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means in our lives and in the lives of our community. How do we do this? How do we live incarnationally? We follow Jesus in the incarnation. Jesus came to show us who God the Father is and what He is like. Our lives should reflect the same.

Simplify our celebration in the spirit of the first nativity. There is nothing simpler than a baby in a manger. It is not that decorations, symbols, traditions and parties are bad things, but sometimes these things get in the way of what we are celebrating. It is about Savior, not sparkle. Note that the angels on that first night were sure having a celebration. Keep the right attitude...

Live a life of redemption. Christ came to serve and redeem. How do we live, work, play in a way that serves and redeems those and the world around us? Ask ourselves, what can I do to help redeem this situation?

We can live incarnationally by giving of our time, talents and money. Do we really need one more gift to put into the storage rental unit? Give to those in need, what greater gift can you give? Take some time to help a neighbor or help out at the school. Be a blessing...

We live incarnationally by studying God's word and obeying it. Study that leads to obedience is the highest form of worship. If we study and obey we cannot help but to live incarnationally and redeem and give.

We need to learn how to celebrate. News flash... Jesus celebrated. I think for the most part Christians have the reputation of being "sticks in the mud." We have to learn how to lighten up and celebrate in a God honoring way. We are commanded to do so. Read about the Jewish celebrations in the Tanach (Old Testament). God instructs us how to celebrate. When God is the focus, we can have a good party. We need to celebrate and live our lives in a way that is active and redemptive in the lives of our families and communities. Our lives should be a celebration all year long for all of the good gifts we have been given to enjoy and enjoy those gifts and give thanks and praise to the Giver.

We need to distinguish between presents

and presence. Let's let our Christmas celebration be more about the presence of God in our lives by loving, giving and redemption, than the presents under the tree. Be more excited about Christ showing up on Christmas morning than Santa.

Party hearty incarnationally, celebrate well and be excited about living that presence all year long. Then maybe your humbug will become a halleluiah.

-Pastor Keith Price

### Christian Life Center

#### "A Christmas Moment"

The first Christmas season dawned with praise and thanksgiving. Shepherds in Bethlehem's fields heard the good news, wise men journeyed from afar, and angels rejoiced declaring, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14 (KJV) They were rejoicing in what God had done for man... that Christ was born, Emmanuel - God with us.

Today, Christ's coming brings joy to all folks here in Heppner and around the world: from taxi drivers in New York City, to housemaids in some far way place, to the school teachers and the children right here in our own backyard. What is all the singing about? Mankind is not alone! God is with us in the bleakest situations bringing us hope and the joy of His eternal promise. His light shines on man's darkest days and warms his coldest nights. The One who created light and darkness; who lived before Wall Street was ever formed and will be the eternal provider for His people long after Wall Street is forgotten, who is this - Emmanuel - God with us.

2008 came with ample challenges for us all, and 2009 will be no different. Our difficulties seem overwhelming on one hand but embarrassingly light when compared to circumstances on the first Christmas night - "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7 (KJV) But what makes these challenges bearable and even purposeful is the presence of Emmanuel - God with us.

Let me remind you that today, more than any other time in the history of Christianity, people are being drawn to Christ, for He offers a message of hope and peace. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace

I give unto you: not as the world gives give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither be afraid." John 14:27 (KJV). All you have to do to experience this peace is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. For He offers more than enough light to dispel any darkness that life may bring your way.

So as you go to those wonderful Christmas celebrations, attend midnight candle-light services, open gifts on Christmas morning, and even feast around a table full of blessing, remember, the Christmas season reminds us of Emmanuel - God with us.

May His nearness inspire hope sufficient for the season and the New Year to come!  
Pastor Dean M. Anonucci

### All Saints' - Hope Lutheran Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve worship services will be held at 7 p.m. at Hope and at 10:30 p.m. at All Saints.

The annual Christmas retreat with the Right Rev. Rustin Kimsey and his wife, Gretchen, will be held at the Ascension School in Cove December 26-28. For more information and a registration form, see the retreat brochure posted on the All Saints' bulletin board or call the All Saints' office, 676-9970.

The regular worship service schedule for the month is as follows: Sunday, December 28, All Saints', Sunday school, 9:50 a.m., worship, 10 a.m.

Youth Group meetings are held at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays at All Saints, except for Christmas Eve.

### Christmas schedules announced for St. Patrick's and St. William's Catholic Churches

St. Patrick's Catholic Church and St. William's Catholic Church announce their Christmas schedules:

St. Patrick's: Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas carols at 8:30 p.m.; Blessing of the Nativity scene and vigil mass at 9 p.m.

Thursday, December 25 - Nativity mass and Christmas carols at 11 a.m.

St. William's: Thursday, December 25 - Nativity mass and Christmas carols at 8:45 a.m.

