



BETHANY CHURCH

NEWSLETTER ❖ DECEMBER '25

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What brings you more satisfaction?

Receiving gifts or giving gifts? Maybe it depends on your age. When I was a kid it was all about what I was going to get. As I got older it became a mix of getting and giving. Do you remember those days when you had little to no funds to buy something so you made your own gifts? Sometimes the hand-crafted, low-budget treasures were well received; while at other times the items got left in the pile of crumpled wrapping paper destined for the trashcan.



Today I get more jazzed to give gifts than receive them. If I'm giving a gift to someone, it means they are a part of my life and I want to express my love and care for them. Sometimes that means they receive a tangible material gift. Other times it means they will get a nice meal I've prepared to honor them or thank them. I've made donations in people's names to provide gifts for children in Mexico or Texas or to buy Bibles for believers in persecuted countries.

Once I start giving, sometimes it's hard to stop. I do have limits on my budget; but God's generosity has never exceeded mine. God has always entrusted me with enough to pass along to others. Sometimes what is placed upon my heart seems like it's too much...too expensive, and it takes my head awhile to catch up to my heart in jumping in and making the transaction happen so the gift can be given.

Even though it took thousands of years for God to send the best gift ever, I don't think there was any hesitation or second guessing if the gift would be worth giving. I don't think it took generations for the Father to talk the Son into cooperating with the plan of saving humanity. The love among the Trinity is consistent and mutually united. Father, Son and Spirit are always on the same page when it comes to giving. They always want to give generously and repeatedly and eternally.

...the **gift** of God is
eternal life through
Jesus Christ our **LORD**.



Romans 6:23

Another mind-blowing thought is: God also wants to receive gifts from us. He's not interested in what we can buy for Him; only what we can make for Him. And here's the reality—He's going to help us make a presentable, honorable, valuable gift. Just like Jesus is the best gift we could ever get, we are the best gift we could give back to God as He continues to dwell in our hearts and minds. Christ in us the hope of glory, to the glory of God!
Have a blessed Christmas! Pastor Rob

REACH

LOVE

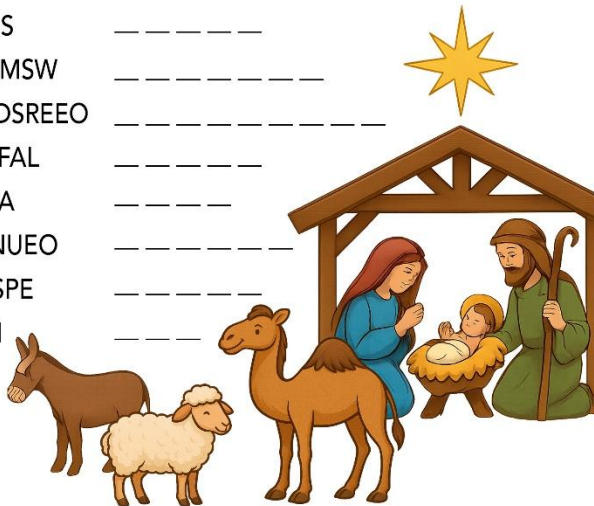
SERVE

Puzzle!

The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME _____
- (2) NEAGLO _____
- (3) NRMEDAG _____
- (4) ODEKSNY _____
- (5) AMGYZ _____
- (6) OHESJIP _____
- (7) EFJSUS _____
- (8) ITEENMSW _____
- (9) SPHHDSREEO _____
- (10) EMCFAL _____
- (11) TLSRA _____
- (12) CSSNUEO _____
- (13) HEVSPE _____
- (14) ENIN _____



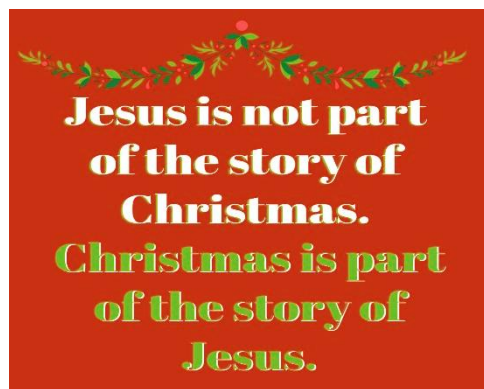
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10 11 12 13 14

All Aboard the Christmas Story

On a recent train trip, I couldn't help noticing how the conductors' "welcome" speeches were all different. Unlike air travel, where safety instructions sound the same no matter who's speaking, Amtrak conductors each had their own style. One stressed that kids must stay with parents. Another warned that messy restrooms would be locked. A third cautioned that stepping off during a short stop could mean getting left behind. Each conductor emphasized what had caused trouble before.

