

LINWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
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# The Linwood Lindy



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Volume 51

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Number 12

## *'tis the Season*

It is already past mid-December, we have had our first big snowfall of the year (and cancellation of Sunday services), and Christmas is knocking at the door. If you don't have those gifts for "family far-flung" packaged and in the mail, you are likely too late for a pre-Christmas delivery. If you are all-*Grinched-out* and a bit tired of hearing Bing Crosby's version of "White Christmas" (say it ain't so!), and cannot take watching one more Christmas special, may I suggest a remedy: time to start making your New Year's Resolutions! That's right! The year 2026 is less than two weeks away from making its grand entrance. It is time to take stock of where one is materially, socially, physically, and spiritually – to see what changes might be helpful going forward – and develop a plan to make "2026 the year!" – to make those changes you have been promising yourself to make the last 20 or so New Years.

Far be it for me to be the one to suggest what changes any of you might make. (I have to contend with my own long-list of perennial unfulfilled New Year's resolutions.) What I am willing to do as the "spiritual leader" of the congregation, is to offer some guidance for your New Year's devotional study.

Typically devotionals this time of year focus on themes of fresh starts, letting go of the past while embracing God's *new* mercies, encouraging reflection on previous growth and future hope. Key ideas include – trusting God's faithfulness, embracing the unknown with faith, a call to spiritual growth, and living out one's faith in clear identifiable ways.

### Key Devotional Themes & Scripture

- **A Fresh Start in Christ:** The New Year symbolizes new life in Jesus; "old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- **Trusting God's Guidance:** Rely on God's lead, even when the path isn't clear, like taking the first step in faith (Psalm 25:5).
- **Letting Go of the Past:** Release burdens, failures, and grudges; God offers fresh mercies and transforms barren places (Lamentations 3:22-23).
- **God's Promises:** Trust that God has good intentions for you, bringing hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).
- **Shining Your Light:** Live purposefully and hold fast to God's word, being a light in a darkening world (Philippians 2:15-16).

### Reflective Questions for a New Year

- Where have you seen God's faithfulness in the past year?
- What old habits or mindsets do you need to release to embrace God's new work?
- How can you allow God to reshape your heart, not just your habits?
- What small steps of faith can you take, trusting God to light the path?
- How can you grow in grace and knowledge of the teachings of Jesus this year?

OK, I have probably given you much too much to consider. Do not be overwhelmed. Pick three themes and/or questions that strike you to be the most relevant. Start there and see where it takes you. Know that I wish you and all your loved ones the Merriest of Christmases, and the happiest of New Years.



*Pastor Frank*

## **Thoughts & Prayers**



### **Health Issues:**

Marilyn Henegen, Judy Mecher, Mattie Horne, Martha Etheridge

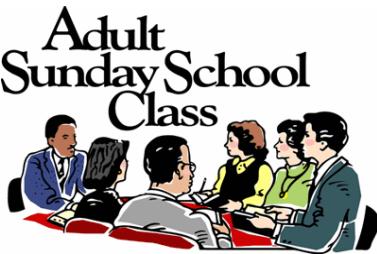
### **Prayers have been asked for:**

Jerry & Sue Myers, Brian Slowinski, Tobby Parson, Doug Engle, Jenn Streyckmans, Nancy Schoen, John Franke, Kristin Helms, Elijah Smith, Tom Reese, Steve Marshall, Chanin Russell, Robert Shelton, Jeff Lewis, Kelly Scrougham, Jackie Robbins, Carrlyla Hatley, Betty Hess, Tom Smith, Dale Duncan, John Neubauer, Tim Wickham, Rachel Carver, Russ Smith, Steve Folsom, Ron Meadors, Kingston Rivers, Karen Plemons, Tom Newton, Abigayle Whittington, Pastor Richard Clayton, Russ Lawrence, Emily Matthews

