

A PRAYER FOR END OF YEAR – 2020

ALMIGHTY GOD, who has been the dwelling place of Thy people in all generations, and who in Thy mercy has brought us to the close of another year; we praise Thee for all the ways by which Thou hast led us, and we humbly beseech Thee to continue to us Thy lovingkindness. Help us to cast our weakness on Thy strength, that amid all the changes of this transitory life we may rest ourselves on Thine immutability. We lament that in the closing year there has been so much to fill us with shame. Pardon our offenses, we beseech Thee, and as Thou dost commit to us the solemn trust of life, help us to walk in watchfulness, redeeming the time, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

In between these two prayers, I simply want to briefly introduce you to our next planned exposition. After the first Lord's Day in 2021, we'll be taking up the book of [Ecclesiastes](#) together. Traditionally attributed to Solomon, Ecclesiastes is categorized as wisdom literature, which is the perfect characterization for this very unique book of the Bible. If you're not familiar with the book, I would encourage you to plan ahead and read through the whole thing (only 12 chapters) at some point in the near future. You'll notice, as I hope we will notice together on Sunday mornings, several key themes which include:

1. **The tragic reality of the fall.** We live in a world that is groaning. While we live in it we groan as well.
2. **The "vanity" of life.** This word, used 38 times in the book, gets to the heart of what a meaningless and meaningful life looks like.
3. **Sin and death.** We all know of the bitter experiences of these consequences of the fall.
4. **The joy and frustration of work.** The unique intersection of a God-glorifying vocation paired with the sweat and toil of labor.
5. **The grateful enjoyment of God's good gifts.** Even the simplest of things, which are to be received with gratitude as a gift from the Lord.
6. **The fear of God.** The heart of true wisdom in Scripture.

Ecclesiastes is written to those who are trying to figure life out. Everybody does that to some degree - some more than others. But we all want to know what the point is. Join us in 2021 as we learn from the wisdom of the Preacher in [Ecclesiastes](#).

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR – 2021

ETERNAL GOD, who of old hast laid the foundation of the earth, and whose Word is forever settled in the heavens; whose mercy is from everlasting, and rises anew in the morning of another year; give us grace to arise into Christ Thy Son, who is our morning light; and grant that in all the years of our pilgrimage, walking by faith in Him, we may put on strength, and be enabled to persevere in the way of life unto the end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

Zach

ELDERS

Keith Wilson - Clerk
Steve Morrison
Jim Mueller
Kevin Oak
Mic Penry
Patrick Shovar


DEACONS

Beth Flickinger
Cindy Cullen
Scott Cullen
Janet Dunlap
Norman Dunlap
Beth Easterla
Don Easterla
Cora Schafman

TRUSTEES

Mel Block - Chair
Larry Pithan - Secretary
Ken Benningfield
Jeff Fuhr
Phil Fuhr
Scott Nelson
Jeff Schmidt
Chris Stark
Jeff Thomas

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



2 - Madison Bayne
2 - Ginny Brockett
2 - Mary Rose Kerres
4 - Lydia Terrill
5 - Megan Koresko
7 - Jan Fuhr
10 - Colton Parchert
10 - Reid Schelker
11 - Kristin Johnson
11 - Everlee Oak
17 - Molly Cook
17 - Gloria Gierlus

17 - Tonya Hall
17 - Karla Pearson
18 - Albert Bingman
18 - Cheryl Lowe
18 - Mitch Miller
22 - Isaac Anderson
22 - Kelly Ruggles
24 - Mary Johnson
25 - Laina Nelson
28 - Landon Schelker
31 - Tatum Stegmiller

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

23 - Greg & Kortney Gierlus
23 - John & Dorothy Rursch
24 - Ken & Sandy Benningfield

GREETERS FOR JANUARY

Sunday, January 3rd - Jason & Beth Flickinger
Sunday, January 10th - Kim & Barb Freyermuth
Sunday, January 17th - Michael & Sharon Orr
Sunday, January 24th - Eddie Bull
Sunday, January 31st - Jim & Sharon Schaubroeck

NEWSLETTER

ALL submissions for the February Newsletter must be in by **NO LATER** than Wednesday, January 20th. Items received after that date may not make it into the newsletter.

Thank you for your cooperation!

~ Lisa Bowman, Office Manager

Newsletter

Do you know of anyone that is missing out on receiving the Edgington EPC Newsletter each month? If so, please contact the church office at 309-795-1713 or edgingtonepc@gmail.com and let me know. I will be happy to make arrangements for it to be received by whatever means works best.

The newsletter is distributed via email and postal service. It is also posted to Facebook page each month and our website: edgingtonepc.org. Thank you so much! ~ Lisa Bowman

Special Called Session Meeting

November 17, at 7:45pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees Present: Zach Hopkins, Steve Morrison, Jim Mueller, Kevin Oak, Mic Penry, Patrick Shovar, and Keith Wilson
A quorum is present.

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting. Zach opened the meeting with prayer.

In light of the recent surge in area Covid-19 cases the Session met to discuss whether to continue to conduct in person worship services. After much discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved to discontinue in person worship services and in person committee meetings for the next two weeks. This includes the November 22nd and November 29th worship services.

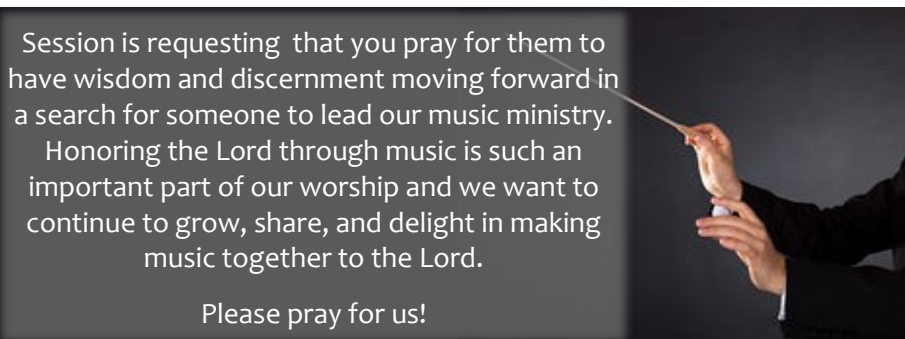
Zach will communicate this to Lisa, Nancy, Pam, Colby and Cade.

