentment, weary travelers, unfair taxes, forgotten shepherds, and expecting parents without a place to sleep or have their baby. Those realities framed the events that surrounded the birth of Jesus. And those realities were the temporary setting for Jesus' coming to earth. God's grace had always been at work on a grand scale to do things for all the world. And this set of circumstances was the moment that Jesus' birth brought the beginning of redemption, hope, and life to a lost and hopeless world. This setting was a world where life was cheap, often wasted, sometimes stolen, or (and all too frequently) missed.

**Continued on back**

## CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

### BIRTHDAYS

December 13 - Jennifer Hampton  
Daniel Moore  
December 20 - Keri Williams



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

December 17 - Ronnie & Sonja Mays  
Zack & Beckie Tanner  
December 18 - Bud & Donna McQuin

## CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Dry Spaghetti \* Chili Mixes \*  
Large Freezer Bags \* Microwave  
Popcorn \* Kidney Beans \* Ranch style  
beans

Pick Up Date February 1

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Cereal \* Crackers \* Canned Spaghetti  
Sauce \* Rice \* Dried Beans  
*Monetary gifts also appreciated*

Continued from front:

Luke emphasized Jesus was born into human time with all of its political realities. Herod was a tenant king over the Jews for Rome, and Roman power exercised dominion over all the affairs of God's people (Luke 1:4; 2:1-3). Simple, holy people named Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25), Joseph and Mary (Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7), and Simeon and Anna (Luke 2:25-38) were all caught up in this story. So, too, were unnamed shepherds out in their fields with their flocks at night. But as real as each of these people was, they were only a part of the great story of grace. That story had begun with Adam's sin. God began to tell it with hope with his promise to Abraham.

**Attendance for December 6: 80**  
**Contribution for December 6: \$4850**

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36*

**Remember:** **Loretta Carson** at home battling COVID \* **Elwood Rush** fell Thursday and suffered some bumps and bruises but is otherwise fine \* **Morris Karnes** as he begins his treatments \* **Pam Claeys** will begin treatments tomorrow \* all our members still recovering from the after-effects of COVID

**Continue praying for these members of our church family:** Louella Akers \* Kristi Altman \* John David Barnett \* David Burleson \* Janie Burleson \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Sue Flowers \* Grant Howard \* Don Jackson \* Morris Karnes \* Ronnie Mays \* Sonja Mays \* Darlene McGowan \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Kevin Mickey \* Reba Owens \* Ida Roberts \* Gayle Rodgers \* Waynetta Rodgers \* Elwood Rush \* Jane Smith \* Leon Smith \* David Terrill \* Bettie Thurston \* Joy Watson \* Marty Watson \* Sharlette Watson

## Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Randy Cravens \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* Kim Goins \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jeralds \* Andy Kelley \* Connie Lemmons \* Annette Lumsden \* Ponna Mahan \* Paula Mason \* Betty Nicholson \* Angie Smith \* Tammy Telker \* Bobby Thornton \* Paula Walls

## Other health issues (non-congregational):

DeeDee Burch \* Mary Burke \* Lem Hubbard \* Dana Jo Jackson \* Clyde Jacques \* Lola Johnson \* Beckie King \* Nikki Lawrence \* Jerry Don McGowan \* Gene Rowland \* Kevin Steed \* Traci Suiter \* Paige Tanner \* Heather Whitehead

## Our Shut Ins

Fern Botsch \* Pam Claeys \* Travis Cooper \* Scott and Judy Flannery \* Sue Flowers \* Shirley Johnson \* Sonja Mays \* Reba Owens \* Gayle Rodgers \* Elwood Rush \* Bettie Thurston \* Joy Watson \* Marty Watson

Down through the kings and prophets and the dark days of exile, that story moved toward a bright future. That future dawned with Joseph and Mary in their newborn child. Even though this child was the Son of God, they laid him in a feed trough because no one provided him a room (Luke 2:1-7; 3:23-38).

However, the circumstances of the moment could not erase the joy of the more significant story! Despite the messy moment in which Jesus was born, the angels spoke about a bigger picture, God's eternal plan, and the great joy this child's coming brought to earth. Sin would be dealt a deadly blow. Political domination, religious scheming, racial hatred, social prejudices, family shame, and cultural bias may have ruled the moment, but the real joy was born with Jesus. That joy could not be contained, rerouted, stopped, or co-opted. Jesus' birth became humanity's intersection with joy. Especially for those of us with faith, it is our intersection of joy!

[Let us be reminded] of the sea-change in reality and the overwhelming joy that came with the birth of Jesus: As the angel told the shepherds: *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 clothes and lying in a manger* (Luke 2:10-12).

Time was recalibrated to this moment. Politics, skeptics, and critics have not been able to stop the good news of that night. Petty disagreements and deep-rooted hatred have not been able to derail the joy this news has brought through the centuries. Religious abuse, failure and cynicism cannot snuff out the light of hope born that night and placed in a manger. Why? Because God's long story of grace intersected with the mess of our world, and the rest of this story is our "good news of great joy." And it is the news that our world today so desperately needs to know in the messy night and awful jam in which it is now caught.

## A Note of Thanks

*There are certain people we thank in our prayers and of those people is you - and this comes to say, "May God bless you forever for all you so thoughtfully do."*

*Rita and I would like to thank you for the beautiful quilt, and for all of the love and understanding and support we received while attending Bernie church of Christ.*

Glen and Rita Burch

*I heard a bird sing  
In the dark of December,  
A magical thing  
And sweet to remember.  
"We are nearer to Spring  
Than we were in September,"  
I heard a bird sing  
In the dark  
of December*

--Oliver Her-



Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com