



LEOTI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Our Mission:
To bring the faith, hope, and love of Christ to our church, family, community, and world.

THE PARISH POST

DECEMBER 2021

Church Events

Wednesday, December 1

- ~ God Squad 2:30-4:00 p.m.
- ~ Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- ~ Prayer Meeting 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 2

- ~ Fellowship Hall booked 4:45-7:30 p.m.
- ~ Leoti Learn & Play 5:45-6:30 p.m.

Friday, December 3

- ~ Men's Group (Breakfast: Josh Young) 6:30 a.m.
- ~ Fellowship Hall booked 9:00-12:00 p.m.
- ~ Leoti Learn & Play 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 5 - 2nd Sunday of Advent

- ~ Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
- ~ Worship 10:45 a.m.
- ~ Emmaus 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8

- ~ God Squad 2:30-4:00 p.m.
- ~ Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- ~ Prayer Meeting 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 9

- ~ Fellowship Hall booked for private mtg. 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Friday, December 10

- ~ Men's Group (Breakfast: Mike Nickelson) 6:30 a.m.
- ~ Fellowship Hall booked 9:00-12:00 p.m.
- ~ Leoti Learn & Play 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 12 - 3rd Sunday of Advent

- ~ Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
- ~ Worship 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, December 15

- ~ God Squad 2:30-4:00 p.m.
- ~ Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- ~ Prayer Meeting 8:30 p.m.

Friday, December 17

- ~ Men's Group (Breakfast: Kevin Clark) 6:30 a.m.
- ~ L.T.C. Bingo 2:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 19 - 4th Sunday of Advent

- ~ Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
- ~ Worship 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, December 22

- ~ Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- ~ Prayer Meeting 8:30 p.m.

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

- ~ Men's Group (Breakfast: Dustin Fritzmeier) 6:30 a.m.
- ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 25

- ~ Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 26

- ~ Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
- ~ Worship 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday, December 29

- ~ Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- ~ Prayer Meeting 8:30 p.m.

Friday, December 31 - New Year's Eve

- ~ Men's Group (Breakfast: Jim Roelfs) 6:30 a.m.

Saturday, January 1, 2022

- ~ Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 2

- ~ Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
- ~ Worship 10:45 a.m.
- ~ Emmaus 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 5

- ~ Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- ~ Prayer Meeting 8:30 p.m.

Friday, January 7

- ~ Men's Group (Breakfast: Ross Smades) 6:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 9

- ~ Sunday School 9:15 a.m.
- ~ Worship 10:45 a.m.

Monday, January 10

- ~ Pastor-Parish Relations Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 13

- ~ God Squad 2:30-4:00 p.m.
- ~ Wednesday Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- ~ Prayer Meeting 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 18

- ~ Finance/Admin. Council Meeting 7:00 p.m.



If you would like to help with God Squad as a volunteer or to provide a snack, please contact Autumn or Jody.

Join us every Sunday!
 Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.
 Worship: 10:45 a.m.

CHURCH
 INFO.

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DON'T ATTEMPT TO LIVE ON BREAD ALONE IN 2021!

The eternal benefits of feasting upon and obeying God's word daily will be a fed soul, wiser decisions, stability in storms and a mighty weapon to fight off the devil's temptations.

When the devil tempted Jesus in the wilderness for the first time to use His supernatural power to turn stones into bread, Jesus answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God' (Deut. 8:3)." Immediately after each of the devil's other two temptations, Jesus again answered, "It is written..." and quoted two other Old Testament scriptures. If Jesus, the Son of God who was filled with the Holy Spirit, had to use God's word to overcome temptations, we also need to use this important spiritual weapon in 2021 (Eph. 6:10-17).

For these reasons, Shad Mehl (our Lay Leader) and I (your Pastor) offer you the following 2021 Bible Reading plan. Prayerfully read one chapter a day and ask the Holy Spirit to give you the courage to live out God's word in His agape-love in 2021, all for His glory. It will be necessary for you to not live on bread alone this year.

December

<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 1: Daniel 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 11: Revelation 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 22: Revelation 13
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 2: Daniel 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 12: Revelation 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 23: Revelation 14
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 3: Daniel 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 13: Revelation 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 24: Revelation 15
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 4: Daniel 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 14: Revelation 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 25: Revelation 16
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 5: Daniel 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 15: Revelation 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 26: Revelation 17
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 6: Daniel 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 16: Revelation 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 27: Revelation 18
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7: Daniel 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 17: Revelation 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 28: Revelation 19
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 8: Daniel 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 18: Revelation 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 29: Revelation 20
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 9: Daniel 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 19: Revelation 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 30: Revelation 21
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 10: Revelation 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20: Revelation 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 31: Revelation 22
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 21: Revelation 12	

Christmas Food Baskets



Christmas Food Baskets

It is time to collect food to share with those in need for Christmas Food Baskets! We partner with the Wichita County Food Bank to collect donations to give to families in our area. We usually provide for 4-5 families. Please bring non-perishable foods to the church and leave them on the assigned table in the Fellowship Hall. Monetary gifts are also accepted. Please mark your gift "Food Baskets".

