



The STEEPLE

Leicester Evangelical
Presbyterian Church

January 2021

Pastor David Missel
382-3311 - Office

LEPC website and Facebook:
www.seekinggodtogether.com
www.facebook.com/UPCLeicester

It is our desire to assist anyone who is seeking help, if possible, whether it be spiritual or otherwise. Please contact Pastor David or any Session Elder if you would like us to be of help."

LEPC NEWS

Prayer Ministry

For the upcoming week I intend to pray for _____.

Witness

Missions: If you have a suggestion for the use of Mission Funds, please contact one of the Elders on Session or Pastor David.

Stewardship

LEPC Financial Update for November:

Operating Income: \$8,822.00
Operating Expenses: \$10,876.35
Mission Income: \$250.00
Mission Expenditures: \$920.00

2021 Weekly Adult Offering

Envelopes are available from Shirley Matthews for those who have used them in the past. If you haven't used them before and would like to use them, or if you presently use them but no longer want to use them, please contact the Financial Secretary, Shirley Matthews.

Blood Drive

Red Cross Blood Drive will be hosted at LEPC on 2/2/2021.

Monthly Celebrations

January Birthdays

1	Dorothy Sliker
5	Elizabeth Donnelly
8	Paul Griffen
13	Susan Johantgen
16	David Thomson

Anniversaries: (none listed)

If you see a need for corrections to the Monthly Celebrations, please contact Leo Richardson:
grichardson001@rochester.rr.com

Annual Reports

To whom this applies, please submit your reports for the Annual Report by January 14, 2021 so that I can compile them for the LEPC Annual Report in a timely fashion before the Annual Congregational Meeting (see below). Thank you, Leo Richardson

Annual Congregational Meeting

Session announces the calling of the Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting for January 24, 2021 immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect church officers, approve all treasurer's reports, and to receive and act upon all other reports and matters on the docket before the congregation.

Welcoming a New Member

Catherine (Cathy) Mlyniec became a member of LEPC by Profession of Faith during worship on December 13, 2020. Cathy was also baptized during the same service.

She has been active at LEPC for several years and currently is our Sunshine Person. As Sunshine Person, Cathy sends out greeting cards from the church to those who are ill, hospitalized, or for other occasions as she feels led to do or when someone asks her to remember someone with a card.

This is an important ministry for which we are very grateful.

Welcome Cathy!

We value all who worship at LEPC. If you would like to take another step in commitment by becoming a member of this church, please contact Pastor David.



Sunday Seed Thoughts: No Masks

by ThePreachersWord
December 6, 2020

<https://thepreachersword.com>

Today church buildings around the country, and I suppose around the world, will be filled with worshipers wearing masks. If you think it looks odd, you ought to be the one preaching from the pulpit and look at an entire assembly of masked men and women.

There's been much controversy, especially among Christians and religious conservatives, about wearing masks. The efficacy of wearing masks has been discussed, debated, denied and of course, politicized.

To all Christians, we offer this spiritual advice: "No masks." Now before I'm ranked over the coals for this controversial comment, hear me out.

It occurred to me there's irony about Christians wearing masks. Before COVID-19, I've known many Christians who wear masks, emotional masks. They're hurting emotionally, physically, relationally, and financially, or maybe spiritually. But they hide their hurt, mask their pain, and suppress their feelings so no one will see, or know.

The Bible instructs those in God's Family to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal. 6:2). But I can't bear my sister or brother's burden if she or he is concealing it. I'm not suggesting that we ought to indiscriminately and inappropriately divulge the titillating details of our problems to just anyone, or everyone.

But there's a time, and place, and a person to whom we need to take off the mask, to get real, and to seek counsel. Find someone who'll help shoulder the burden, soothe the pain, and offer help, hope, and healing. To a great degree, my church family ought to be a place where I can take off my mask.

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In the words of the poet William J. Crocker:

If this is not a place where tears
are understood,
Where do I go to cry?

If this is not a place where my
spirits can take wing,
Where do I go to fly?

If this is not a place where my
questions can be asked,
Where do I go to seek?

If this is not a place where my
feelings can be heard,
Where do I go to speak?

If this is not a place where you'll
accept me as I am,
Where can I go to be?

If this is not a place where I can
try to learn and grow,
Where can I be just me?

Church: Let's make it a place and
a people where no masks are worn,
spiritually speaking.

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman



End the Year with a Smile

Found at goodhousekeeping.com

**I love when they drop the ball in
Times Square ...**

*... It's a nice reminder of what I did all
year.*

**I was going to quit all my bad
habits for the new year ...**

*... but then I remembered that nobody
likes a quitter.*

**At the beginning of this year
I made a New Year's resolution to
lose 10 pounds ...**

... Only 15 more to go!



From the Pastor's Heart

You've probably seen the TV news during the Christmas season, showing men and women in their combat fatigues sending Christmas greetings home from wherever they've been deployed in the world. It's one of the hard things about Christmas and it's been true every Christmas for a long time; soldiers who won't be able to be home this Christmas, men and women for whom "I'll Be Home for Christmas" is just a song and not a physical reality.

But others are also far from home at Christmas, including missionaries and those who are separated from family and loved ones due to the Covid 19 pandemic. I just found out, my brother, Stephen, had to leave the nursing "home" he was in because he tested positive for Covid and is being transported to a different facility that is set up to help those dealing with this pandemic. In reality, many people are finding themselves far from home.

Ironically, the Christ of Christmas knows that feeling all too well. The baby born that first Christmas was really far from home. In the first chapter of John's gospel and several verses following, beginning with verse 1, we read the following: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." John's referring to the Son of God, Jesus. It goes on to say, "Through Him all things were made, without Him nothing was made that has been made." Then, later in the chapter, it says, "He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:1, 3, 10, 12).

The angels who brought His first birth announcement didn't want us to miss who was in that stable. They said, "A Savior...He is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). The "Savior" is God's Rescuer, sent to save you and me. "Christ" - that's the Messiah God promised. Then it says He's "The Lord" - the word means the Controller, the One who runs everything. What John wrote makes it clear that He literally created everything that is, and then came to this little speck of dust called earth in the middle of all these galaxies He created.

But this Son of God had to leave heaven and come to a world in rebellion against Him; a long way from home. He came on the most important mission in history - to give the people He had created a chance to get right with the God that we rejected. Like a person trapped in the rubble of a violent earthquake or in a burning building, we're going to die unless a rescuer comes. We can't dig ourselves out. If any religion, if any good thing that we do could pay our sin-bill with God, believe me, Jesus would never have left home. He would have never had to carry His rescue mission all the way to that brutal death on a cross.

His mission is described in 25 of the most important words in the Bible, in John 3:16, (part of our "Words to Live By") for month of December. You may have read or heard these words a thousand times but I want you to read them this time as if your life depends on them - because it does!

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). It's a verse you need to put your name in, and put it in the blanks I'll leave here. "God so loved _____ (there's your name) that He gave His one and only Son, that if _____ will believe in Him, then _____ shall not perish but have eternal life." You're the reason He left home. You're the reason He went all the way from heaven to the manger, to a cross. He loves you. You were His mission. He came to rescue YOU!

He was far from home in that manger that first Christmas. He was even farther from home on Good Friday. The Bible says He actually "carried our sins in His body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24). He was actually cut off from God His Father, because of our sins, so you would never have to be. You see, "home" is

the love relationship with God that only Jesus can give us.

You know that stirring you're feeling in your heart? That's the man who died for you, drawing you to Him. You can't come to Jesus when you feel like it. You come when God's drawing you or you don't come. And this season when we celebrate His coming to earth for us, He's working in your heart to open your life to Him.

This Christmas season could be the celebration, not only of Jesus' coming to earth, but of Him coming into your life today. Just tell Him, "Jesus, I'm Yours." Do you want to begin this incredible love relationship with Him? You can. Wherever you are this Christmas, your heart can finally be home because you finally belong to Jesus. I pray you'll be "home" for Christmas.

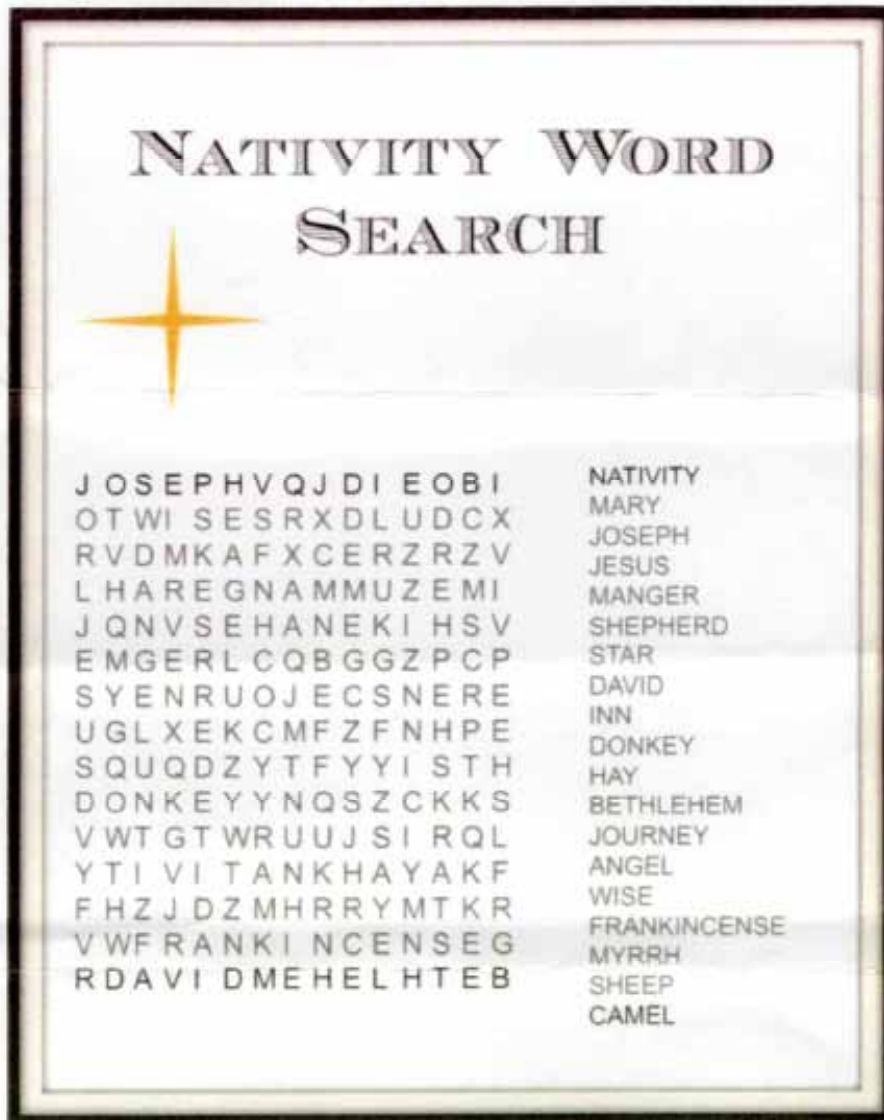
If you desire to know more about living daily with Jesus, please let me know. That's my mission in life and I'll be glad to help you come home to Jesus.

Pastor David

Game Time

Christmas Time Continues through the New Year

While you are still spending time at home during 2021, here are few fun games and puzzles for you to enjoy.



Christmas Carol Game

Our Clues and Your Answers

1. *Gosh oh gee, how happy I'd be*
Answer: _____
2. *I don't want a lot for Christmas*
Answer: _____
3. *No crib to lay His head*
Answer: _____
4. *A season to be jolly*
Answer: _____
5. *Said the night wind*
Answer: _____
6. *Made of snow - look at him go*
Answer: _____
7. *Look both ways before crossing*
Answer: _____
8. *Bells ringing, children singing*
Answer: _____
9. *It's the best time of the year*
Answer: _____
10. *Who was mommy kissing*
Answer: _____
11. *Home in my dreams*
Answer: _____
12. *Jingle bells chime*
Answer: _____
13. *Frightful weather tonight*
Answer: _____
14. *Pa Rum Pum Pum Pum*
Answer: _____
15. *The stars are brightly shining*
Answer: _____
16. *Poor deer can't play games*
Answer: _____
17. *5 golden rings*
Answer: _____
18. *What a nice wish*
Answer: _____
19. *Color "vision" for Christmas*
Answer: _____

Our Answers: 1. All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth 2. All I Want For Christmas Is You 3. Away In A Manger 4. Deck The Halls 5. Do You Hear What I Hear 6. Frosty The Snowman 7. Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer 8. Here Comes Santa Claus 9. Holly Jolly Christmas 10. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Clause 11. I'll Be Home For Christmas 12. Jingle Bell Rock 13. Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow 14. Little Drummer Boy 15. Oh Holy Night 16. Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer 17. The Twelve Days Of Christmas 18. We Wish You A Merry Christmas 19. White Christmas



Christmas Drawing Game



Have your guests close their eyes and draw the following:

- Draw Santa's Sleigh in the middle of your paper.
- To the Left of your sleigh, draw a pine tree.
- It's snowing, draw snowflakes in the sky.



- Put some ornaments on your pine tree, now it's a Christmas Tree!
- Draw Santa on your sleigh.
- Santa is very generous, draw some presents on your sleigh



Santa likes the sound of merry jingles, draw bells on the sleigh.

Santa works at night, put a moon in the sky.



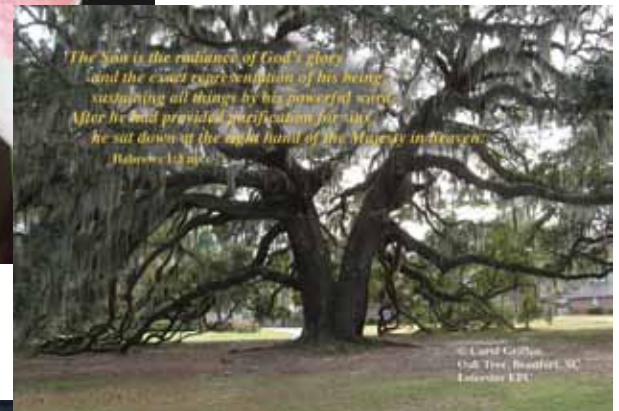
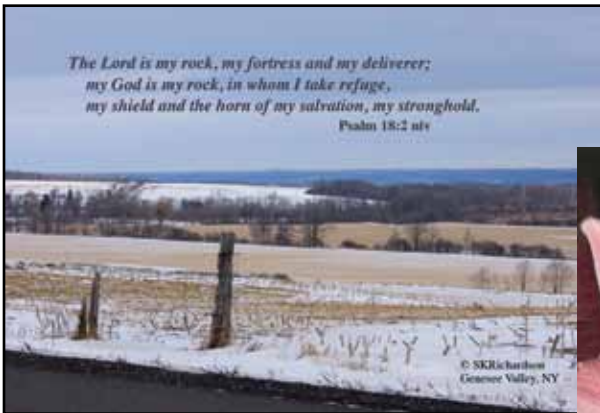
Calculate the Points Below:

the person with the most points wins!

- 10 points – If the sleigh is in the middle of the paper.
- 10 points – If your tree is to the left of the sleigh and not touching it.
- 15 points – If you drew more than 3 snowflakes.
- 25 points – If you drew a star on the top of your tree.
- 20 points – If you have 2 or more ornaments ACTUALLY on your tree.
- 20 points – If Santa is in the sleigh and not in the snow.
- 20 points – If you have 3 or more presents on your sleigh.
- 15 points – If you have drawn more than 2 bells.
- 10 points - If Santa has a hat.



2020 Wasn't So Bad... ...for Scripture Postcards!



As we look forward to 2021, we also look forward to your submissions for the Scripture Postcards. If you have a photo, drawing, or painting whose image would be appropriate for a postcard, please submit them to Sharon Richardson. Thank you and...



Happy New Year!

The Steeple Newsletter

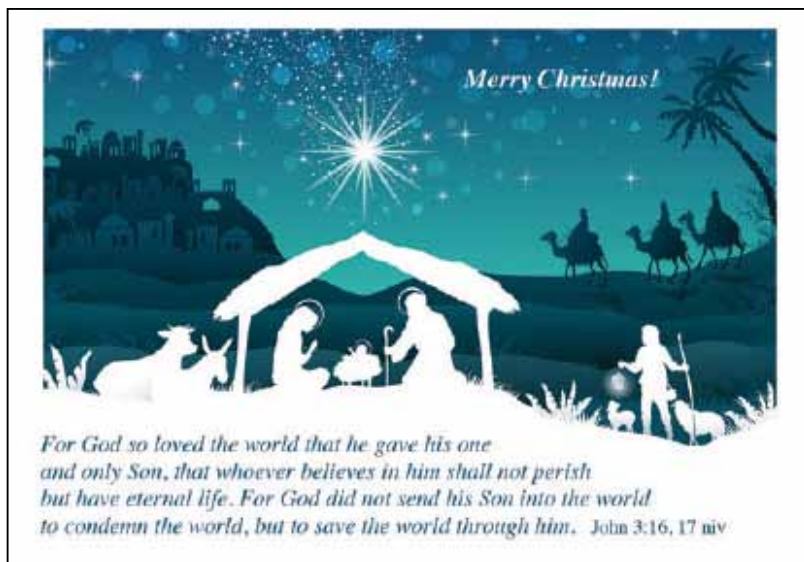
is published monthly by the Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, for the purpose of proclaiming that Jesus is Lord and that He is moving among his people here. Our intent is to keep the readers informed of local events, provide information to stimulate and edify it's readers, mixed with a touch of humor to lighten the day.

Submission Deadline:

The 3rd Sunday of the month.

Contact:

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Steeple Staff
Technical Advisor, Sharon Richardson



FREE

Scripture Postcards are available at
Leicester EPC.



Leicester EPC

161 Main Street
P.O. Box 202
Leicester, NY 14481

**If you're happy and you know it,
clap your hands.**

If not, count your blessings.

For Emergencies or Personal Matters

Pastor David Missel 382-3311 Church
658-1197 Residence

Pastor David is presently scheduling Fridays as his day off so matters of less urgency could be left on the church office answering device, or call one of the Ruling Elders:

George Briggs 585-382-3038
Gene Gregg 585-382-3027
Leo Richardson 585-382-3153
Carol Griffen 585-382-3681

Other Contacts:

LEPC Email Address:
grichardson001@rochester.rr.com
LEPC Food Pantry (by appointment only):
585-245-3448
Sunshine Person - Cathy Mlyniec:
cmlyniec@gmail.com

*"I have come that they may have life
and have it abundantly."*

John 10:10

LEPC Supports Our EduNations Child

Margret Conteh

Margret lives in Sierra Leone, Africa, where the Presbytery of the Alleghenies reaches out with the Gospel in several villages. Margret attends the Mayatta Hope Academy in Makump.

Please remember her in your prayers and in your giving to the Missions Fund.

