

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS

TODAY *We are glad that you chose to join us for worship today!!
Please use a prayer card in the chair rack or on the Information Center to communicate a prayer request or need for a visit or call from pastor.*

Today after Sunday School hour we are having our monthly potluck. Plan on joining us for a time of good food and fellowship!!

Beginnings Care For Life Center's Baby Bottle Campaign --
Bottles are due today....thank you for your support!!!

THIS WEEK *Church Council meeting is Monday night at 7:30 p.m.*

Poinsettias -- Please feel free to bring in a poinsettia to decorate the altar for Advent. There are labels at the Information Center to use to mark your plant; you can pick it up on December 31. Thank you!!

NEXT SUNDAY **Family Promise** -- We will be hosting again the week of Dec. 10-16. Sign up sheets for available spots are on the Information Center. Please check to see how you or your small group can help.

NEXT MONTH **March for Life** -- there is information in the lobby regarding the March for Life, which will be January 19, 2018. Early registration is due December 1. See Jennie deAraujo with any questions.

22nd Annual Steak Out -- Saturday, January 13th at 5:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be T.C. Stallings from the movie "War Room". Tickets go on sale December 1st at Wilbur's Furniture in Coldwater.

PLEASE NOTE **Women's Fellowship** is again selling pecans for your holiday baking needs. They are in the refrigerator freezer in the kitchen and are \$10.00 per bag -- payment can go to Jo Mayer.

THANK YOU Thank you to all who helped during the photography sessions for the **church directory** this past week by checking people in, making coffee and supplying the cookies. Your help was greatly appreciated!!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

[Associate Pastor David Minard](#)
517.756.8000

[Church Office](#)
517.369.1588

DECEMBER 3, 2017

SERVICE: 9:30 AM

JUNIOR CHURCH: 10:10 AM

CHRISTIAN ED: 11:15 AM



MISSION STATEMENT

"WE HONOR GOD THROUGH REGULARLY ASSEMBLING TOGETHER TO WORSHIP HIM AS LORD, STUDY AND OBEY HIS WORD, AND ATTEND TO THE NEEDS OF HIS PEOPLE. WHEN WE LEAVE, WE GO OUT COMMISSIONED AS CHRIST'S REPRESENTATIVES TO A NEEDY WORLD."

876 BLOCK RD

• BRONSON MI. 49028 •
VISIT US AT WWW.BETHELGILEAD.ORG

(517) 369-1588

DECEMBER 3, 2017

NURSERY.....Sally Davis and Deb Springer
SOUND ROOM..... Kenny Bennett and Frank Cabrera
GREETERS.....Lee and Mary Jo Evans

ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS..... David Minard
ADVENT READING..... The Keim Family
OPENING WORSHIP.....Tim Butters
 O For a Thousand Tongues..... Hymn 76
 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1 and 2) Hymn 123
 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus Hymn 124
 Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne (verses 1, 2 and 3) Hymn 127
 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (verses 1,2 and 5)..... Hymn 135
OFFERING Paul Alger
SPECIAL MUSIC Mary Butters
JUNIOR CHURCH (TODDLERS-GRADE 5) Dismissal
 MESSAGE.....David Minard
COMMUNION

CHRISTIAN ED CLASSES CLASSES RESUME TODAY

TODDLERS..... Marcia Albright
GRADES 1-5..... Michelle Lake
 Room B
JUNIOR HIGH Sharon McMeen
 Room D
SENIOR HIGH..... Solano and Jennie deAraujo
 Youth Room downstairs
YOUNG ADULTS..... Ronda Falknor and Dawn Bennett
 Library
THE TRUTH PROJECT Paul Alger
 Blanketmakers Room downstairs
FOUNDATIONS David Minard
 Fellowship Hall



COUNTERING LIES THAT DESTROY LIVES

Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you.”
[\(Matthew 24:4\)](#)

INTRODUCTION:

“In the beginning God...” and the struggles have not changed. This week we are going to look at *Countering Lies that Destroys Lives of Today’s Youth*. Although these lies are not new nor unique to today’s youth, they do seem to be faced with them at an earlier age than most recent generations. Self importance and self gratification seems to go unchecked and even encouraged by the Selfie-centered society we now live in. We see it even in the gadgets and virtual worlds consumerism has created: the once Myspace but current Facebook, iMessage, iPhone, iMusic, iPad, Selfies, and many other apps and devices have created an “I” or “My” virtual world for kids. The baby boomer generations may not have had the gadgetry that today’s youth have, however; they were able to create a virtual world of self importance and self gratification. We need only to look at recent headlines to see how far this self-world has taken us from God’s intended design. How close are we to these times described in [2 Timothy 3:1-5](#)?

I. IT ALL STARTS WITH GOD ([2 Samuel 11](#))

- How God Views it: [Genesis 1:26-27](#)
 - Why did you **despise** the word of the LORD? ([2 Samuel 12:9,14](#))
 - “In your eye God! In your Eye!”