Committees are encouraged to continue to meet virtually, if possible. The Session will review the situation at the next regularly scheduled Session meeting on November 24th.

The Blood drive scheduled for November 21st with the appropriate safety measures.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. Motion Carried.

Cont. on p. 4



2020
Annual Report

ATTENTION COMMITTEE LEADERS OF EDGINGTON EPC

The end of the year is rapidly approaching!

If you lead/head/chair any committee or group you need to have a report in the Annual Report.

Please start working on it as soon as possible. Reports are due by Monday, January 25th, 2021.

If you have any questions, or should need to see a copy of last year's report please contact Lisa in the office at 309-795-1713.

The Annual Congregational Meeting date is Sunday, January 31st.

November 24, at 7pm

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendees Present: Zach Hopkins, Steve Morrison, Jim Mueller, Kevin Oak, Mic Penry, Patrick Shovar, Keith Wilson
A quorum is present.

Pastor Daren Dietmeier of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Aledo joined us prior to our regular meeting to discuss the roles of Elders and Deacons in the church and the application of a shepherding ministry.

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting. Zach opened the meeting with prayer. The meeting began with a reading and discussion of Revelation Chapter 1: 9-20. The Elders prayed for individual members of the congregation.

Approval/Amendment of Docket: Motion was made and seconded to approve the docket. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: October 28th, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Zach's Report: Reported on members with health concerns and needed prayers.

Old Business:

- The session reviewed the current worship practices in relation to CDC guidelines. On November 18th the Session decided to cancel in-person worship services for the November 22nd and 29th services. The Session will continue to monitor the situation and meet on December 1st to review options for December.
- With the current interruption of in-person services the Session discussed options for the prospective new members to state their membership vows. Zach will be checking with the Membership Matters class to determine their wishes

New Business:

- The Session discussed the upcoming Lessons and Carols service to be held December 13th at 5:00pm. It will be broadcast on Facebook Live. There will be no in-person attendance. Each Session member will record their readings for the service at a time scheduled by Zach.
- Further discussion is needed to determine whether or not in-person attendance will be permitted at the Christmas Eve service. Online registration was set to begin on November 24th.
- The Elders are encouraged to review their Shepherding lists and focus on reaching out to those individuals that may not have access to the church's online ministry.

The next Stated Session meeting will be: December 1st, 2020 at 7pm.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:55pm. Motion Carried.

Zach closed the meeting with prayer.



IN-PERSON/COVID UPDATE

Our in-person services are currently suspended due to the recent directives from both government and health officials, in addition to our own observations about the increase of local cases, and the burdened nature of our healthcare system.

Session will meet every two weeks to re-evaluate and we will keep you posted.

A tentative date to resume is set for January 17th.

December 2, 2020 at 7pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees Present: Zach Hopkins, Mic Penry, Jim Mueller, Kevin Oak, Steve Morrison, Patrick Shovar, and Keith Wilson.

A quorum is present.

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting. Zach opened the meeting with prayer.

The main purpose of the meeting was to determine whether or not to have in-person worship services anytime during December. Everyone expressed a strong desire to resume in-person worship. The Session determined that with the recent spike in Covid-19 cases in the area we should not conduct in-person services through the end of December. It was decided to continue to monitor the situation and to meet in two weeks to review.

The Session discussed the Lessons and Carols service scheduled to be broadcast on Facebook Live on December 13th at 5:00pm. Each ruling Elder will have a scripture reading. Zach would like each of the ruling elders to schedule a time the afternoon of Tuesday, December 8th to record their readings. Zach has also enlisted several others to share their talents for this service.

The Session discussed the need to make calls in order to keep in touch with our shepherding groups for encouragement.

Next called meeting: December 16, 2020.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm.

Zach closed the meeting with prayer.

December 16, 2020 at 7pm

Location: Virtual via Zoom

Attendees Present: Zach Hopkins, Mic Penry, Jim Mueller, Kevin Oak, Patrick Shovar, and Keith Wilson.

Absent: Steve Morrison

A quorum is present.

Pastor Zach acted as moderator of the meeting. Zach opened the meeting with prayer.

The main purpose of the meeting was to determine whether or not we can resume in-person worship services anytime in the near future. The Session tentatively set January 17th, 2021 as the first Sunday to resume in-person services with the appropriate precautions. The Session will meet again on January 8th, 2021 to review this decision and determine if it is safe to proceed with the in-person worship on the 17th.

The Session also discussed the Lessons and Carols service. It was a beautiful service and was well received. An appreciation for the participants was expressed.

Zach reminded the Session of the Annual Congregational meeting scheduled for January 31, 2021. It is currently planned to be in person with a Zoom meeting feature for those wanting to participate from home.

The Session discussed the need to keep in touch with our shepherding groups.

Next called meeting: January 8th, 2021.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm.

Zach closed the meeting with prayer.

11/11/2020

Present: Ken Benningfield, Mel Block, Jeff Fuhr, Larry Pithan, Chris Stark, Treasurer Cindy Oak, and Session Representative Jim Mueller.

Mel opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:05pm.

Minutes from the September 9th and October 14th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's report for October was reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

- Manse Sale –Sale was closed on November 4th. Net proceeds of \$159,133.
- Exterior wood frames of stained-glass windows have been scraped, painted, and caulked. Acrylic panels will be installed in the spring to protect all the wood.
- Storage shed was cleaned with trash discarded.
- Zach's office chair is being repaired.
- Mel reminded all trustees to make sure exterior doors are locked after Sunday services.
- Trustees are still trying to get multiple bids for reroofing of the sanctuary. All roofing contractors have been very busy this year and into next year.
- Discussed possible fund drive options to pay for needed maintenance of the church.

