

## WATCHING FOR CHRIST'S RETURN

I will admit baseball is one of my least favorite sports to watch. The reason is because it moves very slowly. Baseball has been described as “a game that manages to pack 15 minutes of fast and furious action into 2½ hours.” It takes a lot of “watching” for the baseball fan to see a little action.

Today is the beginning of Advent—a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival.” It is a time of waiting and watching for Christ’s coming. Yet despite the long, anticipated arrival of the Messiah, many in the first century missed God’s coming because God did not come as they had expected.

- The one they expected to come with fanfare instead came quietly with the announcement made only to a few shepherds.
- The one they expected would liberate them from Roman domination instead liberated them only from sin and guilt.
- The one they expected to make life easier instead talked about the burden of carrying a cross.
- The one they expected would dazzle with miraculous feats instead refused to turn stones into bread or jump off the temple steeple.

Advent is not only a season of anticipating Christ’s coming as the Bethlehem babe, but also Christ’s coming into our daily lives now and once again at the end of time. The Gospels suggest we should expect the unexpected by noting that “no one knows when that day or hour will come.” Just as the baseball fan stays alert in order not to miss the occasional hit or strikeout or exceptional fielding play, it is important that we keep watching so we do not miss Christ’s coming.

—J. D. Glick, pastor  
Sunrise Church of the Brethren  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

