



# THE FLAME

The First United Methodist Church of LaGrange

**Christians . . . SERVING, CARING, & SHARING**

**December 2018**

## **A BLESSED ADVENT**

We are better together and I am looking forward to sharing my first Advent with you. Today, we join the historic church in telling again the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

Advent is the first of seven church seasons, focusing on the long-expected coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and the promise of His second coming.

This year will intentionally sense the longings of our Hebrew forerunners in the faith, own our need for spiritual redemption, and celebrate the good news that God in Jesus Christ has stepped into our mess to offer us the hope of living a life that really matters.

We begin the season by singing the 15th century Latin hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." This text was written as a teaching tool. As we sing, notice in the seven stanzas seven key biblical "offices" of the Messiah and Savior: Jesus is our Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14), Wisdom from on High (Isaiah 11:2-3), Key of David (Isaiah 22:22), Lord of Might (Isaiah 11:4-5), Branch of Jesse's Stem (Isaiah 11:2-3), Bright Morning Star (Isaiah 9:2), and King of Nations (Isaiah 9:6-7).

## **DECEMBER HOLY COMMUNION**

To foster our sense of spiritual longing for the long-expected Messiah, Jesus Christ, we will wait to gather at the Lord's Table and celebrate Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at our 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm services.

## **9:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE CHANGE**

On many Sundays, we are facing seating challenges at the 9:00 am Chapel Service. Because of overflow crowds, we are moving the 9:00 am service to the Sanctuary for the month of December.

## **PREPARE A PLACE**

### **For Worship Guests and Those with Mobility Challenges**

We anticipate additional worship guests during December! Would you help Prepare a Place for guests by parking in the lot at Vernon Street and Alford Street and free up parking spaces in the Trinity Street lot?

Would you Prepare a Place for those with mobility challenges by reserving curbside parking along Broad Street and Trinity Street for these members and guests?

## **THANK YOU, FIRST METHODIST!**

I am grateful for your generosity and commitment to SHOW the Love of God. Thank you for contributing \$18,000 and your time in assembling 300 Hurricane Flood Buckets, contributing \$5,200 and your time in assembling 18,000 Rise Against Hunger meals, contributing 107 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, assembling 650 Blessings In A Bookbag weekend meal kits, and \$3,700 to assist a sister United Methodist church in the South Georgia Conference damaged by Hurricane Michael.

## **THE CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE**

Would you make an investment in your spiritual growth in 2019? Join me in reading the Bible from a unique perspective – chronologically! I love *The One Year Chronological Bible*, available on Amazon.com in paperback and Kindle, which organizes the Holy Scriptures in story form from the glory of creation to our glorious redemption in Jesus Christ. The daily readings generally take 15 or 20 minutes to read. Let's join in reading through God's Word together in the coming year.

Remember how much I love you ...  
It's an honor to be your Senior Minister!

Dr. John Beyers

The Thursday Lunch Club *presents*



### The Sons of Lafayette Choir

*under the direction of*

Mr. Darian Krimm, Interim Artistic Director

*December 6, 12 noon, Fellowship Hall*

*For reservations for the meal & program call or email the church at 706-884-4635  
or [churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:churchoffice@lagrangefumc.org).*

*All are welcome! Cost is \$6 per person.*

*First United Methodist Church of LaGrange • 401 Broad Street*



### What does the Congregational Care Committee do?

The Congregational Care Committee members oversee the development of nurturing and ministries that provide compassion and support to our congregation.

We currently have in place the following ministries: Bereavement, Lay Visitation for Homebound members, Prayer Ministry, Stephen Ministry, the Resource Center, and the Journeying Through Grief book ministry.

The holiday time is especially difficult for the vulnerable: those mourning a loss, those who are ill or need care, or those who are alone or lonely. These ministries help those individuals, but all of you can help as well. Send a Christmas card, drop a note, make a call, stop in for a visit, drop off a library book, deliver a small gift or goodie, and of course, prayers are always needed. The Prayer Ministry and the Lay Visitation ministry is always looking for more individuals to help. This next year, ask yourself do I have one hour a week or even one hour a month that I could help the members of the congregational care committee? We'd love to see you and would value your help. More about the individual ministries can be found on our Church website under Programs-Nurturing and Caring. The following scripture is a guide for these ministries.