New Business:

- Proposed budget prepared by the Session was reviewed by the Trustees. Motion made and approved to forward the proposed budget to the congregational annual meeting.
- Trustees voted to approve payment of the Per Member Asking.
- Reported burned out lights for the outside sign and front entrance.
- Thermostats for the Sunday School rooms have been adjusted for winter operation.
- Reviewed proposal from Kone for elevator maintenance. Trustees felt that maintenance is not needed now due to limited usage this year.

Mel closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Pithan



December 13, 2020

In attendance for virtual meeting were Cindy and Scott Cullen, Beth Flickinger, Peggy Shovar, Session Representative Patrick Shovar, Jan and Norm Dunlap, and Beth and Don Easterla.

Beth F. opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes from the October Meeting: Approved as written.

October-December Activities: Number of visits since October is 63. Visits include calls, emails, and text messages. There were 39 cards sent (Thinking about you 17, Birthdays 11, Get well 3, Sympathy 1, and 7 Anniversary).

Old Business:

- Discussed prayer concerns for the shut-ins and "eyes on you" list
- College Care packages – Sent out 7 cards & gift cards to our college students for finals.
- Rockridge High School Blood Drive - There were 18 donors which resulted in a total of 20 units.
- Coat Drive results - 33 coats plus mittens and hats were distributed to a total of 11 families.

The next Deacon virtual meeting will be held Feb. 7, 2021

Beth F. closed meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Cullen

NEED A HAND OR ENCOURAGEMENT? ASK A DEACON!



The Deacons' charge is to care for the church body. You may already know that we provide delicious treats to celebrate new members, collect coats for those in need, and organize blood drives. But did you now that we are ready to serve in other ways, too?

Here are some of the ways a Deacon can help out:

- Visit shut-ins (including those who are temporarily unable to make it to worship) to provide cheer and recordings of the sermon (**during this time, they will make calls to visit over the phone**)
- Deliver meals to those who are injured, ill, or have experienced a loss
- Visit widows(ers) to comfort and provide company (**again, during this time, calls will be made**)
- Send cards to recognize milestone birthdays and anniversaries, and express condolences
- Organize transportation to doctor's appointments (please give advance notice)

Especially during this difficult time our Deacons are trying to be sure that our church family is well cared for.

Please, if you or someone you know could benefit in one of these areas, please let a Deacon know right away. We try to anticipate needs, but we are only human, and need help with knowing needs! The 2020 Deacon team includes

Scott & Cindy Cullen, Norman & Janet Dunlap, Don & Beth Easterla, Beth Flickinger, Cora Shafman, & Peggy Shovar.

November 17, 2020

Topics discussed:

The Mission Committee met on November 17th, 2020 at 6:30pm. Those attending were: Todd Stegmiller, Nancy Engstrom, and Barb Freyermuth. We did not have a quorum, so no formal meeting, but we did move the needle on a couple of things.

Angel Tree:

1. Decided to do a virtual angel tree. The decision was between requesting gift cards or actually choosing an angel (virtually) and providing a gift.
2. I spoke with Lisa Bowman and she came up with some great ideas to make it happen so we could actually provide gifts in this Covid era. (Lisa, Todd owes you something, I can't remember what he promised.)
3. Action: Nancy will connect with Denise at Winnie's Place to see if she can provide some specific, targeted, gift suggestions using the same coding system as last year. (I've already spoken with Nancy.) Lisa will take care of the rest. If that can't happen, then we'll revert to the gift card approach.
4. Note: Covid restrictions may need for us to change plans, but we'll take it one day at a time.

Salvation Army:

1. Already discussed with Lisa (you may have noticed that it's being announced), and Zach will either announce in the service and/or it will be posted on presentation at the beginning.
2. We've already got one family to volunteer! If any of you are interested in doing this on 12/5, let me know what time would work.

Needy families:

1. Trish Magadan is needing assistance. She's from the Rockridge area, but now lives in Rock Island. I've contacted her, and have discussed her needs and situation further. Some considerations:
 - a. Add Trish and her 4 month-old daughter to the angel tree. (I've already gotten her information / needs for that.)
 - b. Add her to any of the special giving we do for needy Rockridge families at Christmas time (see below).
 - c. Have her connect with our Food Pantry for any assistance (she has gone to the Milan Food Pantry, but that was fairly depleted.)
2. Providing a better Christmas for a Rockridge family in need:
 - a. Lisa, would you check with Mike Ruff to see if he is aware and wants to work with us for any provisions this Christmas?
 - b. Per the above, I would like to add Trish to that giving – but it could be a \$200 - \$300 gift card.
 - c. All, are you aware of any families that would be of need in our community and are you supportive of us doing this again this year? I believe (without looking) we donated close to \$1000 for this.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Freyermuth, Mission Committee Chairperson



CHECK OUT THE NEXT SEVERAL PAGES FOR
THE MINISTRIES WE SUPPORT, AND FOR WAYS
THAT YOU CAN GET PLUGGED IN PERSONALLY!



A VIDEO UPDATE ESPECIALLY TO EDGINGTON EPC

Executive Director, Mark Drake, made a special thank you and ministry update/needs video, just for all of you to view! If you click on the image below it will open and you can watch the video yourself!

⚠️ (You may have a couple security warnings - it is safe to click “Allow”, and then another warning that the PDF file is attempting to launch a file - it is safe to click “Yes” for that, as well).



YouthHope

We bring youth HOPE!



