

December 23, 2018

Organ --- Alva Lou Schottel

Piano —

(CCLI permit # 424692 covers all copyright song lyrics)

All Things Are Possible

Because with God all things are possible.

Closing Chorus #427 *For He Alone Is Worthy* Don/People

The third grade was staging their annual Christmas play. Finally it came time for the birth. Mary was hidden from the crowd by bales of hay. A boy appeared on stage in a bathrobe and sandals with a stethoscope around his neck. Hastily he disappeared behind the hay bales, and reemerged

with a bundle. He handed it to Joseph and said, "Congratulations—it's a God!" Yes, it's true. God is born on Christmas Day. We think that sound wrong, since God is eternal. Someone said Christmas is like the rapture in reverse.

There is another story of a boy who tried to sabotage his Christmas pageant. It seems he was bitterly disappointed at not being cast as Joseph in the school Nativity play. Instead, he was given the minor role of the innkeeper. Being unhappy over this he plotted on how he could get back at the classmate who was chosen for the part that he so desired.

When the day of the performance came, He was prepared. Joseph and Mary made their entrance and knocked on the door of the inn. The bitter innkeeper opened it a fraction and eyed them coldly. "Can you give us board and lodging for the night? Joseph pleaded. Joseph, of course, expected the innkeeper to follow the script and answer gruffly that he had no room for them in the inn.

Instead the innkeeper grandly flung the door wide open, beamed cheerfully and announced, "Come in, come in. You shall have the best room in the hotel."

There was a pause. Poor Joseph had not expected this and did not know exactly what to do. But then, with great presence of mind, he turned to Mary and said, "I'll take a look inside first." He peered past the innkeeper, shook his head firmly and announced sharply, "I'm not taking my wife into a place like this. Come on, Mary, we'll sleep in the stable." And that is what they did. The plot was back on course.

It didn't matter what kind of difficulties or challenges Mary and Joseph faced, nothing could stop God's plan. The concept of eternity entered into historical time. For this reason we are urged to prepare all through Advent for a worthy Christmas Celebration. We are to ready our hearts to receive our King.

Lastly, there was yet another Christmas pageant presented by a class of four-year olds and it was an evening to remember. It began as three Virgin Mary's marched onto the stage. Not every Christmas pageant is blessed with three Mary's. Over the years this school had acquired three Mary costumes. Using all three gave a chance for more children to be involved and kept down the squabbling over who got the starring roles. The two Josephs walked up behind the Mary's. Then twenty little angels came out. They were dressed in white robes and they had huge wire wings covered in fabric. Next were twenty little shepherd boys dressed in burlap sacks. They carried an array of objects that were supposed to be shepherd crooks.

It was at this point that the problem occurred. During the dress rehearsal the teacher had used chalk to draw circles on the floor to mark where the angels were supposed to stand and crosses to mark the spots of the shepherds. But the children had practiced with their regular clothes on. So, on the night of the pageant, the angels came walking out with their beautiful costumed wings and stood on their circles. However, their huge wings covered the crosses of the shepherds as well. So when the time came for the shepherds to find their places, they did not know where to go because angels took up all their space.

One little boy became extremely frustrated and angry over the whole experience. He finally spied his teacher behind the curtains and said in a loud voice, "Because of these dumb angels, I can't find the cross!"

The nativity scene by itself is not the whole story; it's only the first act. We won't understand Christmas without Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, December 23, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Kirkpatrick, Larry McKahan, Bill Schottel

Alternate: Ken Nice

Diversicare..... 2:30 pm

Christmas Eve, Eve Service 6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 26

No services this evening.

Sunday, December 30, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Fred Kerns,

Ken Nice, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

Mission Study: Noon

No services this evening.

Wednesday, January 2, 2019

No services this evening.

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW! Everyone make a contact!** Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

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Sunday Night

Please join us for our Christmas Eve, Eve service tonight. It will be a special time.
Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church.

We will not have Wednesday evening services for the next two weeks.

Address Additions

Please add:

Rodney (Yogi) and Kathryn Swymeller

415 South 25th Street
Saint Joseph, MO 64501

If there are any other corrections/additions be sure to let us know!

Christian Sympathy to:

The family of George Ferbert who went to be with the Lord Tuesday, December 18th. A memorial service was held Saturday, December 22nd.

The Christmas Card

Mail Box

is in the hallway (where the bulletin boards were). If you would like to share cards with your church family, place them in the box throughout the month of December. We suggest you use the money you save on postage to contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our church goal is: \$1,500.00

"CHRISTMAS EVE-EVE" SERVICE

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 23, 2018
6:30 PM**

(Please note date change!)

REFUGEES

**International Mission Study
December 30th at NOON**

We'll have a lite lunch after morning worship, followed by the mission study. Soup (or something) will be provided. Please bring finger foods to complete the meal. Ruth Anne Bush will be leading our study. Don't miss it!

For the Record-

Attendance: December 16, 2018

Sunday School.....	20
Visitors.....	2
Total.....	22
Contacts Made.....	17
Morning Worship.....	40
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	N/A
Wednesday Night	7

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget \$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ... \$ 874.01
Lottie Moon..... \$ 1,220.00
Long Family –Nov. ... \$ 170.00

Offering Received by Mail:

December Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

December Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

December Member Birthdays:

03 ... Brent Fortune
09 ... Allison Adkinson
15 ... George Burgess
16 ... Addison Leichti
16 ... Doris Richardson
19 ... Jessica Kirkpatrick
20 ... Brenda Burgess
23 ... Joseph Coats

December Anniversaries

Bill and Alva Lou Schottel
December 22, 1962

Prayer Requests ...

The Family of George Ferbert
John Wildberger
Brendan Conner—Swymeller's Grandson
Joyce Winfrey and family
Whitesville Baptist Church
Mike Green
Jack and Flo Conard
Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery
Sandy and Stanley Wilson
Ruth Anne Bush—healing
Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia
Linda Huff—cancer treatment
Marcia and Don Hart—blessings
Arlette Duty—strength
Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health
Donna and Bill Dunn—health
Karissa and Matt Long and family
Stephanie & Jason Terpack
Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister
Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim
Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son
Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter

Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister
Doris Richardson June Fritchle
The Waters Family Betty Campbell
Jim Winans Kevin Duty
Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle
Don Beavers Tim Izer
Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts Seth Long
Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