And in much the same way, the Gospel writers highlighted different details of Jesus' birth. Matthew, writing for Jewish readers, connects Jesus to Moses, Abraham and David. He tells about Joseph's role and the wise men seeking the "king of the Jews." Luke, writing for Gentiles and society's outsiders, focuses on Mary, a humble birth and shepherds — the first unlikely visitors. Both messages tell the same story, but with unique emphases shaped by the audience.

And that's a reminder for us, too: when we share our faith, we can tailor the message. Longtime friends, curious neighbors, kids and the hurting will all hear God's love in different ways.



Reconsider the Rush

The Christmas rush leads to stress for many people. But author Burton Hills viewed the madness from another perspective:

"Eventually, the hour comes when the rushing ends and the race against the calendar mercifully comes to a close. It is only now, perhaps, that we truly recognize the spirit of Christmas. It is not a matter of days or weeks, but of centuries — [more than] twenty of them now since that holy night in Bethlehem. Regarded in this manner, the pre-Christmas rush may do us greater service than we realize. With all its temporal confusion, it may just help us to see that by contrast, Christmas itself is eternal."

HOPE
OF PARDON

HOPE
OF PEACE WITH GOD

HOPE
OF GLORY

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity — hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory — because at the Father's will Jesus Christ became poor, and was born in a stable so that 30 years later he might hang on a cross. J.I. Packer

Fear not! On that first Christmas night, the angel said to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid" (Luke 2:10). What is there to fear from a baby? A baby is powerless, with no guile, no anger and no judgment, only needing from us without fearing we will not provide: simply trusting, and content to be resting in our arms. This is how God came. This is Christmas. This one child, and for a time, perhaps too brief, our fears are taken over by our love for this child, and he is able to change our hearts.

In Jesus, we are free to live life as fully and as joyfully as we will allow ourselves. For it is only we who hold ourselves back. God does not. For God has forgiven us in this baby and will not restrain us from living with sheer abandon, trusting in this gentle and gracious God, who keeps telling us: "Do not be afraid." Gary Westgard, At Break of Day

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

Luke 2:10 (ESV)

Joy amid suffering

Only Matthew records the holy family's "flight into Egypt," linking Advent with Lent and Christmas with Good Friday. In an article titled "Joy to the World/Pain in the World," James I. Cook expresses gratitude that Matthew documents the

slaughter of the innocents: "I turn to it again and again, when someone I know loses a loved one at the height of the Christmas season. It helps me — and I hope it helps them — to remember that theirs are not the first tears to fall on Christmas; to recall that there has never been a Christmas of pure peace and happiness; [to recognize] that 'joy to the world' has always been sung to the accompaniment of much 'pain in the world.'" adapted from *Homiletics*





By Dr Scott Turansky

No one likes to be disappointed—not adults, and definitely not children. Yet some of the most profound growth in a child’s heart happens not when they get what they want, but when they don’t. As parents, we’re often tempted to smooth over our children’s frustration, rush to fulfill their wishes, or feel guilty when we have to say no. But what if “no” was actually one of the tools we have to train our kids’ hearts?

One of the root causes of entitlement in children is their difficulty handling disappointment. They expect something, and when they don’t get it, they fall apart—emotionally, relationally, or behaviorally. Whether it’s whining about snacks, arguing about bedtime, or sulking over denied screen time, these reactions reveal something deeper than just inconvenience. They reveal a heart that hasn’t learned how to handle life’s limits.