Click on the image to watch the video



YouthHope Program Needs:

Youth Centers:

- Electric Start Snow Blower
- Commercial Carpet Sweeper
- Commercial Carpet Cleaner

Educational Support Program

- Headphones
- Disposable Masks
- Sanitizing Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer

Winter Gear for Students

- NEW Coats (size 6-14)
- NEW Snow Pants (Size 6-14)
- NEW Snow Boots
- NEW Gloves, Hats, Scarves



YouthHope needs volunteers! Click on the image above to go to their **NEW** website and find ways that you can plug in and serve!

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Continue to pray for an abortion-minded client who visited Pregnancy Resources but is still wanting an abortion. Pray that the information that our nurses shared with her during her first ultrasound would impact her and/or that she would return to the Center for a repeat ultrasound.
- Pray for the Pregnancy Resources clients who are still struggling to make a decision about their pregnancy. Pray that they would remember the life seen on the ultrasound and that they would find the support they need to choose Life for their child!
- Pray for those for whom the holidays are particularly challenging. Pray that they would find peace in the ultimate peace-giver this holiday season.

PRAISES:

- Praise God for a client who visited our Centers and is a Christ-follower who is happy to be pregnant!
- Praise God for the woman who has chosen to carry-and-parent. She is moving closer to family and now has the courage to tackle some challenges in her life!

Thank you for your continued prayers for Pregnancy Resources! Your faithfulness is such a blessing to us!

~ Marissa J. Foss, Admin. Assistant



Prayer Warrior Network

Intercessory prayer is an integral component of our ministry.

Prayer warriors see the battle and consistently take action by coming before God and lifting the needs, struggles, and victories of Pregnancy Resources staff, volunteers, and patients.

Contact Marissa@qcpregnancy.org to receive weekly, ministry-specific prayer requests & praise reports.



Many of you are already planning your 2021 calendars. Our theme for the year is "The Journey." Please keep these dates in mind so you can join us for the Journey through 2021:

Gathering for the Journey - **Banquet**, March 2021

Joining the Journey - **PRC 101 Volunteer Training Dates:**
March 2nd-4th, June 1st-3rd, or October 5th-7th, 2021

Walking the Journey - **Walk for Life** - Saturday, September 11th, 2021



Project NOW

Community Action Agency

PROUDLY SERVING
SENIORS SINCE 1968



For many years now Edgington EPC has been a host site for Senior Meals. The doors are open here for meals on Monday, Thursday, and Friday.

Meals are available for a suggested donation of \$3 to anyone 60+ years or with a disability. If you are new to the program, you need to call 309-788-6335 the day before to request your meal.

Those who attend regularly come early to play cards and enjoy each other's company for a little longer than just meal time.



NOTE: All Meal Sites are cancelled until the restrictions concerning COVID-19 have been lifted and it is deemed safe to gather together again. **HOWEVER, meals are still being delivered to individual's homes!** Please contact Project Now if you or someone you know could benefit from this service!

Their number is 309-788-6335 or you can email the director, Michelle Dyer, at mdyer@projectnow.org

LOCAL MINISTRY PARTNERS' NEEDS



**Pregnancy
Resources**

If you'd like to donate new or gently used items, we would greatly appreciate your help.

Maternity & baby items we love getting:

Baby clothes Sizes: preemie – 3T
Modern Pregnancy Clothes, all sizes
NEW Baby Bottles and Nipples pacifiers
Diapers (Sizes: Newborn – size 5)
Baby Wipes
Cozy Baby Blankets (purchased or homemade)
Receiving Blankets
Baby Swings, Strollers, & Pack 'n Plays

PLEASE NOTE: Because of safety issues, we cannot accept: used car seats, used cribs, used bottles, used bottle nipples, or used breast pumps.
Questions about clothing room donations? Just call us at (563)386-3737 or (309)797-3636.



CHRISTIAN CARE

By providing safe shelter, support, and resources, Christian Care empowers the homeless to make positive changes in every aspect of their lives.

Christian Care is also in need of a variety of items:

Men's Clothing:

- Coats
- Gloves
- Sweatshirts/pants
- Hoodies
- Hats
- Jeans
- Shoes (size 6-10)
- Underwear/Socks
- Belts

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| • Mayonnaise | • Soap | • 36 Gal. Trash Bags |
| • Pasta | • Deodorant | • Disinfectant |
| • Coffee/Creamer | • Razors | • Oven Cleaner |
| • Sugar | • Shaving Cream | • Bleach |
| • Ranch/BBQ Sauce | • Shampoo/Conditioner | To easily donate and never leave home, click on the link below. |
| • Napkins | • Laundry Soap | |
| • Plastic Spoons and Forks | • Bleach | |
| • Toothpaste | • Toilet Cleaner | |
| • Body Wash/Bar | • Glass Cleaner | |



Our New Education Program has a variety of needs. Your donations are very much appreciated!

- Headphones
- Hard case pencil boxes
- Pencils
- Electric pencil sharpeners
- Plastic Milk Crates
- Yoga Mats
- Glue Sticks
- Kid scissors
- Crayola Markers
- Crayola Crayons



WINNIE'S PLACE

Women In Need - Nurtured Into Excellence



Needs:

- Gift cards for grocery stores and Walmart/Target
- Garbage Bags - 33 gal. & Tall kitchen (13 gal.)
- Toilet Paper
- Clorox Wipes
- Masks for adults & Children
- Monthly Bus Cards
- Cleaning Supplies
- Postage Stamps
- Paper Towels



YOU Can Make a Difference!



During the time that we are not having in-person worship services you may drop off donations in the church office during regular office hours. The Mission Committee has a large storage bin under the table in the sanctuary foyer that has the offering plates on it.

If you are able to donate any of the items needed by the ministries listed above, please leave them in the storage bin, and one of our committee members will deliver them.

Thank you in advance for all your generous donations!

