



# THE LINK

LINKING GOD AND HIS PEOPLE, EACH TO THE  
OTHER, TO CHRIST JESUS OUR SAVIOR AND LORD

## PASTOR'S NOTES

PASTOR JAMES W. CARLSON

My precious sheep:

In Ephesians 3:18 Paul the Apostle tells us to pray that we may, "have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." The love of Jesus Christ for us, unworthy sinners, has limitless boundaries; according to this verse, there's more to grasp in its width and height. What do you pray for? If anything, I encourage you to pray for this! And throughout this issue of the Link, I want to try and help you understand these boundaries in greater measure by offering some Scriptural insights. I'm not done with Christmas yet. The birth of Jesus Christ is so monumental I want to keep talking about it and exploring its depths. There are two main Scriptures that we often turn to at Advent. I want to quote these for you, point out some insights, and build on them. The first Scripture is taken from Isaiah. It's Isaiah 9:6. It reads, "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." This verse is familiar because it has these four wonderful (and lofty!) titles for Jesus Christ bestowed on Him at birth. But notice the words I highlighted: TO US. Jesus was born to us – for us.

Interesting. The next main Scripture is Luke 2:11. I preached this Scripture at our Christmas Eve service. This is where the angel of the Lord (possibly Gabriel) is announcing the birth of Jesus to those lowly shepherds tending their flocks at night. And the angel says, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born TO YOU; He is the Messiah, the Lord." Again, we encounter these words: TO YOU. Jesus was born to you – for you. What's the significance of this? Well think of when your children were born. I have two sons. They were born for me and for my wife – because we are their parents.

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### THE MISSION OF CCC:

"WORSHIPING GOD, GROWING,  
SPIRITUALLY, SERVING OTHERS,  
INVITING FRIENDS"

**\*\*The Church is open for Worship Service**  
on Sunday Morning at 11 AM .  
Also please check out our Facebook page to  
watch the worship service live  
11 AM on Sunday.

### GUEST WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS

Login: CCCGuest

Password: ChurchonFire

CONT'D...

Children are born into a family for their parents. But, Jesus was NOT born for the benefit & blessing of His earthly parents (Joseph and Mary). Jesus was NOT born even for His own life. Jesus was born for one reason and one reason only: to die on a cross for the salvation of the world. The name given Him at His birth was Jesus which means, "The LORD saves/is salvation." Read Matthew 1:21. Jesus was born for the benefit of mankind. It was not for His benefit that He was born. When Jesus left His throne in heaven and came to earth, His life didn't get better. Actually, His life got much worse. My point is He's the only person who never lived for Himself! He only lived for other people. To serve us. To sacrifice for us. To die for us. And even though He lived a selfless life, from birth to the grave, most people throughout history, and still today, have rejected Him and hate Him. To quote Francis Chan, that's "Crazy love."

Who else in human history ever lived such a selfless life? Can you imagine having a baby, knowing that baby would have no future life in this world? Jesus never had His own life. He never got married. He never had any children. He never owned a home; He was homeless (Luke 9:58). He never owned any possessions. He never took a vacation. He never dreamed of retirement or having grandchildren. And at the end of His life, He suffered a painful and shameful death on the cross for crimes He did not commit (He was innocent). If this was the life you lived, how would it make you feel? Would you even want to live? Isaiah the prophet said of Jesus, "He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain" (Isaiah 53:2). Would you wish this life on anyone? And yet, Jesus lived this life FOR US. He knew in heaven, before He became a man, that this was the life He was destined to live, and He chose to come to earth anyway. Why would Jesus do that? Four letters: L-O-V-E. This is TRUE love! The word "love" is the most overused word in the English vocabulary. People use this word frivolously every day, and its meaning is light years away from what love truly means, which is what Jesus embodies. You find me anyone else on this planet who's willingly to live the life Jesus lived, and I'll call them loving. Why am I talking about all of this? I want to help you see the great lengths Jesus went to be in relationship with you. I want to help you see how greatly He loves you, so that you will greatly love Him in return. As you know, I am passionate about making disciples in the church, because this is the marching orders for the church given by Jesus Himself (Matt 28:18-20).