Let’s talk about how “no” can become a spiritual and emotional workout for your child, helping them grow into someone who can face disappointment with grace—and eventually with gratitude.

Disappointment Is the Workshop of the Heart

When a child hears the word “no,” something very important happens. They are invited into what I call the *workshop of the heart*. In that moment, they begin wrestling internally with the reality that they can’t always have what they want. For some children, that internal wrestling shows up as a tantrum. For others, it’s passive-aggressive sulking or verbal resistance. But no matter the form, that wrestling is necessary.

Disappointment is a kind of emotional grief. And like grief, it involves stages: denial, anger, bargaining, sadness, and eventually, acceptance. When we always say “yes” or quickly distract our children from disappointment, they never get the chance to walk through those stages. They remain stuck in emotional immaturity—frustrated, demanding, and dependent on circumstances going their way.

But when we allow them to feel disappointed, and then coach them through how to respond, we are helping them develop something powerful: emotional flexibility. This trait enables a child to bounce back from frustration, regroup, and keep going. It’s not natural—but it can be trained.

Teaching Kids a Plan for “No”

One of the most helpful things you can do as a parent is teach your child what to do when they’re disappointed. That may sound obvious, but many children have never been given language or structure for handling “no” well. A simple script like “*I’m disappointed, but I’ll be okay*” gives children both validation and direction. It acknowledges their feeling, but it also moves them forward toward self-regulation.

You can teach your child that disappointment is a normal part of life—something everyone experiences. Share your own stories of disappointment and how you worked through them. For example, “I was really hoping for a relaxing evening, but my meeting ran late and now I have to be okay with that.” Modeling this in front of your children normalizes disappointment and teaches resilience.

You might also role-play scenarios with your child: “Let’s pretend I tell you that we’re not going to the park today. What can you say? How can you handle that feeling?” Practicing these situations in a calm moment equips your child to handle them better in real time.

The Difference Between Firmness and Harshness

It’s important to note that this kind of training requires firmness—but not harshness. Firmness is about clarity and consistency. It means your “no” means no, and that you’re not easily swayed by whining or manipulation. It communicates security. Harshness, on the other hand, is reactive. It’s fueled by frustration or anger. Where firmness builds a child’s strength, harshness tears them down.

One example of firmness in action might be this: “I know you’re disappointed that we’re not buying that today. It’s okay to feel upset, but you may not whine or argue. When you’re ready, we can keep shopping.” This type of response helps the child understand that disappointment is not a license for disrespect or chaos. It teaches boundaries and reinforces emotional control.

As you use firmness consistently, you may notice that your child becomes more stable in the face of everyday frustrations. That’s the goal—not perfection, but growth.

Moving from Entitlement to Gratitude

When children start to respond well to disappointment, something deeper begins to change. Their beliefs shift. Instead of assuming they deserve everything they want, they begin to develop humility and contentment. They start to appreciate what they do have rather than demanding more. And over time, gratitude takes root.

Gratitude and entitlement cannot coexist. The more you train your child’s heart to live with gratitude, the more entitlement will lose its grip.

But that journey begins, surprisingly, with disappointment. In fact, disappointment often becomes the doorway to maturity, character, and spiritual depth.

It’s no wonder the Bible is filled with encouragement to rejoice in all circumstances and to be thankful in all things. Gratitude is God’s way of protecting our hearts from bitterness and pride. And it’s something we can—and must—teach our children.

Start Training Today

So the next time your child hears “no” and begins to unravel, remember this: You’re not just trying to stop a meltdown. You’re training the heart. You’re helping your child develop the emotional and spiritual muscle they need to thrive in a world full of limitations. And with consistent practice, you’ll see gratitude begin to grow where entitlement once ruled.



A Parent’s Prayer



Dear God,
Thank You for my children.
I know they are a gift from You.
Daily I need Your strength and
wisdom to train them in the way
they should go. Give me patience
and a joyful heart. Let me be an
example of Your love and
forgiveness. Thank You,
Father, for the honor of being a
parent. Amen

www.GodlyWoman.Co



Worthy of repair: In Quito, Ecuador, Gonzalo Gallardo belongs to the Heritage Guardians, a group of traditional artisans. His specialty is restoring figurines, and near Christmas he often fixes Baby Jesus statues for nativity scenes. “People don’t throw them out,” he says. “The feeling is, ‘This is my figure, and I will repair it.’”

