



October 2023

Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

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JESUS, THE CHRIST IS BORN!

I think the passage in Lk 2:1-8 is one of the most beautiful stories in the Bible in a series of books and letters that has some very beautiful stories.

This especially holds true when you connect it with Mathew's account of the birth of Christ. I believe it was made this way on purpose. Every working of the Lord throughout the history of mankind all came down to this fulfillment of the promise from the Creator that He would provide an answer for man's sin. He would provide His Only Begotten Son.

It is truly unfortunate that most people connect it to the holiday season at the end of every year, not based on the Scriptures, but based on man's ideas. It causes many among the churches of Christ to shy away from teaching this most beautiful of stories.

There are some very beautiful songs about the birth of the Christ that, I think, are very worthy to be sung among the churches. They can be very edifying. We sing other songs about the life of Jesus, but why not these? Because of the connection to the holiday season. Songs such as "Joy to the world," "Hark the Herald Angels sing," and "Silent Night, and many others."

If you truly wish to be strengthened and edified, read and consider this story in as close to chronological order as possible and the events surrounding it.

The chronological order that I think happens is the following-- Lk 1:5-17, Lk 1:26-38, Mat 1:18-25, Lk 1:39-56, Lk 1:57-80, Lk 2:1- 7, Lk 2:8-20, and Lk 2:21-38.

Or consider some of the many prophecies of the Christ that began in Gen 3:14-15 and others continuing throughout the Old Testament.

Over the years, I have taught this story in the summer months to avoid confusion that it may bring to brothers and sisters as well as those in the world. Since I like to connect a song to the topics of my lessons, I have requested song leaders to consider singing some of these songs prior to my

lesson if it would not go against their individual consciences, and most have obliged.

But, in my estimation, this is a great story that can add to our faith on so many levels. It was with purpose Joseph and Mary had to go to the small town of Bethlehem as Mary was "heavy with child."

This action fulfilled the prophecy in Micah 5:2 that out of this town would come a "Ruler of Israel." While they were there, Mary's "days were completed for her to be delivered." This is a strong implication that she had carried her child for the full term of her pregnancy, approximately 9 months. I can see her condition in my mind, for I observed my own wife in each of her pregnancies during her final weeks. It made me better appreciate what Mary went through those final weeks.

Just consider the poetic-style beauty of Luke 2:7 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. I have observed my wife do this to our newborn children as well as to our grandchildren.

Of course, she did not put our children in mangers, but she did put them in cribs. We were blessed to have a brother make a cradle to put our youngest in, which she, by the way, put her own two newborns in a generation later. Maybe we will be blessed to put our great grandchildren in one day!

I bring these personal reflections to your attention to make a connection. I believe one of the reasons we have the account of the birth of Jesus written as it was from the Holy Spirit is that the vast majority of men and women can easily identify with this story from the experiences of our children. We can see a direct connection with the birth of the Son of the Lord of Heaven and our own lives. We know what a great blessing it is and was to have children! This exact experience and blessing were given to Joseph and Mary on the birth of their firstborn son, and the Lord has

chosen that each of us who read these passages can identify with the experiences.

Perhaps this is a reminder that we do indeed have a God who was human, born of woman and provided as the greatest gift that can ever be appreciated!

Isaiah 9:6 6

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Jay H. Graham
September 24, 2023



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

Location: Call for information.

For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 203-2137

- Quiet month in Chariton.



October Birthdays

- None

October Anniversaries

- None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.

Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- Candy Meek came forward believing in Jesus and his Word and was baptized by her brother-in-law, Frank Meek.
- Trent, Lisa, Eva and Josie Fiorentin worshipped with us. Trent gave us an excellent lesson on Prayer.
- John and Donna celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in the Ozarks visiting Wayne and Sara Patterson. Sara is their daughter.
- Candy Meek was in the hospital from the effects of chemo. It has weakened her heart muscle.
- Risa and Skip Schamel are vacationing in Florida.
- Visitors: Misti Hayes, Sean Whitlatch, Dani Strable, Piper, Parker, Payton Whitlatch, Paxon Boozell, Charlie Kelsey, and Maverick Head.

October Anniversaries

- None

October Anniversaries

- Frank & Claudia Meek

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632

For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- Looking forward to having **Rick Sparks with us October 7 & 8th.**
- Several Visitors this month
 - Vanessa Groves - Lee Summit, MO
 - Jerry & Shari Cowger - Boise, ID

October Birthdays

- 10/31 Richard Negley

October Anniversary

- ☆ None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
Website: martensdalechurchofchrist.com
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- Quiet month at Martensdale.

Visitors:

- Kirk & Bethany and Killian Ford
- Ethan & Megan Schreck
- Tanya Wegner
- Laura Teghteyer
- Dave & Joyce Ingle

October Birthdays

- None

October Anniversaries

- None

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.
Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
Contacts: Mike Warner 515-967-4529 / Marty Williamson 515-556-2394 / Marc Hermon 515- 554-3567

Announcements + Heartfelt Love & Prayers:

- Please send your prayers for Kelly George. He is in Methodist N360. He had severe blockage in 3 arteries going to his heart. He was scheduled for triple bypass open heart surgery in the next couple of days but due to

his blood clotting issues the doctors want to try stents instead.

October Birthdays

- None

October Anniversaries

- None

Vandalia

Meeting Times: **Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.**
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 238-3316
Website: <https://vandaliacoc.com>

- Quiet month at Vandalia



October Birthdays

- None

October Anniversaries

- None

Religious Reformer

Martin Luther

Born: November 10, 1483, Eisleben, Germany / Died: February 18, 1546, Eisleben, Germany

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses against papal indulgences, or the atonement of sins through monetary payment, on the door of the church at Wittenberg, Germany.

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses against papal indulgences, or the atonement of sins through monetary payment, on the door of the church at Wittenberg, Germany. Within less than four years, the Catholic Church would brand Luther a heretic, and the Holy Roman Empire would condemn him as an outlaw. These were the early years of the Protestant Reformation, a turning point in history that would transform not only the Christian faith, but also the politics and society of all of Europe.

When he posted his theses, Luther was a thirty-four-year-old priest and professor of theology at Wittenberg University, a provincial institution that had been founded only fifteen years earlier. Luther composed his theses in Latin and intended them as the basis of a disputation, or scholarly debate, on papal indulgences. Posting a notice for such an event on the doors of the church, which was affiliated with the university, was a common practice at the time.

However, the clash between Luther and the Catholic Church in Rome developed into history's first "media event." Johannes Gutenberg's development of the moveable-type printing press about seventy-five years earlier had a profound impact on the spread of Luther's thought. Thanks to the new technology, his theses soon reached a broad circulation that surprised even Luther. As he expanded his critique into other areas of church policy and the conflict with Rome intensified. Luther's supporters in Germany's vibrant print industry made many of his works the first "bestsellers" in history and Luther himself among the most famous men in Europe.

SOURCE: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/european/luther.html#:~:text=On%20October%2031%2C%201517%2C%20Martin,the%20church%20at%20Wittenberg%2C%20Germany.>