*Galatians 6:2 "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*



### **\*NOTE\* Worship Service Change**

**The 9:00 am Chapel Worship Service will meet in the Sanctuary every Sunday in December.**



### **2018 Charge Conference**

Our Charge Conference will be held on December 10, at 6:30 pm, in the Chapel.

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 8, at 9:00 am in the Small Dining Room. Mayor Jim Thornton will present the program. All men in the church are invited.

# FUMC STUDENT MINISTRIES



During November, we took our high school students on an incredible mission trip to Restoration ATL (RATL). We had an incredible opportunity to spend the weekend with some amazing mothers and children in Atlanta who are working to move out of poverty.

We were also thrilled to participate in the November 11 church-wide Stop Hunger Now event and Blessings in a Bookbag Packathon! A huge thank you to our student and parent volunteers who coordinated and packed blessings for us!

We are kicking off the month of December with a combined breakfast and Sunday School with the Maranatha Class on December 2, we are joining the Sleep in Heavenly Peace ministry on Sunday, December 9 sanding beds for children, and we are ending the semester with our Youth Group Christmas party on Wednesday, December 19!



**Words to Find**

**Angel**

**Augustus**

**Bethlemin**

**Emmanuel**

**Inn**

**Joseph**

**Manger**

**Mary**

**Nazareth**

**Shepherds**

**Tax**

**Virgin**

It's the most wonderful time of the year! In the children's building we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus our Savior all month long. Here's an update on what's coming up and what has recently happened.

**Operation Christmas Child** was a huge success! We sent 107 boxes to children around the world this year. Thank you to everyone who packed boxes, donated items, and sorted and stacked the completed boxes!

### Chrismons

On November 18th and 25th, our Sunday School children learned about the meaning of Chrismons and then created their own. Thank you Joyce Smith for sharing your love of Chrismons with us. If you are in the Children's Building be sure to peek into Room 107 and see our Chrismon tree.

### Children's Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 19th, we will celebrate the birth of Jesus from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Please note the time change on this Wednesday! There will not be a dinner in the gym on that night but children will have pizza and a party together. Please email me at [jeanne@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:jeanne@lagrangefumc.org) and let me know if your child will be in attendance so I can purchase the correct amount of food.



### Children's Nativity

The FUMC children will present a Nativity Play during the 5:00 p.m. worship service on Christmas Eve. Be sure to mark this on your calendar, so you won't miss it.



### *Dates to Remember*

December 2 – Family Worship, No Children's Church

December 5 – Angels Handbell Practice at 5:30 p.m.  
6- 7 p.m. Wednesday Night Kid's program

December 7 – Children in grades 3 – 5 are invited to attend a special fellowship night. We will meet at FUMC at 5:30 p.m. and then go to the Biblical History Center for the "Visit With Mary and Joseph" event. Afterwards we will head to "Your Pie" for pizza. The cost is \$20 per child and reservations must be made by December 2! Call or email.

December 12 – Angels Handbell practice at 5:30 p.m.  
6 – 7 p.m. Wednesday Night Kid's program

December 19 – Children's Christmas Party 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

December 22 – Rehearsal for Nativity – All Participants, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

December 24 – Children's Nativity and Family Worship Service 5:00 p.m. (Children need to arrive in costume by 4:40 p.m.)

December 30 – One Worship Service at 11:00 a.m., Nursery Available. No Children's Church or Sunday School.

### **Your Help is Needed**

The carpet and pew cushions in our Chapel and Sanctuary have had food crumbs, candy wrappers, and drink stains left on them in recent months.

