

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

- ✧ Pastor's Message
- ✧ December Services
- ✧ Town Meeting
- ✧ Birthdays and Anniversaries
- ✧ Financial Report
- ✧ Shut-Ins & Military
- ✧ Adult Studies
- ✧ Men's Group
- ✧ Homewood Auxiliary
- ✧ Secret Pal Club
- ✧ Cookie Walk
- ✧ Tree of Lights
- ✧ Mini Fundraiser
- ✧ Soul Food
- ✧ Emmanuel's Closet
- ✧ "Bly's" Report
- ✧ Just For Kids
- ✧ December Calendar

## *From the Pastor's Desk*



**Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Did you have a blessed Thanksgiving Day? Even though I am writing this before Thanksgiving, I know that I will enjoy whatever we end up doing for Thanksgiving. Some years we would venture to Jeri's older brother's home and spend time with family. Generally no matter where we may be for the meal we end up watching the parade and then football. I also end up watching the inside of my eyelids because of the turkey enzymes! (Of course, I don't know what the catalyst is any other day I end up taking a nap!)

At this point (about 10 days before Thanksgiving) Jeri and I do not have our plans formed. So if I need to make a meal at home or if we end up at a restaurant, either one will be satisfying.

You know with this column being in the December Newsletter, I absolutely will focus on Christmas and the birth of our Savior! This time of the year is always my favorite!!! I love the scriptures that we have in worship. I love the music! I love the beauty of decorations! And, of course, I love the cookies and other foods!

This year, the build up to my celebration of Christmas has a new, and much appreciated, addition. I want to say "THANK YOU" to my secret pal this year. I have received many awesome gifts. But the most recent gift is one that has definitely hit my heart. I have referred many times to the daily devotional written by Sarah Young. My secret pal gave me Sarah Young's "Jesus Calling for Christmas" OH WOW!!!! I have so loved reading these devotions and the scripture passages with them! In fact, one of the readings incorporates John 1:3..."And the Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it [put it out or absorbed it, or appropriated it, and is unreceptive to it]. And the devotional Sarah wrote for this:

**I am the Light of the world! Many people celebrate Advent season by illuminating their homes with candles and decorated trees. This is a way of symbolizing My coming into the world — eternal Light breaking through the darkness and opening up the way to heaven. Nothing can reverse this glorious plan of salvation. All who trust Me as Savior are adopted into My royal family forever!**

**My Light shines on in the darkness for the darkness has never overpowered it. No matter how much evil and unbelief you see in this dark world. I continue to shine brightly—a beacon of hope to those who have eyes that really see. So it's crucial to look toward the Light as much as possible. Fix your eyes on Me, beloved! Through thousands of good thought choices, you can**

**Join us for worship  
this Christmas**



**find me—"see" Me—as you journey through this life. My Spirit can help you persevere in the delightful discipline of keeping your eyes on Me. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life.**

Many people say that the past year or so has been the darkest time they can remember in life. And, maybe that is so. But I, for one, do not really fear the darkness. I did as a child because my brothers loved to turn lights out on me when I was in the bathroom. I soon learned to leave a light on as I went to the next room to turn that light on and then backtrack to turn out the other light. (Sometimes they would hide and jump out to scare me.) So, I grew into the understanding that darkness was not something that easily scared me. But, the darkness of the world due to the evil one's influence is the kind of darkness that the Light of Jesus can destroy. So, even there, darkness has no power over me and over all who believe. This is another reason I love this time of year! GOD BLESS!

