



Lifepoint CHURCH

Monthly E-Newsletter

“We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it.” Psalm 39:6



BY KEVIN SMITH
Lead Pastor

A Word from Our Pastor

"It is only the 1st of December and already, many are admitting to exhaustion."

The Christmas rush has started. Most of us already have our schedules filled but are trying to figure out how we are going to squeeze in all of the extra activities that come along with the Christmas season. Then as we rush to and from all of our events, in the back of our minds most of

us are tormented by the thought that somehow we need to find a way to slow down and take in what Christmas is really all about. Our good intentions are there, but actually getting it done seems next to impossible. It is only the 1st of December and already, many are admitting to exhaustion.

I love the way The Message gives us what Jesus said in Matthew 11:28-30:

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

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A Word from Our Pastor

(Cont.)

"What may God be trying to show you that your rush is causing you to miss out on this Christmas season?"

During the Christmas season especially we need to be intentional about truly finding that rest. We all desperately need to make sure we have quiet moments. We need to seek silence. That is where we will encounter God more fully. When all of life feels like an urgent rush from one demand to another, we become forgetful. We forget simple things like where we put our car keys or that one item when we run into the grocery store. But even more disturbing, we forget God. What may God be trying to show you that your rush is causing you to miss out on this Christmas season?



I hope this Christmas season you will truly spend intentional time in God's presence, slowed down, waiting and reflecting on Him. When we are truly waiting on God, we won't miss anything. God is going to have us where we need to be, when we need to be there. Rest. While we are waiting on God, we are waiting with God. He is there in that moment. Rest.

Quiet moments are rare and it can be difficult to find silence and stillness, but take a few minutes each day as we approach Christmas to quietly and deeply focus on the Lord. Think about His birth, His infancy, His life, His death and sacrifice, and the gift of salvation He has given us. Meditate on His presence and in the stillness genuinely seek His face.