We want you to enjoy the coffee and goodies in the Fellowship Hall as you visit with friends, but the Altar Guild and Ushers want to remind you that **Food and Drinks are not allowed in the Chapel and Sanctuary.**

***Thank you for honoring and caring for these sacred places.***

**THE FLAME**

USPS (079-260) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

**THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

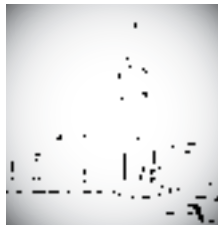
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Mr. Rick Free (ext 210).....Director of Food Services  
Mr. Eddie Giddens.....Custodian  
Ms. Lisa Highland (ext 207).....Business Manager  
Mrs. Jeanne Jones (ext 209).....Children's Minister  
Mr. Darian Krimm (ext 202).....Minister of Music & Worship  
Mr. C.J. Lord (ext 215).....Mid & Sr High Youth Minister  
Ms. Dodie Patterson (ext 204).....Executive Secretary  
Mr. Andy Rainey (ext 201).....Executive Minister  
Rev. Blake Trent (ext 206).....Associate Minister

To reach all other employees and/or volunteers,  
please call the church office.

***We always look forward to hearing from you.***



**Christians . . .  
SERVING,  
CARING,  
& SHARING**

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### Supporting Our Ministries

In addition to traditional giving methods (cash & check), you can also donate to First United Methodist Church via Text-to-Give (Text LGFUMC to 73256) or online at [lagrangefumc.org/online-giving](http://lagrangefumc.org/online-giving).

***Merry Christmas! and Happy New Year!***  
***from your staff at First Methodist***

**John, Blake, Darian, Andy, Rick, Lisa, Dodie,  
Jeanne, CJ, Eddie, Cindy & Boley**

**Enclosed in this *Flame* issue is a listing of all those individuals honored through our Poinsettias and Christmas Decorations, and your family's copy of the Advent Calendar.**



**Need to Talk?** Refer yourself or a friend in need to one of our church's confidential Stephen Ministers who can help walk one-to-one with you or them through crisis. For more information or for a referral, speak to one of our Pastors or email [stephenministry@lagrangefumc.org](mailto:stephenministry@lagrangefumc.org).

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

**Monday, December 24**

Candlelight Holy Communion & Children's Service  
5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Candlelight Holy Communion Service  
11:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### Thursday Lunch Club...Mark Your Calendars

The Thursday Lunch Club luncheons will begin in 2019 with a slight change.

The next luncheon will take place on January 31, 2019, featuring James H. Camp, III.

February 28, will be the luncheon featuring Storyteller Donald Davis.

There will not be a luncheon in the month of March, but after that we will return to the regular 1st Thursday of the month date.

### HOLLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Church will close on Tuesday, December 25, & Wednesday, December 26 for Christmas; and Tuesday, January 1, for New Years.

Should you have a Pastoral emergency, call 888-456-1203.

*In Honor Of:*

Beth Godwin  
Chase & Beth Parmer  
Sunday Evening Disciple Class  
Bryson, Laegan, & Bella Smith  
Lyons, Jackson, & Max Carmichael  
Lindsey Jackson  
Tyler Jackson  
Connor Jackson  
Maggie, Trae, Susan, Drew, & Ella  
Holmes  
Our Children & Grandchildren  
Gene & Freddie Hayes  
C. J. Lord  
Group  
Elizabeth & Matthew Hayes, Michael,  
Audrey & John Hayes  
Hildred Cammon  
Our Children: Reid, Catherine,  
& Jessica  
Kaylynn Cook  
Hildred Cammon

*By:*

Barbara Crisler  
Mrs. Bernice Strickland  
Bonnie Norrick  
Trish Smith  
Molly & Bobby Carmichael  
Debra & Dean Jackson  
Debra & Dean Jackson  
Debra & Dean Jackson  
Ray & Sally Holmes  
Charlene & Greg McClanahan  
Their Grandchildren  
8th & 9th Grade Girls Small  
Suzie & Mark Highland  
Mike & Nancy Peterson  
James & Jennifer Emery  
Her Grandparents  
Dorothy & Bobby Cammon;  
Margaret, Tim, Caroline &  
Ben Sanders



