

## BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road  
Grand Island, New York      www.bfcgi.org      716-773-3748

### THE LORD'S DAY

December 10, 2017 8:30 & 10:15AM

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude      Carol Dammann  
Piano      Wendy Baldwin

Announcements      Ron Mock  
Lighting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> candle to signify the city of Christ's birth Micah 5:2  
Carol 250      "O Little Town of Bethlehem"  
Scripture Reading Psalm 40 – responsively  
Prayer  
Carol 249      "O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
Pastoral Prayer      Pastor Cal VanderMey  
Message      The Incarnation      Dr. Brian Albrecht  
Closing Hymn 273      "Good Christian Men Rejoice"  
Benediction

### THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

### THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday- 6 pm for caroling  
Tuesday Bible study at 7pm on Ephesians 1-3 Pastor Cal leading  
Choir Rehearsal Wednesday at 7pm  
Precept Thursday at 9:15am on "Daniel"-Living Out a Biblical Worldview with Margaret Was teaching  
Ladies fellowship Thursday at 10am – Elsa Peters  
Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell teaching

**Today! Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm Children's Advent Service**  
**Christmas Caroling Mon. Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm-Bus leaves promptly**

### "Our Virgin Born Immanuel--God with us!"

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

The mystery stated in Genesis 3:15--seed of a woman--is now explained for us in Isaiah 7:14. The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son. Humanity alone cannot achieve that fact, but God can do that which is impossible. What a comfort that should have been to King Ahaz at a time of trouble in the history of the Kingdom of Judah. God can do anything, and He will do the impossible. And God can still do that today in your life and mine. Ahaz rejected the sign as having any import, and Isaiah's greatest prediction went unheeded for 700 years.

In a dream a man in Nazareth was given this same verse, and it was the explanation that he needed to decide what to do with the woman to whom he was engaged. Joseph was told that Mary was the virgin, and the child to be born was indeed Immanuel (Matthew 1:23).

Immanuel is literally God with us, a reminder to Joseph that the child that she would bear would be God Himself coming down to live among men. Scholars tell us that when the Bible speaks of God dwelling among men it literally means "He pitched His tent among us" (John 1:1-14). Did Joseph realize that his wife was chosen to be the vehicle through which God would enter the human race--yes! New Testament writers explained for us the significance of the Virgin Birth. I John 4:9 views it from the aspect of God's love: By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. Paul views the Virgin Birth as essential in order for God to handle our sin problem: But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons (Galatians 4:4-5).

When you go into a doctor's office, and the doctor scrambles to find your name, you do not feel very important. Yet you have God who cares about you personally. So much so, that He gave you this sign--the Virgin Birth--to comfort you that your sin problem is not going to be handled by you, but rather that God Himself pitched a tent here on earth 2000 years ago, and took care of the whole mess that our sins had created. How thankful we should be for the Virgin Birth of Christ--God with us!

One sad note.... Those who do not believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God have attempted to explain away Isaiah 7:14, even to the point of changing the word "virgin" to "young woman." This was done in the 1952 publication of the Revised Standard Version, written by scholars who frankly did not believe in the Virgin Birth of Christ. In essence, by saying that a young woman was having a baby, they were claiming that Jesus is not God, but rather a charismatic figure like Mahatma Gandhi or Dr. King, who was killed, and his death then emboldened followers to carry on his work. Accordingly, we do not recommend the Revised Standard Version or any versions that consider themselves in the tradition of the RSV.

Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz  
Anyone interested in joining the choir please see Dawn Fraser  
The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary

### **Church Family Prayer Page**

Pray for our church and families

Vi Anderson is doing great! Glory to God she turned 90

Clair Card – continued recovery

Elaine Woodell – 4<sup>th</sup> chemo went well

Catherine Woodell – health

John and Melissa Hoegg for wisdom

Peggy Whitmire went home to Jesus-pray for Rick and Barb and family

Diane Scott – recovery from surgery

Rogers family with the passing of Larry

Peace in Jerusalem

Pray for our Veterans and our first responders

Pray for our Missions & Outreach

Pray for our leaders and military members and families

*“O God, You are my God, earnestly I seek You” Psalm 63:1*