



# TRUE LIGHT

December 21, 2025

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

### SUNDAY

Sunday School :  
9:30 a.m.  
Worship:  
10:15 a.m.  
5:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

### MINISTER

Stan Dauck  
573-293-5620

### ELDERS

David Bureson  
573-820-0329  
David Carson  
573-281-6686  
Stan Dauck  
573-293-5594

### DEACONS

Wayne Reams  
Rodney Williams

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*"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*

## Oh, CHRISTmas Tree

The Christmas tree has become one of the most recognizable symbols of the season. For some, it represents tradition, warmth, and family. For others, it feels dangerously close to distraction. Yet instead of arguing over whether a tree belongs in a Christian space, there is a better approach: teach people how to see Christ through it. When viewed through the lens of Scripture, the Christmas tree can quietly point hearts toward the cross.

Beginning with even the tree itself, the evergreen nature of the Christmas tree carries a powerful image. In the dead of winter, when most trees stand bare and lifeless, the evergreen remains full of color and life. It stands as a quiet testimony that life persists even when death seems dominant. It pictures the tree of Calvary, showing that through what appeared to be death and defeat, God brought life where there should have been none. The cross, an instrument of execution, became the means of resurrection and eternal life. Where death was expected, life overflowed.

We hang lights on a Christmas tree, and they illuminate dark rooms and cold nights. The beauty of their glow transforms the atmosphere of a home. We also, by our sin, hung the Light of the world on a tree - not decorated with beauty, but crowned with suffering and still it was there that His light shone the brightest. The tree in our living room is adorned with lights for celebration, the tree at Calvary was adorned with the Light who brings salvation. One shines temporarily, but is meant to bring to mind the one who shines eternally.

At the foot of the Christmas tree, we place presents to be taken by others and also receive gifts from others. At the foot of the cross, something else is laid down. Burdens are placed there - sin, shame, fear, anxiety, regret: Christ invites the weary heart to lay it all at His feet and from Him receive rest, forgiveness and hope. Both locations involve an act of laying something down, and both are meant to produce joy. The joy of Christmas gifts fades with time, but the joy found at the cross endures.

Ornaments give a Christmas tree its identity. Each decoration often carries a story - memories of loved ones, milestones, traditions passed down through generations. The tree becomes a visual record of a family's story. In the same way, the cross gives Christians their identity. It tells the family story of God's people: redeemed, forgiven, adopted, and made new. The cross marks believers not by their past failures, but by Christ's sacrifice. It defines who we are and whose we are.

Rather than removing trees from Christian spaces, the greater task is teaching hearts to see rightly. The problem has never been symbols; it has always been forgotten meaning. When Christ is placed back at the center, even a Christmas tree can quietly proclaim the gospel. The birth celebrated at Christmas finds its purpose at the cross, and when both are held together, the season becomes not merely festive, but faithful.

Jaxon Woolton, via Family Matters, December 21, 2025

*We also, by our sin, hung the Light of the world on a tree - not decorated with beauty, but crowned with suffering and still it was there that His light shone the brightest.*



**BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

December 22 - Rosemary McCoy  
December 23 - Alexis Northern  
Stan & Millie Dauck (A)  
December 28 - Kylie Allen  
Glen Ward



**CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS**

Muffin Mixes \* Mac and Cheese \*  
Kool-Aid \* Vanilla Wafers \* Honey \*  
Crackers (Club, Cheez-its, etc)  
Pick-up Date April 13, 2026

Attendance for December 14: 124

Contribution for December 14: \$4704

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

Carol Young has been diagnosed with cancer, and had a port put in last week to begin treatments \* Mary Burke is not doing well following a fall and is currently on hospice care in Springfield \* June Mothersbaugh hasn't been feeling well \* Steve Jones will meet with his doctor January 8 \* Mike Duley had an MRI which came back good \* Faye Dockins is at home and having some in-home physical therapy. She would welcome visitors \*

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt \* Jerry Burleson \* David Burleson \* David Carson \* Pat Cooper \* Karen Forkum \* Patsy (Hardy) Gregg \* Helen McGowan \* Jeff McGowan \* Donna McKuin \* Gloria Moore \* Woody and Janet Wood