---

### Text for Today

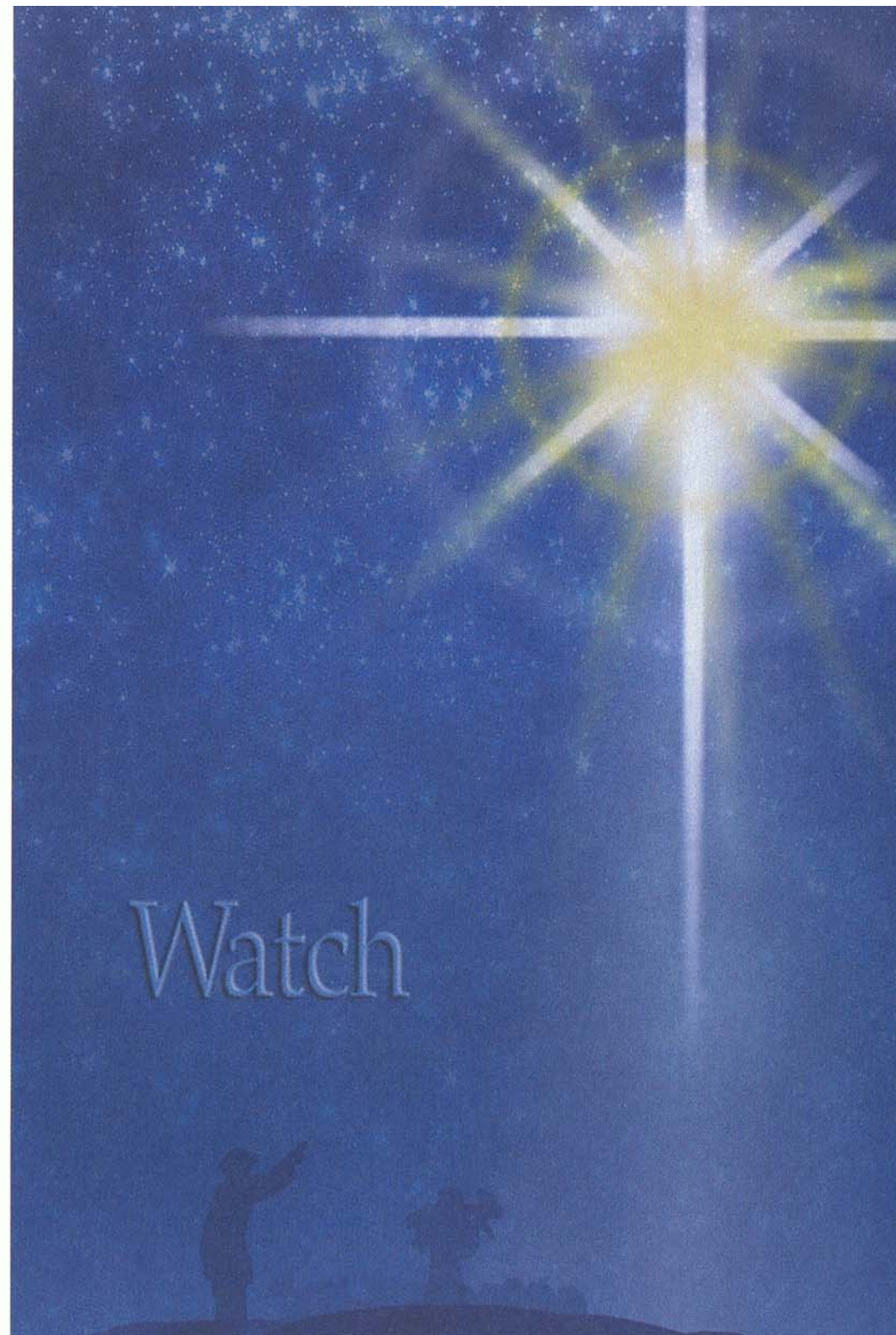
**Luke 21:25-36 (36), NKJV**

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch** therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



Worship resources © 2009 Brethren Press • [www.brethrenpress.com](http://www.brethrenpress.com) • 800-441-3712

115109





Sheldon Church of the Brethren  
 Ministers - All Members  
 November 29, 2009  
 9:30 a.m. Worship  
**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**



**NOTE:** The blue hymnal will be used today, unless otherwise noted.

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SPECIAL DAYS

PRELUDE/LIGHT CANDLES

LIGHT FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 25:1-5)

**ONE:** To you, O God, we lift up our souls.

**ALL:** In you, our God, we put our trust.

**ONE:** Help us to know your ways, O God; teach us your paths.

**ALL:** Lead us in your truth, and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you we wait all day long.

\*GATHERING HYMN #172 *O Come, O Come Immanuel*

\*UNISON INVOCATION:

O God, we gather in your name, prepared to wait, to listen, to hear you. Our redemption draws nigh, and with our heart we pray that we might see your salvation as one people acknowledging one God. Inspire us to make straight your paths, to level all obstacles that keep people from gathering in your name. These things we pray in hope and expectation. Amen.

PRAISE HYMN #592 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 33:14-16

MUSIC MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S TIME (Gathering Song: *Jesus Loves the Little Children*)

OFFERTORY STATEMENT

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

\*DOXOLOGY #119 (blue hymnal)

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

READING FROM THE LETTERS I Thessalonians 3:9-13

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER HYMN #176 *Comfort, Comfort, O My People*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pray For: Dallas Center, IA Church

Praying For Us: Ottumwa, IA Church

GOSPEL READING Luke 21:25-36

MESSAGE "Lists"

PRAYER OF BLESSING ON THE WORD

\*CLOSING HYMN #174 *Bless'd Be the God Of Israel*

\*BENEDICTION

\*THREEFOLD AMEN #382 (blue hymnal)

\* Please stand if you are able

**SERVING THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, November 29:**

Message	Rev. Lucinda Douglas
Children's Message	Rev. Lucinda Douglas
Music	Teri Kelderman
Music Ministry	Alina Douglas
Ushers	Mark Bilsland and Scott Maggert
Adult Sunday School	Linda Adams
Children's Sunday School	Ann Maggert and Sandi Cox

**SERVING THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, December 6:**

Message	Rev. David Loveall
Children's Message	Rev. David Loveall
Music	Donna Brinkman
Ushers	Mark Bilsland and Scott Maggert
Adult Sunday School	Donna Brinkman
Children's Sunday School	Ann Maggert and Sandi Cox

**PRAYER REMINDERS**

Our Congregation & Children	Jennifer Caldwell (Linda's daughter)
Living Peace Church, Sioux City	Rev. John Elder (cancer)
UCI - Jean-Jean & Kristie	Helen Van Kekerix (stroke)
Lost Brothers and Sisters	Julie Fisher (thyroid cancer)
Those Serving in the Military	Ann Evans (cancer)
Matt Pruin	Rev. David Loveall (back surgery)

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES



**United Christians  
International**

Haitian Ministry directed by Rev.  
Jean-Jean & Kristie Mompremier.  
[www.unitedchristiansinternational.org](http://www.unitedchristiansinternational.org)

