Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119 480-982-9120

DECEMBER 2023



Embracing God's Sovereignty

Thanksgiving 2023 is now behind us, and we are being encouraged to turn our attention to Christmas. If you are anxious to see some of the lights and symbols of this most joyous season, I invite you to visit our church. Our Decorations Committee has pulled out all the stops and has turned our sanctuary into a festive and

worshipful environment. I love it!

I am glad that our God unveils the future one season at a time. Each season bring change, beauty, and reminders that nothing in this world remains the same — and that is how God planned it.

Sometimes change feels more like chaos than the result of intelligent planning. Don't be fooled by this.

In the tapestry of our lives, the hand of God intricately weaves moments of divine timing and sovereign guidance. The captivating narrative in Acts 8:26-40 illuminates this truth, reminding us of our Heavenly Father's comforting and guiding hand.

Philip, obedient to the Spirit's prompting, encounters the Ethiopian eunuch just as he grapples with Scripture. God orchestrates this divine appointment, showcasing His impeccable timing. Like Philip, we find solace in knowing that God unfolds His plan precisely when our hearts are ready to receive His truth.

Furthermore, observe how God's sovereignty is evident in the eunuch's life. The Holy Spirit guides Philip to explain Isaiah's prophecy, unlocking the understanding of God's Word. Similarly, God comforts us by sending messengers and circumstances to illuminate His truth, providing us with clarity amid life's uncertainties.

As we reflect on this passage, let's celebrate God's comforting presence and guiding hand in our lives. Embrace His sovereign timing, trusting that He orchestrates events for our good and His glory. Let us find assurance in His Word, for in it we discover the timeless wisdom and unwavering love that guides our steps.

Remember that Jesus appeared when the time was right. This is one of those things that does not change. It is a timeless truth. Wait on the Lord — he will show up at just the right time!

God loves you and so do I! Pastor Rick

NOTICES & EVENTS



December 25-26, 2023 & January 1, 2024 Office closed for holidays

Sunday, January 21, 2024Keepers of the Faith Concert

<u>Sunday, February 18, 2024</u> Barry Ward Concert Committees: Your 2024
budgets are due the week of
Dec. 3. Direct your questions
and/or submissions to Beth
in the office. Thank you!!

The new Ladies' Bible Study & Life
Group are held on Tuesdays at 10:00
& 11:15am respectively. The groups
will be meeting on December 5
and then will be on break until
after the new year.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NEW CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS!

To the Crossroads Baptist Congregation:

Please note: Our church now has a new email address.

Please add it to your contacts for the church.

It is now:

Info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com

For a while, emails to the old yahoo.com address will be forwarded to the new email address.

Of Casseroles and Cupboards

The church freezer is filled with casseroles and our cupboards (pantry) are filling!

Do you need help with a meal or two? Or know someone that needs a bit of help? Someone that is ill and a visit with a meal and/or some groceries would show them God's love? You can minister to them in the name of Jesus through your church. Come by the church during office hours or call to set up another time to pick up.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NEW! CHURCH APP FOR PHONES AND OPTION FOR ONLINE GIVING

Our church now has a new phone app and is about to launch an updated website!

Both the app and the current website have the new online giving option.

When giving online, there is a fee (a percentage) charged as well. You can choose to pay the fee or not. If you do, the church receives your full gift and the fee you paid is deemed tax deductible for you. If you choose not to pay the fee, the fee is taken out of your gift amount prior to deposit to the church's bank account.

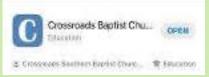
You will find the Crossroads Baptist Church app in the Google Play Store and in the Apple App Store for both Android and iPhone.

**Search for Crossroads Baptist Church AZ

Then download the app to your phone.**

Look for the blue square with a white 'C' in the middle.

(This picture below is from the Apple Store)



For assistance, please feel free to call the office to schedule an in-person training.

issions News

News of/from missions supported by Crossroads Baptist Church

Matthew 25:40

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Missions Focus

Through December 10

Angel Tree

Please take an envelope from the angel tree and place your donation in it. You may return the envelope to the basket by the tree or in an offering plate. Help bless someone else this Christmas season.

December 10 through December 31

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem — LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence. She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®. 100% of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enables gospel transformation among the unreached.