**Those dealing with cancer/other illness (non congregational) :**

Melinda Akers \* Chastity Beaird \* Cathy Bennett \* Rodney Britt \* Jeanie Buck \* Scott Burleson \* Roxanne Carson \* Sherry Chambers \* Lisa Clark \* Tammy Clark \* Randy Cravens \* Barbara Denson \* Bill Fitzpatrick \* Misty (Owens) Franklin \* Audrey Galloway \* Emily Garner \* Patricia Greninger \* Stan Goodman \* Renee Goodman \* Christy Heskett \* Nolan Hollowell \* LeAnn Jacques \* Tommy Jacques \* Pam Jeralds \* Kristin Meadows \* Jerry Mickey \* Connie Lemmons \* Ponna Mahan \* Betty Nicholson \* Keagan Owens \* Nikki Reif \* Joe Richardson \* Anthony Tate \* Bobby Thornton \* Mindy Tomah \* Joyce Walker \* Christina Whitaker \* Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins: Pat Cooper \* Faye Dockins \* David Terrill

**Looking Ahead:**

December 23: We will have a devotional at 6 p.m. in the auditorium in lieu of our usual Bible study. There will not be any children's classes.

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December 25: Christmas Dinner will be served in the fellowship room at noon. A sign up sheet is on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend. All are welcome.

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December 28: Austin Ketchum will be our guest speaker for both morning and evening services.

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December 31: New Year's Eve get together in the fellowship room following Bible Study. Bring games and finger foods and help us ring in 2026!

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January 4: Friends and Family Day with guest speaker Kason Lawrence. We will have a potluck following morning services and a youth emphasis night for evening worship. Flyers are available on the table in the foyer. We will need help providing desserts and snacks for the light meal following evening worship. Check the sign up sheet on the table in the foyer to see where you can help.

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January 11: Congregational Potluck/Baby Shower following morning worship for Matt & Shyann Ward. This will be a diapers and wipes shower; or if you'd like to contribute to a money tree for baby Ward, please see Millie.

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January 13: Ladies Lunch Out at 11:30 at Dexter BBQ.

**BIBLE TRIVIA:**

What woman in the Bible had five husbands? \* When the magi came to seek Baby Jesus, where did they find Him? \* Who caused bricklayers to go on strike? \* What Bible character turned dust into lice?

Aaron (Exodus 8:17)

A: The woman at the well (John 4:7,17,18 \* In a house (Matt. 2:1,2,11) \* Moses (Ex. 1:13,14; 4:29; 5:1) \*

Sympathy is extended to Regina Halterman in the loss of her brother, Wayne, who passed away December 14. His funeral was held Tuesday in Dexter.

There is a baby laundry basket in the foyer for diapers and wipes for baby boy Thompson who is due next month. Items should be brought in by today.

It's a BOY!



**WILLING TO SERVE**

**December 21, 2025**

**Morning Worship:**

Song Leader.....Derek Mays  
Opening Prayer.....Jason Karnes  
Scripture.....Steve Jones  
Prayer.....Zack Tanner  
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

**Evening Worship:**

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
Prayer.....David Burleson  
Scripture.....Sam Garner  
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

**December 23, 2025**

Song Leader.....Chase Burch  
Prayer.....Ron Garner  
Dismissal.....Jacob Clayton

**December 28, 2025**

**Morning Worship:**

Song Leader.....Titus Dauck  
Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely  
Scripture.....Jordan Ross  
Prayer.....Jason Karnes  
Closing Prayer.....Jess LeCroy

**Evening Worship:**

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams  
Prayer.....David Carson  
Scripture.....Darrin Shipman  
Dismissal.....Jerry Burleson

**GRANNY WHALE**

An orca whale, who researchers have named "Granny," apparently knew the importance of her role in the life of her "grandbaby whale." The young whale's mother had recently died, and the orphaned whale was not yet old enough to thrive without protection and support. Granny, though in her eighties (or older), came alongside to teach him what he needed to know to survive. Granny corralled some fish for the younger whale instead of consuming them herself, so he would not only have a meal but would also learn what to eat and where to find the salmon he'd need to live.

We too have the distinct honor and joy of passing on what we know - we can share about the wonderful works and character of God with those coming after us. The aging psalmist asks God to allow him to declare [His] power to the next generation (Psalm 71:18). He earnestly wishes to share with others what he knows of God - His righteous deeds and saving acts - that we need to flourish (v 15).

Even if we don't have the gray hairs of old age (v 18), declaring how we've experienced the love and faithfulness of God can benefit someone on their journey with Him. Our willingness to share that wisdom might just be what that person needs to live and thrive in Christ even in adversity (v 20).

Kirsten Holmberg