I do wish you all a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

With love, Pastor Lou Ann



### **SPECIAL SERVICES in DECEMBER**

**December 5, 2021 - Advent 2**

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

**Sermon:** "Make Ready"

**December 12, 2021 - Advent 3**

**Gospel:** Luke 3:7-18

**Sermon:** "Expectation and Anticipation"

**December 19, 2021 - Advent 4 - Choir Cantata**

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-55

**December 24, 2021- Christmas Eve-7:30 PM**

**Gospel:** Luke 2:1-20

**Cantata:** "Glory to God; Peace on Earth"

**December 26, 2021 - Christmas 1**

**Gospel:** Luke 22:41-52

**Sermon:** "Who is This Child?"

### ***TOWN MEETING***



On Sunday, January 9, there will be a Town Meeting immediately after the worship service to discuss and approve the budget and the members of the Coordinating Ministry Team for 2022. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

## **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



*May God  
Bless You on  
Your  
Birthday!*

- |     |                     |     |                |
|-----|---------------------|-----|----------------|
| 2.  | Sundi Neuhaus       | 26. | Thomas Miller  |
|     | Judy Bishop         | 27. | Donna Sleeth   |
| 5.  | Natasha Brenner     |     | Sylvia Kohler  |
| 6.  | Cindy Luckenbaugh   | 28. | Jessica Giese  |
| 7.  | Jamie Klyeman       | 31. | Herbert Bosley |
| 10. | Kevin Myers         |     |                |
| 12. | Carl Criswell       |     |                |
|     | Jennifer Roelke     |     |                |
|     | Katie Stoops        |     |                |
| 14. | Jennifer Knickel    |     |                |
| 16. | Lori Corso          |     |                |
| 17. | Hannah Marshall     |     |                |
|     | W. Edwin Bishop     |     |                |
| 18. | Brett Innerst       |     |                |
|     | Kortney Troop       |     |                |
| 19. | Danielle Marshall   |     |                |
|     | Zachery Luckenbaugh |     |                |
| 22. | Carol Barnhart      |     |                |

### **CELEBRATING DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

- Dec. 16 - Rod and Linda Eichelberger - 54 years  
Dec. 18 - Pastor Curt and Ginny Weber - 50 years  
Dec. 26 - David and Susan McDowell - 51 years

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Undesignated General Fund

## Red Brick Chapel

## Cemetery

Month-2021	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$8,700.59	\$8,680.74	\$0.47	\$269.88	\$1,645.35	\$1,826.80
February	\$7,297.86	\$10,776.85	\$0.48	\$311.54	\$0.35	\$10,906.97
March	\$12,966.59	\$15,290.39	\$0.41	\$514.91	\$500.20	\$3,166.46
April	\$10,456.00	\$11,584.36	\$0.43	\$225.92	\$0.18	\$2,351.48
May	\$9,569.61	\$9,490.24	\$0.43	\$141.68	\$100.11	\$2,187.50
June	\$10,829.82	\$12,779.61	\$1,400.98	\$350.47	\$1,400.60	\$3,278.75
July	\$7,781.00	\$9,790.40	\$0.45	\$115.23	\$907.02	\$2,255.92
August	\$11,713.61	\$9,064.23	\$0.49	\$125.12	\$0.23	\$2,535.19
September	\$7,682.00	\$13,262.10	\$0.43	\$506.44	\$900.15	\$2,905.15
October	\$8,002.00	\$9,442.35	\$1,000.43	\$129.81	\$100.11	\$2,425.79
November						
December						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$94,999.08</b>	<b>\$110,161.27</b>	<b>\$2,405.00</b>	<b>\$2,691.00</b>	<b>\$5,554.30</b>	<b>\$33,840.01</b>

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ November 1, 2021

(571.62)

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ November 1, 2021

(Includes \$63,899.94 Endowment)

\$82,221.75

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ November 1, 2021

(Includes \$905,847.36 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation. Transferred \$15,000 in January and \$10,000 in June from Foundation to People's Bank )

\$907,953.68

### Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2021

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 651.73
January	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 21.47	\$ 623.29
February				
March	2	\$ 136.75	\$ 79.00	\$ 565.45
April	1	\$ 79.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 531.45
May	1	\$ 25.00	\$ 52.89	\$ 559.34
June	1	\$ 50.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 536.34
July	1	\$ 233.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 386.34
August	2	\$ 502.00	\$ 371.40	\$ 255.74
September	2	\$ 50.00	\$ 63.00	\$ 268.74
October			\$ 49.00	\$ 317.74
November				
December				
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$ 1,125.75</b>	<b>\$ 791.76</b>	