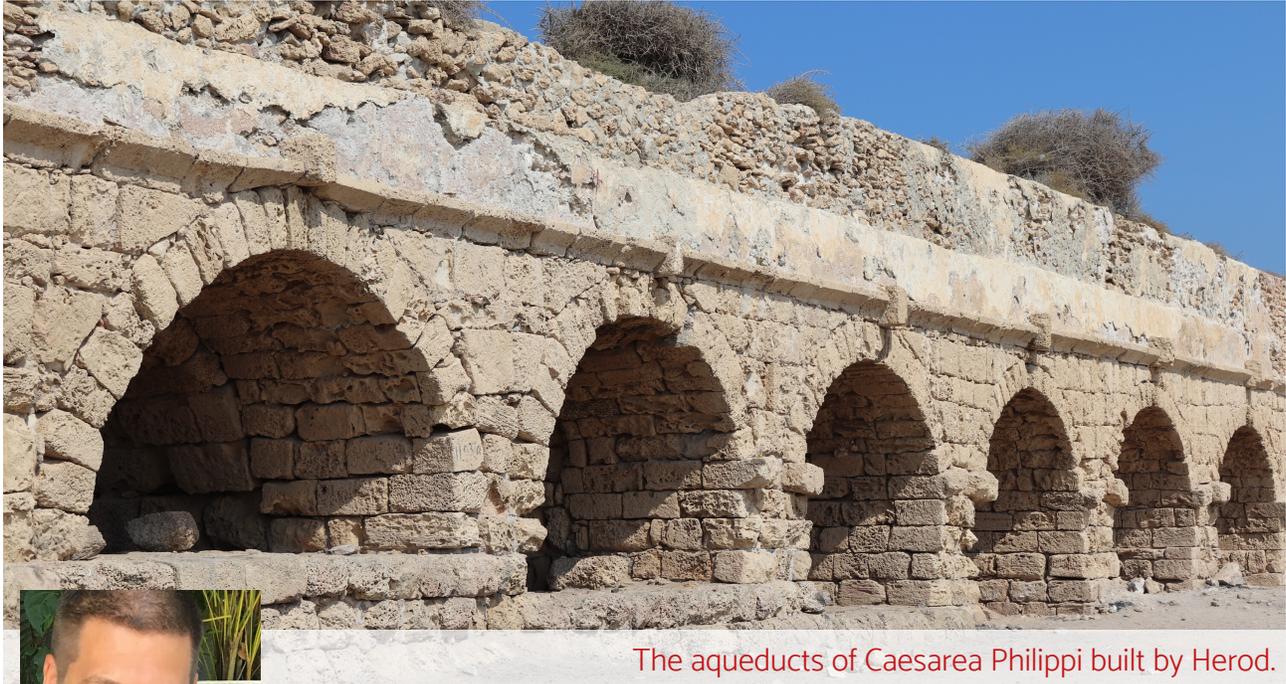
Psalm 46:10,11-

"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!' The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress."

"...take a few minutes each day as we approach Christmas to quietly and deeply focus on the Lord."

Over the next several months, we will highlight places, items, and stories from the Holy Land trip taken in September.

Israel Highlight



The aqueducts of Caesarea Philippi built by Herod.



BY MARK SCHNEIDER
Next Generation Pastor

Any person who journeys to Israel can expect to encounter dozens of holy sites which were significant to the life of Jesus. Locations such as the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Sea of Galilee are awe-inspiring not only because of their natural beauty, but also for the significant role they played in the life and ministry of Jesus. Standing in these sacred spots, and taking in the same views that Jesus would have known is a memory I will never forget.

What surprised me was the impact I experienced through visits to sites such as Masada, the Herodium and Caesarea Maritima: three sites that I knew almost nothing about before traveling to the Holy Land. These massive fortress homes were constructed by one man: Herod the Great, as vanity projects designed to stand as evidence of his

"Herod, known for his attempts to kill the infant Jesus, spared no expense to build monuments to himself throughout Israel."

greatness and authority. Herod, known for his attempts to kill the infant Jesus, spared no expense to build monuments to himself throughout Israel. In his mind, these physical landmarks would be his lasting legacy to the world. Today they remain only as ruins that give just a glimpse of their former glory. Like the man who created them, they have faded into the distant past.

Israel Highlight

(Cont.)



"Do we strive to leave a legacy of earthly treasures, accomplishments, and praise that won't outlive us, or are we focused on serving the King whose reign will never end?"

As I was thinking about this contrast of two kings, a mad tyrant and the humble carpenter's son, I stumbled upon this passage from famed Holy Land guide and teacher, Ray Vander Laan. To me it sums up perfectly the contrast of Herod and Jesus.

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem, while Herod was born in Edom. Jesus the Messiah was sinless; Herod, the king of the Jews, was a cruel tyrant. Herod's earthly power was awesome, but stored no treasures in the kingdom of heaven. Jesus had none of the power the world could give, but his power in heaven was beyond comprehension.

Jesus gave his life and ministry as a sacrifice so that the world would know God, but Herod's life revolved around sacrificing others in order to bring glory and honor to himself. Jesus and Herod were opposites in every way; morally, culturally, spiritually, and especially in terms of their worldly status. God brought Jesus and King Herod two kings who couldn't have been more different together at the same moment in history. What was he trying to reveal about himself through this contrast?

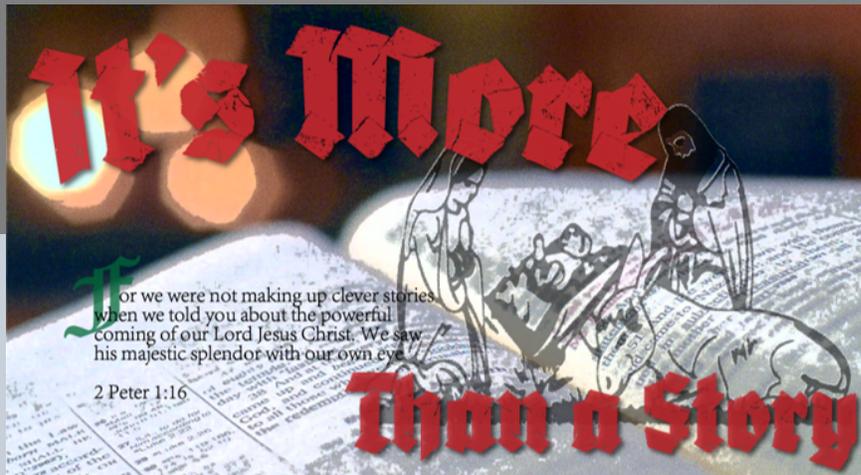
God uses people who appear weak to triumph over those who appear to be strong. No matter how overwhelming and undefeatable a person may seem, God's power is stronger. And what is done for God's kingdom has lasting value, as opposed to fleeting earthly honors we seek for ourselves. The contrast of Herod and Jesus reminds Christians to follow God's ways rather than the world's ways. Ultimately, we create a lasting legacy through self-sacrifice and servanthood, not through self-glorification."