### **We join with God's loving concerns for those facing life's difficult times:**

Dee Miller, Joyce Franke, Leana Wright, Donna Opel, Donna & Don Shepard, Linda Bernd, Ryan Carr, Laura Spires, Fletcher Moore, Michelle Miller, Faye Holder, Yolanda Hollow, Janette Smith, Garry Smith and family, the Terri Lee Heady family, the Terry Morgan family

**Prayers of Condolences are offered for the family and friends of:** Peggy Sue Riddle on her passing November 27<sup>th</sup>, Tim Johnson, Terri Lee Heady and Terry Morgan all passed away on December 4<sup>th</sup>; and Karen Keith who passed on December 10<sup>th</sup>, Godvin Jerome's aunt, Arlette Nelson, on her passing November 10<sup>th</sup>.



Beginning after Christmas Joan will be leading a study of 42 chapters of the Book of Job, looking a few chapters each week. We meet for 30 minutes on Sunday mornings at 9:20 in the library. Stop by the parlor and bring your coffee and snack along to class.

Something to sing as you gather with friends and family during this most Holy season:

**One Candle Is Lit: (Words: Mary Anne Parrott; Music: William J Kirkpatrick)**

**Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,  
our hearts long to greet you as roses, the light.**

**Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.**

**One candle is lit for the hope of the age.**

**Come quickly, Shalom, teach us how to prepare  
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.**

**Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.**

**One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.**

**Come, festively singing while awaiting the birth,  
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.**

**Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise,**

**One candle is lit for the joy of these days!**

**Come wander where lion and lamb gently play,  
where evil is banished and faith takes the day,**

**a babe in a manger to fool the world's eyes.**

**One candle is lit for God's loving surprise!**

**Come, listen, the sounds of God-with-us ring clear,  
and signs of a Cross in the distance appear.**

**The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.**

**One candle is lit for the Christ birthday here.**

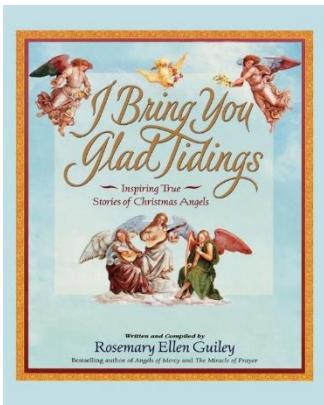




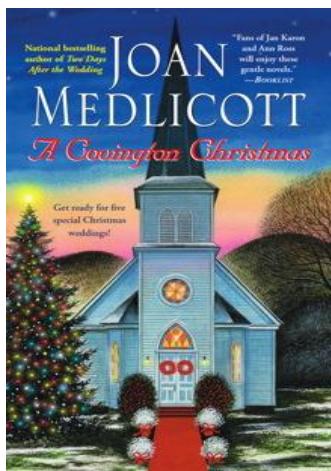
## The Book Nook

Huddle inside and have a good read!

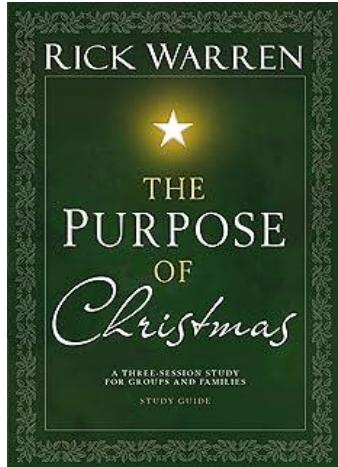
*I Bring You Glad Tidings* by Rosemarie Ellen Guiley. Discover how everyday people have been blessed by angels, and how their experiences have transformed them -- heart, mind, and soul. Bestselling author Rosemary Ellen Guiley has woven a stunning tapestry of Christmas angel stories -- each one a unique testament to the triumph of the human spirit, and a dazzling reflection of how angels work in our lives each day, and in unseen ways.