Anytime

Cans for recycling, canned and boxed nonperishable foods, etc.

The giving table will remain by the media center in the west alcove for donations of nonperishable foods, blankets, towels, toiletries, etc., that can be donated to the local missions Crossroads supports throughout the year. We are still recycling clean cans as well. They can be placed in the large can by the kitchen.

Thank you for your heart to help those less fortunate.

Acts 20:35> "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

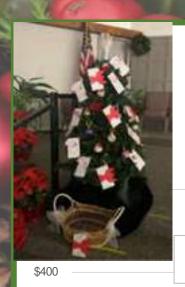
Missions Committee: George Dodge, Wes Ehlers, Lora Kimsey, Judy Mittlestaedt, Linda Moody, Hector Palma (Your name could be here too!)

issions News (continued)



Lottie Moon donations are accepted through December 31 by cash or check. Please write 'Lottie Moon' on the giving envelope. When giving by check, write it to Crossroads Baptist Church and write 'Lottie Moon' in the memo section of the check. Thank you,





Crossroads Baptist Church ANGEL TREE 2023

Deadline: December 10

As of November 26, 2023



Gift Cards \$125



Live Nativity Walk-Through Event 2023 Mountain View Lutheran Church December 16-17, 6-8pm

Public Walk-Thru Live Nativity Event:

As you may know, Crossroads donated our old 'Live Nativity' costumes and props to Mountain View Lutheran Church in 2022 for their first Live Nativity event as they were interested in having one if Crossroads was not.

That event was a success and now, in 2023, they are once again holding a free 'Live Nativity' community-outreach event. The legacy of Crossroads' Live Nativity events is living on just next door!

This event is an excellent opportunity for our combined faith communities to reach out together to the local area. It is truly a wonderful evangelistic event to invite your friends, family, kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids to experience. See and experience real people and animals set in live Biblical scenes.

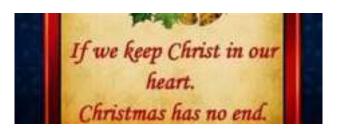
Refreshments will be available after guests walk through the Bible-based village.

Their church event contact is Lisa Blue at 480-982-8266.

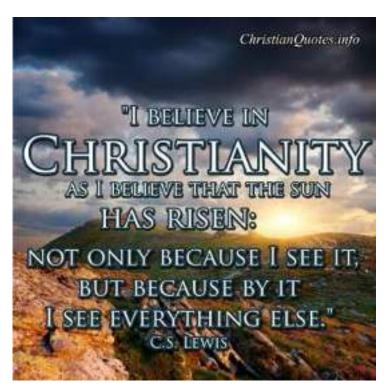
If you are unable to physically take part in the Live Nativity, but would like to support it financially, please place your offering in an envelope marked 'Live Nativity' or write that in the memo section of a check made out to Crossroads Baptist Church.

Flyers are available.









Scriptures for the Month

December SAVOR OUR SAVIOR!

- Day 1: Isaiah 7:14
- Day 2: Matthew 1:21
- Day 3: Luke 2:6-7
- Day 4: Matthew2:10
- Day 5: John 1:14
- Day 6: John 1:1-4
- Day 7: Isaiah9:6-7
- Day 8: Matthew 1:18-25
- Day 9: John 3:16
- Day 10: Micah 5:2-5
- · Day 11: Psalm 72:9-14
- · Day 12: Isaiah 11:1-2
- Day 13: Romans 8:1-3
- Day 14: Numbers 24:17
- Day 15: Matthew 2:10
- Day 16: Luke 1:26-28

- Day 17: Luke1:29-31
- Day 18: Luke 1:32-33
- · Day 19: Luke 1:34-35
- Day 20: Lukel:36-37
- Day 21: Luke 1:46-48
- Day 22: Luke 1:49-50
- Day 23: Luke 1:51-52
- Day 24: Luke 1:53-55
- Day 25: Luke 1:66-69
- Day 26: Luke 2:7
- Day 27: Luke. 2:8-9
- Day 28: Luke 2:10-11
- Day 29: Luke. 2:13-14
- Day 30: Luke 2:29-32
- Day 31: Luke. 2:33-35

"Rejoice, that the immortal God is born," so that mortal man may live in eternity"

-Anonymoust



2023 Monthly Bible Reading Plan Start Now! It's never too late!

365 - DAY

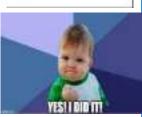
BIBLE READING PLAN



One of the best ways to know God is to become acquainted with the full counsel of His written Word. This reading plan will guide you through all 66 books of the Bible in the coming year.