THE LANCASTER'S WISH YOU A MEANINGFUL ADVENT AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Our family has a group text we call “La Familia.” Two weeks ago, La Familia had been dormant for a few days till our son, Bedon, stoked the embers of our family text exchanges with this little holiday remembrance nugget: “Reminiscing on the time dad made us watch Schindler’s List on Christmas Eve, lol.” Lucy promptly responded, “A Christmas classic.” OK.... Please indulge me as I seek to explain myself...

‘Twas about 6 years ago.... It was a frigid Christmas Eve night in Memphis. Earlier that day, we enjoyed our church’s candlelit Christmas Eve service followed by a delicious dinner with grandparents. Around 8:00 pm, our immediate family was home huddled in our den, curled up on couches, and covered in warm blankets. The fireplace gas logs were aglow emitting a toasty amount of heat while each of us enjoyed scrumptious holiday munchies along with our respective Christmas drinks (e.g., hot tea, apple cider, hot chocolate, and adult beverages). It was the perfect setting for our family to build a warm memory by watching one of the Christmas movie classics.

...I decided to think outside the box and make one of those annoying old man counterintuitive moves on La Familia. I deemed it the perfect moment to introduce our kids to a flick that I believed could be experienced as a Christmas movie classic if viewed through the right story interpretation lens. Ergo, I pushed my weight around and made the family watch Schindler’s List. Given the movie’s heavy subject matter, I was unquestionably throwing them a curveball that would be more than a bit disruptive to our cozy holiday family setting. But, hey, at least to some degree it registered because SIX years later the collective Lancaster family memory bank is still reminiscing over Dad’s 2014 Christmas Eve executive decision!

Let me elaborate on why I believed then, and still believe now, that this Academy Award-winning movie, in an analogous fashion, wonderfully points to the magical message of Christmas.

It’s based on a true story. The setting is Kraków, Poland in 1939 and the Nazis have begun relocating Jews from the surrounding region to the Kraków Ghetto.

Seeking to profit from the situation, Oskar Schindler (an ethnic German businessman from Moravia) moved to the city and purchased a factory to mass-produce army mess kits. Schindler’s a Nazi Party member, so he’s able to bribe the SS officials to enlist the services of Jews to provide the labor force necessary to run his operation. Oddly enough, Schindler cultivated a relationship with a Jewish businessman named Itzhak Stern who became his trusted adviser. While building his business on the backs of Jewish laborers, Schindler’s heart begins to melt over their plight, and, along with Stern, he starts finding clever ways to rescue many of them before they are sent off to face brutal mistreatment and death in the Nazi concentration camps. Schindler bleeds out his reservoir of financial resources bribing Nazi military officials for the release of many Jews. In the end, he was responsible for saving more than 1,200 Jewish refugees at a great cost to himself and a great threat to his life and the lives of his family members.

At the end of the movie, the war is over. Oskar is scurrying to leave town to escape what would be his imminent doom given the betrayal of his Nazi party. There’s a profound scene where many of the Jews gather around Oskar to present him with a golden ring engraved with the Talmudic inscription: “Whoever saves one life saves the world entire.” Oskar is overwhelmed by their display of gratitude and begins weeping uncontrollably while lamenting the fact that he didn’t save even more Jews.

Marinate yourself in the power of that narrative and you will find it resonating with the storyline of Christmas. Can’t you see Schindler’s List providing a lens through which we can experience the radioactive power of Christmas? In one of his essays, J. R. R. Tolkien writes about how there’s a certain basic storyline that registers above all others with the human soul – He calls it a “Eucatastrophe” – i.e., a Joyful Catastrophe. Here’s the gist: all looks bleak and in despair and all hope seems lost till someone great arrives on the scene to rescue and deliver. This heroic figure snatches victory from the jaws of defeat. What’s crucial is how the victor wins. He/she triumphs through weakness, self-sacrifice, suffering, losing, and often death... There is **MUCH** more to this story! To read it in full, click [HERE](#)

I commend Schindler’s List to you as a wonderful Christmas movie classic!

Much Love from Chicago,
Jeffrey



Please consider hanging in there with us through continued prayer and financial support. To donate click [HERE](#)

MERRY CHRISTMAS! To read the full report, click [HERE](#)

Thank you so much for your prayers for us in October! Saul and Zuri have made a full recovery from Covid and the rest of us remained healthy. After being quarantined for almost the entire month and seeing God's grace in answered prayers within our family, we hit the ground running and, over the past month and a half, have witnessed God working in some amazing ways as we seek to mobilize the next generation of missionaries.

At the start of November, we participated in a Presbytery workshop and sat on a panel with a handful of other World Outreach workers on "Engaging the Next Generation in Missions". It was the most I've ever felt the Holy Spirit's presence on a Zoom call and it seemed like God was really spurring several attendees forward into action. We pray that the discussion continues to bear fruit!

The following week, we went on our first work trip of the year (post-covid), and took our entire family. Our first stop was in Montreat, North Carolina where we supported our intern as she ran her college's first Missions Fair on campus. It was so awesome to see her thrive in a place of leadership and to encourage her forward as her missions calling continues to grow and mature.

Our next stop was in Decatur, Georgia, where Jesse's parents live AND there's an EPC church that we're hoping to partner with to establish another Summer Missions Jam location. Just next door to Decatur is the city of Clarkston, where there's a large refugee and international population. It would be a great place to take youth to experience a Muslim community for the first time! By God's incredible orchestration, we were able to connect with the right missions-minded leaders in the church there, and are excited to see whether Clarkston works out as a new SMJ destination for 2022.

The most exciting story to share, though, happened on our Missions Cohort call in November. One of our purposes for this cohort is to support and encourage college students who have an interest and/or calling in missions to actually practice it in their daily life. One of the young women in our cohort (I'll call her Lauren for the sake of anonymity) shared that she has a friend whose father is a Muslim and whose mother is a Christian. That's a unique combination, so Lauren started to ask her friend about Jesus, and her friend responded by saying she didn't know much and was really confused about what she believed. Lauren proceeded to ask if her friend would be interested in learning more about Jesus, and if she'd be willing to read the Bible with her. The friend said yes, so Lauren went and bought her first Bible and they've started reading it together!