## 2009 CHURCH OFFICERS

**Moderator**  
Linda Adams

**Deacons**  
Clarence & Rhelma Evans  
Linda Adams & Jo Rolston

**Clerk**  
Jo Rolston

**Treasurer**  
Sandi Cox

**Adult Sunday School Teachers**  
Linda Adams  
Donna Brinkman

Alan Cox  
Marcene Cox  
Scott Maggert  
Sally Young

**Children's Message**  
Marcene Cox

**Children's Sunday School**  
Ann Maggert and Sandi Cox

**Church Facility Trustee**  
Scott Maggert

**Church Sign**  
Alan Cox

**Custodial Care**  
Members take monthly turns

**Farm Trustee**  
Ross Cox

**Fellowship Time**  
Clarence & Rhelma Evans

**Lawn Care**  
Jed Cox  
Ross Cox

**Messenger Agent**  
Donna Brinkman

**Ministerial Committee**  
Marcene Cox  
Ross Cox  
Rhelma Evans  
Jo Rolston

**Nominating Committee**  
Ann Maggert  
Sally Young

## OUR CHURCH

Worship Service . . . . . 9:30am  
Christian Education (Sept.-May) .10:50 am

Communion  
1st Sunday of Each Month

The Sheldon Church of the Brethren  
3011 Marsh Ave  
Sheldon, Iowa 51201  
(712) 324-3842

Email: [pastor@sheldonbrethren.org](mailto:pastor@sheldonbrethren.org)

Web Addresses:

The Denomination:  
[www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)

Northern Plains District:  
[www.northernplainsdistrict.com](http://www.northernplainsdistrict.com)

The Church:  
[www.sheldonbrethren.org](http://www.sheldonbrethren.org)  
[www.worship.sheldonbrethren.org](http://www.worship.sheldonbrethren.org)

**Outreach & Evangelism**  
Alan Cox  
Marcene Cox  
Sally Young

**Parsonage Committee**  
Ann Maggert

**Pianists**  
Donna Brinkman  
Marcene Cox  
Jill Dykstra  
Teri Kelderman  
Lynn Rolfsmeier

**Special Music**  
Marcene Cox

**Sunday School Superintendent**  
Jo Rolston

**Ushers**  
Mark Bilsland  
Alan Cox  
Scott Maggert

## Anniversaries and Birthdays for November

### *Birthdays*

06 - Scott Peterson  
13 - Jo Rolston  
28 - Gregory Harder

Many happy returns of the day of thy birth. May sunshine and gladness be given and may the Dear Father prepare thee on earth for a beautiful birthday in heaven.

## Church Events

### **Welcome!**

Welcome to Rev. Lucinda Douglas this morning. Also, welcome to all members and guests. You came to worship, go now to serve! You've been given the Light, go now to let it shine!

### **Adult Sunday School**

Today we will discuss Tape 2, Session 6, "The Priesthood Of All Believers" (with book chapter 6). For next week we will discuss chapter 7, "To Let Him Live In Us" (with no tape). This is a series on church heritage and membership. We welcome your participation!

### **Installation Sunday**

Dec. 6, Rev. David Loveall will be installed as the church's interim pastor.

## Community

**Nov. 1 - Dec. 13** - Mass community choir practices, as part of Bethel Reformed Church's "An Evening in December", will be at 4 pm each Sunday. The two performances will be on December 13 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Contact Ken Ven Huizen for further information at 324-4027 or 348-3508 (cell) or [kenvh@live.com](mailto:kenvh@live.com)

**Nov. 29** - Fifth Night in Archer. Good praise and a testimony from Jason Watson at 6 p.m. at Archer Reformed Church.

**Nov. 30** - St. Pat's Catholic Soup & Pie Supper, 4:30-7:30 pm.

**Dec. 6** - Holiday Memorial Service at 2 p.m. at Vander Ploeg Funeral Home Chapel in Sheldon is designed for those experiencing a void in their life due to death of a Loved One. See details on bulletin board.

## Guest Speakers

Dec. 6 - Rev. David Loveall (Communion and Installation)

Dec. 13 - Rev. David Loveall

Dec. 20 - Rev. David Loveall

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

Dec. 27 - Christmas Program