My prayer for us as a church would be that we consider what we are building our lives upon. Do we strive to leave a legacy of earthly treasures, accomplishments, and praise that won't outlive us, or are we focused on serving the King whose reign will never end? Our time on this earth is short, and we aren't promised tomorrow. How can we live for the King of Kings today?

Mark



BY CARRIE MILLER
Worship Leader



Ten years ago I celebrated my very first Christmas.

We had moved to Chillicothe in early 2009 not knowing it would be the year our lives would change forever, but God knew. He had a plan for us, and Greg and I surrendered our lives to Christ not long after the move.

Winter came that year and dumped tons of snow on Chillicothe. We found a most excellent Christmas tree and dragged it into our living room on a beautiful snowy day in early December. Our kiddos were 6, 5 and 3 at the time and eager to decorate. We flipped on The Wave and started stringing lights and hanging ornaments. I think we even had some cookies fresh from the oven. This is what Christmas dreams are made of.

"It felt like the needle scratched off the record in that moment. The Hallmark scene suddenly got real, and Christmas became more than just a cute little story."

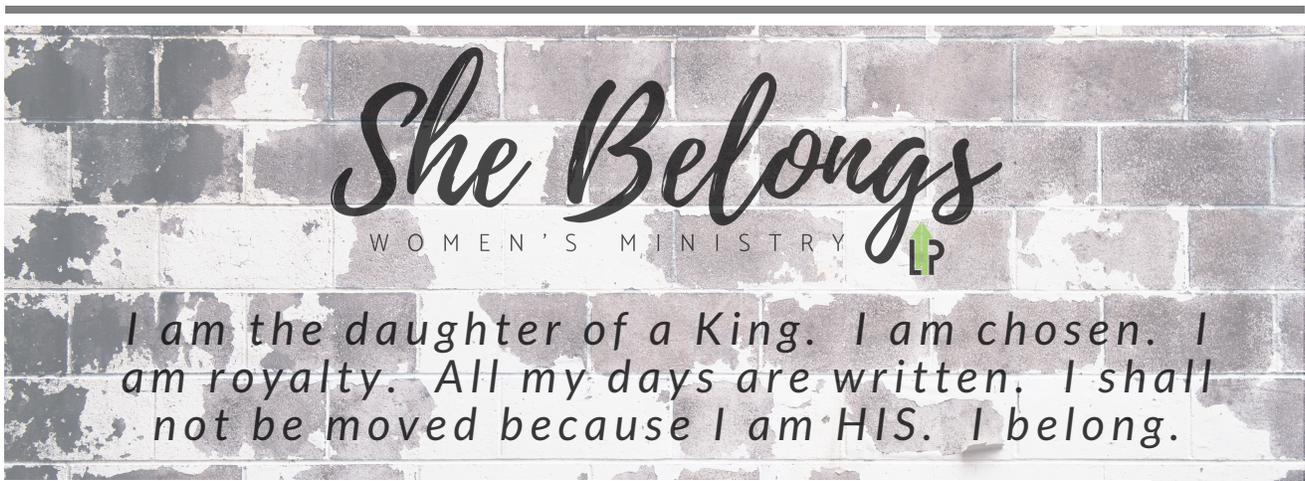
In the midst of our little idyllic scene, something broke through from the radio. To this day I don't remember what song was playing. All I remember is my six-year-old bursting into tears and then collapsing in my lap to sob. When her tears had dried up enough for her to speak, she looked up and asked, "Baby Jesus...he's the one on the cross, isn't he, Mommy? Why did he have to die?"

