



Calvary Christian Fellowship Mennonite Church

Welcome to our Worship Service!

December 31, 2017

Devotional:----- Loren Yoder

Message:----- Elmer Yoder

Offering:----- Alms

SS Lesson:----- Luke 2:21-40

Intermediate Verse: For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Hebrews 9:24

Junior Verse: Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Psalm 106:1

Primary Verse: "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 106:1

Preschool Verse: "All things were made by him" John 1:3

SS Lesson for next week: Genesis 14

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Excerpt from Marvels of Creation: Magnificent Mammals

-by Buddy and Kay Davis

"Busy as a beaver" is a term nearly everyone has heard. It's easy to see where the saying comes from, for the beaver is always working, whether it is chopping down trees, repairing its home, or gathering food for the winter. The largest rodent in North America, the beaver has chestnut-brown fur and a dark gray, paddle-shaped, scaly tail which it uses as a rudder when swimming. Beavers also use their tails as warning devices, slapping them on the water to warn other beavers of danger. The beaver also has strong, bright orange front teeth, which are used to cut down trees and trim branches.

A beaver likes to build its home in the middle of a pond. Sometimes these homes have two or more entrances. They cut down trees on both sides of the stream and sometimes transport them by constructing a canal upon which the trees float to the pond.

Beavers build watertight dams out of logs, branches, mud, and small rocks, thereby diverting streams and creating ponds. These dams vary in size and can be several hundred yards long by as much as 12 feet (3.6 m) high. A beaver will work all of its life to maintain a dam. Engineers are amazed at the efficiency and effectiveness of the design of beaver dams.

-Kids Answers <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/kw/beaver>

Announcements:

- This Evening: Open Evening
- Wednesday Evening: Prison Service (Northwest) 5:30 PM.
- Sisters Sewing has been postponed until next week.
- Brotherhood Meeting has been postponed until next week.
- Out of State Correspondence this week by Doreen Nissley

Plans for the New Year

Counting today, there are only two more days left in 2017. As we begin a new year, many of us will take time to reflect on the past and to make plans for the future. Today, I would like to encourage and challenge you to make sure God has a place in your future plans.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. Proverbs 16:3
People often struggle over what they should do and/or where they should go. They wish God would speak to them so they could make the right decisions. God can open and shut doors to help guide and direct us, but he doesn't always choose to do so. More often than not, God wants us to make a decision and then step out on faith. I have come to the conclusion that as long as God has a part in our plans, they stand an excellent chance of succeeding.

Don't just GO to church; BE the Church
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Can You Hear the Angels? Luke 2:8-14

When I read Luke's account of the Christmas story every year, a question lingers in my mind. I wonder: who heard the angels sing?

This was arguably the greatest celebration in the history of the world, a choir, a presentation that would make the grandest human ceremony seem like a cheap stage production.

There are several interesting things about the angelic celebration. First, this was one of only three such celebrations. First, the angels celebrated the Creation of the world. Job 38:7 tells us that while the Master Artist of Heaven painted, sculpted, and fashioned this world, "the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God shouted for joy." I suspect the chorus reached its climax when God reached down, gathered a handful of dust, and breathed life into a new kind of creature, man. Man was created in the image of God and given something unique: a soul.

Then, on an otherwise ordinary night, in a dark field, among common shepherds, the Heavens once again opened and all across the horizon, filling the low hills and pasture fields were innumerable angels. And once again in Revelation, we find that same celebration occurring in Heaven.

But let's return to that field. The angels came specifically to the shepherds. Why the shepherds? Why did they not announce in a more big, public

venue like Herod's Temple or His palace. Why did they not enter the grand palaces of Caesar in Rome?

The answer, quite simply, is that God visits those who are looking for him. Those that seek find. And so the angels visited upon a young teenage girl, her confused fiancé, a common, elderly prophet, and the shepherds.

So who heard the angels? The shepherds did. Mary did. Joseph did. The wise men did. Anna and Simeon did. Zacharias and Elisabeth did.

Herod didn't hear. The religious establishment didn't hear. Most of God's chosen people didn't hear. Even some in Jesus' own family wouldn't hear.

Today, the message of the angels still rings. A Messiah has come. God has entered our world, lowered Himself and became a baby. God visited us--Immanuel is here.

This season we celebrate Christmas, but most of the world skips right over the baby in the manger. Even many Christians are stressed, angered, and flustered. They too miss the singing of the angels.

Don't let that be you this Christmas. Because God has come for you, to be your Savior, your Redeemer, your Lord.

The angels are singing. Are you listening?
<https://goo.gl/Q1Kb3n>