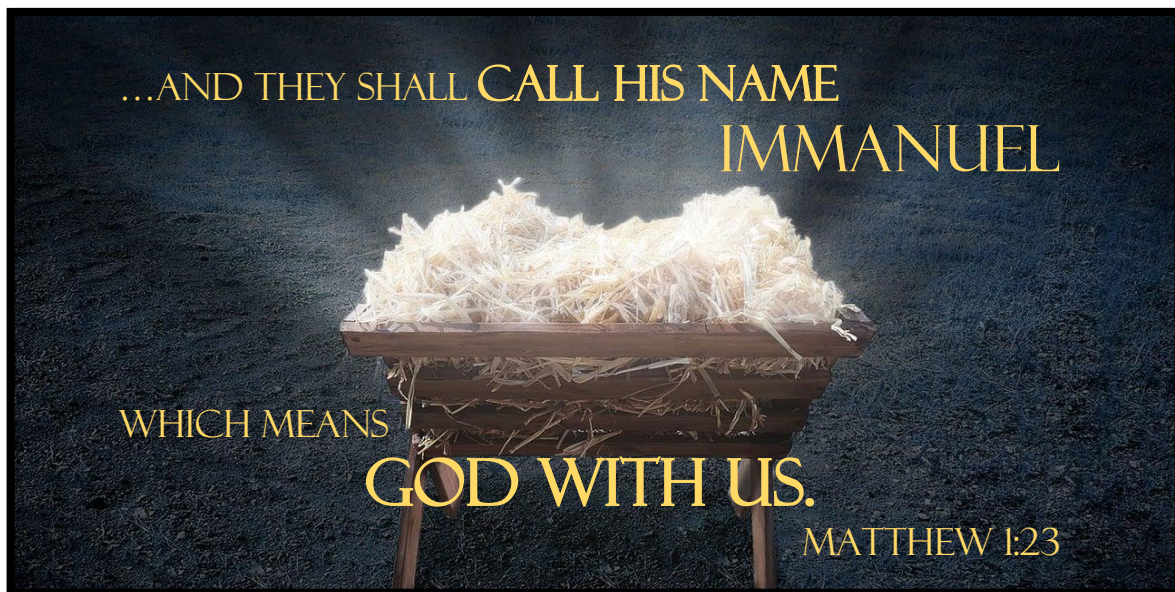




[ Our mission is to make disciples of all nations by worshiping the Lord Jesus, building up the body of Christ and shining the light of Jesus into our neighborhoods and the nations. ]



## What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®?



In 1873, Lottie Moon was appointed as a missionary to China. She spent nearly 40 years sharing the gospel with love, courage, and unwavering faith. Her letters home inspired churches to pray and give, leading to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Today, this offering supports missionaries and helps take the life-transforming message of Jesus to the nations.

Let's pray and give generously to reach more people with the hope of the gospel. Please use the Lottie Moon offering envelopes to designate your gift. Our goal this year is \$3,000.



## CAROLS & CUISINE ADVENT SERVICE

**RESCHEDULED: Sunday, December 7, 5:00pm.**

Kick off the Christmas season with this special service! We'll gather to sing some favorite Christmas carols, do a little Christmas decorating, and enjoy a soup and sandwiches potluck fellowship. Invite a friend to come and join you!

### JOY Christmas Luncheon (60+)

**December 9, 11:30am  
@ Country Hills Golf Course  
See Penny for details**

### Christmas Caroling

**December 20, 9:00am  
to Sunny Acres  
December 23, 6:00pm  
to homebound**

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**December 24, 9:00pm  
All are welcome!  
Invite someone to come!**

## Pastor's Reflections

One of the traditions we keep each Christmas season at the church is lighting the Advent Candles. I want to share with you here a little background, in case you've always wondered about what Advent is all about. This comes from an article on LifeWay.com:

**Advent, the word, simply means "the arrival."** For Christians, we celebrate between two Advents—the arrival of the Messiah on earth and the second coming of Christ. Advent, the event, is a season on the church calendar when we participate with the ancient Israelites and saints throughout history in anticipation of the Promised One.

Traditionally, Advent is celebrated beginning the fourth Sunday before Christmas and going until Christmas Day. The rituals and traditions associated with Advent are both ancient and fluid, but the point of all the calendars and candles and carols is to celebrate the Messiah, to reflect on the Word made flesh, and to point us all to the hope we have only through Christ.

In churches around the world, throughout history, Christians have lit Advent candles as a reminder that "the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; a light has dawned on those living in the land of darkness" (Isaiah 9:2, CSB). Typically, churches light one candle each Sunday of Advent, representing the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ. The order varies across churches and traditions, but the final, fifth candle is the Christ candle, lit on Christmas (or Christmas Eve, if your church does not meet on Christmas).

Hopefully this tradition helps to bring richer meaning to the season as we think about what Christ has accomplished in His first advent and look forward to the glory of His second coming.

*Blessings in Christ,  
Pastor Rob*

## Christmas Post Office

The mailbox is open for business! We encourage you to drop off Christmas cards for your church family in the box near the office. And don't forget to check the box yourself!

## December Business Meeting | Sunday, Dec. 14, 1:00pm

Church members, we encourage you to attend our quarterly business meeting this month. One of the highlights will be the presentation and vote on our proposed church budget for 2026. Copies of the proposed budget are available to preview. Lunch will be served immediately after the worship service for those attending, but you'll need to sign up for the meal by Dec. 7. Contact the church office with any questions. Thanks!