It felt like the needle scratched off the record in that moment. The Hallmark scene suddenly got real, and Christmas became more than just a cute little story. For 29 years I had envisioned the story of Christmas like I had seen it illustrated in children's books and portrayed in the movies. Now it began to breathe and cry and sweat and bleed.

I learned an amazing lesson from my daughter that day. She had made the connection between the cradle and the cross for the first time, and her little heart just couldn't bear it. Her next question, "Why did he have to die?" goes straight to the heart of the Good News of Christmas and gave me an opening to deliver the Gospel message to her right beside our half decorated tree. I sat there looking into her impassioned expression and praised God that the true reason for celebrating Christ's birth had been revealed to her at such a tender age. When we make this connection, our initial horror at the thought of the cross casting its shadow over the cradle is replaced by a joy that becomes deeper and fuller than we've ever known as we wait expectantly for our Savior on Christmas morning. That's when we begin to truly celebrate the reason for the season.

Every year since then I have tried to connect the cradle to the cross as much as possible during our Christmas celebrations. For without the cross, Jesus came to the cradle in vain. The nativity scene at the Miller household doesn't get set up in a wooden barn, but at the foot of a wooden cross. Our Christmas tree bears a long green snake that my son made out of a paper plate in preschool to remind us that Christ's coming to Bethlehem was only necessary because of what came to mankind in the Garden. For every snowman and stocking-shaped cookie we bake, we also bake cookies in the shape of the cross. Now it's only natural for me and my family to reflect on the manger and the cross during our holiday celebrations.

All this reflection on the cross at Christmastime may feel out of place to you, but try it and see how the amazing events of Christ's birth may just become more than a story to you.



BY ANGIE GUTSHALL
Administrator
Women's Ministry Leader

The Women's Ministry at Lifepoint exists to build and nurture relationships with women of all ages, to encourage, empower and equip them to know and love Jesus and His Word and grow in their relationship with Him. It has been and will continue to be the passion of our team to create opportunities for women to encounter God and to grow to truly know Him through His Word. We long for our knowledge of God to grow our faith in Him, for God to mature us in our character and ultimately to lead us to our specific place of service in His Kingdom work.

It is especially exciting to me that God has led us to use events and opportunities of all varieties for the women of Lifepoint and beyond. We are convinced by God's Word that we are better together and that we simply don't have to do this life alone. It is through these opportunities of connection that we grow in our understanding of God and in connection with each other. What a beautiful thing it is that God gives us one another to do life with.

It is especially important to us that every woman feel like **SHE BELONGS**.

Because we deeply desire for women to find connection to God and to each other and we know that God uses many methods of reaching others with the Gospel message, we carefully and prayerfully consider activities and events that allow for women to be comfortable and to be authentic and vulnerable, to truly be themselves. We recognize that, sometimes, in order for the heart to be prepared for deeper teaching from God's Word, we simply need casual, non-threatening time with others first...a chance to build relationships with others. It is then that God softens and prepares us to be ready to hear the message He has for us to hear.

One of the ways we provide for this casual time of connection is through social events. Throughout the year, you will be able to participate in a variety of events such as the upcoming Coffee and Craft on December 7th. Read below to find out more about this upcoming event and about how to sign up. You won't want to miss this!

I'm looking so forward to connecting with you!