Gallardo’s restorative gifts don’t end there. He uses the same pigments (made from vegetables, minerals and oils) to treat actual humans. People with sunburns, bruises and scars stop by Gallardo’s shop for skin “treatments” that cost pennies. “We are here to help people,” he says.



How much more does God, through the Christmas gift of Jesus, repair our brokenness and restore us from death to life so we, like Gallardo, can help others.

The promise of the future

A nursing home resident who longed for fresh Georgia peaches discovered a pit overlooked in his serving of canned fruit. In an old coffee can, he planted the stone, which sprouted! The man gave the small tree to friends to plant. Years later, the peaches were so abundant the neighbors had to give some away.

The man who took that gamble “did not live to see the seed grow into the tree that ultimately produced this harvest. But when he looked at that pit years ago he saw the promise of fresh fruit. ... ‘Who despises the day of small things?’ asks the prophet Zechariah. It’s in those small things that the promise of the future rests.”

Just so, some 2,000 years ago, in a small baby born in a tiny town — both seemingly inconsequential — rested “the promise of the future” — the salvation of the whole world.





*Q: My husband and I are retiring and he plans to play golf and rest. I want to do something worthwhile. Is it wrong to spend **retirement years** enjoying all the things we couldn't do when we were busy working and raising our children?*

A: From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

God knows our need for rest and relaxation. The writer of Ecclesiastes said, "Enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God" (3:13). After a grueling period of ministry, Jesus urged His disciples to go with him to a quiet place and get some rest (see Mark 6:31).

But if our only goal during retirement years is to have a good time, we may well have fallen into the trap of empty, meaningless activity. God entrusts to us each day to use for His glory. This is true for working years, and is equally true for retirement years. What, then, is the key to a successful retirement? Retirement isn't something that just happens if we live long enough; it's a gift from God. Understanding this helps us have a more fulfilling approach to this season of life.

As Christians, we should never retire from doing the work of the Lord. The Bible says, "That those who live should not live for themselves, but for Him who died for them" (2 Corinthians 5:15). God knows how each person is gifted. He knows each person's needs and limitations and He brings opportunities to serve Him in various ways. If we don't seek God's will for how to spend retirement, we can drift aimlessly along, assuming our usefulness is over and running after every whim, to squeeze as much enjoyment out of remaining years of life. "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).



Second Sunday of Advent, December 7, 2025

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart. —St. Francis of Assisi

Corrie ten Boom, survivor of Ravensbrück concentration camp during World War 2, tells the story of standing before one of her former guards years after the war. He had become a Christian and asked for her forgiveness. “It was in a church in Munich that I saw him, a balding heavyset man in a gray overcoat, a brown felt hat clutched between his hands. ... One moment I saw the overcoat and the brown hat; the next, a blue uniform and a visored cap with its skull and crossbones. ...” After a reference to Ravensbrück, he said to ten Boom, “But since that time,” he went on, “I have become a Christian. I know that God has forgiven me for the cruel things I did there, but I would like to hear it from your lips as well. Fräulein ...” — again the hand came out — “will you forgive me?”

She froze — everything in her soul recoiled. But then, she says, she felt Christ’s peace pour through her as she extended her hand. That peace did not come from herself. It came from Jesus.

Do you have an Advent wreath? Perhaps you can read along before you light the candle of peace on this second Sunday of Advent. When we light this candle, we’re not just lighting a symbol. We are making a declaration. In a world of anxiety and noise, we dare to say: “Peace is coming. And it has a name.”

The angels sang it over the hills of Bethlehem: “Peace on earth.” But even as they sang, Herod sharpened his sword. The world was anything but peaceful then, and it is anything but peaceful now. Wars rage. Divisions deepen. Families fracture. Hearts ache. How do we talk about peace when the evidence suggests anything but?

The answer is found in the Christ child — not in the absence of conflict, but in the presence of Christ amid the storm.

