



MILAN BAPTIST CHURCH NEWS

December 20, 2020

A Word from Our Pastor

I've been reflecting this week on the prophecy of the coming Messiah from Isaiah... *"⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this."* (Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV, first in Isaiah 7:14-16)

Here in Isaiah's prophecy, given some 700 years before his birth, the prophet records at least five important things about the coming Messiah: 1) He was to be born a child; 2) He will rule over God's people (Micah 5:2) and the world (Zechariah 14:9); 3) He will have four descriptive names that reveal His character; 4) The Messiah, seated on David's throne (Luke 1:32-33), will have an eternal rule of peace and justice; and (5) This will all be accomplished by the zeal and the might of the LORD Almighty. Remember folks, the coming millennial kingdom depends on God, not Israel.

The descriptive names of Jesus, found here in Isaiah's prophecy, have always helped bring calm to my world. First, He's the *"Wonderful Counselor"*...the word *"wonderful"* means *"exceptional"* or *"distinguished,"* indicates that Jesus will be a supernatural source of extraordinary wisdom. Second, He's the *"Mighty God"* which means that Jesus was God in the flesh, indicates that Jesus will be divinely strong and powerful. Third, He is called the *"Everlasting Father,"*... Jesus is God's Son, is distinguished in the Trinity from the Father, but being the second Person of the Trinity, is in His essence, God. Therefore, He has all the attributes of God including being eternal, indicates that Jesus will care for His people forever as a father cares for his children. And finally, He is called the *"Prince of Peace,"*... the One who will bring in and maintain the time of millennial peace when the nation will be properly related to the Lord, indicates that Jesus will bring deep well-being and right relationships. Together, these four titles give a beautiful picture of the coming Messiah's character. This is great news for those seeking peace this Christmas season!

Our country is in need of *"peace,"* but not the political peace everyone is asking for. Our country needs REAL peace that can only come from the *"Prince of Peace."* Paul wrote to the Romans, *"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (Romans 5:1 ESV) John the beloved disciple recorded Jesus' words, *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid."* (John 14:27 ESV). Two chapters later Jesus said, *"I have said these things to*

you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33 ESV). Remember what Isaiah said, *"Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this."* (Isaiah 9:7 ESV) That last phrase is simply amazing folks...all this will be completed by *"The zeal of the LORD."*

Let's make sure this Christmas we are desiring the right kind of peace that is only found in the God of Creation, coming to earth as a little baby born in a humble manger, living on earth with us, and dying on a cruel cross to provide salvation for the whole world (John 3:16-17).

Acts 4:12 ESV

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

John 5:24 ESV

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."

2 Corinthians 9:15 ESV

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

From our family to yours Merry Christmas!

Weekly Goal: \$8,135

Giving This Week: \$24,544

Giving

Many have already asked how our church will continue to meet our financial obligations (utilities, insurance, payroll, and missionary support) during this challenging season. You may provide in your tithes and offerings by one of the following methods:

- If using the U.S. Postal system: Make checks out to **"Milan Baptist Church"** and mail to **P.O. Box 147 Milan, MI 48160**. Submit [online](#). Instructions and a link to the secure online system can be found at www.milanbaptist.org. Contact the church if you have any questions.

Kids Worship (Grades K-6)

Children can sit with families until dismissal. Masks are required and social distancing will be in place. ALL ages require pick up by a parent or guardian following the Morning Worship Service. **Pre-K coming soon!**



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Prayer Requests

- Prayer for our nation during a time of racial tension and for our elected officials during this unprecedented time.
- All those who have lost loved ones
- Church leadership as they make decisions moving forward
- Betty Stralnic & Family, following the home going of Gus Stralnic (long-time missionaries)
- Pray with Kanna and Julie Vladaj for baby daughter Nora, home now but still struggling with some digestive issues
- Stange family, as they recover from COVID-19
- Arthur Avery, recovering from infection at a rehab facility
- Jamie Scott, tumor growing on her pituitary gland. Going through tests to see which type, could lose her eye sight
- Lee Hayward, in a care facility
- Noah’s cousin, Tiffany, awaiting next steps
- Cliff Kuhn, recovering from a stroke
- Ron & Carolyn Sackett, both battling cancer (PRAISE: Carolyn’s cancer in liver is gone)
- Elli Robins, in “maintenance” stage
- Our missionaries & their families: Bennetts, Campbells, Christensens, Gardners, Hayward, Jenks, Johnsons, Manduzios (in Italy), Pierces, Rendels, Reeves, Semenchuk, Stralnic, Van Orman, & Waidleys
- Our MBC Shut-Ins: Shirley Krass (Cambrian), Emma Jane Hall (Senior Solutions), & Alice Ackerman (daughters home)

Ministries/Services

We will be LIVE and in-person at 10 a.m.

“Call 2 Prayer” Prayer Meeting, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Our church family can tune in to Pastor & Lisa as they lead us in a time of prayer. To view, you can go to facebook.com/milanbaptist

Other Ministry Meetings:

- **Men’s Bible Study on Saturdays at 8:00 a.m. See you in January!**
- **SeniorLife Community Bible Study on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. (Worship Only) See you in January!**
- **Church Library (Sundays & Wednesdays) following services**
- **Special Prayer Gatherings on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**
 - **Room 207**

HEBREWS 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”



“ONLY 1 IN 6 ADULTS READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY.”

The Word of God is living and effective. It has the power to convict, shape, and inspire us—if we read it. But so often, obstacles like confusion and busyness keep us from reading the Bible and experiencing the life-transforming power of God through it.

Through the Bible in a Year

Daily Bible Reading Assignment

Date	Old Testament	New Testament
December 20	Micah 1-3	Revelation 11
December 21	Micah 4-5	Revelation 12
December 22	Micah 6-7	Revelation 13
December 23	Nahum 1-3	Revelation 14
December 24	Habakkuk 1-3	Revelation 15
December 25	Zephaniah 1-3	Revelation 16
December 26	Haggai 1-2	Revelation 17
December 27	Zechariah 1-4	Revelation 18

Birthdays	Anniversaries
December 21 – Dan Stange, Dave Stuckman, & Shirley Dunbar	December 27 – Bill & Sharon Cassell
December 24 – Geneva DuBois, Jim Brasfield, & Emma Jane Hall	
December 25 – Dee Kassuba & Starr Tiekling	
December 27 – Shelane Zion	

Human Sanctity of Life

We will be celebrating Human Sanctity of Life Day on January 17. As we did last year, we are looking to make a donation to Family Life Services in honor of this day. Beginning January 3, we will be taking the following donations:

1. Monetary (please indicate Family Life Services on your envelopes).
2. Wipes
3. Diapers (size 3 or larger)

All donations can be brought to the MAC and placed in the bins available January 3.