Women's Ministry Highlight

SOCIAL EVENTS TEAM



She Belongs
WOMEN'S MINISTRY 

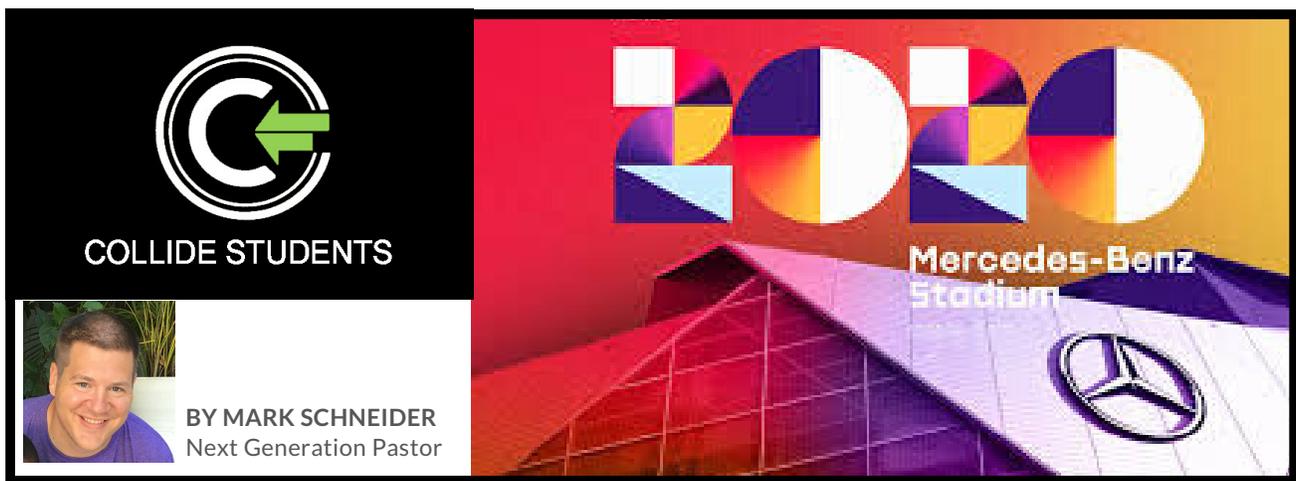
Ladies Coffee & Craft
SATURDAY - DECEMBER 7
10:00 - 11:30AM
CULTURAL CORNER



\$5.00 donation @ the event

Ladies only! Fellowship while making a fun, festive Embroidery Hoop Door Hanger. Laugh and get messy together. Make for yourself or give away.

Sign up at the Welcome Desk,
email office@lifepoint-church.com,
or call the church office at 660.973.2639.
Deadline to register is Sunday, December 1.



PASSION RETREAT

Starting New Years Eve, Lifepoint's Collide Student Ministry is hosting a retreat at the Jabez Center for high school and college students who are seeking a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship. For the third year in a row, the group will be taking part in a live stream of the Passion Conference from Atlanta Georgia.

WHAT IS PASSION?

Passion is a Christian ministry for young adults that "exists to see a generation leverage their lives for what matters most... To live in such a way that their journey on earth counts for what is most important in the end. For us at Passion, that's the fame of the One who rescues and restores, and the privilege we have to amplify His name in everything we do. Passion is more than a conference. More than an event. More than a feeling. Passion is you and me saying goodbye to lesser things and saying yes to Jesus, the One whose name is above every name."

This year's conference will be held at Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta, and will feature six sessions of teaching and worship designed to impact the next generation of Christian leaders. This year's speakers feature Louie Giglio, Sadie Robertson, Tim Tebow and other nationally renowned speakers. Worship will be led by David Crowder and Elevation Worship. You won't want to miss this retreat!

