

## CHRISTMAS !

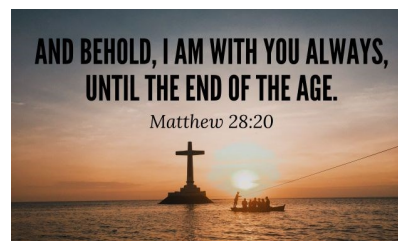


In the month of December we have a day that we have a great celebration. December 25<sup>th</sup>. How do you celebrate this day called CHRISTMAS. In the Bible it tells us in **Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. This tells us of a very special birth that took place and we celebrate this birth on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

The baby born is the son of God and called Jesus. **Matthew 1:18 (KJV)** Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. **Luke 1:26-31 (KJV)** And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, *thou that art* highly favoured, the Lord *is* with thee: blessed *art* thou among women. And when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

So how do you celebrate Christmas? Are you like most of us and go about getting presents for everyone and wonder if you forgot someone? Are you busy making cookies and other goodies? Then there are the decorations that need to be put up and don't forget the Christmas tree. Are you the one that remembers that Christmas is that special day set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus also called Immanuel? That is who we are to celebrate on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

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Luke 1:30-31 (KJV) And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. Luke 2:7 (KJV) And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

We need to tell our children about the Christ child and teach them Christmas is about Jesus our Savior. Jesus came in human form to save us from our sins and what a wonderful gift to us He is. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior we have the gift of eternal life with Him.

Let us celebrate Christmas the way it was meant to be. Remembering the birth of Jesus, His life, death and resurrection. What a wonderful gift we have been given, a Christmas to celebrate the birth that changed the world. It is okay to do the other things at Christmas as long we remember and celebrate the best gift of all, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Merry Christmas to All!

In Christian Love, Jean Westlake

### Pull Apart Christmas Tree Appetizer

- **1 lb.** refrigerated pizza dough (tube)
- Egg wash (1 egg whisked with 1 tbsp water)
- 7 mozzarella sticks
- **1/4 c.** melted butter
- **1/2 c.** finely grated Parmesan
- **1 Tbsp.** Thinly sliced basil
- **1 Tbsp.** chopped parsley
- **1 Tbsp.** chopped rosemary
- Marinara sauce, warmed (for serving)

#### **Step 1:**

Preheat oven to 450°. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper. Cut mozzarella sticks into 1" pieces and set aside.

#### **Step 2:**

On a floured surface, divide pizza dough into two pieces. Stretch and roll each piece of dough into a long rectangle, then cut dough into 2" squares (you'll need 33 total).

#### **Step 3:**

Wrap a dough square around each piece of mozzarella, forming a tightly sealed ball. Place balls seam-side down on the baking sheet in the shape of a Christmas tree (they should be touching). Brush egg wash on dough balls and bake until golden, 15 to 20 minutes.

#### **Step 4:**

Meanwhile, whisk together melted butter, Parmesan and herbs. Brush on baked pizza balls. Serve warm with marinara for dipping.





On Sunday, November 17, the EPIC Youth Group of Center Hill Hosted a luncheon to honor our veterans. Enjoy some photos from the event.



Pastor Leslie Crissman greeted all of the veterans and their spouses. The luncheon was very well attended. Airen Rupp provided the food and Jake Rupp was the soundman for this event.



Maddie Graham graced the veterans with TAPS on her trumpet.



A skit was performed by Braydon Strauser, Lilly Plank, Alexa Bowser, and Maddie Graham.



Lizzy Rupp played the Star Spangles Banner on her flute.



Vera Plank played "Amazing Grace" for the veterans on her guitar.



Sadie Jack recited a poem and Chloe Crissman recited a poem entitled "A Soldier Known But to God". Both poems were very touching and beautiful.



The "All U Can Eat" Pancake Breakfasts sponsored by the Men's Fellowship are planned for January 18, February 15 and March 15, 2025. The times are from 7 AM- 11 AM .



These fine and tasty breakfasts are open to the public. The price for the breakfasts have not yet been determined. Please spread the word.

There will be a Church Board Carry-in Meal & Meeting on Monday, January 6 in the Fellowship Hall. Board report are due to the church office by January 2,



In case of bad weather, there will perhaps be cancellations to some church activities. The church office will send out a call message to inform everyone of any of such cancellations.



Choir Practice

Choir practice will begin for the new year on Wed., January 8 , 2025 at 6:30 PM. Anyone is welcome to be part of the choir.



Kick the new year off by being a part of our Women Fellowship and Men's Fellowship. Women's Fellowship will be Tuesday, Jan. 14 and Men's Fellowship will be on Tuesday, Jan. 28. Both meetings begin at 7 PM. If you enjoy food, fellowship and growing your faith ...this is the place for you!

# THE Lamplighter

Center Hill Covenant Brethren Church

2039 Freeport Road

Kittanning, PA 16201

724-548-7226

Email: [centerhillchurchpa@gmail.com](mailto:centerhillchurchpa@gmail.com)

Web: [centerhillchurchpa.org](http://centerhillchurchpa.org)