*First United Methodist Church  
Christmas Decorations  
2018*

***In Memory Of:***

Kelly Richard Linch, Jr.  
 George Deane Allen  
 Florence & Charlie Patterson,  
 and Howard Patterson  
 Sherry Patterson  
 Frances & James Thornton, and  
 Frank Thornton  
 Edna & Dewitt Kelly, and  
 Sue Ann Tyson  
 Ann Seevers  
 O.C. Seevers  
 Wilma Biagi  
 Hugh Biagi  
 Margie Williamson  
 Edgar Williamson  
 Greg Williamson  
 Dick Willey  
 Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Hartzell  
 Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Willey, Sr.  
 John Alise  
 Charles Stevens  
 Charles Stevens  
  
 Charles Stevens  
 My Granddaughter, Dr. Angela  
 Kellogg  
 Judy Bledsoe  
 Our Parents  
 Judy Bledsoe  
 Robert B. Cammon  
 Cliff Cammon  
 John & Sarah Soltis  
 Jennifer Soltis Trizzino  
 David Soltis  
 Joe Frano  
 Betty Jackson  
 lies  
 Edd, Nona, & Eddie Cooper  
 Marguerite Smallwood  
 Margery Collins  
 Raymond & Madelyn Holmes and  
 Branson & Sarah Chandler  
 Helen Dunson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Forest C. Johnson, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. J.T. Braswell  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Robertson

***By:***

Kelly & Carole Linch  
 Anne Childs Allen  
  
 Their Family  
 Her Family  
  
 Their Family  
  
 Dodie Patterson & Family  
 Davie & Jim Biagi  
 Davie & Jim Biagi  
 Davie & Jim Biagi  
 Davie & Jim Biagi  
 Susan Langford  
 Susan Langford  
 Susan Langford  
 Jane Willey  
 Jane Willey  
 Jane Willey  
 His Family  
 Nancy Stevens  
 Ansley, Vince, Robert &  
 Catherine Scoglietti  
 Caroline, Randon, & Ann Rhodes  
  
 Betty Ward  
 Pat & Orren Gilbert  
 Pat & Orren Gilbert  
 Louise Horvath  
 Hildred Cammon  
 Hildred Cammon  
 Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben  
 Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben  
 Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben  
 Linda Frano  
 The Lovejoy & Fritchley Fami-  
 lies  
 Sheryl Cooper  
 Perry & Ann Wilder  
 Perry & Ann Wilder  
  
 Ray & Sally Holmes  
 Charles & Betty Johnson  
 Charles & Betty Johnson  
 Charles & Betty Johnson  
 Lynda & Rob Petry

***In Memory Of:***

Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Strickland  
 Mr. & Mrs. William B. Petry  
 Miss Martha Mills  
 Stephen G. Petry  
 Mr. & Mrs. Carl Benefield  
 Mr. & Mrs. R.H. Mills  
 Mrs. Julia Hope Johnson  
 Our Parents  
 John & Suzanne Schuessler, &  
 Lydia Helms  
 Cliff Cammon  
 Robert Cammon  
 Alden & Helen Peterson  
 Tim Huckstep  
 John Huckstep  
 Walt Lukken  
 Jeff Hagood  
 Francie Ryder  
 Nancy Beth Godwin  
 Cliff Cammon

Robert Cammon

Mary & Bob Dillon

***By:***

Lynda & Rob Petry  
 Lynda & Rob Petry  
 Lynda & Rob Petry  
 Lynda & Rob Petry  
 Dusty & Carlene Mills  
 Dusty & Carlene Mills  
 Charlene & Greg McClanahan  
  
 Suzie & Mark Highland  
 Mike & Nancy Peterson  
 Mike & Nancy Peterson  
 Mike & Nancy Peterson  
 The Huckstep Family  
 The Huckstep Family  
 Peggy Lukken  
 Peggy Lukken  
 Peggy Lukken  
 Her Parents  
 Dorothy & Bobby Cammon;  
 Margaret, Tim, Caroline &  
 Ben Sanders  
 Dorothy & Bobby Cammon;  
 Margaret, Tim, Caroline &  
 Ben Sanders  
 Dorothy & Bobby Cammon;  
 Margaret, Tim, Caroline &  
 Ben Sanders





