



*from heaven above
to earth I come*



THE PILGRIM HERALD

December 2017

PILGRIM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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The Pilgrim Herald

Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church LC-MS

462 Meadowbrook Drive, West Bend, WI 53090

December 2017

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR FISHER

Luke 2:1-20(ESV) ¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when[£] Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed,[£] who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”[£] ¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said

to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Greetings in the name of Jesus, the babe of Bethlehem, our Redeemer and Savior! I look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior with you and your family and friends. It is a joy to see the children, continue to clearly confess the Christian faith in their Christmas program. So, an early *thank you* goes to the Sunday School teachers who give of their time to help the children, also I would like to thank the parents who work so hard with their children to get them ready for the program and bring them to church, Sunday School, and practice, and lastly the children themselves who willingly use their talents and gifts to aid in boldly confessing the true meaning of Christmas for all to hear.
Thank you all!!!!

As you know the Christmas season is a busy time, with the activities and services at church. I hope to see all of you at the Advent mid-week services our theme this year is Jesus: Descended from... and the Sunday services which will be different from our Mid-Week Advent Thursday services, and all the Christmas services. To make it easier to know what's going on, I have included a listing of all the special services.

Please make note of our schedule for this Advent and Christmas season:

All Advent mid-week services will be on Thursday night at **1pm** and **7pm**

The Sunday School program will be on **December 17th** at **4pm**

Christmas Eve Sunday December 24th we will have only one service in the morning at **9am** and no Sunday School or Bible class. Later that day we will also have a **6pm** service with communion and a **10pm** candle light service of Lessons and Carols.

Christmas Day Monday December 25th, we will have a **9am** service with communion.

On **Sunday December 28th** will have our regular **7pm** services.

New Years Eve Saturday December 31st will have a **6 pm** service.

New Years Day Sunday January 1st will have a **9am** service.

I would like to share with you a few points of interest about the season of Advent and Christmas that might be overlooked otherwise.

Advent is for Christmas to a lesser degree what Lent is for Easter, they are a penitential season to prepare the Christian, for the great celebration of our salvation. The season of Advent begins the fourth Sunday before December 25th, or the Sunday closest to the Festival of St. Andrew which falls on November 30th. The season of Advent officially ends at midday prayer on December 24th.

Advent begin the calendar for the Church, (from the Latin *adventus*, which means “coming into”), a four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The story of Jesus in Advent is the

story of hope coming into the world. When the time was just right, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. This season is to teach us to prepare to receive Jesus, the hope of the world. It is also common to use an Advent wreath to the mark the season, as the lighting of the candles each week, is to help build our anticipation of the coming Light of the world Jesus.

The season of Christmas begins with evening prayer on Christmas Eve (December 24th) and continues until the end of midday prayer on January 5th. The evening services of Christmas Eve marks the beginning of the Church’s celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. The season of Christmas continues after December 25th over a period traditionally known as the twelve days of Christmas. This season includes several lesser festivals: The festival of St. Stephen, the Churches first martyr, occurs on December 26th, St. John, the apostle and evangelist, is remembered on December 27th. On December 28th the Church remembers the death of the boy babies in Bethlehem (Matthew 2) as the Festival of the Holy Innocents. On the eighth day (January 1st) after Jesus birth the Church remembers the Festival of the circumcision and naming of Jesus.

God Bless and have a wonderful Christmas!!!

Rev. Joseph M. Fisher

(Heb. 12:1-2)



Thursday's in December have Advent Worship Services at 1 & 7 pm. with Communion. Sunday services are at 8 & 10:30 am with Communion. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class Sunday at 9:15 m.



"A Sola Christmas" will be held on Sunday December 17 at 4:00 pm.

Sunday, December 24th
9:00 am. Divine Service
6:00 pm. Divine Service



10:00 pm Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 24.

Monday, December 25th
9:00 am.