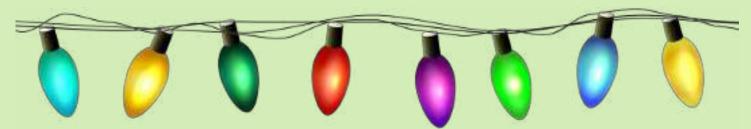
DECEMBER

1 Corinthians 10 - 13	Colossians 1 - 4	= 1 Peter 1 - 5 2 Peter 1 - 3
1 Corinthians 14 - 16	= 1 Thessalonians 1 - 3	7 1 John 1 - 5
2 Corinthians 1 - 4	n-2 Thessalonians $1-3$	s 2 John I
2 Corinthians 5 - 9	= 1 Timothy I = 6	3 John 1
2 Corinthians 10 - 13	3 2 Timothy 1 - 4	1. 1.uke 2:1 - 20 Jude 1
Galatians 1 - 3	a Titus 1 - 3	- Revelation 1 - 4
Galatians t - 6	Philemon 1	Value in the Contract of the
Ephesians 1 - 3	Flebrews 1 - 4	# Revelation 5 - 9
Ephesians 4 - 6	a Hebrews 5 – 8	Revelation 10 - 13
: Philippians 1 - 4	+ Hebrews 9 - 10	:= Revelation 14 - 17
	= Hebrews 11 - 13	= Revelation 18 - 19
	= James 1 - 5	Revelation 20 – 22



If you read through the Bible this year, or this helped you start reading consistently, please contact Beth in the office to provide a testimonial as to what impact it made in your life.





Christ in C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S

Christmas — bright lights, glittery trees, children's squeals of excitement, church chimes in frosty air, the press of shoppers — memories of Christmas.

Oh, yes, almost forgotten — in a scratched, wobbly, wooden manger on a church's front lawn, there's a baby doll, plastic fingers upraised in frozen appeal, alone in the night.

Christmas has forgotten Christ. For many, celebrating Jesus' birth has little to do with Christmas, and even many Christians don't know how to "put Christ back into Christmas." I believe we can overcome the commercialism and paganism with the Good News — "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). Below I have used a C—H—R—I—S—T—M—A—S acronym to explain how to honor Jesus Christ this Christmas.

C the first letter in Christmas, stands for the person who alone gives any day eternal significance: Christ our Lord. It is easy to shove Christ aside on this holiday, but we should celebrate the birth of Jesus, whose very name means "the Lord is salvation" and whose title, "Christ," points to His role as the Redeemer of humankind. If Jesus is not Christ in your life, celebrating the birth of an obscure Jewish carpenter's son is meaningless to you.

H stands for history. The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are not myths or fantasy, but are historical realities. That God became man in Jesus Christ is an actual, testable historical event. Christmas reminds us that Christ is not just a warm feeling in our hearts, or an imaginary therapist enabling us to face life's traumas.

We don't know the exact day of the year Jesus was born.¹ We do know, however, that the December 25 date was advocated as early as about A.D. 220.² The church may have chosen to celebrate on December 25 as a triumph of Christianity over paganism because it came right after the Roman holiday of Saturnalia, one of the popular pagan winter solstice holidays (December 17-24).

R stands for rejoice, an appropriate response in recognition of what Christ has done. Favorite Christmas hymns show that rejoicing has always been an integral part of Christmas. We should rejoice because Christ came, not because of a nice present or a week off! We should rejoice like the psalmist, who said: "Come, let us rejoice in him" (Ps. 66:6).

stands for the Incarnation, describing that glorious event in which God became man. Christ is not only eternal God (John 1:1), but at a time in history He became man as well (John 1:14). Matthew's gospel says, "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel — which means, God with us" (Matt. 1:23).