Praise Jesus for the fruit He's producing in and through our next generation of believers! We're humbled to be part of it and excited to see what happens in 2021!

Prayer Requests

From December 28 - January 2 we will be meeting in person (!) with some of the students in our cohort. We are going to Hamtramck, MI where we will livestream the Cross Conference and spend time learning about the Muslim communities in that region. We are following Covid precautions and, unfortunately, won't get to interact much with people in the communities. But we are so excited to connect with our WO worker there and expand these students' understanding of the work.

Please pray:

- that everything will come together well
- that it is a time of learning and refreshment for the students
- that there will be safe opportunities for outreach
- for the health and safety of everyone traveling there
- and for our three oldest kids (or maybe more for their Nana and Papa!) as they spend the week with their grandparents

Financial Update

We'd love your help! This year has been challenging for many, and we have seen our support drop. We need \$200/month to make up our shortfall. If you or anyone you know would be interested in partnering with us, please call Saul at 217-851-4670 or click [HERE](#) to donate.



THE BURDSALL'S *Serge* Grace at the Fray

Happy Christmas!!

*"Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight"*

2020. The never-ending year. There was so much hard, so much sadness, fear and loneliness. But for us, looking back, I see joy in family, growth in sense of place, and new depth in faith. This world of paradox- good and bad, light and dark so closely intertwined. Hope of heaven in the valley of the shadow. This year we learned more about grace and what it means to have the hope to sing in the dark. We are praying that this hope leads us to a depth in witness and desire to share the joy and grace we have. And praying for all of you in this year of hard, and now in this Christmas season. Praying for rest and peace and joy and the hope that comes from knowing that God's love is greater than the hurt around us.

Merry Christmas!!

Much love, The Burdsall family

"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn". ~ Isaiah 60:1

Sorry to add talk of money to our Christmas message, but we do want to highlight, especially at the end of the year, that our support is down and we will be in need of more monthly supporters in this new year. Also, if you or someone you know is considering end of the year giving, those one time gifts are of great help. Please do be in prayer with us over these needs, and if you feel led to give or to be part of our support team, we would love to talk with you- please respond to this email, or feel free to whatsapp us. - Call or email the church office for more information on how to donate.

For safety reasons it has been decided not to include photos or link to their full update. If you would like to receive their regular updates via email, please contact the church office and Lisa will connect you with the Burdsall's to be added to their email list.

ANNUAL "FAMILY" MEETING SUNDAY, JAN. 31ST DETAILS TBA



The Annual "Family" Meeting is open to everyone, members and non-members alike. If you are not a member, but wanting more information about Edgington EPC, please attend! **ALL** church members are highly encouraged to attend, but only church members can vote. Nearly all of our ministries, committees, groups, etc. will be discussed. It is a very thorough look at what 2020 looked like here at EEPIC!

Please don't miss it!

EXCITING NEWS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY!

TAYLOR RIDGE, ROCK ISLAND COUNTY FARMER DIRECTS AMERICA'S FARMERS GROW COMMUNITIES DONATION TO ROCKRIDGE COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

- The America's Farmers Grow Communities program, sponsored by Bayer Fund, partners with farmers to provide grants to local nonprofits to help their communities.
- Through the program, farmers enroll for the chance to direct a \$2,500 donation to a local eligible nonprofit organization of their choice.
- The America's Farmers programs have given more than \$57 million to rural America since 2010.



Taylor Ridge, IL 21 November 2020 – Local farmer Alice Crawford recently directed a \$2,500 [America's Farmers Grow Communities](#) donation, sponsored by Bayer Fund, to the Rockridge Community Food Pantry. This donation will be used to help provide food boxes to those in need in the Rockridge Community.

“We are so thankful for the generous support of our community members for supporting the food pantry. We certainly could not do this outreach without their generosity. We are especially appreciative of the gift which Alice Crawford recently directed to us through America's Farmers Grow Communities sponsored by the Bayer Fund” said Shirley Flemming from the Rockridge Community Food Pantry. “Food donations have been down since this unusual year caused by the COVID virus. Many items have been rationed so it has been wonderful to have these funds on hand to use for shopping in smaller quantities”

Since 2010, the America's Farmers programs have awarded more than \$57 million to nonprofits, aspiring ag students and public schools across rural America. Farmers know the needs of their communities best, so the America's Farmers programs rely on them to help identify the most worthy causes.

The Grow Communities program partners with farmers across the country to provide nonprofit organizations with resources to strengthen their local communities. Each August, farmers can enter for the chance to direct a \$2,500 Grow Communities donation to a local eligible nonprofit of their choice. Farmers have directed donations to food banks, emergency response organizations, schools, youth agriculture programs and many others that reflect the spirit and support the vibrancy of rural America.

“Farmers truly understand the needs of their communities and where the opportunities to strengthen them exist. We partner with them to identify the nonprofit organizations that benefit from Grow Communities donations,” said Al Mitchell, Bayer Fund president. “Each donation shines a light on the organizations that are making a positive difference in rural communities across the country. Bayer Fund is proud to partner with farmers to give back in rural America.”

To learn how you can be an America's Farmers Grow Communities recipient, visit www.AmericasFarmers.com. The America's Farmers Grow Communities 2021 program will kick off on August 1, 2020, and farmers will once again have the opportunity to enroll for a chance to direct a donation to a local eligible nonprofit of their choice.

About America's Farmers

America's Farmers, sponsored by Bayer Fund, is focused on strengthening rural America through three community outreach programs that partner with farmers to make an impact in communities where farmers live and work. The programs have given more than \$57 million to rural America since 2010 and include:

- America's Farmers Grow Communities supports rural communities by allowing farmers the opportunity to direct a \$2,500 donation to their favorite local nonprofit organization.
- America's Farmers Grow Rural Education supports rural education by providing \$15,000 merit-based grants to enhance STEM education.

