

READY OR NOT, HERE IT COMES!

We are fast approaching the 12 days of Christmas, ready or not here they come! So, how's it going, are you ready or not? We get so wrapped up in the preparation of Christmas that it's hard to catch our breath. We don't catch the Christmas spirit by shopping or decorating but by being reminded about the first Christmas as seen through the gospels, specifically Luke 2:8-20. In Luke's account of the first Christmas, we learn three things.

First, we hear and know the meaning of Christmas. Luke describes the angelic hosts who cry out to the shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace to men on whom his favor rests". By sending his son Jesus, God brought peace to mankind. That peace, however, is experienced only by those who invite Jesus to be Lord of their life. Christmas means heaven was opened and heaven was offered. The second thing Luke passes on is that Christmas is a miracle. Can I get an Amen on that? Jesus is God incarnate; God came to earth in the flesh (incarnate). The early church said it like this: He was fully human and fully divine. Because he was a man (fully human) he experienced pain, suffering, temptation, and death. Because he was divine and remained sinless, he bore the punishment for all sin for all time. Hard to understand? Yes, but it still is a miracle. The third thing Luke's account of the first Christmas teaches us is: Go and tell the message of Christmas. What is the message? That the savior, Christ the Lord has been born and this is good news for all people. Everyone could use good news these days and the greatest news is that Jesus brought hope and eternal life to all mankind, and as many as receive him to them he gives the right to become a child of God. Ready or not...Christmas is almost here!

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Mike

Prayers: Jane Fisher (leg problems), Margaret Jewett (shut-in),
Peace in Israel & Ukraine

Events: Sunday Advent Week Two; Monday Dec. 11-7:00 p.m.
Management Team Meeting, Sunday - Sign up to honor or
memorialize someone through buying a Poinsettia, Also: sign-up
for the Wars, Rumors and the Return of Christ Class begins
January 14