Sunday, December 31
9:00 am. Divine Service
6:00 pm. Divine Service



**New Year's Eve
Worship Service**

Monday, January 1, 2018
9:00 am. Divine Service



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Mrs. Irene Schendel. Mrs. Schendel was called home to her Lord and Savior on October 29, 2017. The funeral was held at Pilgrim on November 6, 2017.

LADIES GUILD/LWML

We will meet for our Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, Dec. 19, at noon. Nancy, Jane, Julie, and Ruth will be our hostesses.

Here is the information for our Cookie Sale.

Cookies, Cookies, Cookies — Our Christmas Cookie Sale will soon be taking place. We are hoping that you will bake a double batch of your favorite Christmas cookies. Please bring your cookies to church by 11:00 am. promptly on Saturday, Dec. 9. We will sell our 1-pound boxes for \$7.00 each after services on Dec. 10. The money raised will go to support Rev. Micah Wildauer who is serving as a missionary in Togo, Africa. Thank you for baking, buying and enjoying the cookies.

Ladies Guild/LWML.

Board of Elders
Meeting Minutes for Nov 6, 2017

Present: Pr. Raffa, Dennis Engmann, Dave Fel-
lenz, Gary Erdmann, Brian Skrentny, Ron
Kabitzke, John Heger. Not present: Pr. Fisher,
Tanner Schmidt.

Pastor Raffa opened the meeting with prayer.

Elders' schedules were assigned through early
December.

Elders discussed contacts with members and
health/welfare issues.

An Elder identified the need to adjust the exte-
rior lights timer due to the recent change from
Daylight Saving Time to Standard time. This
will be referred to the Trustees.

The use of the newly acquired processional
cross was again discussed at length. One Elder
again reported that he has been contacted by
some members and is aware of others who ex-
pressed concerns about the use of a processional
crucifix and it being inconsistent with Lutheran
worship practice. Their views should be re-
spected and considered. Another Elder men-
tioned that it is the stated position of the LCMS
that the use of a crucifix is not a "Roman Catho-
lic" practice, and it is proper and consistent with
Lutheran teachings and traditions. Further, he
pointed out that there is a detailed article on that
subject in the Frequently Asked Questions
(Congregational Life) Section of the LCMS
internet site. The Elders will provide more spe-
cific information about this for inclusion in the
Pilgrim Herald and/or weekly bulletin. Pastor
Raffa concurred and reported that before use of
the cross is initiated at Pilgrim, the Pastors will
provide further information to members regard-
ing LCMS policy, teachings and tradition con-
cerning the use of a crucifix in Lutheran worship
and devotional life. That will occur both in writ-
ing (bulletin, Herald) but also during Bible Stud-
ies, to allow for members'

discussion and interaction with the Pastors. It
was agreed by all that this should have occurred
before the acquisition of the cross.

Ron Kabitzke reported that he continues to
work with Tanner Schmidt and Ken Frank on
the production of the Church Directory. A
question arises as to the extent of design graph-
ics to include in the document. More graphics
may make the document larger and incur addi-
tional costs. Ron will discuss with the Church
Council which rightly has jurisdiction over such
matters.

An Elder asked if there was, or should be, an
established protocol to follow for Elders wel-
coming new members. Best practices were dis-
cussed, and it was agreed that further discussion
should take place.

It was noted that live internet streaming of Pil-
grim services has begun. Unlike cable TV trans-
missions, the services are now available for view-
ing in real time to all with internet access any-
where, not just a local audience. A preliminary
discussion took place about potential security
and privacy concerns if the transmission includes
Church announcements. This is a matter which
needs further in-depth discussion and considera-
tion.

It was reported that efforts to provide special
music during worship services to celebrate the
500th anniversary of the Reformation were some-
what successful. A trumpet player joined the
organist for two hymns and a postlude on
Thursday evening service. On Sunday at the
10:30 service, a trumpet duet was performed and
the Young Pilgrims Youth Choir performed a
hymn. During this performance, the Youth
Choir consisted of eleven boys and girls grades
K through 8th. The children did an outstanding
job despite a glitch with the organist.