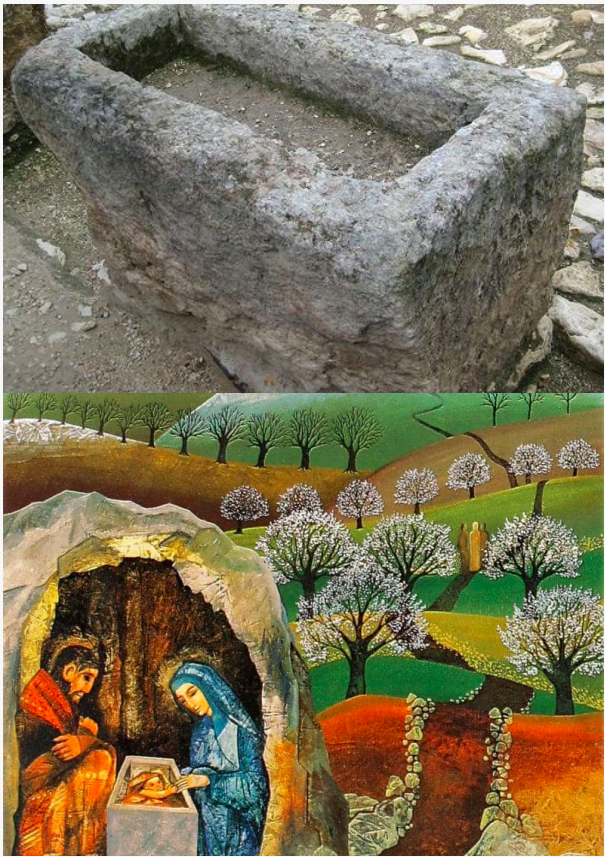


*"The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?*

*The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1*

I think the best motivation to live for Jesus as an obedient disciple is to know how greatly He has loved you. Let all of us (myself included) love Jesus more sacrificially in 2021! Below are two pictures. The first is what a first-century manger probably looked like. It looks like a little box cut out of stone. To me it looks like a little coffin for a baby. Could this be what the angel meant when he said to the shepherds that the manger was a "sign" (Luke 2:12)? The second picture shows the point I'm trying to make. Jesus was placed in a manger at His birth, because the manger was a sign, pointing to His death on the cross, the reason He was born.

Grace and peace, Pastor James





### Triumvirate for Life

In sequence beauty, questions, faith, accentuates life  
Stepwise through understanding interest intensifies  
Searching for the simplicity in a complex world is fascinating  
Knowledge is power opening vistas of opportunity  
Life was conceived with intention and not aimless coincidence  
Probing nature for answers has become a prime interest  
With work, hardship, integrity, we gain self-image  
In recognizing necessity, we become aware of reality  
Falling short we realize giving our best was due of life  
From the beginning life was asked and we responded  
Discovering the substance of life was found in the making  
For all the work, hardship, and pain involved  
For all the love, sorrow, and joy life finds worth  
To feel we have given our best is reward in itself

By Edward S. Murphy

### WALK BY FAITH

**WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT,  
HOLD ONTO GOD'S HAND AND WALK IN THE LIGHT  
FAITH IS STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RAGING STORM  
HOLDING TIGHT ONTO GOD'S HAND...  
WHEN WE ARE AT OUR WEAKEST, GOD GIVES US THE  
STRENGTH TO CARRY ON.  
EVEN AFTER THE DARKEST NIGHT, GOD SENDS HIS LIGHT,  
WITH THE DAWN.  
HAVE FAITH IN HIM, HE WILL GIVE YOU PEACE  
WITHIN YOUR SOUL.  
FULLY TRUST HIM, AND HE WILL MAKE YOU WHOLE.  
BY FAITH, PETER STEPPED OUT OF THE BOAT  
AND WALKED ON THE WATER;  
HE LIVED BY FAITH, AND BECAME A MARTYR.  
BY FAITH, PAUL WAS SHIPWRECKED, BEATEN AND STONED  
AND CONTINUED TO PREACH JESUS' MESSAGE OF LOVE;  
YOU SEE, PAUL'S STRENGTH CAME FROM ABOVE.  
FAITH IS BELIEVING IN WHAT YOU CANNOT SEE,  
WITH YOUR TREMBLING HAND CLASPED IN THE HAND,  
ONCE NAILED TO CALVARY...**

**WRITTEN BY, DIANNE INGLE**



# HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

## BIRTHDAYS

- Jan. 2nd: Kaylin Davis
- Jan. 3rd: Mary Maynard
- Jan. 8th: Marci DeGroot
- Jan. 18th: Maureen Umbriaco
- Jan. 18th: Geri Poling
- Jan. 18th: Dorinda Carey
- Jan. 23rd: Brydon Stanley
- Jan. 27th: Bill Storing
- Jan. 27th: Traudy Sanborn
- Jan. 28th: Molly Moulton
- Jan. 31st: Wayne King

## CLASSES & STUDIES

### Classes/Groups for Winter:

For the health and well-being of our congregants, classes held at the church building are postponed until further notice.