Prayer Requests

Joys and Concerns

- Cody Clark (brother-in-law of Linda Goodrich)
- Tony Harkness
- Braden Harkness (grandson of Jerry & Glenda Harkness)
- Tracy Weeter (grandson of Karen Walk)

Continued Concerns

- Emilie Taber
- Aurella Fairchild
- Friends in Missions
- Marcia Mehl
- Military & Government Leaders



Pastor's Corner

“Why Is Christmas Such a Big Deal?”

Each year Christmas is the largest celebration around the world.

In The Purpose of Christmas, Rick Warren writes: “During the Christmas season, billions of people set aside their normal routines to decorate their homes, send out greeting cards, buy gifts, go to Christmas parties, attend church services, sing Christmas songs, watch Christmas TV specials, and travel long distances to be with their families... When Christmas comes, you can't miss it...”

“If you stop to think about it, it is astounding that the simple, unassuming birth of a peasant boy born two thousand years ago in the Middle East has caused such commotion – his birthday even causes traffic jams today in places like New York City, Tokyo, and Rio de Janeiro.

Why is Christmas such a big deal? Every time you check your calendar or refer to a date or write one down, you are using Jesus Christ as your reference point. Because of Jesus, history is divided into BC (*before Christ*) and AD (*anno Domini, in the year of the Lord*). Every other event in history and every event on your calendar today are dated by how many days and years it has been since Jesus Christ appeared on earth. Even *your* birthday is dated by *his* birthday” (pgs. 3, 4).

Christmas began two thousand years ago when God had the angel Gabriel visit a virgin named Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph. Gabriel informed her

that she had been chosen by God to miraculously conceive His Son through the Holy Spirit. Though Mary struggled to understand, she responded, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to Your word” (Lk. 1:26-38). After Joseph discovered Mary was pregnant, he at first had decided to divorce her quietly, but a vision from an angel changed his mind to take Mary as his wife (Matt. 18-25). Christmas radically changed their lives for the better when they made Jesus the center of their lives.

Christmas also came to radically change our lives for the better. **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life”** (Jn. 3:16). I pray you make Jesus the center of your life. It is best for you and your loved ones.

Warren adds: “God’s Christmas gift to you has three qualities that make it unique. *First*, it is the most expensive gift you’ll ever receive. It’s priceless.” Jesus paid for it with His life to be your Savior and Lord; the one who forgives your sins, makes right your relationship with God, and becomes the one you live for.

“*Second*, it’s the only gift you’ll ever receive that will last forever.” Much frustration and disappointment occur in life when people expect the wrong gifts to last forever. Much joy and hope occur when people expect the right gift to last forever.

“*Finally*,” Warren states, “it is

an extremely practical gift – one you’ll use every day for the rest of your life. Interested?” Jesus is the most practical Christmas gift one can receive.

Receive Jesus, the most needed Christmas gift that came from God wrapped in swaddling clothes. Trust Him whole heartedly daily as your Savior and Lord.

Find one way to share this practical, most expensive, and precious Christmas gift with others, the gift that lasts for eternity. One way to do this is to give an anonymous Christmas gift to a person or family in need and write on the tag, “Jesus Loves You!” This is a Christmas tradition we started in our family years ago. Aren’t you glad Mary and Joseph were willing to share Him with us, though it was not easy?

Christmas is a big deal! So, celebrate with loved ones and others, even though it may not always be easy.

From Pastor Tod



December 2021 Worship Assignments

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Scripture</u>	<u>Children's Time</u>	<u>Worship Leader</u>
12-5	Autumn Ames & Girls	Shad Mehl	Craig Sheppard	Autumn Ames	Bruce Loy
12-12	Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Harkness	Jerry Harkness	Greg Fletcher	Aimee Burch	Craig Sheppard
12-19	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Nickelson	Zim Clark	Teresa Clark	Elaine Anthony	Shad Mehl
12-26	Mr. & Mrs. Stacy Seaton	Craig Sheppard	Elaine Anthony	JoAnne Seaton	Kevin Clark
1-2-22	Ramona Patten Kathy Bangerter	Greg Fletcher	Bruce Loy	Shad Mehl	Greg Fletcher

If you would like to volunteer for any position please let the office know.

