

**CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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**Sunday Worship Service**  
**Bible School**  
9:15 AM  
10:45 AM

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Chatham, IL  
Permit No. 9

I have an offer for the first eleven people who take me up on it. And of course, like every offer that gets made on TV, this one comes with strings attached. But unlike the free offers on TV, there are no handling and processing fees hidden in this offer. All it will require of you is a commitment of 15-20 minutes a day for the next year.

If you haven't guessed what this is all about, it's about reading through the Bible in a year. But even more, it's about reading through a Bible that I will personally buy for you. I know that's hard to believe, especially the "that I will personally buy for you" part, but it's true!

A couple of years ago Marilyn, Nikki, and Grace all read through *The One Year Chronological Bible* and really enjoyed it. This year I'm doing so, and I really love it...even though it isn't in my favorite translation.

A chronological Bible is one that attempts to put the books, chapters, and even verses of the Bible in the order that related events actually happened. It puts everything in chronological order so you can follow the flow of history and see how everything fits together. It also means that accounts that were recorded more than once can be read together, the psalms that express what David is feeling are placed in the midst of what he's going through, the prophetic messages are pronounced in their historical context, and the epistles are integrated into the book of Acts.

Like the girls, I am really enjoying reading through the Bible in this way, and I can't wait to start again. Only this time I won't be reading it in the NIV! It's not available in the NASV, so I will be reading it once again in another translation, which really isn't a bad thing. The additional options are the New Living Translation, which I like even less than the NIV, and Tina's favorite, the New King James.

I've ordered a dozen copies in the NKJ, and they should be here this Sunday. The first eleven who ask for one, and promise to read it, will be given one. In case you were wondering why only eleven, the twelfth one is for me. God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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## Let's Go Christmas Caroling!

Everyone is invited to go Christmas Caroling this Sunday evening. We'll leave the church by van and cars at 5:30, visit three retirement complexes and several homes, and then go to the Dana Thomas House to enjoy the decorations and luminaria.

## STATISTICS

Worship 137  
Offering \$4,880.00

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY—12/17/17

Greeters .....	Will & Sara Bartels
Visitors' Stand.....	Gary & Lori Gredzieleski
Communion Meditation.....	Paul Hunley
	Kirk Polley
Ushers.....	Gary Gredzieleski
	Bob Williamson
	Rick Polley
	Jeff Edmiston
	Chris Luzio
	Kent Ballard
<u>WORSHIP NURSERY</u>	
Toddlers:.....	Erica Blakley
	Courtney Bales
Infants:.....	Marilyn Wenneborg
	Anna Hunley
	Sunday School
Toddlers:.....	Julie Divjak
Infants:.....	Karen Mann
	Rhonda Luzio



## Let Us Pray For...

- Katie Green having a difficult time after extensive colon surgery.
- Judy Smith, Tina's mom, at the passing of a sister.
- Friend of Jessica Combs who was injured in a chain saw accident.



Don't forget to check the CCC mailbox to see if it is holding any Christmas greetings for you, and feel free to use it to distribute cards to others in our church family.



## 47th Annual Christmas Eve Service

Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be held at 7:00 on December 24th. In addition to celebrating Christ's presence in our lives through communion, we will be celebrating His birth through the singing of carols and a variety of musical specials.

## CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING

Regular worship services and Sunday School will be held on Christmas Eve morning. Please plan accordingly.

## AFFIRMATION OF ELDERS & FINANCIAL PROJECTION

This Sunday during the worship service everyone will be given the opportunity to affirm that the current elders should continue serving in 2018, and that the financial projection for the new year is in keeping with good stewardship. This year's projection calls for \$285,220, which will require a weekly average offering of \$5,485 which is slightly over last year's projection, but under the actual giving of last year.

The most noticeable change has to do with missions. We have been reducing our support to Victor Banda in Mexico for several years as the church transitions to self-sufficiency, and Bryan and Megan Green have put on hold their education to serve as Bible translators. We are therefore proposing that we re-allocate the funds we had been sending to both to Mark Fishel for his work in Cambodia.



A VERY BIG THANK YOU goes out to Jeni Sperry and Rhonda Luzio for all their hard work in directing a fantastic Christmas musical this year. The play wonderfully set the tone for a season of focused worship on the Lamb of God, our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I absolutely love watching our kids worship and sing praises to the Lord!

Also, Jeni did let me know that this is her last year as lead director. We are all very grateful for her 9 years of service in this capacity during a busy time of year. She leaves us the very capable hands of Rhonda who will be directing next year's musical.



## Adult Volunteers Needed

We have a lot of Junior High and High School students who will be participating in the Amazing Race during our lock in at the church on December 29th. Each team will need a driver, so if you are available that evening, we would love to have you join us for this activity. The race will begin at 4:00pm that Friday and will require around a 4-5 hour commitment as they race around Springfield. The kids absolutely love this event and your help will be much appreciated. Please let me know on Sunday if you would be willing to assist!

## GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO MARK

We had 20 kids come out for our Christmas Party which included a White Elephant Gift Exchange. The presents were beautifully wrapped and provided enticing options when it was someone's turn to choose a gift. They were so misleading. Jake tore into a nice big present only to end up going home with a superbly hand painted pink jewelry box. Abibe thought she chose a winner only to find her box was labeled "Survival Kit" containing a rock, piece of paper and a pair of scissors. I forgot who, but one lucky participant went home with an original iPad, which was a pad of Post-It notes with an eye drawn on them.

While the hustle and bustle of buying gifts during Christmas can be a distraction, gift giving can also help us focus on the greatest gift mankind ever received, the baby in a manger many years ago when Jesus entered the world. To be given the gift of salvation through Him, through His finished work on the cross, is a gift worth centering our lives around. It is a gift that none of us deserve, but is offered for us to receive nonetheless. Let's all be in prayer this Christmas season for those who have yet to open this gift so they too might experience the assurances we have in Christ.



All are invited to our New Year's Eve party this year at LSCA. Similar to last year, we will rent out the Lakeview Lodge to gather as a church family and welcome 2018 to our lives with food, fun and a little sparkling grape juice at midnight.