# December 2018

## Weekly

<b>SUNDAY</b>	
9:00a	Chapel Worship
10:00a	Sunday School
11:00a	Traditional Worship
5:00p	Disciple III
<b>MONDAY</b>	
10:30a	Meals on Wheels
11:30a	Soup Kitchen
5:30p	Sons of Lafayette Rehearsal
6:30p	Cub Scout Den Meetings
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
9:00a	Community Care
1:30p	Staff Meeting
6:30p	Cub Scout Den Meetings
7:00p	Boy Scouts
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	
10:00a	Explorers Bible Study
11:30a	Soup Kitchen Sack Lunch
5:00p	Wednesday Evening Meal
5:30p	Handbell Rehearsal
6:00p	Children's Program
6:00p	Mid & Sr. Hi Youth
6:30p	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<b>THURSDAY</b>	
9:00a	Community Care
9:45a	Prayer Ministry
10:30a	Dulcimers
6:30p	Cub Scout Den Meetings
<b>FRIDAY</b>	
7:00a	Men's Coffee & Prayer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 11a—1:00p El Salvador Mission Fundraising Lunch	3 5:00p UMW Board 6:00p UMW Christmas Banquet	4 12:30p Red Cross Blood Drive  5:00p Worship Committee	5	6 12:00 TLC	7	1   8 9:00a Men's Breakfast
9	10 6:30p Charge Conference	11	12 5:45p Missions Committee	13	14	15
16 6:30p Carols by Candlelight	17	18	19 NO WEW  No Evening Activities  No Explorers	20	21	22
23	24 5:00p Family Candlelight Christmas Eve Service  11:00p Candlelight Communion Service	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>  Church Closed for the Holiday	26 Church Closed for the Holiday	27 5:30p Board of Trustees	28	29
30 11:00a Combined Worship Service, Sanctuary	31	1 Happy New Year  Church Closed for the Holiday	2	3	4	5

## Remembrances Received, November 2018

### *In Memory of*

**Eddie Linch** (Kelly Linch's Brother)—Ray & Sally Holmes

**Joanne Leverett**—Bobbie & Lonnie Ritchie, Adult Fellowship Sunday School Class, Martha Stanley, Judy & Quillian Baldwin, Christi & Jimmy Hardin

**George Barnes** (Debbie Ogle's Father)—Carole & Kelly Linch, Ray & Sally Holmes

**Judy Bledsoe**—Mary Peace, Lauranne Buchanan, Lynn & Thurston Garrard, Kaye Bledsoe Barbour, Peggy Lukken, Nancy & Pat Cooper, Christine Williams

**Dr. William Fackler**—Edward & Gower Nelson, Grady Gower

**Sarah & John Soltis** - Paul & Karen (Soltis) Tobben

### *We Extend Our Sympathy to*

Bob Smith & Family in the death of his uncle, **John Wallace Payne**, on **November 5, 2018**

Patsy Wynne and Family in the death of her mother, **Vivian Burdette**, on **November 19, 2018**.

### *We Welcome into Our Church Family*

**Libba and Bill Bowling**, November 18

**Sharon and Jerry Jernigan**, November 25

### *ATTENDANCE*

#### **Sunday, October 28**

Sunday School....185    Worship Service.....282

#### **Sunday, November 4**

Sunday School....203    Worship Service.....344

#### **Sunday, November 11**

Sunday School....180    Worship Service.....317

#### **Sunday, November 18**

Sunday School....186    Worship Service.....373

#### **Sunday, November 25**

Sunday School....161    Worship Service.....324

### *December's Worship Team Volunteers*

**Ushers:** Todd Vinson, Bob Cammon, Dorothy Cammon, James Emery, Matt French, Louise Horvath, Will Allred, John Roberts, Bryon Reed, Scott Jones

**Altar Guild:** Lauranne Buchanan, Donna Close, Tina Diskin, Shannon Johnson, Louise Kirby, Kay Scarborough, Wanda-Ann Kinnaman