The future of special music for upcoming

worship services was discussed. Jane Rockrohr and Carol Heger are informally trying to address this issue by seeking vocalists and instrumentalists from the congregation who would be willing to share their talents, in any capacity. All members who might be interested in sharing their musical gifts are encouraged to talk with Jane Rockrohr and/or Carol Heger. (In fact, Jane R. is in the process of organizing a choir to sing at Christmas.) It was noted that the Church would benefit greatly by having a music director who would organize special music for church holidays and coordinate the organists regarding scheduling and working with other musicians. However, presently there are no funds to pay a professional and no member has expressed a desire to volunteer as a music coordinator.

The Elders' book study was again postponed due to time constraints.

Pastor Raffa concluded the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, John Heger

Free at Last Ministry

We are always accepting donations of clothes and jackets and coats for the Free at Last Ministry. Donations can be placed in the Treasurers Office or put in the Church office and they will be put in the proper area. Thank you.

MISSION OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

"...Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us..." – Eph. 5:1

Monday, November 13, 2017

Pilgrim Evg. Lutheran Church
462 Meadowbrook Dr.
West Bend, WI 53090

Dear Rev. Joseph Fisher and Congregation,

God is good! All the time!

On behalf of **The Free At Last Ministry and The House of Correction** we would like to "**Thank You**" for your generous donation of coats and clothing to our FALM. We appreciate your contribution to our ministry. All Glory and Praise to our Father in Heaven and to Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Our Ministry sees this truly as a blessing for those who come seeking this assistance and resources. We can't thank you enough for your recent donation.

Colossians 3:17

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Thank you once again for your kindness, generosity and time and effort that you put into making this huge donation to our ministry.

God's blessings,

Rev. Afam Ikanih

Rev Afam Ikanih
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IN OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

All servicemen at home and deployed, especially Isaac Wirtz (son of Rev. Nick Wirtz) who is stationed in Baghdad.

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call on You for help. Give strength and confidence to Your [son/daughter] in [his/her] time of great need that [he/she] may know that You are near and that You uphold [him/her] with Your everlasting arms. Grant that, resting on Your protection, [he/she] may fear no evil, for You are with [him/her] to comfort and deliver [him/her]; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For our Seminaries, especially the Ethiopian Lutheran Church and Seminary

O God, through Your Holy Spirit You illuminate the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom You call to the work of pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon this seminary for the instruction and formation of those who are to serve in the sacred ministry of Your Church. Bless those who teach and those who learn that they may apply themselves with ready diligence to the knowledge of Your Word, which alone is able to make us wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Note: After much consideration, we have decided to add a page in the newsletter that lists all of those struggling with health issues. (Not published on the website). Each month we will also have various petitions that you can pray at home for various needs all people in Christ, and especially those within our immediate church family here at Pilgrim. In the bulletin we will list those sick and infirm on the basis of need and emergency. In the event that you would like to have your name or your loved one's name removed from the prayer list, please let us know.



- 1 - Michael Zenda
Brittany Meinburg
- 2- Keefe Olig
- 3- Thomas Becker
- 4- Jennifer Molter
Dorothy Young
Beverly Hanson
- 5- Richard Reeck
- 7- David L. Olson
- 9- Angela Torre
- 10- Nancy Kleinke
Paul Tarvin
Tom Kabitzke
- 11-Orville Gierach
Loretta Waechter
Sarah Schober
Braycen Nitzke
- 12- Patrick Schnabel
Betty Voelzke
- 14- Dennis Hausmann
- 15- Edith Frank
Stephanie Baerenwald
- 16- Gilbert Maffit
- 17- Richard Reich
- 18- Haley Ringgenberg
Richard Lewandowski
Paige Daley
Lucas Milis
- 19- Carl Belling
Anne Farrington
- 20- John Mckay
- 21- Ashlyn Olig
Gary Jenovai
Abby Janssen
- 22- Evelyn Schleif