Peace does not come naturally. It must be practiced. Prayed for. Received.

As we light the candle of Peace, let us become people of peace — not by avoiding conflict, but by carrying Christ into the center of it.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Prince of Peace, in this season of waiting, teach us to be still. Where the world is loud, quiet our spirits. Where hearts are divided, make us whole. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: 1 John 3-5

Monday: 2 John, 3 John, Jude

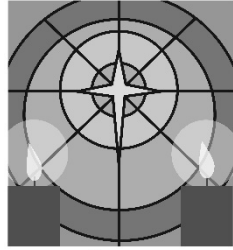
Tuesday: Revelation 1-3

Wednesday: Revelation 4-6

Thursday: Revelation 7-9

Friday: Revelation 10-12

Saturday: Psalms 139-141



SECOND SUNDAY
Advent

"For unto us
a child is
born!"

Who Said That?

Directions: Match the quotation with the person who said it. Write the number of the correct quotation in the circle beside each person's name.

1. "I have a dream ..."
2. "Give me liberty or give me death."
3. "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."
4. "Three may keep a secret, if two are dead."
5. "It ain't over 'til it's over."
6. "It has been my experience that people who have few vices have very few virtues."
7. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."
8. "I think and think for months and years. Ninety-nine times the conclusion is false. The hundredth time I am right."

- ☐ Yogi Berra
- ☐ Benjamin Franklin
- ☐ Albert Einstein
- ☐ Abraham Lincoln
- ☐ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
- ☐ John F. Kennedy
- ☐ Patrick Henry
- ☐ Neil Armstrong



Answers: 1. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 2. Patrick Henry, 3. Neil Armstrong, 4. Benjamin Franklin, 5. Yogi Berra, 6. Abraham Lincoln, 7. John F. Kennedy, 8. Albert Einstein.

Third Sunday of Advent, December 14, 2025

Scripture Reading: James 5:7-10

Joy is the serious business of heaven. —C.S. Lewis

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday — from the Latin word for “Rejoice.” The days are shorter. The world grows colder. And we’re told to “Rejoice!” But why? Why should we rejoice now? The world is not at peace. Our hearts are often heavy. Our headlines are grim. So why this sudden celebration?

Because joy is not just an emotion. Joy is *resistance*.

In a world that runs on outrage, division and despair, choosing joy is an act of rebellion.

- Joy refuses to give darkness the final word.
- Joy pushes back against the lie that nothing will ever change.
- Joy says, “I see the brokenness ... and still I believe in beauty.”

This kind of joy isn’t naive or blind. It doesn’t ignore grief. It sings in defiance of it.

- Think of Mary, pregnant with uncertainty and scandal, who still sang her Magnificat.
- Think of Paul and Silas, singing hymns from a prison cell.
- Think of Jesus, who endured the cross “for the joy set before him.”

The third candle of our Advent wreath is rose-colored — pink. It stands out — a flicker of warmth in the cold. Lighting this candle is a declaration: “Even here, even now — I will rejoice.”

When we light the Candle of Joy, we’re saying: We will not let sorrow define our story, we will not let cynicism close our hearts, and we will not forget that Christ is coming — and is already among us. Joy is what happens when we believe that God is still at work — even in the silence.

So, this week, how might we practice joy as resistance? We might smile at someone who’s forgotten how, laugh in the middle of stress, give thanks even when waiting for answers or sing — not because life is easy, but because God is good.

Light a candle and refuse to let the darkness have the last word!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, in the middle of our waiting, sing your joy into our hearts. Give us the strength to laugh again, to hope again, to sing again — even when tears still fall. We trust that joy is coming. In Christ, our Joy and our Light, we pray. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Psalms 142-145

Monday: Psalms 146-147

Tuesday: Psalms 148-150

Wednesday: Revelation 13-14

Thursday: Revelation 15-18

Friday: Proverbs 8-11

Saturday: Proverbs 12-14



3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3
3	3	3	3

THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT!

Strike out four 3s so that there are only three 3s in each row and three 3s in each column. Find two different ways to do it. Two solutions are below.