**Hospitality Team:** Jared & Jessica Larson, Joyce & Bill Young, Louise Kirby, Linda Frano, Nancy & Dean Larson, Carolyn Day, Joye Greene, Beth & Wayne Godwin, Mark Huckstep, Dee Woodward, Denise & Mike Wilson, Laura Holley, Julianne Skipper, Carlene & Dusty Mills, Laura Harlin, Beth & Frank McRae, Jan Lockerbie, John Jackson, Nancy & Dean Larson, Laura Jennings, Jean Edwards, Lauranne Buchanan

### *Congratulations!*

**Lily Ann McConnell**, born **October 17**, the great-granddaughter of Nancy & Dean Larson.

### *Wednesday Evening Weekly Menus*

#### **December 5**

Chicken Fingers  
Potato Wedges  
Veggie  
Kids: Same

#### **December 12**

Breakfast for Dinner

#### **December 19**

NO WEW

#### **December 26**

NO WEW

Dessert with every meal. Adults - \$6, Children/Youth - \$3

**WEW resumes January 9, 2019**

### **HOLLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE**

**The Church will close on Tuesday, December 25, and Wednesday, December 26, for Christmas; and Tuesday, January 1, for New Years.**

**Should you have a Pastoral emergency, call 888-456-1203.**

# Advent 2018

Daily Scripture  
and Reflections for  
the Sacred Season

Sunday

**2** Promise Fulfilled

A righteous Branch will spring up and rule his people.

*Jer. 33:14-16*

Monday

**3** A Reign of Peace

Nation will not lift up sword against nation.

*Is. 2:1-5*

Tuesday

**4** The Son Revealed

We are blessed to know and worship the Son.

*Luke 10:21-24*

Wednesday

**5** Fully Satisfied

Our Lord feeds us with his Word and we are satisfied.

*Matt. 15:29-37*

Thursday

**6** Built on Rock

We dwell on solid ground with Jesus as our sure foundation.

*Matt. 7:21, 24-27*

Friday

**7** The Lord Is My Light

We will not fear; the Lord is our Light and Salvation.

*Ps. 27:1, 4, 13-14*

Saturday

**8** Woman's Offspring

The woman's offspring will conquer the serpent.

*Gen. 3:9-15, 20*

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

— Isaiah 60:1

**9** Prepare the Way

John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord.

*Luke 3:1-6*

**10** The Desert Blooms

Say to the fearful: "Be strong ... here is your God!"

*Is. 35:1-10*

**11** Seek And Find

Our Good Shepherd searches high and low to rescue the lost.

*Matt. 10:12-14*

**12** Gabriel Was Sent

Mary will conceive and bear a Son, and call him Jesus.

*Luke 1:26-38*

**13** Not Forsaken

The Lord will answer; he will not forsake his people.

*Is. 41:13-20*

**14** Peace Like a River

Following God's commands brings peace like a river.

*Is. 48:17-19*

**15** Elijah Has Come

John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah.

*Matt. 17:9, 10-13*

**16** Live in Repentance

The One to come will baptize with the Spirit and fire.

*Luke 3:10-10*

**17** The Lion of Judah

The scepter will not depart from the Lion of Judah.

*Gen. 49:2, 8-10*

**18** Name Him Jesus

Mary's Son will save his people from their sins.

*Matt. 1:18-25*

**19** Do Not Be Afraid

John will go before the Lord, to prepare his way.

*Luke 1:5-25*

**20** The Lord's Sign

The young woman will bear a Son, Emmanuel.

*Is. 7:10-14*

**21** Mother of My Lord

Blessed are you who believed the word of the Lord.

*Luke 1:39-45*

**22** Dedicated to God

Hannah dedicated her son to the service of the Lord.

*1 Sam. 1:24-28*

**23** Ruler in Israel

From little Bethlehem will come the Ruler of Israel.

*Micah 5:1-4*

**24** Blessed Be the Lord

God has visited and brought redemption to his people.

*Luke 1:67-79*

**25** Word Made Flesh

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling with us.



*John 1:1-18*



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