Happy Birthday

1st - Ramona Patten
 2nd - Macy Ames
 2nd - Phoenix Clymer
 3rd - Darla Lewis
 4th - Maddie Ames
 8th - Dillen Ames
 11th - Joshua Mehl
 11th - Nathan Pennell
 13th - Colton Harbin
 14th - Lawson Berning
 15th - Larry Loflin
 28th - Nevada Parker
 29th - Janice Rewerts
 31st - Jerry Harkness

Anniversaries

None on record



Note: Please let the office know if we have missed your birthday or anniversary.

A Covenant of PEACE

⁸ *The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.*
Psalm 19:8

An NIV search reveals 249 uses of the word PEACE in scripture. 156 in the Old Testament, 93 in the New Testament. By the numbers Psalms has the most at 17, Jeremiah 16, and Luke 13. The PEACE found in the Psalms is typically a blessing, the PEACE of Jeremiah frequently is preceded by the word, NO.... NO PEACE. In the first mention, Numbers 25:12, God bestows a COVENANT OF PEACE upon Aaron and the priests because "he was zealous for the honor of his GOD..." The final mention, Revelation 6:4, finds the fiery red horse and rider taking PEACE away from the earth, bringing judgement and justice to those who have not acknowledge Christ as Savior and Lord. 5 times PEACE is used in the phrase COVENANT OF PEACE, and in Malachi 2:5, it's a COVENANT OF LIFE AND PEACE. PEACE, or lack of PEACE, is a prominent topic in scripture as 52 of the 66 books contain a reference or more.

PEACE being granted typically comes through a trial which required steadfastness in faith. Ezekiel 44:5 shows God encouraging Ezekiel to, "*look carefully, listen closely and give attention to everything I tell you....*" For Ezekiel it was temple regulations.... For Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego it was the first of the 10 Commandments, Exodus 20:3, "*You shall have no other gods before me*" as they stepped into the fiery furnace. For us, as Psalm 19:8 points out, it is the precepts and commands of the Lord that will bring joy and light. That sounds like PEACE to me.

On a fateful, stary night long ago PEACE made a triumphal entry as God made himself known by sending His one and only son, not to

condemn, but to save the world. Scripture records it this way in Luke 2:13-14, *Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth*

PEACE to those on whom his favor rests." Nearly 700 years earlier Isaiah had foretold of this night, *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, everlasting Father, Prince of PEACE (Isa 9:6).*

A hymn depicting this event proclaims, *Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King! PEACE on earth and mercy mild. God and sinners reconciled!* Jesus' ministry was about reconciliation with the Father, and then.... PEACE. An out of this world kind of PEACE that removes fear and anxiety. Red letter words from the mouth of the Prince of PEACE, *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid* (John 14:27). Paul emphasized this PEACE is present in the chaos and confusion of life, guarding the very way we feel and think, *And the PEACE of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Phil 4:7).

Jesus summed up the precepts and commands of God with this, know God and make him known (Matthew 22:36-40). An intimate relationship with our creator is available, ready for us to accept. HOW? By worshipping only God! Nothing else... not family, fame or possessions. By not misusing His name. Using it only in praise and worship, not in curse or jest. Honoring God with our time and devotion. If we know God's precepts and commands, then we will honor our parents and the rela-

tionships with our neighbors, near or foreign. Moses states the fear of God; reverence, awe and love for God, will keep us from sinning (Ex 20:20). RECONCILIATION with God leads us into a covenant of Life and PEACE.

Are you ready for this kind of PEACE? A PEACE that guards your heart and mind from the trouble and fear of this world. Today is the day then, for the invitation has been extended to us. *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life* (John 3:16). Do you believe? Is it time to put your faith, hope and trust in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? My study bible notes tell me that Daniel is a case study in perseverance. Daniel did not let his Christian distinction become blurred in the culture of his time. He was relentless in his prayer life, firm in his integrity, and content to serve God wherever he put him. If any of these are lacking in your life, it is time for a radical change. Repent of the sin that separates you from God. Don't know what that is.... Ask God in prayer and He will expose your sins. Then, ask the Holy Spirit to lead you into a life of prayer, integrity and contentment. As James 1:5 encourages, *If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.* Then, may you join in with the heavenly hosts, singing.... *PEACE on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!* **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**
Grace, Mercy and Peace!
 Shad





**Join us every
Friday at 6:30 a.m.!**

**Men's Group
Breakfast
Schedule**

December 3 - Josh Young
 December 10 - Mike Nickelson
 December 17 - Kevin Clark
 December 24 - Dustin Fritzmeier
 December 31 - Jim Roelfs
 January 7 - Ross Smades
 January 14 - Gary Wilbur
 January 21 - Tom Wiggs
 January 28 - Tod Anthony
 February 4 - Shad Mehl
 February 11 - Bruce Loy



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Return Service Requested

December



**Have an idea for a
Mission?**

We are always looking for
 Mission opportunities.
 Please contact the office.