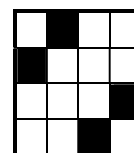
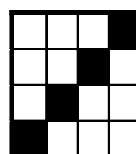
COMPOUND WORDS

Combine the 3-letter words on the top with the 3-letter words on the bottom to form 20 new words. You can use each word only one time. For example: teapot.

tea	bat	boo	car	out
for	nap	man	fat	but
box	cot	dim	tip	arm
tip	red	car	bed	see
ton	ton	top	kin	her
pit	eye	car	wit	pet
toe	wit	boo	age	bid
saw	ten	ton	pot	pan

COMPOUND WORDS:

teapot, forbid, boxcar, tiptop, bather, napkin, cotton, redeye, booboo, manage, dimwit, carpet, carton, fatten, tiptoe, bedpan, outwit, button, armpit, seesaw.



Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Christmas is love in action. —Dale Evans

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent — the Candle of Love. And with it, we arrive at the threshold of Christmas. The manger is almost in view — but not quite.

Hope, peace and joy have already taken their places around the circle. But love? Love is the pulse behind the promise. Love is the reason behind the waiting. Love is the manger made ready. Because if Christmas tells us anything, it is this: God's love is not abstract — it's incarnate.

Not a concept, not a theory, not a line from a card. But a child, wrapped in cloth, placed in straw, breathing our air. God with us. God for us. God in the flesh.

Here's the thing about Christmas: love is closer than we think. Sometimes we imagine God's love as far off — a distant mercy we hope to earn. But Advent insists: Love is drawing near. "Herein is love," John writes, "not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son ..." (1 John 4:10).

You could say that love is the heartbeat of Christmas. Love came down — not because we had it all together, but because we didn't. Love arrived — not with trumpets and triumph, but with crying and weakness and straw.

So how might we respond? Let's remember that Advent has been a season of preparation. Hope asked us to trust the promise. Peace called us to quiet the noise. Joy taught us to sing in the dark. And now Love invites us to open the door.

What would it mean, this week, to make space in your life for Love to dwell? Is there someone who needs your forgiveness? A neighbor or roommate who needs your attention? A moment you can redeem with presence instead of presents?

To welcome Christ at Christmas is not only to remember his birth; it is to embody his love. Love never grows stale. Love, when born in us, makes *all things new*. Christmas is coming!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: God of Love, as we light the fourth candle, fill our hearts with your deep, daring, divine love. Let it cast out fear. Let it find flesh in our words, our choices, our care. Come, Lord Jesus. Dwell among us again. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Proverbs 15-18

Monday: Proverbs 19-21

Tuesday: Proverbs 22-24

Wednesday: Proverbs 25-28

Thursday: Proverbs 29-31

Friday: Ecclesiastes 1-3

Saturday: Ecclesiastes 4-6

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DASH TO THE FINISH!

Directions: Fill in the spaces below to make five words. Clues for these words — in no particular order — are: baby, flower, Monday, total breakdown, indicator.

_ _ L T D _ _ _

_ _ G N P _ _ _

_ _ X G L _ _ _

_ _ F S P _ _ _

_ _ E K D _ _

FIND THE WORD!

If you start at the correct square, and move from square to adjoining square, and using all the letters, you will find a musical instrument.

G	C	E	N
O	L	K	S
L	E	I	P

Answers: Dash to the Finish.

meltdown,
signpost, foxglove,
offspring, weekday.

Find the Word!
Glockenspiel

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

Don't let yesterday take up too much of today. —Will Rogers

The Sunday after Christmas is a quiet place in the church calendar — a moment to catch our breath before the world resets the clock and calendar. December 28 stands at the threshold: one hand resting on the known past, the other reaching into an unknown future. Two of my favorite Bible passages in this regard are Philippians 3:13-14, and Psalm 37:25. “But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal...” And the psalm: “I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken ...”

For seniors especially, the weight of time can feel more tangible this time of year. We look back — not just on a year, *but on a life*. We remember joys that still warm us and losses that still ache. We recall faces no longer at the table, goals we once pursued and prayers we once whispered in the dark. And yet, Paul says: “Forgetting what lies behind ...”

