



# 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:

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" This is the opening line to the classic Christmas song by Andy Williams. He continues, "It's the hap-happiest season of all!" Yes it is! But what makes it happy? For many people it's the festiveness of the holiday season: the colors, the decorations, the music, the food, and the presents under the tree. As Christians, we know what makes it truly wonderful, or I should say, WHO makes it wonderful: Jesus Christ our Savior!

But exactly WHO is Jesus Christ? This is not a trick question. We must be clear in our minds and hearts about the identity of Jesus Christ – the most important person to have ever lived or will live. The most important question for any human being to ask is: Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus Himself invited the 12 Apostles to answer this question in a place called Caesarea Philippi. He asked the 12 Apostles, "Who do people say that I am?" (Mark 8:27) They gave a few answers, identifying Jesus as one of the prophets. Peter spoke up and declared, "You are the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). This is the right answer! We know it is because Jesus said so, and that this insight was given to Peter from God the Father (Matt 16:17). Notice this bedrock confession consists of two parts concerning Jesus. He is: 1) The Christ/the Messiah and 2) The Son of God. Christ/Messiah are the same term; Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word Messiah which means, "Anointed One." It was a term used for Israel's kings. Jesus is the "King of kings" (Rev 19:16) and He was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism (Matt 3:16). In our Wednesday night Bible study, we just concluded looking at 1-3 John.

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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...

And we observed that this bedrock belief concerning Jesus Christ was already being threatened by some people who left the church (see 1 John 2:18-19). John the Apostle is blunt and states that such a denial is of the Antichrist. The false teachers were denying both parts of this confession: that Jesus is the Christ (1 John 2:22; 5:1) and that He is the Son of God (1 John 4:15; 5:5).

Now there's a third denial in 1-2 John that helps us see exactly what these false teachers were denying about Jesus as the Christ/the Son of God. They were denying that Jesus "has come in the flesh" (1 John 4:2; 2 John 7). This is a denial of Christmas! This is a denial of the Name given to Jesus at His birth "Immanuel" which means "God with us" (Matt 1:22-23). It is not simply denying that Jesus was an actual human being. It was denying that God had become a man. Heaven and earth came together that day in Bethlehem. See especially John 1:1 and John 1:14 which tells us that Jesus the Word who was God became flesh.

Now John was writing to combat rival beliefs about Jesus. There are people in our day who have rival beliefs about Jesus. One example is our Mormon friends. Based on their terminology, it may sound like we believe in the same Jesus, but there are stark differences, and we must be careful to distinguish. Some beliefs Mormons have about Jesus are different than what the Bible teaches. They believe that Jesus was the first-born spirit child of heavenly Father and heavenly Mother. Yet, there is no heavenly Mother according to the Bible. . They believe God the Father of Jesus has "a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man's" (D&C 130:22).



*"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*

Yet, the Bible teaches that God is Spirit (John 4:24). They believe God the Father was once a man. It states more than once in the Bible that God is not a man (Num 23:19; 1 Sam 15:29; Hos 11:9). They believe Jesus and Satan (Lucifer) are spirit brothers. They believe the Father and the Son (and the Holy Spirit) are three separate beings. But the Bible shows us they are the same/one (Matt 28:19; 1 Cor 12:4-6).

How do these different beliefs about God the Father and the Holy Spirit amount to a different Jesus? Consider the following. If you knew two people who were similar, yet they had different parents, different siblings, and different DNA, you would think they are different people who come from different families. It's like the difference between a real bill and a counterfeit one. The two look extremely similar, but one is counterfeit and therefore has no value. See the image below (from enewscourier.com) – can you tell which one is real?. Now please don't misunderstand me. I am NOT attacking Mormons. I have friends who are Mormon. I believe they are kind and generous and sincere people. But someone can be sincere in a belief and still be wrong about that belief. I want us to speak the truth in love (Eph 4:15). But let's be honest about our differences. We can be civil in our honesty. Getting right the exact identity of Jesus Christ is the most important belief. We cannot waver. Eternity is at stake. This Christmas may we Christians be clear about who Jesus Christ is and then truly celebrate His birth, and have the joy, peace, and life that come from believing in the true Jesus.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor James