II. IT ALL ENDS WITH PRIDE ([2 Samuel 10:17-19](#))

- “Catch us the little foxes...” ([Song of Solomon 2:15](#))
 - God gives us opportunity before he sends a prophet
[Proverbs 8:13](#) • [Proverbs 11:2](#) • [Proverbs 18:12](#)
 - God’s Promise and Blessing ([Jeremiah 49:16](#))

III. IT IS ALL REDEEMABLE ([Psalm 51](#))

- “Against you alone have I sinned,” [v.4](#)
 - Communion with God and one another [Matthew 6:9-15](#)

APPLICATION:

1. What’s your reality? Does it start with God or is it a “selfie virtual world?”
2. Will you end the pride or will the pride end you?
3. Are you ready to commune with God and with others?

A Call to Prayer



Recent additions

- *Lisa Frank's Uncle Tony* -- in hospice care
- *Lee Bidwell* -- recovering at home from surgery.
- *Tim Long's grandfather* -- in nursing home.
- *Renee Streets* -- Jan Carpenter's sister -- recovering from heart cath.
- The family of *Linda Smith's sister, Lorna*.
- *Jennie Williamson* -- final stages of ALS
- *Ethan Metzger* --student in Bronson; seizures
- Rick Hollister's mother, *Kathleen's* health.
- *Jen Byler's stepdad, Rex* -- detached retina; doing better
- *Gary Ratkowski* -- undergoing 12 rounds of chemotherapy at U of M.
- *Mary Stall* -- Dale Davis' cousin--undergoing treatment for stage 4 cancer.
- *Jim Comb*- vision issues

Continue to remember those in need

- *Brian DeBolt* -- home from hospital and recovering.
- *Steve Russell* -- recovering from surgery.
- *Dorothy Gorrell* --Carpenter's son-in-law's grandmother -- recovering from open heart surgery; is home and getting stronger.
- *Erwins* -- fall sabbatical
- *Wanda DeBolt* -- heart issues and health of extended family
- Brandon Carpenter's brother-in-law, *Eric Algrim and family*, major heart issues.
- *Jim Eley* is at Maple Lawn, room 508.
- *Carmel Roberts* - health issues
- *Rick Wilcox* - Alzheimer's, failing health

Praises

- Shanda Carpenter's cousin, *Nick* --out of hospital, improving

December 3, 2017

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December 3, 2017



Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of December 3, 2017

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer.

This week we are going to look at “Countering Lies that Destroy Lives of Today’s Youth.” The key is to examine those lies that destroy lives without being distracted by fantasies that fascinate children’s imaginations. As we approach the Holiday Season there are many stories about Christmas to accommodate this once pagan holiday.

While it is true the early church took a pagan holiday and made it its own, the virgin birth and the Old Testament prophecies surrounding Christ are worth celebrating.

The current sting and out-right hurt many Americans are experiencing has more to do with a cultural shift. The folklore of Christmas is returning to its pagan origin. Two unequally yoked beliefs are splitting. In some ways it’s similar to a messy divorce. The once happy marriage Christians had with their national heritage has now made its way to the courts of public opinion. Who is going to get custody of Christmas? Will visitation be split between the two families? Will Xmas, as it has been shorten to, change its last name to Happy Holidays so not to offend the “other side?” Or will Christians simply give up the illegitimate Holiday? Many have done just that, while others celebrate both the fun of folklore and Glory of God sending His only begotten son into the world, born of a virgin.

- I. Read the glorious salutations given to Mary ([Luke 1:28](#)). She is visited by Gabriel to give a message from God. Note “*you are highly favored,*” meaning you have done nothing deserving of God’s great blessing. Are we not the same? How are we deserving of God’s favor? Read Mary’s response and discuss what ways we can echo her proclamation ([Luke 1:46-55](#)). Mary marveled in God her savior and accepted as good God’s promise ([v. 38](#)). Today’s youth need to hear Mary’s humble acceptance of God’s blessing, her acknowledging she was not deserving. In like fashion, regardless of how good we might be, we are undeserving of God’s blessings upon our lives. According to Jesus, He will send, not a great angel as is Gabriel, but the Holy Spirit to breath fully into our hearts new life. Read [Romans 5:5](#); [Genesis 2:7](#); [Galatians 4:6](#) and comment.
- II. It is interesting the contrasts between Santa who gives gifts to well deserving children and God who gives *the gift* to undeserving mankind. Both keep lists. Who should most people actually want as their judge; Santa who shows no mercy (*Ho Ho Ho*) or God who forgives? The only deserving present Santa gives are lumps of coal to be used to stoke an already hot fire. The news the angels delivered to the shepherd “*keeping watch over their flocks at night,*” was “*be not afraid.*” Read [Luke 2:1-20](#) and discuss why the shepherds were so happy.
- III. Next and/or finally are those who came from afar looking for the “*One born King of the Jews.*” They were a bit late, otherwise they might had run into the shepherds. However, they did find Jesus in a Bethlehem house (Read [Micah 5:2](#)). Regardless of such differences between folklore and the actual account, those who sought Him found Him. Read [Matthew 2:1-9](#). An important lesson these Magi have taught us can be summarized in Jesus’ own words ([Matt. 7:6-8](#)).

Close by giving thanks to God for a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the birth of Christ. Ask God to give parents and others wisdom in raising today’s youth.



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