America's Farmers Grow Ag Leaders supports students pursuing ag-related studies by offering \$1,500 scholarships towards higher education.

To learn more, visit America's Farmers at www.AmericasFarmers.com.

About Bayer Fund

Bayer Fund is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects.



Edgington Presbyterian Church

Treasurer's Report November 2020

	Balance	Receipts	Disbursement	Balance
General	\$ 62,074.02	\$ 174,277.07	\$ 17,530.73	\$ 218,820.36
Jahn	\$ 9,206.39	\$187.12		\$ 9,393.51
Edgington	\$ 5,691.02		\$ -	\$ 5,691.02
Boughton	\$ 17,666.28	\$ 1,950.57		\$ 19,616.85
Lauby	\$ 20,629.39	\$ 303.93	\$ -	\$ 20,933.32

Ending Gen. checking balar	235,027.24
Uncleared Transactions	\$ 1,122.35
General checking Balance	\$ 233,904.89

Reconciled Bank Accounts	
Gen. checking	\$ 233,904.89

November 2020 GENERAL FUND EXPENSES

Zach Hopkins salary	4,308.32		
Housing Allowance	1,800.00		
EPC (health)	25.23		
Fidelity (pension)	919.81		
Mileage	-		
Lisa Bowman	769.77		
Robin Preston	212.35		
Reytel	117.23		
AT&T	174.89	General	\$ 218,820.36
MidAmerican Energy church	153.70	Edgington	\$ 5,691.02
Postmaster	9.35	Jahn	\$ 9,393.51
Amazon (cont Ed)	284.02	TOTAL	\$ 233,904.89
Westminster Books (cont Ed)	138.80		
Amazon (worship)	17.52		
Millenium Waste	34.00		
Ministry Designs (website)	30.00		
ABS (copier)	125.18		
Wallaces (lg poinsettias)	100.56		
Rockridge FFA (poinsettias)	270.00		
Rivers & Lakes (PMA)	3,417.00		
EPC Gen Assembly (PMA)	4,623.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$17,530.73

INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Mission monies included in general fund	7554.188952.58
Assistance Fund	\$5,153.46
Sale of Manse	\$159,133.00

Edginton Presbyterian Church

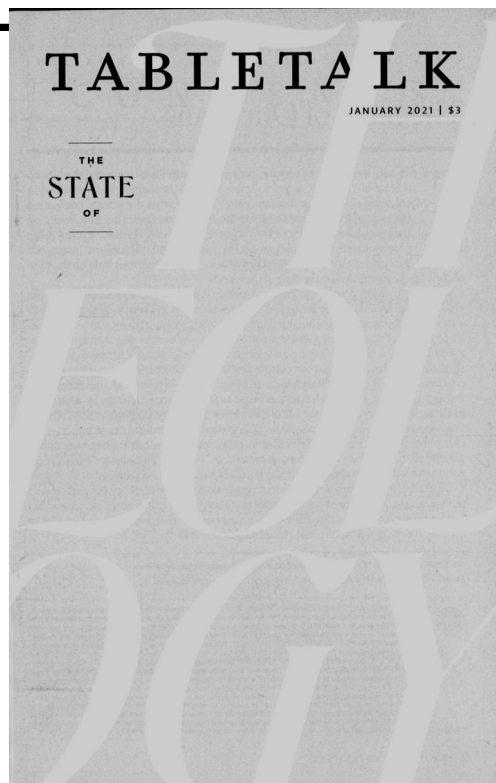
General Fund Profit & Loss

November 2020

	Nov 20
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Miscellaneous Contribution	159,133.00
Per Capita Contributions	1,700.00
Flower Contributions	
Poinsettias	290.00
Total Flower Contributions	290.00
Interest Income - General Fnd	18.57
Loose Offering	120.00
Pledges	13,015.50
Total Income	174,277.07
Expense	
Pastors housing allowance	1,800.00
Operating Maintenance - General	151.23
Continuing Education	422.82
Per Capita Distribution	8,040.00
Worship Supplies	17.52
Flowers	370.56
Office Supplies	
Copier	125.18
Office Supplies - Other	30.00
Total Office Supplies	155.18
Payroll Expenses	
Custodian Payroll	212.35
Pastor Salary	4,308.32
Secretary Services	769.77
Total Payroll Expenses	5,290.44
Pension & Health Care	945.04
Postage	9.35
Utilities	
Gas & Electric - Church	153.70
Telephone	174.89
Total Utilities	328.59
Total Expense	17,530.73
Net Ordinary Income	156,746.34
Net Income	156,746.34



GET YOUR JANUARY COPY OF
THE TABLETALK DEVOTIONAL



LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER

CURRENT SERMON SERIES

As he writes in the cover letter Pastor Zach will begin preaching a series on the book of Ecclesiastes in January 2021. Please join us each week as we enter into God's presence and worship him corporately through the preaching and teaching of His Word.

Sunday, January 3rd - Ecclesiastes 1

SCRIPTURE LINKS - Download the apps!



ESV.org is an online Bible reading tool created to help you read and engage with God's Word. While many features of the site are available without signing in, we invite you to create a free account, which makes it easy to save personal notes, highlight favorite verses, and start interactive reading plans.