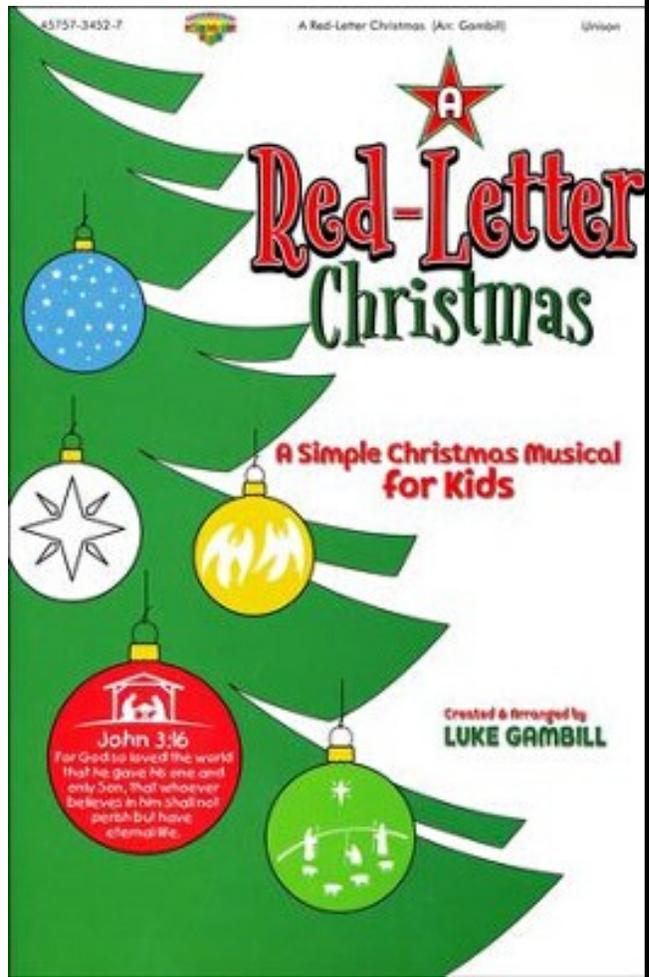
RETREAT DETAILS:

Students will meet at Lifepoint and carpool to the Jabez Center (Mooresville) at 4pm on December 31st. The retreat will wrap up Thursday morning, January 2nd at 11am, and students will return to Lifepoint for pick up. The retreat cost is \$40 which covers all meals and lodging for the three day event. If you would like to help sponsor a student, or help with meals, please contact Pastor Mark. This conference is designed for students aged 18-25, but we are opening it to all high school and college-aged students who wish to attend and are serious about growing in their faith. Please contact Pastor Mark to sign up, or if you have any questions about the retreat. The deadline to sign up is December 18th. (More details coming soon!)

"...Passion is you and me saying goodbye to lesser things and saying yes to Jesus, the One whose name is above every name."

Join Us!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & CHRISTMAS DINNER



**Sunday, December 15
10:30am**

**Gary Dickinson Performing Arts Center
Chillicothe High School**

Make plans to attend the children's Christmas program. Following the program we will have a catered fellowship dinner in the school commons. Please plan to stay. No need to bring anything just your appetite.

The Characters of Christmas

Large Group Bible Study
Wednesdays - Dec 4, 11 & 18
6-7:30 at Cultural Corner

Lifepoint CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
AT 6:00PM

Lifepoint Church - 434 Locust St - Chillicothe MO 64601



WEATHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

For all church cancellations, check the following for weather announcements:



Website: www.lifepoint-church.com
Facebook: [lifepointchurchchillicothe](https://www.facebook.com/lifepointchurchchillicothe)
Radio Stations: KTTN & KCHI



Baptism
GOING PUBLIC WITH YOUR FAITH

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 8
10:45 AM

QUESTIONS? CONTACT PASTOR KEVIN

FRESH MOBILE PANTRY

Fresh Mobile Pantry



Where:

Lifepoint Church - Grounds
(Old Hospital Site)
100 Central AVE
Chillicothe, MO

When:

Wednesday, October 9, 2019
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
Wednesday, December 11, 2019

10am until 12 noon
Open to the General Public
While Supplies Last

*SNAP & CSTP Application assistance is
provided at this mobile site.*
** Pick Up Limit: 5 Families per Vehicle



For More Information:
816-364-3663
shcfb.org



If you are able to help with the Fresh Mobile Pantry, list your name, phone number, and note "Fresh Mobile Pantry" on the Connection Card and drop it off at the We.Go Center. Volunteers meet at 9:15am at the church property, located at 100 Central Ave, Wednesday, December 11. We need help bagging food, distributing items, controlling traffic, and praying for those in need.



How can you pray for the Mobile Pantry?

"Do to others as you would like them to do to you." Luke 6:31 Pray that we are mindful of our words and actions. How would you wish to be treated? Pray this outreach meets more than a physical need, but also a spiritual one.