**One World**

O' life for all that thou hast provided  
With much more online enroute  
Whose grand vistas have granted access  
Whence ever fascinating facets draw interest  
Where in pending sites are set for innovation  
With which nature forevermore sows beauty  
To allow this parade of leading questions  
Ushers in the steps that probe fading margins  
For the pearls that align this cosmic path  
Awaiting the hallowed moment that lifts the curtain  
And frees the imagination from blind shadows  
Where Greece once led the way and now the world

*By Edward S. Murphy*

**\*\* SILENT NIGHT \*\***

**THE ANIMALS IN THE STABLE  
WITNESSED THE TENDER SIGHT  
OF MARY CRADLING HER BABY  
IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT.  
THEY ECHOED THE JOY  
OF THE ANGEL'S DELIGHT  
OF OUR SAVIOR'S MIRACLE BIRTH  
IN THE STABLE THAT NIGHT.  
WHEN THE BRIGHT STAR IN THE EAST  
SHINED ALL AROUND  
AND THE ANIMALS BOWED IN SILENCE  
IN HUMBLE ADORATION...  
OH, IT MUST HAVE BEEN A HEAVENLY SOUND  
WITH THE CHOIR OF ANGELS SINGING  
AND HEAVEN'S BELLS RINGING -  
ANNOUNCING THE CHRIST CHILD'S BIRTH  
...BRINGING PEACE AND JOY TO THE EARTH.**

**WRITTEN BY, DIANNE INGLE**



# HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

## BIRTHDAYS

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- Dec. 6th: Kathy Russell
- Dec. 6th: Doug Faulkner
- Dec. 7th: Heidi Moulton
- Dec. 7th: Courtney Warnshuis
- Dec. 8th: Robbie Swan
- Dec. 12th: Edward Murphy
- Dec. 14th: Susan Jones
- Dec. 15th: Julie Bramhall
- Dec 15th: Leah Davis
- Dec. 16th: Lori Masero
- Dec 17th: Nancy Bailey
- Dec. 17th: Linda Phillips
- Dec. 25th: Steffanie Barlowe
- Dec. 25th: Joyce Harms

## CLASSES & STUDIES

### Classes/Groups for Fall:

#### SMALL GROUPS - in person & online

- 1) A Women's group led by Shari Boehmer - is on **Discipleship Curriculum by The Navigators** - FH - Tuesday at 7pm.  
All are welcome!
- 2) A men's group led by Chris Morin, "**Growing Strong in God's Family** by The Navigators" on Thursdays at 7pm in the church cafe.
- 3) Women's Bible Study on **Messages of the Gospels** -FH  
Wednesday 10 AM led by Pat Baker
- 4)A study through the book of **Ezekiel** 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. Any questions you may contact Eileen or Dennis Richards 801/825-3471. December 3rd -Pastor James Carlson, December 10th - Lee Oswalt, December 17th - Bill Storing, December 24th - Dennis Richards, December 31 - Alice Cipollini

### \*\*\*MARTHA CIRCLE NEWS\*\*\*

**ATTENTION LADIES: WELCOME BACK! MARTHA CIRCLE IS STARTING BACK UP! MARTHA CIRCLE MEETING AND POTLUCK WILL BE ON FRIDAY DEC. 17TH 2021 AT 11:30 AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL. WE ALWAYS HAVE A GREAT TIME AND HAVE A WONDERFUL BUNCH OF LADIES THAT ATTEND. ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH OR FRIENDS OR FIRST TIMERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO JOIN US. WE HAVE A SHORT MEETING ALONG WITH DEVOTIONS, WONDERFUL FOOD AND SOCIALIZING. DON'T WORRY IF YOU DON'T COOK – SOMETHING “STORE BOUGHT” IS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE. PLEASE COME JOIN US. REGULAR MEETINGS WILL BE ON THE 3RD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 11:30. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**CLEARFIELD COMMUNITY CHURCH IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON A SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR THE NEW FAMILY PASTOR. IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT THE MODERATOR, BOB BRANDLER.**