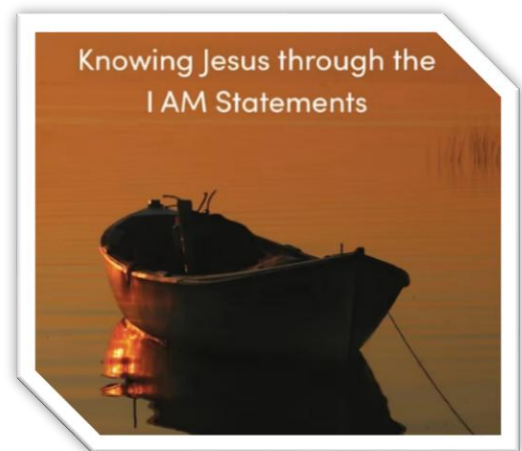
## January Bible Study

Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus makes seven "I am" statements that provide insight into who He is and what He came to do.

In each of them, He makes an implicit claim to be one in essence with the God of Israel. He shows us His character and teaches us something about His nature. He asks us to believe in Him and trust that He is who He said He is.

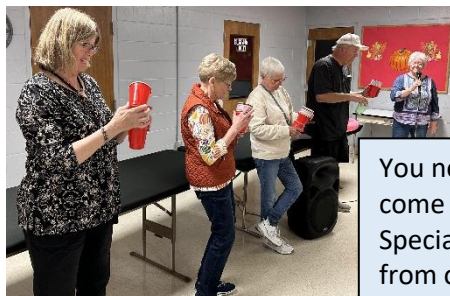
He is one with God the Father, a shepherd who will lead us and protect us, truth we can trust above all else, light from heaven, bread of life, a vine we can grow with, and water to satisfy our thirsty souls.

We will meet every Sunday in January at 10:45am and 6:00pm, as well as Wednesdays at 10:00am and 6:30pm. If you would like to order a study guide (suggested donation of \$9), please contact the church office or sign up by Dec. 14.



## Worship Through Giving

Your tithes and offerings may be sent by mail to FBC, 103 W. Sangamon Ave, Petersburg, or you may drop it off during office hours (9am-1pm, Mon-Thurs), or use the drop boxes on the foyer tables, or use our PayPal account...or set up automatic electronic giving through your bank! Contact Mark Cox to find out how! *Thank you for your faithful and generous giving!*



You never know what kind of crazy games Penny will come up with at the JOY lunches! **Left** Special thanks to Mike McLaughlin for clearing snow from our sidewalks. **Not actual photo of Mike, right.**





## December Life Group & Activities News

**JOY Events** – Christmas Gathering at Country Hills Golf Course Tuesday, December 9 at 11:30am. Adults 60+ invited to come. See Penny Snyder for details.

**Truth Seekers** – “The Truth in True Crime” video series. Wednesday, December 3 & 11<sup>th</sup> at Gragg & Chery Stacy’s home at 6:00pm. See Gragg Stacy for details.

**The Way of Wisdom** – Last meeting on the Proverbs study is December 14 from 5:30-7:30pm.

**Mighty Men of God** – December 14 at 6:00pm at Dean Sexton’s home. Study in 2 Peter.

**Zoom Prayer Meeting** – Wednesdays at 9:00am. See weekly prayer email for the link to join.

**Foundations of Faith Bible Study** – Will resume in January. Wednesdays at 10:00am.

**Walking at the Church** – Tuesdays & Thursdays. See Becky Bergner. No walking Dec 25 or Jan 1.

**Multi-Generational Choir** – Tuesday, December 2 and Monday, December 8, 15 & 22 at 6pm.

**Praise Team Practice** – Tuesday, December 2 and Monday, December 8 & 15 at 5:15pm.

## Upcoming Events

**December 4 – Thursday** – Ladies Craft Night, 6-8pm

**December 7 – Sunday** - Lord’s Supper Service at 10:45am

**December 7 – Sunday** – Carols & Cuisine Advent Worship service, 5:00pm. Soup & sandwiches fellowship to follow

**December 7 – Sunday** – Lottie Moon Christmas Offering & Week of Prayer for missions

**December 9 – Tuesday** – JOY Christmas luncheon at Country Hills Golf Course, 11:30am

**December 14 – Sunday** - Business Meeting at 1pm

**December 20 – Saturday** - Christmas Caroling at Countryside & Sunny Acres at 9am

**December 23 – Tuesday** - Christmas Caroling to the Shut-Ins at 6pm

**December 24 – Wednesday** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 9pm

**December 24-25 – Wednesday & Thursday** – Church offices Closed for Christmas

**December 28 – Sunday** – Guest Speaker: Pastor Don Henrikson

**January 1 – Thursday** – Happy New Year! Church offices closed.

**January 11 – Sunday** – Guest Speaker: Pastor Milton Bost

**January 13 – Tuesday** – JOY Group Lunch at the church. – Pending good weather!

**January 1-31** – Applications open for Damman Scholarship at Baptist Foundation of Illinois

**January 18 – Sunday** – Sanctity of Life Sunday

**January 4-28 – Sundays and Wednesdays** – January Bible Study

**January 24 – Saturday** – Men’s Wild Game Dinner, 6:00pm



## ***Merry Christmas!***

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Pastor Rob Gallion 217-801-8350 // Ministry Assistant Amy Gallion 217-361-4798