Remote studies, facilitated via ZOOM are as follows:

- **"Inexpressible: Hesed and the Mystery of God's Lovingkindness" by Michael Card** on Thursdays at 7pm. A men's group led by Chris Morin.
- A new **Bible Study** will start after the New Year on Tuesday's at 7pm. A women's group led by Shari Boehmer.
- A study through the **book of Daniel** on Wednesday's at 7pm. A group for everyone led by Pastor James (jamescarlsonsr@gmail.com).  
*\*This class is facilitated via the church's Facebook Page.*

### Directions:

When you sign up to be part of a group, you will email the group leader. Then, they will send you an email inviting you to join their small group. This email will include a link that you press on and, voila- you can join. It will ask you to run the program on your computer, and after a couple clicks, you'll be in the chat room. If you have questions about how to use this, contact your group leader or Pastor James (626-476-5543) or the church office (801-825-1115).



# HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

## MINISTRY NEWS

- Rocky Mountain Care Center Ministry

Please Come join us every Friday at 10:30 AM for a half hour of song and a message from the speaker that day with patients. *\*Canceled until further notice.*  
Any questions you may contact Eileen or Dennis Richards 801/825-3471.

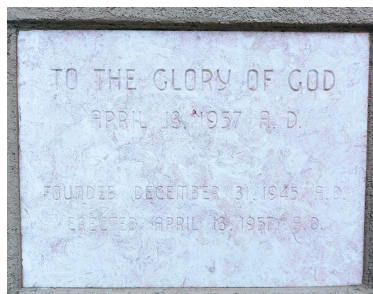
**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: CLEARFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH (CCC) IS SEEKING TO HIRE A WORSHIP LEADER. INTERESTED CANDIDATES ARE REQUESTED TO CONTACT CCC BY PHONE (801-825-1115). A COPY OF THE POSITION DESCRIPTION CAN BE PROVIDED BY EMAIL ADDRESS UPON REQUEST.**



Shepherd – Let us congratulate Chris Morin for being selected as a shepherd of our church. The Church Council voted unanimously to have him serve in this area. Per the by-laws (Article VIII, Section 3), a shepherd assists the pastor with meeting the spiritual needs of the congregation.

### **75th Anniversary of our church!**

Our church was founded on December 31, 1945. God has been faithful in preserving our church for these many years. Our cornerstone states that this church was dedicated "To The Glory of God." As we look to a new year, 2021, let us remember these words and let us all contribute, each as individual members of the body of Christ, to living for the glory of God at Clearfield Community Church. As long as we keep Christ as our cornerstone, we will not falter (1 Peter 2:4-8). "On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand."



# HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

## PRAYER CONCERNS

December 2020

Sarah Voigt, Ronald Branham, Kevin Branham, Sue Carlson, Kaylin Terry, Kathy Knighton, Eric Palmer, Lynn McCarthy, Pat Call, Linda Manning, Jamie Richards, Stuart Simmons, Jean Varner, Bob Roberts, Mike Mann, Matt Tobey, Travis Jeffery, Mark MacDonald, Edith Aleman, Barrett Wellington, Ervin & Jeannine Herdt, Bill & Marte Hazelwood, Evie Guzman, Dennis & Naomi DeGroot, Marilyn Simon, Jessica Woeppel, Susan Woeppel, Angelika Bertrand, Traudy Sanborn, Jean MoneyMaker, Jane Kelting, Tonya Brandler, Audrey Otrumbar, Marci Woeppel, Bob Schellhase, Kennedy Rebmman, Pat Zabel

"Rejoice  
always, pray  
without  
ceasing, give  
thanks in all  
circumstances;  
for this is the  
will of God in  
Christ Jesus for  
you."

1 Thess 5:16-18