## **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER**

**Peggy Luckenbaugh**  
Room 704B  
Colonial Manor Nursing Home  
970 Colonial Avenue  
York, PA 17403

**Linda Trone**  
Room 604  
Colonial Manor Nursing Home  
970 Colonial Avenue  
York, PA 17403



**Carolyn Innerst**  
Room 123  
Senior Commons@Powder  
Mill  
1775 Powder Mill Road  
York, PA 17403

Keeping in our prayers  
**Dolores Barley**  
**Jeanette Black**  
**Ron & Maddie Heindel**  
**Marti Leader**  
**Cindie McKinsey**  
**John Montgomery**  
**Todd & Melody Myers**  
**Ginny Weber**  
**Friends battling cancer**  
**Covid 19 patients**

\*\*\*\*\*



**Remember**  
and pray for  
**Our Members**  
in the  
**Military**

**A1C Ness, Brandon**  
6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad  
Tucson, AZ 85756

\*\*\*\*\*

### ***ADULT STUDIES***

Our Adult Faith Formation class, which meets each Sunday morning after the worship service, has now begun the study: **“The Journey”** by Adam Hamilton. In “The Journey” Adam travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in a fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

Our weekday Bible study also continues each Thursday morning beginning at 9:00 AM. We are currently using the series **“Why? Making Sense of God’s Will”** by Adam Hamilton.

On December 9, we will begin another Adam Hamilton series **“Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph.”** From his beginnings as a humble carpenter to his all-important role as the earthly father of Jesus Christ, Joseph’s place in the Nativity story is sometimes overlooked. But Joseph’s life contains valuable lessons for all of us. His courageous actions were crucial to the birth of Christ and God’s salvation plan for humanity.

Anyone is welcome to join us and bring a friend. You don’t need to be a member of the church to participate.







## **MEN'S GROUP**



We invite you to join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, December 14,, at 7:00 PM at the church to meet Ken Frazier, our special mystery guest. Those in attendance will have to guess Ken's occupation by asking "yes" or "no" questions. Afterwards Ken will go into more detail about his occupation and take questions. Bring a friend to the meeting. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.

## **HOMWOOD AUXILIARY**

We would like to thank everyone who said YES to Steph Frey and joined the Homewood Auxiliary this year. Thank you also to those who donated lotion, Kleenex and Christmas cards for the residents.

**Homewood is once again accepting soaker pads and laundry bags. The dimensions are on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please see Steph Frey. Thanks.**



It's Secret Pal time again. I know this year we exchanged names in February due to COVID, but I want to get 2022 started in January. We will be exchanging names on Sunday, December 19. There will be new

forms to fill out even if you have been participating this year. Things can change from year to year. You must spend at least \$10 or more on your Secret Pal each month. If you mail something to them, do not include your name or address. The idea is to not let your Secret Pal know who has their name throughout the year. When you give your last gift in December you can then tell them who you are. Everyone that has been a member seems to enjoy their surprise each month. All are welcome to join for next year. Forms are available on the table in the Gathering Room. Any questions, contact Diana Myers at (717) 855-4752. Come have some fun with us!!

## **Cookie Walk**



The FUN team has decided to bring back our Cookie Walk this year. It will be held on Saturday, December 4, from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM (or sold out). A large selection of all types of homemade cookies will be available. Buy as many as you like, mix and match flavors, all for just \$10.00 per pound.

In order for this to be a success we need lots of cookies, so get out your cookbooks, mixing bowls and cookie sheets. Cookies may be dropped off at the church that week from 8:00AM—noon Wednesday, 8:00AM-1:30PM Thursday-Friday and Friday evening from 6:00 -8:00PM. In addition to bakers, volunteers are also needed to help set up Friday evening and with the sales on Saturday morning. Those working and shopping are asked to please wear masks. Any questions, call Marti Leader or Diana Myers.



