

Briefings

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

December 2022

Volume 152

Have you ever wondered why Matthew and Luke include a long genealogy when announcing the birth of Jesus? Most people skip over these verses because they find them boring, and names that are hard to pronounce. Nonetheless, it is God's divine word and is there for more than information.



For starters, genealogies in the Old Testament and first century would communicate something about the status of the person in view, in this case Jesus. It also showed the connection between the individual and the entire community.

Matthew's genealogy shows the entire history of the Jewish people has moved toward a goal. The Old Testament is not simply a history of a Jewish nation. By design it was moving to a specific climax directed not by kings, but by God Himself. We see this as Israel's history has a checkered past, with frequent attempts to wipeout the Jewish nation or simply be assimilated into the world through intermarriage to where they are no longer a distinct people. This would prevent promises and prophecies from being fulfilled and making God a liar and scripture an untrustworthy human book. The entire history of the Jewish people was moving down the road to the first Christmas. It was paving the way for God to enter human history and provide salvation for all who call upon the Lord in faith.

For the first century readers the concept of fulfillment was very important. Matthew declared that Jesus is the real and only Messiah that was promised in the Old Testament. There were a number of people who claimed to be the Messiah and

many who were named Jesus. However, only Mary's son could trace his ancestry back to Abraham and king David.

This shows continuity between the Old Testament and the New. Everything that preceded Jesus finds its meaning in Him. For us, since Jesus ushered in the reign of God at His birth, and will also usher it in with all its glory and power at the end of time. So, all that takes place in history following the first Christmas finds its meaning rooted in faith in Jesus. Jesus is indeed the center of human history.

Jesus relates to the entire nation of Israel but he also relates to individuals. We are not swallowed up by the masses. He has his eye on each of us as well as on entire nations.

Jesus came to our world and he continues to come to any individual who calls out to him in faith.

O come, O come Immanuel – God with us.

Have a very blessed and safe Christmas!



**HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM
THE SCHROEDERS!**

We are grateful to be here!

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being proclaimed all over the world. *Romans 1:8*

It is awesome to be a part of your continued prayer support. It is awesome that we get to live here in the Philippines and contribute to the sharing of the gospel and of God's translated word with an unreached people group. It is awesome that we are a family in Christ. We have all received grace and forgiveness from God! We are thankful for so many things and encourage you to reflect on the goodness of God this Thanksgiving. May it take precedence over turkey, food, and football!



Still translating!



Still homeschooling!



Still involved in community!



Still involved with a Sama school!
(Yahiya won the spelling bee)



Still in love!
(Our house church's marriage seminar)



Still researching M.A. thesis!

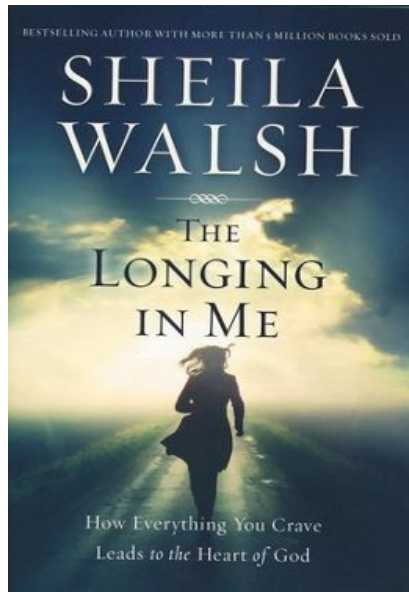


Gideon's still here!
(maybe you missed him in the header)

Tuesday, December 13, 2022, 2:00 PM – the Women’s Study Group decided to meet at the church one week earlier than originally planned.

We will be finishing Sheila Walsh’s video “The Longing in Me” which is based on the longings in her life and that of David that have led to traps. The last two meetings have covered “Longing to be Chosen, Longing for Protection... Control...and Happiness”. The December meeting will be focused on the “Longing for God’s Grace” and “Longing for God Alone”.

All women are invited to come and be a hostess, too: bring your own beverage and some treats to share that you enjoy (or perhaps want to try)!



Do Your Longings Have You Going Around in Circles?

You vowed to never repeat the same mistakes, yet here you are again, right where you started. What is it that keeps drawing you back? In this six-session video-based study, Sheila Walsh shows it is our *longings* that often lead us into such traps. She draws on her own experiences and the life of King David to reveal that all our longings are rooted in a need for God- and nothing else will satisfy when it comes to filling that void.

1. Longing to Be Chosen
2. Longing for Protection
3. Longing for Control
4. Longing for Happiness
5. Longing for God's Grace
6. Longing for God Alone



T'was the night before Christmas,
God glanced over the earth.
He looked to and fro, all over it's girth.
They missed it again He said with a sigh,
a heavy heart and a tear in his eye.
I gave them my son so they could be free.
My greatest gift, to them from me.
They traded me in for a man in red.
A little tree, and a horse drawn sled.
How do I save them, and make them see,
My love is complete, my grace is free.
How do I help them, when all they know,
Is a talking snowman, and a box with a bow.
Maybe next year, they will stop and see.
The biggest gift of Christmas
is the little child from me.



Meet Randy Hanna

Randy lives at 24650 410 St., Joice, IA with his wife.

He met his wife at his parents' house: a cousin introduced them. They were married at the Winnebago Lutheran Church on July 1st, 1978.

They have one son, Cory at Sumner, IA and a daughter Melaine lives in Lake Mills.

Randy works at the Osage Co-op and his wife is retired from feed sales.

His favorite verse is Luke 23: 40-43.

Favorite songs are THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, ROCK OF AGES and HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.

If Randy could visit with anyone from the Bible it would be Joseph or Daniel because nothing bad was ever said about either.

When asked where he would like to travel, all expenses paid, he said "I like home, I see no reason to go south of Belmond!"

As for hobbies, his wife likes traveling. Randy likes to garden, birdwatch, and fish.

Randy says he is a black or white type of person, he rarely sees gray in anything.

As to how he came to Pilot Knob he says "I had worshiped in an ELCA church my whole life. They became so liberal I could not stand it any longer. Pastor Bob is the real deal, unwavering in the Bible. The people of Pilot Knob truly care about one another."

Luke 23:40-43

But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

December Sermons & Scriptures

★ December 4, 2022

Second Sunday in Advent

Morning Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sermon: The Source of Hope

OT Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

Epistle Lesson: Romans 15:4-13

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 3:1-12

★ December 11, 2022

Third Sunday in Advent

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Prepared?

OT Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Epistle Lesson: James 5:7-11

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-15

★ December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: The Gospel Incarnate

OT Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-17

Epistle Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

★ December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve

Evening Candlelight Service

Sermon: He Came and Will Come Again

OT Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Epistle Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20



DECEMBER 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Communion Sunday Greeters: Don/Bobbi Reader: Tony 2pm- GriefShare orientation Bday: Naomi Pederson | 5 | 6 | 7 4:30- Confirmation | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Greeters: Randy/Deb Reader: Cathy | 12 | 13 2:00- Womens Study 5:45- Deacons 6:30- Council | 14 4:30- Confirmation | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Greeters: Greg/Sherry Reader: Donna | 19 10am- Quilting & Potluck | 20 Bday: Dane Reese | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve 4:00- Evening Service |
| 25 Christmas Day No Service Bday: Randy Hanna | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 Bday: Bernal Hanna | 31 New Year's Eve |