S stands for St. Nicholas, the fourth century bishop of Myra, a Christian whose story — embellished by years of telling — nevertheless exemplifies Christian faithfulness and charity. Christmas should remind us of the faithfulness of God, without which we have no hope of redemption through His greatest gift, His Son (John 3:16). Little historical knowledge is available concerning St. Nicholas,³ commonly called by his German/English equivalent, Santa Claus. But he is known for kindness to children in need, and for his commitment to Christ through persecution and martyrdom. Many traditions associated with Santa Claus are objectionable — especially that he is all-knowing or able to be present everywhere. However, the themes of faithfulness and charity are biblical and honor Jesus Christ.

T stands for tradition, the stories and customs associated with Christmas. Christmas traditions are of three types: (1) those strictly non-Christian, inappropriate for Christians; (2) those that were initially pagan but were changed to affirm the gospel; and (3) those developed within the church. One inappropriate tradition from early pagan mid-winter festivals is drunkenness and immorality. The drunken Christmas party may reflect Rome's ancient Saturnalia, but has nothing to do with celebration of Christ's birth.

Some Christians think the Christmas tree is a pagan tradition forbidden by Jeremiah 10:2-4. However, the Jeremiah passage is not about trees dedicated to one day of the year (Christmas); rather, it refers to permanent, all-year-round idols carved out of wood and covered with gold and silver. The Christmas tree actually symbolizes that Jesus brings us eternal life (the evergreen) and is the light of the world (lights or candles).

Likewise, boughs of holly with red berries and green leaves represent Christ's shed blood on the cross and eternal life. Even the candy cane/shepherd's crook represents Jesus as our Shepherd. While tradition is no substitute for dynamic personal faith, it enhances our appreciation of Christ's birth.

M stands for the magi, or wise men, directed by God to find and worship Christ. We shouldn't forget that no one is wealthy enough, powerful enough, or far enough away that he or she should not bow before Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:15).

A stands for advent, a word referring to Christ's coming. Christ came once in Bethlehem — as an infant who grew to manhood, died for our sins, and rose again the third day. Christians eagerly look forward to His Second Coming — "the blessed hope" (Titus 2:13). Many churches conduct advent services for the four weeks prior to Christmas, encouraging Christians to look forward to the birthday of Christ and also to His Second Coming.

S stands for salvation, made possible by the coming of Christ. The gospel story is so simple we often forget it, but so profound it affects every individual. We are all sinners, separated from God, with absolutely no way to reach God except He reached down to us through His Son. With the coming of Christmas comes recognition that because He came, He died, and because He died and lives again, we also may live (Rom. 6:8; 8:11).

Christmas is not primarily a celebration of human life, although each human life is valuable; not primarily a celebration of peace and love, although peace and love are noble. The center and circumference of Christmas should be the celebration of the birth of our Lord: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

(Based upon the article originally printed in the From the President column of the Christian Research Newsletter, Volume 5: Number 5, 1992)
NOTES

"He may have been born in the fall, based on information in the Bible on the birth of John the Baptist and his father Zacharias's priestly schedule (1 Chron. 24:10; Luke 1:5, 9, 23-24, 26, 36, 56)

*See Harold W. Hoehner's Chronological Aspects of the Life of Christ (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1977), 25-26.

*When I use the term saint, I am not implying that only extraordinary Christians are "saints." Verses such as Psalm 30:4, Romans 8:27, and Ephesians 6:16 declare that all believers are saints. Nicholas is, however, an excellent example and role model of a "saint."

*See Clement A. Miles, Christmas Customs and Traditions, (New York: Dover Publications, n.d.).



November Average Monthly Attendance

Sunday Worship:	65
Sunday School:	39
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study:	14
Ladies' Bible Study:	6
Ladies' Life Group:	5

Actual Attendance



There are several yummy casseroles in the church's freezer for our members who need a hand with meals. They are handmade by members of

our own Hospitality Committee.

If you know of a member who has a need, please check out casseroles through the office during the week and through Rita or other member of the committee on Sundays.



Involved

If you or someone you know needs prayer immediately, contact our Prayer Chain Chair, April Inman.

Ladies' Breakfast:6

Need a Handyman/ Painter?