## **Tree of Lights**

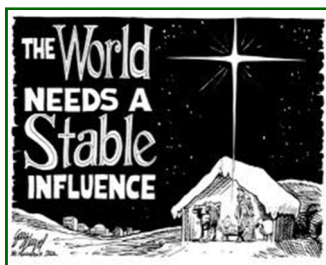
This year's Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:30 PM in the main sanctuary. As part of that service, a "Tree of Lights" will be lit. You may sponsor a light in memory of or in honor of someone or just as a year end gift to help support our church. Sponsorship forms can be found in the November newsletter or on the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room.

## **MINI FUNDRAISER**



Because of the rise in the Delta variant of COVID 19, the SOS has decided to cancel this year's bazaar. They will instead be sponsoring a mini fundraiser through December 19.

If you have any plants or crafts that you would like to donate, you may drop them off at the church any time. Tables will be set up to display them. Please price each item and put them on the designated tables. Watch for new items arriving each week. Thank you for your help.



## HOW TO KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS !

FEED THE HUNGRY  
CLOTHE THE NAKED  
FORGIVE THE GUILTY  
WELCOME THE UNWANTED  
CARE FOR THE ILL



DECEMBER 2021



### FOOD PANTRY MIRACLE

Lines at the food pantry I coordinated had gotten longer as the weather grew colder, but we were determined to fulfill our clients' needs. That included Christmas wish lists —everyone should have a gift to open Christmas morning. One by one, we collected gifts for all of our requests. "Now we just have to hope the food doesn't run out" I said the week before Christmas.

We planned to hand out all the gifts in one day, but a bad snowstorm forced us to close. "We'll stay open a few extra days next week," I told the staff. "Clients can make appointments to come in for their gifts."

By December 23, all of our clients had collected their gifts. All except one. The last one had made an appointment for the next day. Melanie had four children and had lost her job. I looked forward to giving them a little joy for the holiday.

I got to the pantry early on the twenty-fourth, only to discover that we had been robbed. The shelves were empty. All the food we had left was gone, along with the gifts for Melanie and her family.

"I don't know what to say," I told her when she came in. But Melanie did. She and I both bowed our heads, "Lord, we need a Christmas miracle," she said.

I didn't want her to go home empty handed. I poked around the pantry. At the back of a drawer, I found an envelope. Inside was a grocery gift card. "Melanie, you'll be having Christmas dinner!" I said.

Inspired I checked every single cupboard. All empty, except the very last one, which held a mystery box with a bow. Inside was a red dress, just Melanie's size.

"It's perfect!" she said holding the dress up to herself. That's when something fell out of it. A store gift card for just enough to buy a gift for each one of her children.

Not long after Christmas, Melanie was interviewed for a job and was hired. No surprise to me, she was wearing her new red dress!

Sarah M Samanns

### BE THE GIFT

December is here. There are Christmas tunes on the radio, a barrage of gift-giving deals and ideals on the tube. It's nearly impossible to walk into a store that's not decorated floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall.

What no marketer wants you to know is that you really don't need to look farther than your own heart to know how to make this season special for yourself and others. For all the gifts you plan to make, and those you plan to buy, you only need to remember this: when you give yourself to others without condition, without expectation and without reward, then the peace you receive in kind delivers enough joy for a lifetime.

There is no magic like the magic of connecting, knowing, enjoying and loving those you're with whether they're under your roof or on the other side of the world.

A simple note, a two-minute call, a surprise visit, an unexpected offer...these are the gifts that say "I know," "I love," "I care." And in the hustle and bustle of where life continues to take us, it's sometimes hard to just know that YOU are gift enough. And you are!



When it snows you have two choices, shovel or make snow angels!

"Christmas, my child, is love in action. Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas."

Dale Evans Rogers.



### EVERY COLOR-DARK OR LIGHT

On Christmas morning, I arise early. I turn on the ovens. I set the cheese grits, the egg casseroles, and the sweet breads out on the counter. Then, in the quiet house, I light the middle candle on the Advent wreath and wait for the Christ child.

I study the crèche, handmade in Zimbabwe. A stream of animals wait in line to see the baby. There's a donkey and a camel, sheep and goats, There's also a hippo, a lion, a warthog, a giraffe, a leopard and a rhino.

