

And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leapt in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. - Luke 1:41 Across the world today, there are a lot of excited people. Children are excited because of the gifts that they may receive tomorrow. Some adults are excited because of the same thing. Some of those gifts can be life-changing, like a marriage proposal perhaps. Others are gifts that perhaps fill wants and desires. Sometimes the anticipation is what is the hardest. It is the anticipation of the unknown, but the excitement of what is to come. Even as we celebrate the birth of Christ over 2,000 years later, nothing has really changed.

Before His birth, there was an anticipation of what was to come. People were looking for a Savior who could redeem them from their sins. Throughout the Old Testament, they were told of His coming, but He had yet to appear. But in this verse in Luke, we see what happens even before He was born. Elisabeth simply heard Mary say hello, and the babe in her womb leapt in joy over the Savior in the womb of Mary. It is just another example to prove those wrong that baby's do not have their senses in the womb as it is evident John heard Mary's voice and understood what was taking place.

But many people are in anticipation of things on Christmas that they will never find. While they look for those brand new toys, fancy new cars, diamond rings, new clothes, or whatever their heart may desire, they will end up being left void on the inside because the things of this world can never satisfy. John was not leaping just because of Jesus being in the womb. He was leaping was because the cure for the sin of the world, which had been promised, was delivered.

So while the world sits in anticipation of Christmas Day this year, we have to look beyond the anticipation to see what the day is really about. We are not celebrating the amazing gifts, time with family, or many other things. Those things will only satisfy for a short period of time. Instead of anticipating gifts, we should be celebrating that our Savior was born and be anticipating the fact He said that He would come again! It is a hope that goes beyond Christmas.

Our Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) would like to encourage the church to remain in a season of prayer as we, as a church, seek the man God has for us as our new pastor. This prayer and scriptures are being sent out by Remind messages daily at the request of the Pastor Search Committee. This week's prayer and scripture is below. Take time each day to pray the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, help us to be a church body that pours out love and forgiveness over each other as You do us. Help us to be in perfect harmony and bound together to do the work You have called us to do. In Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.—Colossians 3:12-14





1—Budget Discussion (evening service)
5—Sr. Adult Ladies' Brunch
8—Adult Choir Christmas Music (morning service)
9— "Mary Did You Know?" ladies' banquet
15—Kid's Christmas Music/Budget Vote (morning service)
Family Christmas Event (after morning service)
22—Candlelight Service & Church-wide Fellowship



## "MARY DID YOU KNOW?"

Special Ladies Event

Monday, December 9, 2024

6:30 PM

This will be a special time of renewal for ladies of all ages

- Dinner
- Childcare
- Bible Study

What a great opportunity to invest in yourself and others as we continue to Deliver purpose and hope to our ladies.

Our men will be taking care of the cooking dinner, serving dinner cleaning, and childcare!