(Click on the images to go to their websites)

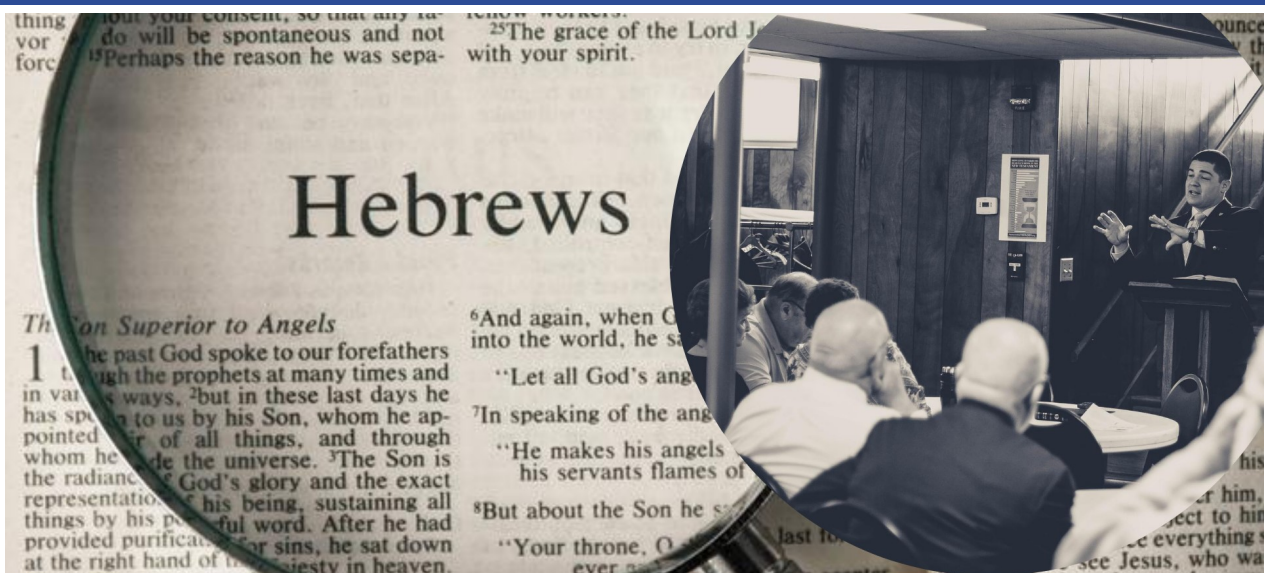


Blue Letter Bible provides powerful tools for an in-depth study of God's Word through our free online reference library, with study tools that are grounded in the historical, conservative Christian faith. We view the Bible as central to our study resources. We intentionally designed the website to include study tools that are linked directly to Bible passages. Dig deep into the Word using commentaries, encyclopedias, maps/images and much more. One of our most used tools is the Lexicon search, which gives users immediate access to the original Hebrew and Greek words.

Pastor Zach is on Facebook Live every Sunday morning at 10am for our Lord's Day Worship Service .



If you are not already a member of our Facebook group, please click on the image for the link. "Like" our page and request to join. We are pretty quick to respond. Make sure you are "following" our page and turn your notifications setting on if you would like to receive a notification when Pastor Zach begins to stream. We will post a worship guide each Sunday morning at 8am that includes our Children's Sunday School lessons and a curriculum video link.



Adult Sunday School is Back!

"CHRIST IS ALL: The Book of Hebrews"

Starting 9/13 ~ 9am-9:40am ~ Meeting in the Sanctuary ~ Livestream Available

IN-PERSON SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED
Please watch for updates in your email, on our Facebook page, and on our website.

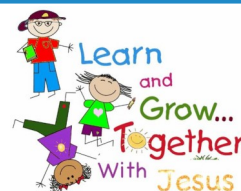
The Children's Sunday School lessons are being posted on Facebook each week.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Every Sunday morning at 9am

We use Great Commission Publications various curriculum based on each grade level.



Toddler	- Hillary Terrill & Kortney Geirlus
Pre-K	- Beth Flickinger
1st-2nd	- Katie Pearson
3rd-5th	- Kathy Stegmiller
Junior High	- Tara Johnson & Deanna Parchert
Senior High	- Brandee Neece



All of Scripture is the unfolding story of salvation and Jesus is its focus. We show how Jesus, revealed throughout the Bible, came to seek and save the lost.

We look forward to the privilege of caring for and teaching your children about Jesus each Sunday!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Meeting Cancelled

We will resume our meetings when Session deems it safe to resume in-person worship.



Throughout the year, the PW hosts various events, which includes refreshments for special services, luncheons for special meetings and funerals. We hold a rummage and bake sale as a fundraiser every year, and sometimes a soup luncheon as well. We help financially support many projects throughout the church, as well as mission work locally, nationally, and abroad.

QUILTING DAY THIS MONTH

TBD, 9am - Noon

Please come and join us as we create, piece, and sew quilts to present to next year's graduating seniors, as well as Winnie's Place. Even if you don't know how to sew, but can operate a pair of scissors and/or an iron, we would love to have you! If we can increase our production, we will be able to bless even more people in the community.

Please consider joining us! Hope to see you there!

FOOT CLINIC UPDATE

The Foot Clinic has started back up! The next one will be on Monday, Feb. 15th! If you would like a medically profession pedicure appointment, please call the church office at 309-795-1713.



JANUARY 2021



Sunday School 9am
Worship Service 10am

EEPC

Phone: 309-795-1713 / 309-795-1714
Email: edgingtonepc@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.edgingtonepc.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	ALL IN-PERSON EVENTS ARE CURRENTLY SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID, BUT SESSION IS MEETING EVERY 2 WEEKS TO RE-EVALUATE THE SITUATION. A TENTATIVE DATE TO RESUME IS SET FOR JANUARY 17TH. PLEASE WATCH FOR EMAIL, FACEBOOK, AND WEBSITE UPDATES.					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021
3 Food Pantry Sunday	4	5	6	7 PW-Mtg., 1pm	8	9
10	11	12	13 Trustees Mtg., 7pm	14	15	16
17 In-person services resume? TBD	18 <small>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</small>	19 Mission Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm	20 Newsletter Items Due	21 Quilting, 9am?	22	23
24 B/P Checks	25 Annual Reports Due	26 Session Mtg., 7pm	27	28	29	30
31 Annual Congregational Mtg.	1	2	3	4	5	6