The church has been utilizing Richard Elizondo for two years for many projects inside and outside of the church (our sanctuary is one of them). A few members have also hired him for things at their homes.

Richard is dependable and honest.

His fees are reasonable.

Reach him at 480-255-4698

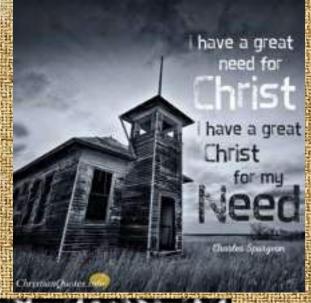


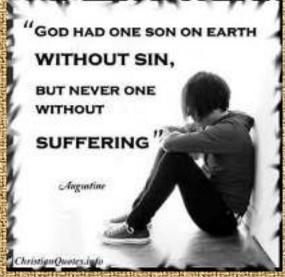
- Sunday Fellowship coffee & donuts 9:00 am.
- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Worship Service at 10:45 am.
- Tuesday Ladies' Bible Study at 10:00 am. AND (new) Ladies' Life Group at 11:15 am.
- Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study at 3:00 pm.
- The Ladies' Breakfast—Monthly: third Friday at 8:30 am.
- Volunteering Your Time: The church needs your gifts and talents. See a need? Want to help somehow? Contact the office.

REFLECTIONS



Your most powerful testimony is how you treat others after the church service.

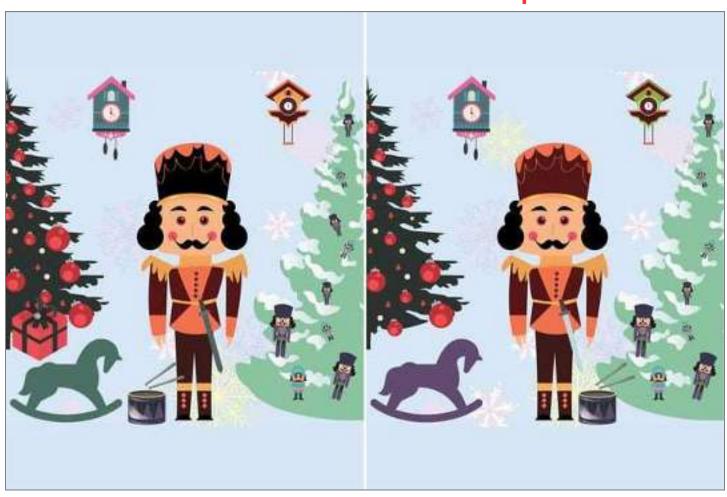








FUN TIME! Find the 10 differences in the pictures below.



Find the matching snowflakes:

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#_____ & #____

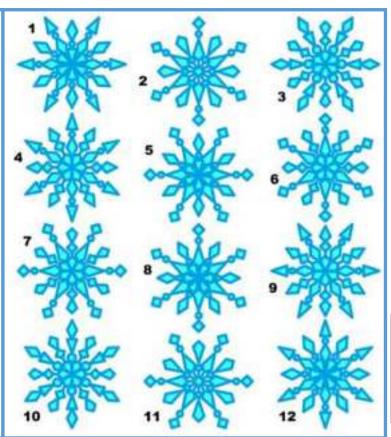
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(Puzzle answers are on page 14)









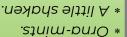
What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

What do you get if you eat Christmas decorations?

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy?

How does the snow globe feel this year?

What's every parent's favorite Christmas carol?



- * "Silent Night."
 - !siJillisniT *
 - Joke answers: * Ice Krispies!







The Origin of Christmas Eve Excerpts from https://www.crosswalk.com/special-coverage/christmas-and-advent/what-is-christmas-

understanding-the-history-and-origin.html

For centuries, Christmas was celebrated not as a single day, but as a whole season in parts of the world, beginning with this day, December 24, Christmas Eve. Perhaps the practice of celebrating the evening before the

big day is an echo from ancient Jewish reckoning. Among earlier Jews, a day began at six in the evening and ran until six the following evening. Had not Moses written: "An evening and a morning were the first day"?

Why is it Called Christmas?