What Paul means is that we're not *erasing* the past, but *releasing* the past — to let go of the burdens, regrets or “what-ifs” that cling to us unnecessarily. God does not call us to live backward. The call is to move forward — not denying the past, but trusting that it is safely held in divine hands.

There's a reason the windshield is bigger than the rearview mirror. We glance back to gain perspective, but we drive forward to see that path of possibilities and opportunities ahead. The new year is not just a change of date; it is a fresh invitation to hope.

As 2025 draws to a close, pause and offer thanks for the people who walked with you, for the strength you didn't know you had and for the grace that carried you through every high and low. But, you'll need courage to enter a new year — especially when you've seen a few. The unknown can be daunting. The future can feel fragile.

Fortunately, God is not only the God of your past; he is the God of your next breath, the God of your tomorrow, the God of the next week, month and year. Paul's words are a call to maintain a proper spiritual posture: “Straining forward ... I press on ...”

You may not move as quickly as you once did, but you can still move forward.

You can still grow in grace.

You can still pray boldly, love deeply, serve meaningfully.

No age disqualifies us from faithfulness. In fact, the later chapters of life can be the richest ground for spiritual fruit.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Faithful God, help me to release what I no longer need to carry and the strength to bear the challenges that are ahead. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Ecclesiastes 7-9

Monday: Ecclesiastes 10-12

Tuesday: Song of Solomon 1-2

Wednesday: Song of Solomon 3-4

Thursday: Song of Solomon 5-6

Friday: Song of Solomon 7-8

Saturday: Revelation 19-22

Congratulations on reading the Bible from cover to cover in one year!

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Christmas Trivia

Directions: Find the answers to the six categories in the group of words below.

1. Santa's reindeer

2. Things that are alive in the carol "The 12 Days of Christmas"

3. Names, according to myth, of the giver of Christmas gifts

4. Gifts of the Magi

5. Fanciful Christmas snowman

6. Christmas plants



Answers: 1. Comet, Rudolph, Dasher, Prancer, Blitzen, Vixen; 2. French hens, partridge, geese, swan, calling birds, pipers; 3. Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Pelznickel; 4. myrrh, frankincense, gold; 5. Frosty; 6. poinsettia, holly, ivy, mistletoe.

Santa Claus					
Calling birds	Kris Kringle	Comet	Partridge	Rudolph	French hens
Frankincense	Dasher	Saint Nicholas	Pelznickel	Myrrh	Pipers
Frosty	Holly	Prancer	Ivy	Geese	Blitzen
Father Christmas	Swans	Poinsettia	Vixen	Mistletoe	Gold

12 Christmas PRAYERS

1.Expectation

Fill us with hope, knowing that God kept his promise to send his Son to earth. (See Isaiah 9:6-7.)

2.Wonder

Just as the angel's message left Mary in awe, remind us of the joyful news of Jesus' coming. (See Luke 1:31-33.)

3.Humility

Like Joseph, make us willing to trust God and humbly care for others. (See Matthew 1:20-21.)

4.Obedience

On our earthly journey, teach us to follow your commands, just as Joseph and Mary obediently traveled to Bethlehem. (See Luke 2:4-5.)

5.Provision

Thank you for meeting all our needs, as you provided a stable and manger bed for Baby Jesus. (See Luke 2:6-7.)

6.Peace

Fill us with your perfect peace, which the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born. (See Luke 2:13-14.)

7.Praising

Remind us to follow the shepherds' example of celebrating and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. (See Luke 2:16-18.)

8.Grateful

Keep us thankful for God's greatest gift, which Mary treasured on the first Christmas. (See Luke 2:19.)

9.Saved

May Jesus' precious name remind us of his power to save us from our sins. (See Matthew 1:21.)

10.Fulfilled

Give us content hearts, just as Simeon and Anna found fulfillment in the promised Savior. (See Luke 2:28-32.)

11.Worshipful

Like the gift-giving Magi, equip us to give Jesus our very best. (See Matthew 2:10-11.)

12.Wisdom

Help us seek your guidance as we follow and grow with Jesus. (See Luke 2:49-52.)