### FISH 'N LOAVES

**IT WAS GREAT TO HAVE OUR NEW DIRECTOR/PRESIDENT, YOHAN JOHANNES BERNDT, JOIN US AND REVIEW HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE OF FISH 'N LOAVES. HE HAS A NEW OUTLOOK WHICH IS IMPRESSIVE. CCC HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECOND FULL WEEK OF EVERY MONTH. IT WOULD INVOLVE TWO DAYS DURING THE MONTH TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR THE CLIENTS. THE DATES FOR DECEMBER ARE: MONDAY, DEC. 13TH AND THURSDAY, DEC. 16TH. THE TIME FRAME WOULD BE ABOUT TWO HOURS, 4:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M. DEPENDING ON HOW MANY CLIENTS WE WOULD SERVE ETC. CONTACT SARAH VOIGT TO SCHEDULE WHEN YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP. SLVOIGT17@GMAIL.COM OR CELL 801 552-1713. THE PANTRY NEEDS ARE: TOILET TISSUE, BATH SOAP, JAM AND HAMBURGER HELPER. OUR SHELVES ARE FILLED WITH ALL OTHER ITEMS. HOPE YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON IS FILLED WITH JOY AND PEACE WITH LOVE & KINDNESS!  
SARAH L. VOIGT**



# HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

## PRAYER CONCERNS

December 2021

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, Matt Tobey, Travis Jeffery, Barrett  
Wellington, Ervin Herdt, Marte Hazelwood, Dennis & Naomi  
DeGroot, Marilyn Simon, Angelika Bertrand, Traudy Sandborn,  
Jean Moneymaker, Jane Kelting, Tonya Brandler,  
Audrey Otrumbar, Bob Schellhase, Pat Zabel, Joe Umbriaco,  
Jackie Ross, Andrew Milito, Robert & Doris Stott  
Mel Enders, Kristin Taylor

"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

**WE STARTED A PRAYER MEETING ON SUNDAY MORNING AT THE CHURCH (9AM - ROOM #10). WE ARE FOCUSING ON THE FOLLOWING THREE PRAYER REQUESTS. WE ARE ASKING THAT YOU FOCUS ON THESE PRAYER REQUESTS EACH WEEK THROUGHOUT THIS MONTH OF DECEMBER DURING YOUR OWN PRAYER TIME.**

- 1) PRAY THAT GOD WOULD DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE (MATT 6:13; EPH 6:10-20; 2 TIM 2:26)**
- 2) PRAY THAT WE WOULD LOVE AND TREASURE CHRIST MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS WORLD (MATT 6:19-21; PHIL 1:21; COL 3:4; REV 2:4-5)**
- 3) PRAY THAT WE WOULD DENY OURSELVES, TAKE UP OUR CROSSES, AND FOLLOW AFTER JESUS (LUKE 9:23); THAT WE WOULD OFFER OUR BODIES TO GOD AS LIVING SACRIFICES (ROM 12:1; EPH 5:2) AND THAT WE WOULD EXPERIENCE JOY FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT (GAL 5:22) IN THE MIDST OF SUCH SACRIFICE (HEB 12:2)**



# HIS GATHERING PLACE CAFÉ

## NEWS & NOTES



IT'S THAT SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR AGAIN! THE TIME WHEN WE ALL COUNT OUR BLESSINGS AND THINK OF THE GIFTS WE HAVE RECEIVED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. DURING THIS TIME OF GIFT GIVING THE CONGREGATION CUSTOMARILY HAS GIVEN OUR CHURCH STAFF AN "APPRECIATION GIFT". IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE PLEASE PLACE YOUR GIFT IN THE OFFERING CLEARLY MARKED "STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT" DURING ANY WORSHIP SERVICE OR SEND YOUR CHECK OR MONEY TO THE CHURCH OFFICE MARKED "APPRECIATION GIFT". THANK YOU, STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE MINISTRY

*Retired  
Ministers &  
Missionaries  
Offering*

DURING THE NEXT SIX WEEKS WE WILL BE RECEIVING THE RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING. THERE ARE SPECIAL ENVELOPES MARKED FOR THIS OFFERING IN THE PEWS, OR YOU CAN SEND A CHECK DIRECTLY TO THE CHURCH AND NOTE THAT IT IS FOR THE RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING. THIS HAS BEEN A DIFFICULT YEAR, AND OUR RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES NEED YOUR SUPPORT.



**DECEMBER 5TH 2021 WESLEY BELL RINGERS CONCERT**  
SAVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR! WE WILL BE HAVING POTLUCK DINNER (5:00 PM) THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE MAIN DISH. PLEASE BRING A SIDE DISH OR DESSERT TO SHARE. THE CONCERT WILL BE AT 6:00 PM. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND COME GET YOURSELF READY FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH SOME JOYFUL MUSIC.

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 27TH WILL BE OUR LAST DAY TO RECEIVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE YEAR 2021.**