*A Covington Christmas* by Joan Medlicott. The new pastor at the Cove Road Church in Covington discovers that a former pastor from forty years ago was never ordained as a minister, and was therefore not qualified to marry anyone—which means that five longstanding marriages are invalid! With their marriages thrown into crisis, it's decided that the couples absolutely must remarry on Christmas Eve. But with the church desperately in need of repairs and lacking the funds to fix the rotting floorboards and the outdated heating system, how can they ever get it ready in time? Brimming with warmth, charm, and the spirit of the holidays, this becomes a job for the ladies of Covington!



*The Purpose of Christmas* by Rick Warren honors the significance and promise of this cherished holiday. Pastor Warren encourages readers to identify and confront what drains peace from their lives. Warren explains that the way to respond to these peace-robbers is to learn how to surrender to God's will and not feel defeated or discouraged when life does not go as planned. True peace of mind is found by having an unshakeable faith in God -- knowing that his empowering Spirit will guide his children through life's challenges. Beautifully written, *The Purpose of Christmas* stirs readers to honor the true significance of Christmas and to nurture God's gifts of love and peace in this world.



Joan Woodruff  
Church Librarian

# *News from the Pews*

## Welcome New Linwood Member -

Elaine Yadnak has decided to join Linwood! She has already been indoctrinated to both the Bell Choir and “The” Choir. Be sure to stop and introduce yourself if you haven’t already met her.

## How beautiful it looks in Linwood’s Sanctuary

all decked out with greenery and the Chrismon Tree and the Advent Wreath, and don’t forget the red and white poinsettias. Vickie P has also lined up some great presenters for lighting the Advent Candles and giving meaningful messages to us all.

**Some Pun Intended ...**

**How do you invite Santa to a party?**

**You request his presents!**

**Why is the Grinch such an excellent gardener? He has a green thumb!**

**What kind of ball doesn’t bounce?**

**A snowball!**

**What did one cranberry say to another at Christmas?**

**‘Tis the season to be jelly!**

**What did one snowman say to the other snowman?**

**Do you smell carrots?**

Live and archived service streams are available at: [YouTube.com/@LinwoodCC](https://www.youtube.com/@LinwoodCC)

Visit our Web Page at [www.linwoodchristian.org](http://www.linwoodchristian.org) to learn what is going on at Linwood.

To submit an entry or comment on what you want to read about in the Lindy, you can Email us at: [linwoodcc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:linwoodcc@sbcglobal.net) Or mail to:

With Subject: Lindy

Linwood Christian Church – Attn: Lindy  
4424 E Michigan Street

Entries for next Lindy by: January 19<sup>th</sup>, 4p Indianapolis, IN 46201

**We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Fantastic New Year,**

*Your Lindy Crew*



Let's celebrate!

# An Angel Appears to Joseph

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:24-25 (NIV)



*Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.*

E	H	U	S	B	A	N	D	R	P	N	G	Q	E	X
S	C	O	Z	B	D	T	X	P	A	M	C	K	R	M
P	L	Q	I	N	I	H	C	H	R	I	S	T	Y	F
S	M	H	C	H	I	L	D	D	X	P	F	Z	S	I
J	E	S	U	S	V	I	R	G	I	N	B	H	O	S
J	D	I	Z	X	W	W	Y	O	G	B	Q	M	N	E
A	B	P	H	Q	J	P	L	A	E	I	I	G	P	W
P	Z	A	U	M	O	U	A	F	I	R	K	U	I	
I	I	P	L	D	S	K	N	R	Z	T	R	M	W	U
Z	X	O	P	R	E	S	G	A	H	N	A	M	E	
L	M	W	O	E	P	A	E	I	W	S	D	I	X	W
E	A	C	L	A	H	H	L	D	C	M	K	U	T	H
Z	R	I	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	A	A	E	A	E
R	R	U	S	B	Q	B	L	E	U	R	C	X	N	F
E	Y	L	P	F	H	O	O	U	P	Y	A	O	S	O

ANGEL  
NAME  
MARY

IMMANUEL  
SON  
JESUS

AFRAID  
CHRIST  
JOSEPH

DREAM  
CHILD  
VIRGIN

MARRY  
BIRTH  
HUSBAND