This baby is destined to be the most important religious figure this world has ever known. Buddhism calls Him enlightened, Hinduism calls Him the Incarnation of God, Islam considers Him a true prophet of God and the Jewish faith considers Him a great teacher. We call Him Son of God.

Later, we welcome guests of different races and religions into our home on this holiest morning. David reads the Christmas story as we gather at the table. Sure, it means varying things to each person gathered there. But together we are like the improbable herd of animals waiting for a glimpse of a Zimbabwean crèche. Even though we are all very different, we find ourselves in a simple place, where each heart humbly longs for love.

Now I pass the cheese grits around the table, and then the eggs. I see people laughing, trading stories, getting to know each other. I look deeply, really deeply, into the eyes of each person I serve, and for one moment a radiant light bursts around me, as I stand at the manger and smell the hay.

**Pam Kidd**

### DON'T SAY EVERYONE IS INVITED IF THEY'RE NOT WELCOME TO COME IN!

Have you ever attended a holiday meal with friends or family when you knew you weren't really wanted? The moment you walk in the door you see forced smiles and the fake tones of voices. You know you're a nuisance the moment you sit down at the table. You know when you've been invited out of a sense of obligation.

It can be spotted in an instant.

The same thing happens in churches too. People feel like they're supposed to invite everyone because they read a story in the Bible about a wedding feast and inviting everyone to it. Here's the problem: they don't know what to do when someone takes up their offer.

We don't know what to tell the kids about the person who uses salty language because they don't know Christian speak or the one who expresses love in ways we don't approve of.

We tell people to come as they are, but only if they'll change enough to make us comfortable once they arrive. That's not how love works. Love says we need you even more if you are different from the rest of us. Love says everyone has something to teach us, and God will use people from the edges to expand our understanding of His grace right in the middle of where we live. Love says everyone who is invited is truly wanted.

We're meeting people at the starting line, not the finish line. We shouldn't say everyone's invited if we're going to act like they're not welcome when they come.

**Bob Goff**



**Christmas shouldn't come from a store!**

**Christmas means a whole lot more!**

**Dr. Seuss**



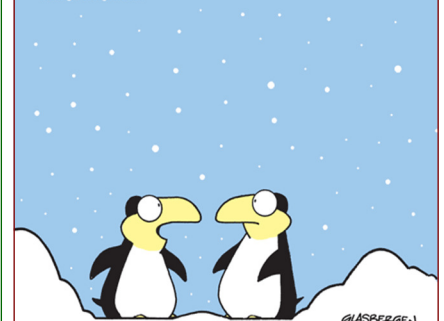
### TOO BUSY

One's imagination is kindled thinking about the conversation of the innkeeper and his family. Did anyone mention the arrival of the young couple the night before? Did anyone ask about the pregnancy of the girl on the donkey? The innkeeper and his family were so busy. The day was upon them. The day's bread had to be made. The morning's chores had to be done. There was too much to do to imagine that the impossible had occurred. God had entered the world as a baby.

Meanwhile the city hummed. Merchants were unaware that God had visited their planet. The innkeeper would never believe that he'd just sent God out into the cold. Those who missed His Majesty's arrival—missed it not because of evil acts or malice; no, they missed it because they simply weren't looking. Not much has changed in the last two thousand years, has it?

**Max Lucado**

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**"Faith means believing in things you've never seen...like your feet!"**

**It's Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air.**

**W.T. Ellis**



# **EMMANUEL'S CLOSET**

***December 2021***

## **Christmas Project**

Because it worked out well last year, we have decided to continue the practice of giving \$50 in gift cards to each eligible child or teen rather than buying them specific gifts. In order to do this we are asking for cash donations in any amount to help purchase the cards. We will also be giving each child a fleece throw blanket as an extra Christmas gift. All of the above items will be given out to the parents on December 11 and December 18.



## **Holiday Meals**



For both their Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, we will be giving each family gift cards to grocery stores to purchase meat and other perishable food items. The amount of the card will be dependent on the size of the family. For Christmas each family will also receive a special treat of cookies or popcorn.