- 23- Bruce Gilbert
Jeanne Tarvin
Marilyn Meylor
Gabriel Baker
Jennifer Schmidt
- 24- Patricia Faul
- 25- Ryan Mayer
Carol Jenovai
- 26- Sally Volkman
- 27- David Carey
Brad Eifert
Caroline Reich
- 28- Gabriel Kempf
- 30- Tom Sumner
Daniel Grosskreuz
Gary Erdmann
Parker Roell
Paul Soat
Robert Knuth
- 31- Tanner Schmidt



- 17- Paul & Jeanne Tarvin
- 28- Gary & Sue Erdman

Christian Education Sunday School

Our Fall Quarter is almost over. We will be finishing our Old Testament Lessons with the story of Esther. Concordia Publishing has supplied us with a free Christmas lesson. In January we will begin the Winter Quarter with New Testament stories.

We have begun preparing for our Christmas Program. Rehearsals will be held from 9:30-10:45 a.m. (please note the change in time from prior years) on Saturdays, December 2, 9, and 16 as well as during Sunday School time. Just a reminder: toys, gum, candy, etc. should be left at home.



Mark this joyful event on your calendar so you don't forget: *A SOLA Christmas* Children's Christmas Service at on **Sunday, December 17 at**

4:00 p.m.

A "Sola" Christmas is a children's service whose sections focus on the five solas of the Reformation: Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Christ Alone, and To God Alone Be the Glory.

Please note: NO Sunday School on Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24th and New Year's Eve Sunday, December 31st. Classes will resume on January 7th.

Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church Voters Meeting Minutes November 5, 2017

Meeting was called to order by our President at 1 pm. November 5, 2017. No new members and attendance was 37.

Pastor Fisher opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report posted in the herald, no objections. Motion carries to accept.

Elders Report—Tanner Schmidt

Thank you to Pastor Raffa for his extra services and duties during Pastor Fisher absence.

Soon our services will be on line so if you go away somewhere you can still enjoy our service. Church Directory is almost ready. Website is moving well.

Discussion on Processional Cross as far as finish getting it paid for. How and when the Cross is used. The congregational approval. It would be used for special occasions and be parked by the pulpit as symbolic.

Trustees Report— presented by Pastor Fisher
Repair of toilets

Leaves were taken off of the roof and gutters. Heating /air conditioning—Hiring both Albiero Co.'s to keep proper up keep of these things. Parsonage furnaces will be checked on November 16.

Taking diseased Ash trees on the property.

Air fixed in new fellowship hall, motor went out. Cleaned out closet and threw out old parts. Making more room for

Board of Education

Youth night bon fire.

Youth upcoming Christmas Party.

Sunday School is doing well—a few children sang for Reformation Sunday in the second service.

Pastor's Report— Pastor Fisher

Again, a thank you to Pastor Raffa for all his extra duties while Pastor Fisher was absent with his surgery and schooling in Strasbourg.

The Pastors do no less than 8 Bible studies in a month and no less than 8 Services outside the Church each month.

4 children in Confirmation class this year and a couple of adults going to begin class.

Concordia—Ron Kabitzke

Enrollment is steady, a little low, but looking in good shape.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Elections 2017

Chairman – Jerome Sommer

Treasurer - Fred Leffin

Council - Judy Frank

Elder - Brian Skrentny - Gary Jenovia - vacant
- vacant

Financial Secretary - Jennifer Schmidt

Endowment Committee - Ron Kabitzke - Orville Gierach - Rob Selzler - Rita Frank - Mike Loomans

Trustee - Dave Fellenz - Rob Selzler

Board of Education - Carol Heger

Fred Leffin and Gary Erdmann have both served their 2 terms, but the voters would like them to serve another term [especially a good idea to keep the same treasurer]. Eric Johanen, made a motion and Rita Frank seconded it. Motion carried.

Also adding an extra Trustee, motion made by

Suzanne Stadelmayer and seconded by Tanner Schmidt. Motion carried.

Rest of Election nominates motion made by Dave Boehlke and seconded by Tanner Schmidt. Motion carried.

Endowment Committee will need to meet to set up their procedures..

Endowment committee consists of 5 people with at least a year term [1st person 1 year term, 2nd person 2 year term, 3rd person 3 year term, 4th person 4 year term, 5th person 5 ear term] after all 5 do term it will become a 5 year term. People with less than 5 years can run again.

Budget—Fred Leffin

2018 budget is very close to last years budget just a few small changes. Suzanne Stadelmayer made a motion to pass the propose 2018 budget and Tanner Schmidt seconded it. Motion carried.

District Convention—Pastor Fisher

District convention needs a nominee for Circuit Visitor and a lay delegate and alternate. Pastor Fisher is already Circuit Visitor and willing to run again. Dave Boehlke made a motion and seconded by Judy Frank. Motion carried.

Lay Delegate Ron Kabitzke Alternate—Dave Boehlke, these guys were voted on a common consent. All agreed.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Kathy Kabitzke and seconded by Tanner Schmidt. Motion carried.

Pastor Raffa ended with Prayer.

Sincerely Submitted by ,

Nancy Rosenthal

Nancy Rosenthal, Secretary Pilgrim Lutheran Voters Meeting

Renaissance, Good Food and Wine, and Christian Art and History in Italy 2018

The Rev. Aaron Koch, pastor of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Greenfield, has organized a trip in September 2018 to take in the riches of Italy's Christian art and history and its many other wonders. Highlights include: Accommodations in Rome within walking distance of the Coliseum, Roman Forum, and Pantheon; preferred entrance to St. Peter's Basilica plus a private guided tour of the Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel; a visit to the catacombs along the Via Appia Antica; a morning devoted to Luther's formative visit to Rome in 1510; a visit to Assisi and the basilica of St. Francis; extensive tour of Florence, the cradle of the Renaissance, with opportunities to see many of the art treasures of that era; several other cities including, Pisa, Lucca, Vinci, Sienna, Orvieto, Chianciano, Montecatini, and Ravenna, where we will see the unique collection of early Christian mosaics in the church of San Vitale. And, of course, this tour will include several "fun" items as well, such as an Italian folk show with opera and famous Italian songs, a cooking class, general historical sightseeing, 3 nights in Venice, and a wine tasting and meal at a Chianti vineyard in Tuscany.

If you would be interested in more details about this trip, you may visit MountZion-Greenfield.org to see the full brochure and registration materials. Pastor Koch can be reached at pastor.koch@gmail.com or at 414-795-9005 if you have any questions. High quality accommodations and ground transportation, 30 meals and all tips for guides, etc. are included. The tour is being limited to 35 participants, so don't delay!

Big Things come in Small Packages



Remember that candy commercial declaring, "Big things come in small packages"? The prophet's message to tiny Bethlehem is similar: "Though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel" (Micah 5:2, NIV).

We've all felt too small for a certain role: too little to play with the big kids ... too skinny to make the football team ... short on the skills needed for a choice assignment. Perhaps we fear our gift of money is too little to make a difference, or the small amount of time we can volunteer isn't even worth it.

But God brings big things out of "small packages." From a newborn baby — merely six to eight pounds of helplessness — God brought salvation for the whole world. Rest assured, he'll do big things through you, too.

"Christmas is not an event within history but is rather the invasion of time by eternity."

—Hans Urs von Balthasar

"When we were children, we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?"

—G.K. Chesterton

"Expectancy is the atmosphere for miracles."

—Edwin Louis Cole

"Christmas is not as much about opening our

presents as opening our hearts.”
—Janice Maeditere

Angels among us

“When God wants to speak and deal with us,” said Martin Luther, “he does not avail himself of an angel but of parents, or the pastor, or of our neighbor.” Never underestimate how powerfully God can use you in the life of a child, a church member, a friend or a stranger.

The Hebrew word for angel also means “messenger.” You may be specially chosen to deliver to someone the message of God’s love or guidance. Listen intently for what God would have you share with others, then do so faithfully and caringly.



Breathless anticipation

In *Whistling in the Dark* (HarperOne), Frederick Buechner compares Advent to the moments right before a symphony conductor raises the baton to begin a much-anticipated performance. “You hold your breath to listen,” he writes. “You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.”

During December, silence can seem elusive, Buechner admits. But “if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world holding its breath.”

We are wishing every one a Blessed Christmas!

1 When

they **2**

were **7** the **4** saw **3**

10 **2:10**

9 Matthew **5** star

they **6** **8** overjoyed

“ _____
 _____,
 _____.”

_____ : _____, NIV

Answer: “When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.” Matthew 2:10, NIV



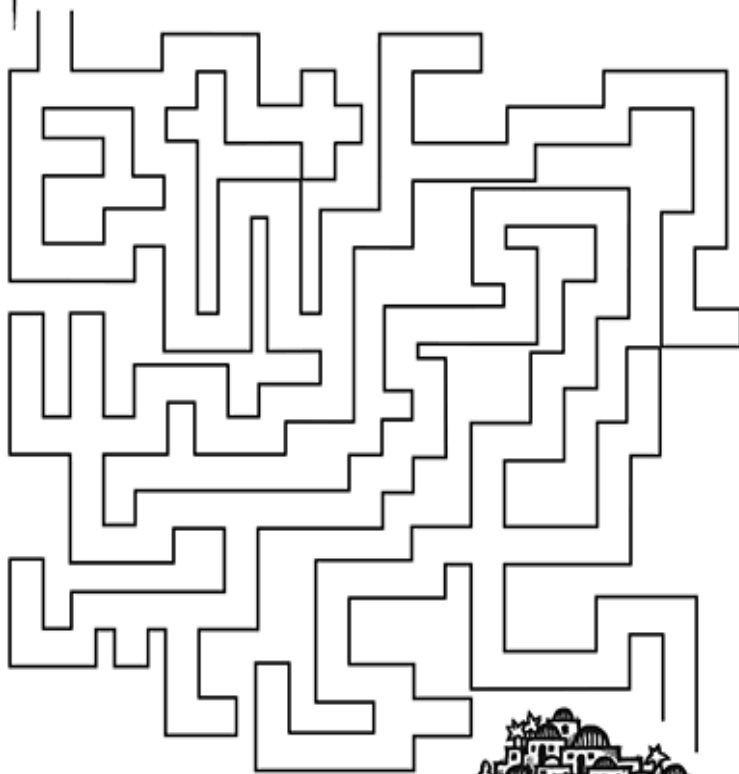
JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

In the Christmas story in Luke 2, an angel tells some shepherds to go see baby Jesus in Bethlehem.



START

Directions: Follow the maze to arrive in Bethlehem.



BETHLEHEM



POP-UP CARD

Share the good news of Jesus' birth with this creative Christmas card.

What you need:

- Construction paper (two pieces, including one white)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pens
- Glue stick



What you do:

1. Neatly fold the white paper in half, short side to short side.
2. Draw two parallel lines (at least 2 inches apart) from the fold to about halfway to the edge. Cut along the lines.
3. Fold the cut section back and forth so it pops up.
4. Push the section up so it pops up inside the folded paper. Draw a nativity scene on the pop-up box.
5. Fold the colored paper in half, short side to short side. Place the white paper inside it and glue the white paper down, being careful not to glue the pop-up box.
6. Write a Christmas message and give or send the card to someone.