### Lexington Baptist plans Christmas Eve service

Lexington Baptist Church will hold a Christmas Eve Service starting at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the service. Everyone is invited to attend.

### Valby Lutheran announces Christmas Eve service schedule

Valby Lutheran Church will celebrate Christmas Eve with a service of music, lessons, candles, and communion beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24.

Sunday worship continues each week at 9 a.m. All are welcome to attend.

### Heppner Garden Club sponsors HES students in poetry contests

The Heppner Garden Club recently sponsored elementary school students for state and national poetry contests. The theme is nature's song. A few of the poems that were entered will be run each week in the Heppner Gazette-Times.

**Nature's Song**  
Nature's song is...  
Beautiful and graceful,  
Smooth and swift.  
It flows through the lush oak,  
Down to the trickling stream,  
Up to the towering mountain.  
This is nature's song.  
**Ross Cutsforth**

**Nature's Song**  
The singing of the birds, the rushing of the rivers, the swaying of the trees, the whisper in the wind, and the sun pounding against my face all remind me of Nature's Song, that sweet, sweet melody that I grow more, and more fond of everyday.  
Caitlynn Bailey  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Frogs**  
Jumpy eater  
They are green  
Swimming, climbing, gliding, croaking  
High jumpers  
Ethan Holmgren  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Nature's Song**  
The sound of a meadow-lark chirping in a tree...  
The buzzing of the little tiny bumble bee...  
A deer trodding on some sticks...  
And the crying of the chickadee's chicks...  
That is Nature's Song.  
**Cade Arbogast**

**Ladybug**  
Fly, walk  
It tickles me  
Flying, playing, eating, walking  
Hungry bug  
Susie Teeman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Lions**  
Fast, running  
They hear well,  
Sleeping, scratching, hunting, roaring,  
Sharp teeth  
Dakota Howard  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Dolphin**  
Light blue,  
Lives in water  
Swimming, communicating, squeaking, playing,  
Breathing mammal  
Cason Mitchell  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Dogs**  
Little, soft  
They bark loudly  
Scratching, barking, rolling, laying  
Cow dog  
Tanner Holmquist  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Flowers**  
Poking, red  
They smell good,  
Growing, planting, sprouting, sunning,  
Red roses  
Caitlyn Scrivner  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

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Poking, red  
They smell good,  
Growing, planting, sprouting, sunning,  
Red roses  
Caitlyn Scrivner  
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**Sparkly Night**  
Outside on  
Winter's eve.  
**Shayla Looslie**  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Rabbit**  
Brown, white,  
They eat carrots  
Licking, hopping, playing, running,  
Little bunny  
Daniela Sanchez  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

**Nature's Song**  
When I wake up  
I hear the birds sing  
I hear the wind whistle.

When I wake up  
I smell the crisp air  
I smell the scent of fresh cut grass.

When I wake up  
I taste the air  
I taste the sweet honey-suckle.

When I wake up  
I feel the dew drip on my hair  
I feel the wind blow against my skin.

That is what I feel, hear, taste and smell,  
When I wake up  
**Sydney Qualls**  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Nature's Song**  
The chirping of the birds, the footsteps of the deer all of this goes together into something quite sincere. The flapping of the bird's wings sing to me. Just the thought of being outdoors brings me lots of cheer.

All of this is nature's song, it's here, it's here  
**Patrick Collins**  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Nature's Song**  
Listen close and you will hear,  
The song of nature through your ear.  
If you listen, you will hear  
A bird, a bee, or even a deer.

### 2009 licenses on sale now

Hunting and fishing licenses for 2009 went on sale Dec. 1. The tickets may be purchased online or at an ODFW license sales agent. People can also buy one for a gift during the holiday season. See ODFW's Web site for what you need to know. Remember you need a 2009 license to hunt come January 1.

"Big game raffle tickets make the perfect stocking stuffer," said an ODFW news release.

2009 big game raffle hunt tickets are on sale now online and at POS agents and they make great gifts. Winners are entitled to an extended hunting season across multiple wildlife management units for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain goat, and bighorn sheep.

### Good time to hunt predators, forest grouse

Winter is often considered the best time to hunt for grouse and mountain quail because deciduous trees and brush have lost their leaves, which makes it easier for hunters to see flushing birds. This is also a good time to hunt cougar and coyote; snow will make tracking easier. See the zone reports for more information.

### Frigid temps prompt winter fishing precautions

The recent cold, windy weather has kept many anglers indoors, but those hardy souls who brave the worst of the winter weather should heed a few winter cautions: before you leave, check road conditions to make sure you can safely get to where you want to fish, carry a change of warm winter clothes, take along hot beverages or a camp stove and tea kettle, know how to recognize and treat hypothermia.

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