The Thanksgiving gift cards were given out on November 13 and November 20. The Christmas gift cards and treats will be given out on December 11 and December 18. Monetary donations to purchase these items would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make the holidays a bit brighter for these families.

## **Bags Needed**

If anyone uses Giant Direct for their grocery shopping, we are asking for donations of the empty bags. They are the perfect size and sturdiness to hold the groceries that we give out. You may place them in the food bins. Thanks.



## **E.C. Continuing Needs**

Juice  
Cereal/Oatmeal  
Peanut Butter/Jelly  
Pancake Mix  
Spaghetti Sauce  
Boxed Dry Pastas  
Helper Meals  
Dessert Items  
Condiment Items  
Canned Tuna/Meats  
Canned Fruit/Vegetables  
Soap  
Shampoo  
Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Dish Washing Liquid  
Laundry Detergent  
All-Purpose Cleaners

## **Please, NO Expired Food Items**

**Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:**

**Drink mixes (any kind)**

**Rice**

**Tuna, chicken or hamburger helper**

**Sloppy Joe mix**

**Mashed/scalloped potatoes**

**Gravy (packets or canned)**

**Stuffing mix**

**Soup**

**Pancake syrup**

**Jelly**

***THANKS FOR CARING!***



## Revelations for December from “Bly Mire” Mouse

I know my ramblings are read because the Sunday the November newsletter was available, as people were leaving church I did hear Pastor Lou Ann singing the turkey song. Now, I see a big turkey has appeared on a bulletin board! Well, as Pastor Lou Ann said as she made the turkey.....there were two turkeys in her office for a while!

Hee-hee!!!

I truly hope you all had a good Thanksgiving! We definitely enjoy watching the Macy's parade. And, of course, as the special guest of honor makes his appearance at the end of the parade, our little ones clamor about what they want for Christmas.

My heart melted and did flip-flops as our Teener son said that this year for Christmas he wanted to give instead of get. He saw a report on Channel 8 about the youth in downtown York who were collecting coats for homeless people. He did say that he did not want to disappoint us because when he would grow out of his clothes, we would pass them on to the next boy. But he asked if he could give the two coats he has outgrown to the kids downtown. We had no hesitation and immediately said “YES!”

We also have been hearing about the supply chain problem that we anticipate will give problems for Santa to bring the new toys and electronics on children's lists. Our 8 year old daughter said to us she only wants things made here in our community. She had looked at the items on the Mini-bazaar tables in the Gathering room and she had an extensive list of what she wants for Christmas. As she said this, all the other little ones chimed in that that is what they will do too! Oh my, how did Mire and I get to be so blessed with these little ones? I know that this year our Christmas will be very special because we are deeper in touch with the “reason for the season!” Mire and I too have shopped the S.O.S. tables and have picked out gifts for each other. What a beautiful Christmas this will be!!!!

December humor:

**Knock Knock**  
**Who's there?**  
**Ivan.**  
**Ivan who?**  
**Ivan awful cold.**

**Girl: Who gave you your Secret Santa gift?**  
**Boy: I think it was Ann Onymous...**

**Q: How do you search Google on freezing cold days?**  
**A: The Winternet.**

God Bless!

And may you have the MERRIEST CHRISTMAS EVER!!!

Love, Bly and Mire

P.S. And, may 2022 be a HAPPIER NEW YEAR!



# SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



## What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

## What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

# PUZZLE



F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S

H

M

V

S

R

B

O

L

Y

Q

X

A

V

H

R

T

A

I

N

G

F

I

P

H

S

C

I

B

E

J

H

A

## What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

*Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.*

"S\_e w\_ll \_ \_ve b ir\_ \_  
to \_ s\_n, and \_ \_u a\_e to  
gi\_e \_i\_ the \_ \_me J\_ \_us,  
b\_c\_u\_ \_ he \_ill s\_ \_e his  
\_ \_op\_e f\_o\_ t\_ \_ir s\_n\_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

A I N G F I P **H** S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV