



December 2024



***In Jesus, God has fulfilled
the greatest promise of all:
his promise that
a Messiah was coming.***

Matthew 1-2

The book of Matthew provides us with one of the most familiar accounts in the Bible of the birth and infancy of Jesus:

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Matthew 2:1-6

Don't let the familiarity of this account cause you to rush over its hope-giving glory. When Herod went to Old Testament scholars to inquire where the promised Messiah was to be born, they had no problem

answering. They immediately quoted Micah 5:2. Now, pause and think about this for a moment. It's not just that the Messiah's birth was promised in a general, nonspecific way. The promise of God, made through the prophet Micah many generations before, was specific- down to the exact town in which he would be born. The King of kings wouldn't have a regal birth in a royal palace in Jerusalem, with an adoring court at his cradle. No, the hope of the world would be born in the town of Bethlehem to a mother and father who were far from the royalty of that day.

Every detail of Jesus's birth was part of God's plan before the foundations of the earth were set in place. So the promises and prophecies of his birth were detailed and specific. God is not like a fortune teller, delivering a safe, generic prediction. No, these promises were made by the Lord of heaven and earth, who rules everything, everywhere, all of the time. ***You see, the promises of God are only as good as the extent of his sovereignty, because he can guarantee the delivery of his promises only in situations over which he has rule. Because he rules***



everything, everywhere, all of the time, however, his promises are specific and rock-solid.

The specificity of God's promise about where the Messiah would be born is a picture of how infinitely confident God is in his own ability to do whatever he has said he will do, wherever he said he will do it, and whenever he knows the time is right. You can bank on and build your life upon the promises of God.

He has the power, willingness, and authority to do everything he has promised to do. It is so good to know today that you can absolutely trust that he will do what he has said he will do.

For further study and encouragement: Micah 5:1-6

Taken from Everyday Gospel

A Daily Devotional

Connecting Scripture to All of Life
by Paul David Tripp

Submitted by Leo Richardson



Pastor David Missel

585-658-1197 Residence
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585-382-3311 Church

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.

When Pastor David is unavailable:

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
 - Patty Gregg 585-245-1311
 - Carol Griffen 585-382-3681
 - Shirley Matthews 585-382-3171
 - Cathy Mlyniec 585-322-6669
- Clerk of Session*
- Leo Richardson 585-382-3153

Other Contacts

LEPC website:

www.seekinggodtogether.com

LEPC Email Address:

grichardson001@rochester.rr.com

LEPC Food Pantry:

(by appointment only)
585-245-3448

Sunshine Person:

Cathy Mlyniec
cmlyniec@gmail.com

Dear Church Family,

As many of you know, the year of 2024 has been unusually challenging for Carole and I due to a variety of health issues. Carole experienced a “widow maker” heart attack in February from which she has recovered and I experienced a broken right hip on March 9th which required surgery for a full titanic hip replacement followed by many weeks of therapy. I feel like I have fully recovered from this for which I am grateful.

However, due to the trauma of the hip replacement, I then experienced an inguinal hernia which lasted until I could have surgery on Aug. 9th. From which I believe I have fully recovered from.

Nevertheless, shortly thereafter I was scheduled for surgery due to another bout of cancer in my left eyelid. This required two doctors, working in tandem, with each other to perform surgery to remove the cancer on 9/24 and the second doctor to perform reconstructive surgery the following day – 9/25. Since then, I have been and still remain in a state of healing which, although improving, has compromised my ability to see clearly out of my left eye due to the scarring resulting from the surgeries. The doctor is pleased with the present results and is hopeful that complete healing will occur in another month or two. We are grateful for the many people who have been and continue to pray for my healing, as well as Carole’s continued good health.

As you might expect, during this extension of surgeries and recoveries the many restrictions on my ability to continue a “normal” lifestyle has been compromised in several ways. Nevertheless, I have endeavored to do what I could to fulfill my pastoral responsibilities to the best of my ability. I am very grateful to those who have sacrificially filled in for me when I was physically unable to do so.

During these times of surgeries and recoveries, I have sensed God’s presence, peace, love and faithfulness in very special ways, for which I am exceedingly thankful.

As we journey into the year ahead, let us all remain faithful to serve our Lord and Master until that day when we will rejoice forever in His presence.

Gratefully yours,
Pastor David



LEPC Mission Statement:

We at Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church, confess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We prayerfully seek to do His will through the power of the Holy Spirit in our worship, discipleship, ministry, mission, fellowship and continually strive to make this church one that glorifies God and is pleasing to Him.



Monthly Celebrations

December Birthdays

- 3 Shirley Siniapkin
- 9 Patricia Gregg
- 30 Pastor David Missel
- 31 Robert Richardson

Anniversaries: (none listed)

Joy Sunday Dish To Pass December 15

Our Annual Christmas Dish To Pass Luncheon will be right after the Joy Sunday Laity Church Service. All are welcome to attend. Condiments and drinks provided, please bring a dish to pass, but not necessary, if unable. There's plenty of food for all!

Special Christmas Eve Service

LEPC will be attending a special Christmas Eve Worship Service at York UPC. All local community churches have been invited to attend.

Details to come.

Prayer Shawl and Lap Robe Ministry

If you know of someone who has serious health problems and would find some encouragement, warmth and comfort from receiving a handmade shawl or lap robe, please contact Carole Missel.

Each robe or shawl given is prayed over specifically for the recipient.



Photo by George Briggs
Sunrise in Letchworth Park

A Christlike Christmas

By Dr. David Jeremiah

Though He was rich...He became poor. 2 Corinthians 2:9

Poor distraught Johnny. It was Christmas morning, and he had opened the last of his eleven presents. There wasn't a twelfth one, and he felt as deflated as a leaky hot water bottle. How strange that our culture has turned Christmas inside out, making it a frenzy of materialism.

Christmas, to Jesus, meant selflessness. Though in the form of God, He did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant. (Philippians 2: 6-7)

Christmas, to Jesus, meant service. He came not to be catered to but to minister to others (Mark 10:45). He wasn't as interested in being given to, as in giving. He gave Himself, and in giving Himself, He gave His all.

Christmas, to Jesus, meant submission. In claiming to be "sent" from heaven, He implied His obedience to the Sender-His Father. And Christmas, to Jesus, meant sacrifice. His birth set the stage for Calvary.

God's people must reverse the trends of our culture and begin seeing our Lord's birth as He saw it. Can you think of a way in which you can be a selfless, submissive, sacrificing servant today?

If so, you've got a divine corner on Christmas.

May God bless you as you live as a faithful ambassador of Jesus Christ,
Pastor David



Fatu Thoronka

Fatu is 18 years old and is in the class of JSS1 at Mapainda Junior Secondary School in the Mayatta area, Sierra Leone. Her hobby is volleyball. Please pray for Fatu, her educational future and the other students and teachers at the school.

LEPC supports EduNations through our Missions Funds.



Continued Prayers for:

*Pray for peace in Jerusalem.
May all who love this city prosper.
O Jerusalem, may there be peace within
your walls and prosperity in your palaces.
For the sake of my family and friends,
I will say, "May you have peace."
For the sake of the house
of the Lord our God,
I will seek what is best for you,
O Jerusalem.
Psalm 122:6-9 niv*

- Pray for Israel and the Middle East.
- Pray for all hostages and refugees throughout the world.
- Pray for all the "innocent" civilians caught in the middle of war.
- Pray against hatred throughout the world.
- Pray for our soldiers that are in harms way.
- Pray for the persecuted Christians around the world.
- Pray for our church, community and nation.

God's will be done!

**Lasting Peace
in a Broken World**

Mark M. Yarbrough, PhD
President, Dallas Theological
Seminary, Dallas, Texas

You may have heard this statement before: "Don't let the world teach you theology." I have often heard my friend and fellow DTS graduate Michael Easley say it.

This warning especially deserves attention as we enter the last quarter of the year. Even in good times, the world preaches a "sermon" of anxiety and worry. But these days, it seems that the world is shouting that "sermon" at us daily.

So how should you and I respond? How can we turn off this "sermon" in our head without becoming a recluse on a faraway mountain or isolating in the middle of a desert? The answer for Christians is this: You and I can choose peace right where we are.

In Hebrew, the word peace—"shalom"—pictures "everything as it should be."

The problem is that our world isn't as it was created to be. Every day, we encounter the reality of a broken world, with hard circumstances abounding. Disruptions of various kinds may upset our peace. Our relationships aren't always as they should be. We may experience anxiety due to our materialistic and fast-paced culture.

Yet God gives us a way to have "shalom"—with our thinking "as it should be"—in each one of these problem areas!

Through His Holy Spirit indwelling you, God gives you the power to choose peace (Romans 8:6). And He gives you the pattern of thinking—content to fill your mind—as you focus on the truths

God's Gift of Love

*Christmas is a Gift of Love,
That can't be bought or sold.
It's ours just for the asking,
And it's worth far more than
gold.
And this priceless gift of Christmas,
It's within the reach of all.
The rich, the poor, the young and
old,
The greatest and the small.
So take God's Christmas gift of
Love,
Reach out and you receive.
And the only payment,
That God asks,
Is just that you believe!*

- Helen Steiner Rice

Submitted by Paul Griffen

found in His Word (Romans 12:2).

I know this from experience. I've been a church elder and pastor. I've sat with devoted Christians I care about who were in extremely difficult, painful circumstances. I've had my own share of heartaches. Experience has taught me that even in the most challenging situations, Christians can rely on the clear promises of God. We can choose peace in Christ.

In fact, choosing peace is one of the main themes of the Bible. God invites us to rest in Him and His truth even when the world is in turmoil or our personal lives are rocked. He never promises we won't experience pain, fear, alarm, or worry. Even Jesus wept, sweat blood, and sorrowed. But God does give us

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a road map for a peace that overcomes in the midst of our storms.

It's a deeper peace than just the temporary removal of pain. And it only comes through the Lord Jesus Christ—His saving grace, His life within us, and His Word.

Even though we may have studied these Scriptures and principles, we need to be regularly reminded that God can grant us peace that is beyond our understanding in the midst of chaos. As Christ's ambassadors, I hope you and I will help fellow Christians to avoid the trap of letting "the world teach them theology," knowing that we can have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1) and His peace will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

I can't think of a better way to end the year than to experience—and share the message of—the peace that only comes from God and His Word.

In His care.

Submitted by Carole Missel



“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”.

“Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore”.

Isaiah 9:6-7

Thy Kingdom Come

The Coming Golden Age by Dr. David Jeremiah

Editor's note: In *The Coming Golden Age*, Dr. David Jeremiah teaches us what to expect in the future when Jesus returns and how the coming reign of Christ affects our daily lives today. The King is coming, and we have a part to play in this story that promises to set right all that is wrong and usher in a new golden age. Enjoy this excerpt.

Gerald Ford, his head bowed in reverence, was reciting the Lord's Prayer when he learned he was about to become president of the United States. He had gathered for a weekly prayer meeting in the office of John Rhodes, minority leader of the House of Representatives. Also present were Minnesota congressman Albert Quie and Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird. This group gathered each Wednesday to pray for the nation and for one another, but today was tense. They were on the cusp of an unprecedented moment in American history: the resignation of an embattled president. After each of the men had prayed individually, they offered in unison the Lord's prayer: *Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.*

Suddenly Rhodes's secretary entered the room and said, "I know I'm never supposed to interrupt this meeting, but considering the circumstances I think I should. The White House just called and said Jerry Ford should come down to the White House right away."

No one needed to ask why. Congressman Quie asked, "Jerry... What if, when you have a press conference, somebody should ask you, 'Where were you and what were you doing when you found out that you were going to be the president?'"

"Nobody's going to say that," said Ford on his way out the door.¹

The Watergate Scandal is only one of thousands of crises that have jerked the history of the world like a rag doll. Think of other unexpected events that have upset the trajectories of the human story — the fall of Babylon in the days of Daniel; the sack of Rome by the Visigoths in AD 410; the victory of William the Conqueror in England in 1066; the assassination of Austrian archduke Franz Ferdinand that sparked World War I; the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941; the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991; the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

It seems history is lurching along with no rhyme or reason, subject to the blowing of the wind or the falling of the dice, and the world is destined to end in the ashes of ultimate catastrophe. Historian Henry Steele Commager said, "History is a jangle of accidents, blunders, surprises, and absurdities, and so is our knowledge of it."²

But never forget the Lord reigns!

His throne is secure in the heavens, and He rules behind the scenes and beneath the surface of the tides of history. Like a river that flows beneath the ground then surges to the surface for all to see, His rule will burst forth with cascading power when Jesus comes again.

I want to impress upon you this fact: the millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ will be the great fulfillment of the prayer taught to us by Jesus: *Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.* - Matthew 6:10

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Every day, millions of Christians say that prayer in hundreds of languages in thousands of diverse settings and situations. It has been so for the last two thousand years. No prayer has been more frequently uttered, more meaningfully offered, and more urgently needed. Even now, as you read these words, someone, somewhere, is praying the sixty-six words of the Lord's Prayer.

I want to suggest that when we pray, "Your Kingdom come," we're praying for two parallel realities. There are two phases of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus. The first is the present reality of the Kingdom of grace, the church of the Lord Jesus, which is growing in the world right now. Jesus is the King over the hearts of millions of people who are following Him in their homes and to the ends of the earth.

But the ultimate fulfillment of this second petition of the Lord's Prayer will be answered as soon as Christ returns and sets up a visible, geopolitical Kingdom headquartered in Jerusalem.

We are a spiritual Kingdom in a physical world.

The Kingdom of Grace

I want to introduce you to a phrase Bible scholars use to describe the kingdom of God: already but not yet. Have you heard that? This phrase was coined over a hundred years ago by Princeton theologian Geerhardus Vos and made popular by another scholar, George Eldon Ladd, in the 1950s. **The idea is that the Kingdom of Heaven is already here, but it has not yet come in its fullness.**

Ladd wrote, "The Word of God does say that the Kingdom of God is a present spiritual reality... At the same time, the Kingdom is an

inheritance which God will bestow upon His people when Christ comes in glory... The Kingdom is a present reality (Matthew 12:28), and yet it is a future blessing (Romans 14:17). It is an inner spiritual redemptive blessing (Romans 14:17), which can be experienced only by way of the new birth (John 3:3), and yet it will have to do with the government of the nations of the world (Revelation 11:15)."

Ladd continued, "Therefore, what we pray for is 'Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.' This prayer is a petition for God to reign, to manifest His kingly sovereignty and power, to put to flight every enemy of righteousness and of His divine rule, that God alone may be King over all the world."³

Those of us who know Jesus Christ as our Lord are currently — at this moment — citizens of the Kingdom of God on this earth. We are walking models of those who have allowed the Lord to reign on the throne of our hearts. We are Kingdom people, infiltrating the earth for His purposes.

Jesus began His preaching ministry with the news of the imminent appearing of the Kingdom of God.

He said, *Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.* — Matthew 4:17

He also said, *Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the Kingdom of God.* — Mark 10:14

In Luke 17:21, He said, *The Kingdom of God is within you. When Jesus stood before Pilate, He said, My Kingdom is not of this world. If My Kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight.* — John 18:36

When the Holy Spirit descended on the 120 disciples in the upper

room in Jerusalem shortly after the ascension of Jesus Christ, the church came into sudden and sublime existence. The word kingdom means the king's domain; so, those who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord are His people, His possession.

We are a spiritual Kingdom in a physical world.

Our Lord told us in Matthew 12:28, *But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come upon you.*

Paul wrote, *For the Kingdom of God is not eating or drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.* — Romans 14:17

In Colossians 1:13, he added, *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love.*

When you pray for God's Kingdom on earth, you are praying for the spread of the gospel and the expansion of the church. When you pray for the missionaries God places on your heart, when you engage in mission trips around the world, when you give to ministries that are reaching the globe, when you intercede for your own local churches — you are echoing the prayer of Christ. You are asking God to let His Kingdom come to all the earth.

¹Dale Van Atta, *With Honor: Melvin Laird in War, Peace, and Politics* (Madison, WI: The University of Wisconsin Press, 2008), 470.

²Henry Steele Commager, *The Study and Teaching of History* (New York, NY: Merrell Publishers, 1980), 74.

³George Eldon Ladd, *Gospel of the Kingdom* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2000), 16–17, 21.

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Submitted by Carole Missel

Christmas Scripture Advent Calendar

Keep the true meaning of Christmas close to your heart, as you look up and meditate on a scripture verse each day throughout Advent.

<p>1</p> <p>John 1:14 <i>The Word became flesh...</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>Isaiah 9:6-7 <i>For to us a child is born...</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p>Isaiah 7:14 <i>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign...</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>Luke 1:26 <i>In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel...</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>Luke 1:35 <i>The angel answered...</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>Luke 1:39-45 <i>At that time...</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p>Luke 1:46-50 <i>And Mary said:...</i></p>
<p>8</p> <p>Matthew 1:20, 21 <i>But after he had considered this...</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Luke 2:1-3 <i>In those days...</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p>Luke 2:4-5 <i>So Joseph also went up...</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>Luke 2:6-7 <i>While they were there...</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>Luke 2:8-9 <i>And there were shepherds...</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>Luke 2:10-12 <i>But the angel said to them...</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p>Luke 2:13-14 <i>Suddenly a great company...</i></p>
<p>15</p> <p>Luke 2:15-16 <i>When the angel had left them...</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>Luke 2:17-19 <i>When they had seen him...</i></p>	<p>17</p> <p>Luke 2:20 <i>The shepherds returned...</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p>Matthew 2:1-2 <i>After Jesus was born...</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>Matthew 2:3-4 <i>When King Herod heard this...</i></p>	<p>20</p> <p>Matthew 2:5-6 <i>"In Bethlehem in Judea"...</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Matthew 2:7-8 <i>Then Herod called the Magi...</i></p>
<p>22</p> <p>Matthew 2:9-10 <i>After they had heard the king...</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>Matthew 2:11-12 <i>On coming to the house...</i></p>	<p>24</p> <p>Matthew 2:13-15 <i>When they had gone...</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p>Revelation 5:11-14 <i>Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels...</i></p>			



May You and Your Loved Ones Have a Very Blessed and Merry Christmas!

Voice of the Martyr's:

icommittoprayer.com

October 10, 2024 | Somalia

Christian Widows Displaced by Islamists

Hawa is a Christian convert from Islam who maintains a farm in a rural area of Somalia. Though raised as a Muslim, Hawa became a follower of Christ through her son's witness. Hawa's Muslim husband divorced her and kicked her out of the house when he learned of her newfound faith. Through another Christian woman, Hawa came to help work and maintain the farm, which also houses 19 Christian widows whose husbands had been killed by al-Shabab, a terrorist group active in Somalia and Kenya. Hawa disciples the widows and actively shares her faith with other women who work on neighboring farms. In March 2024, fighting broke out between al-Shabab and the Somali government, destroying some of the crops, displacing Hawa and the widows, and killing one of the women. VOM helped provide food and shelter for the displaced Christians until they could return to the farm and begin replanting crops.

October 17, 2024 | Colombia

Pastor and Family Flee for Lives from "Red Zone" Guerrillas

After months of seeing villagers and friends extorted, abused and killed by violent guerrillas who control the dangerous "red zones" of Colombia, Pastor Santiago and his family have fled from their village to a safe location, leaving most of their personal belongings behind. According to a church member, Pastor Santiago is on the guerrillas' hit list for his refusal to support their illicit activities, prompting his decision to flee with his family. Pastor Santiago also shared with VOM staff that he had received death threats for preaching the gospel. His greatest concern is for his family and their provision if anything happens to him. Fearing for their lives, most members of Pastor Santiago's church have either left the village or plan to leave soon. Pray for Pastor Santiago and the affected families from this village, including a teenage girl from the church who was kidnapped earlier this year and has not been heard from since.

October 24, 2024 | Nepal

Christian Wife Stands Firm Despite Continuous Abuse

Goma Kunwar has suffered repeated beatings and mistreatment at the hands of her Hindu husband since putting her faith in Christ in 2022. More than once, his attacks have been life-threatening. On Jan. 2, 2024, Goma's husband beat her badly and attacked her with a sickle, cutting her head so that she required medical treatment. Despite the abuse, Goma does not want to leave the Lord. Pray that she will receive the physical and emotional care she needs; that her husband, Tek Bahadur, will come to faith in Jesus Christ; and that her faithfulness to the Lord will be a testimony to the friends and neighbors who are urging her to give up her faith.

October 31, 2024 | Benin

Young Christian Escapes Voodooist Family

Marc, 21, battled a chronic illness and could not find a cure. He visited doctors and voodoo practitioners, but nothing seemed to help. Then a friend urged him to come to church. When Marc heard the gospel, he became a follower of Christ and was physically healed, later deciding to receive baptism. When he returned home from the baptismal service, his voodooist father had hired people to beat him. His father was upset that Marc, his oldest son, would forsake his duties to the family's voodoo rituals and told him to leave. Marc stayed at a relative's house, but some family members locked him in a room and tried to force him to return to pagan practices. Eventually he escaped through a window. Today, he lives with a pastor's family, is trying to find a job, and hopes someday to preach the gospel. He said, "What made me to have courage is Jesus says in the Bible, 'I will never abandon you.'"





Our Mission

The EPC exists to carry out the Great Commission of Jesus as a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations.

Our Vision

To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to embody and proclaim Jesus' love as a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership.

Our Motto

*In Essentials: Unity.
In Non-Essentials: Liberty.
In All Things: Charity.*

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.

For those who would like a printed version of the church newsletters, we keep the last 2 months' issues in the brochure rack, on the wall to your right, as you exit the sanctuary to Fellowship Hall.

**Submission Deadline:
The 3rd Sunday of the month.**

Contact:

Sharon Richardson
srichardson002@rochester.rr.com
Leo Richardson
grichardson001@rochester.rr.com

Staying Connected: If anyone does not receive the Steeple Newsletter, participate in Prayer Chain Activations, receive church updates by e-mail, or has a change for the "Birthdays and Anniversaries" and wants to be included, please contact Leo Richardson.

Highlights Regular Session Meeting of 11/14/2024

Sharing Life, Spiritual Focus and Prayers for the Church and Others we meet: Session encouraged to invite people to worship. Observation made that everyone seems to work hard at LEPC. Pastor visited other churches for worship while on vacation. Prayers were offered in thanksgiving to God and for intercession for others.

Pastor's Report: Individual health issues were presented. The sign out front was changed.

Worship: Joy Sunday, and a Dish to Pass Luncheon, is scheduled for 12/15/2024. LEPC will join in a joint Christmas Eve Worship Service at York UPC.

Missions: Financial Support given: "Thanksgiving - 2 - Go" at Celebrate! Family Church, Faith Comes By Hearing - Audio Bible Ministry, Open Door Mission for their holiday appeal, Camp Cherith, Christmas Shoe Box shipping, York UPC Christmas Sharing Program. Operation Christmas Child is scheduled for 2025 with the online option being promoted.

Stewardship: The 2025 LEPC Budget was approved.

Property: Snow Plowing proposals being considered. Lawn mower servicing/tune up scheduled.

Next Regular Session Meeting date was scheduled for December 12, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.



Biblical Word for You!

Taken from the Israel Bible Center

Meaning of Tzel (צל)

Pronunciation: tzehl

What It Means:

"Tzel" (צל) is the Hebrew word for "shadow," but it's more than just a dark shape cast by light—it carries also a deep spiritual significance, often symbolizing protection, divine presence, and refuge in the Bible.

Why It Matters:

"Tzel" appears in important biblical contexts, such as in Psalm 91:1: **"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty."** This imagery of tzel is often used in scripture to describe God's own character—He offers shade, shelter, and protection to all people.

Fun Fact:

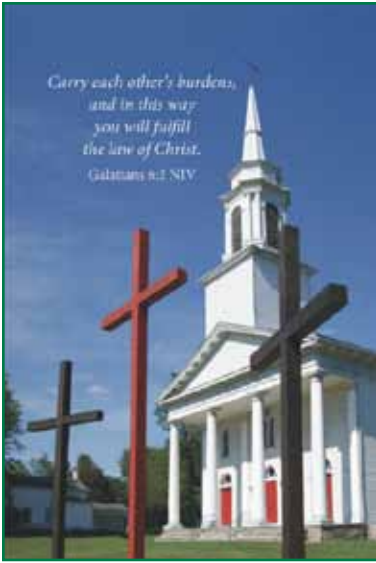
In the desert, the Israelites were led by a cloud—essentially a "shadow" from God—providing protection from the harsh sun. In Numbers 14:9, Joshua tells the Israelites that the Canaanites are defenseless because their "shade" (tzel) has been removed, leaving them without divine protection.

But tzel also has another meaning. Jacob wrestles with his own shadow—his inner struggles—before resolving his conflict with Esau, reminding us that true transformation often comes from confronting our inner selves.

What About You?:

Can you think of a time when you felt like you were in a "tzel"—a moment when you experienced protection or comfort during a difficult time? Or perhaps a moment when you wrestled with your own "shadow"?

Submitted by Carole Missel



EPCConnection

EPCConnection is the news and information service of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a denomination of Presbyterian, Reformed, Evangelical, and Missional congregations. To the glory of God, the EPC family aspires to be a global movement of congregations engaged together in God's mission through transformation, multiplication, and effective biblical leadership, embodying Jesus' love to our neighbors near and far.



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Everyone is Welcome!

Sunday morning Worship

9:15 - 9:30 Prayer and Share
9:40 - 10:20 Berean Sunday School
10:30 - Traditional worship
(Hymnals/piano)

Communion First Sunday of the month

Christmas Dish-to-Pass Luncheon
3rd Sunday of the month after church



Leicester EPC
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Leicester, NY 14481

Recipe For Christmas Spirit

Mix together the following ingredients:

- A full measure of holiday happiness, to which you add many jolly moments.
- Blend with the true meaning of Christmas.
- Top with 365 days of joy and contentment.
- Spice generously with fun and laughter and
- Serve in large portions to your family and friends.
Serves as many as your heart can hold!

Submitted by Paul Griffen