Christmas means "Christ-mass." Although the date is a guess, the tradition of observing it goes back to at least the fourth century. Under the influence of the church, Christian traditions replaced pagan solstice festivals throughout Europe. Often the more innocent pagan practices (such as bringing in a Yule log, decorating with holly and the like) were carried over into the Christmas observance, transfigured with new meaning.

The Christian Meaning Behind Christmas Traditions

Evergreen Trees were the symbol of eternal life. Martin Luther introduced them to the Reformation Church as a picture of our endless life in Christ, by bringing in a tree to his family on Christmas Eve lit with candles (Isaiah 60:13).

Candles are a picture that Christ is the Light of the world (John 8).

Holly speaks of the thorns in His crown (Matthew 27:29).

Red is a color of Christmas that speaks of Christ's blood and death.

Gifts are a reminder of the gifts of the Magi to baby Jesus. Each of them speak to a component of His incarnation: Majesty in life, Bitterest Agony in Death and He as God's Perfect gift to us (Matthew 2).

The Yule Log was a symbol by which all the men in the family would carry a log large enough to burn for 12 days into the house. They were identifying with Christ and His Cross. The fire was started with a fragment from the previous years [this refers to the eternal existence of Christ before His birth] log. It speaks of warmth, unity, joy and the security of endless life.

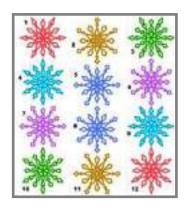
Mistletoe was an ancient symbol from the Roman times. It was under mistletoe that old enmities and broken friendship were restored. So Christ was the One who took away the enmity and gave us peace with God (Romans 5.1; Romans 8.1).

Bells are associated with ringing out news. Christ is the good news, the best news of all.

The Christmas story, as told in the Bible, is central to the Christian faith and is commemorated annually on December 25th. The celebration of Christmas has evolved over the centuries and incorporates various cultural and religious traditions, but its core message remains the birth of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of God's promise to bring salvation and hope to humanity.

This content was adapted from "Christmas Eve" by Dan Graves.

Puzzle Answers from page 12





December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
This month's Bib reading plan is: 1 Cor 10—Rev 2 The daily plan is the monthly new letter.	2 <u>2</u> in	A AVA				e through			
3 9am-Fellowship 9:30am-Bible Stud 10:45am-Worship & The Lord's Supp		5 10am-Ladies' Bible Study 11:15am-Ladies' Life Group	6 3pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	7 6pm Choir Practice	8	9			
		Angel T	ree through	Dec 10					
10 9am-Fellowship 9:30am-Bible Stud 10:45am-Worship	11 ly	12 No Ladies' Bible Study or Life Group until after the new year.	13 9am-Property Comm Mtg 3pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	14 6pm-Choir Practice	15 8:30am-Ladies' Breakfast @ iHop Evening: Aspire Women's Event	16 **12:30-3pm Social Saturday —Make Angels *6-8pm-Live Nativity-Mtn. View Lutheran			
Lottie Moon through Dec 31									
17 9am-Fellowship 9:30am-Bible Stud 10:45am-Worship *6-8pm-Live Nativi Mtn. View Lutherar	ty-	19 No Ladies' Bible Study or Life Group until after the new year.	20 3pm-Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	21 6pm-Choir Practice	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23			
Lottie Moon through Dec 31									
24 Christmas Eve 9am-Breakfast Fellowship 10:45am-Worship Blessings & Carols	25 Christmas Day OFFICE CLOSED	26 OFFICE CLOSED No Ladies' Bible Study or Life Group until after the new year.	27 No Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	28 No Choir Practice	29	May the mage and the wender the helday season stay with you throughout			
Lottie Moon through Dec 31									
New Years' Eve "May the Cod of hone fill you									

9am-Fellowship 9:30am-Bible Study 10:45am-Worship

Lottie Moon Last giving day "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace."
Romans 15:13 (NIV)



2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Church Office: 480-982-9120

Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Email: info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com

Website: https://www.crossroadsbaptistaz.com/

Pastor: Rick Basch

Deacons

Wes Ehlers, Hector Palma, Mike Tacker, Robert Wisner



Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association https://www.valleyrimsba.org/ AZ Southern Baptist Convention https://azsbc.org/

Southern Baptist Convention http://www.sbc.net/

