

THE OPEN DOOR

Vol. 797 December 2023

Edinburg United Church
200 Years Strong
&
Still Growing

From Lisa , Church Moderator

What a wonderful time of the year, ITS CHRISTMAS TIME, one of my favorite holidays. It's a great time to spend with loved ones. It's the last month of the year and a time to reflect on the past and continue with the new. A time to reflect on which direction our lives will take us this coming year and we make our resolutions, for the year. The only resolution I make is to be a better person. It's hard to be kind when people are pushing you to get out of the way however, in my recent trip home, I made it a point to greet people, to say please, thank you and excuse me. I normally do on a regular basis (sometimes I forget), and I found people responded better and maybe that was the little bit of "happy" they needed to make it through the day. I encourage you all to try it, when you are out during this season, you will see that it makes your heart feel good and theirs, by the smile they give you.

Feliz Navidad, Merry Christmas from my clan to yours.

[Romans 15:13](#)

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.



Make sure to get a tag off the salvation army angel tree, gifts need turned in **on or before Dec. 10th** . Reminder not to wrap the gifts but you can include wrapping paper and tape so the parents can wrap them.



**Lectionary for The Seasons of
Advent and Christmas**

Advent 1 Hope ~ Dec 3

Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

Advent 2 Peace ~ Dec 10

Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8

Advent 3 Joy ~ Dec 17

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 or
Luke 1:46b-55

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

Advent 4 Love ~ Dec 24

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 or
Luke 1:46b-55

Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38

First Sunday after Christmas ~ Dec 31

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 148
Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

Reflections

For the next four Sundays in the month of December we will be journeying through the season of Advent in our Christian faith. This journey is a blessing because it gives us time to prepare for the birth of our Lord, Jesus the Christ; God incarnate. We will celebrate his birth for twelve days beginning at our Christmas Eve Communion Services.

Advent is the beginning of the Church calendar year. It is a time to celebrate the sacred mysteries of our faith. The first mystery we are beckoned to embrace is *waiting*. As plant life begins to lie dormant and animals slowly enter the deep sleep of winter, we, too, can enter into the calming mother nature provides. You may inherently experience a yearning for quiet in your soul as you nestle under a blanket with a cup of tea or hot chocolate. You may find yourself in a place of hopeful longing for the return of longer days filled with the warmth of the sun. For now, we are a people of darkness preparing

for the birth of the Word made Flesh ~ the Light of the World.

For some of you this is a joyous time of year as you prepare for the arrival of Christmas Day. You spend your days filled with shopping, woodworking, baking, decorating, wrapping presents; the list goes on and on. For some of you this is a time of year that brings loss, loneliness, emptiness, depression, uncertainty, and disconnection. Yet, for all that is happening, we are reminded that God did not come into a perfect world filled with perfect people. God came into a world to meet humanity, us, where we are. Whether you are feeling joyous, or you are feeling lost and lonely desperately seeking hope ~ a Savior will be born.

Another mystery: how do we wait and prepare for the miracle we know is about to come? How do we wait when the nights seem endless? Creating a time in your day when you can rest in God's presence without the noise of life can be a place to start. Spend a few moments at the end of the day reflecting on how you were blessed and how you blessed others. Write it down if you wish. And Breathe, just rest and breathe ~ Be still in the presence of God.

If you seek a place of solace, we will have a "Longest Night" service on Thursday December 21st at 7:00pm. It is for anyone, member, friend, acquaintance, or stranger who experiences loneliness, desperation, or loss in this "Holiday Season." It is a very meaningful service which allows us to bring our brokenness and sadness before God. This is a prayerful candle lighting service.

At this time of year, I'm always reminded of the chorus from the musical "Godspell;" "Prepare ye the way of the Lord." Open your heart to prepare for the coming of the Lord ~ God incarnate!

It is my prayer for each of you to find a space, and place, and time during Advent to Wait, Prepare, Repent and Pray, Watch, Hope, and then, Rejoice on Christmas Day!

May the riches of Advent lift you and reveal the Wonder of the Extra-ordinary in the Ordinary; and may this Christmas Season fill you with all Hope in the revelation of Jesus Christ, born in a manger.

Grace&Peace Pastor Susan

Helping Our Local Food Banks Food for Thought...

The following is an article that originally appeared on Facebook. I was surprised by the thoughts expressed regarding the actual needs of people we seek to help and humbled that I thought I knew what “they” wanted. As we are gathering food items for our local food banks we might want to ask what they need most. We might be surprised! Here are *their* thoughts:

“1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because they need milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.

2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal which they also get a lot of.

3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.

4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy cans with pop tops.

5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a Roni which they also get a lot of.

6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.

7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.

8. Sugar and flour are treats.

9. They fawn over fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.

10. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing can be easy for some.

11. They rarely get fresh meat.

12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch. Again pop-tops on the tuna cans.

13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.

14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.

15. Butter or margarine is nice too.

16. Eggs are a real commodity.

17. Cake mix, and frosting makes it possible to make a child’s birthday cake.

18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.

19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will cry over that.

20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.”

“In all the years I have donated food at the Holidays, I bought what I thought they wanted, but have never asked them. If you are helping a Family this Christmas, maybe this can help you tailor it more. It does for me!” *Author unknown.*



“Christmas Fund for The Veterans of the Cross” This is a special offering for pastors who have served God in our local churches. It is often collected in churches on Christmas Eve. For us at Edinburg United Church UCC this offering is part of our mission fund giving ~ 5 for 5!

“Gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs,” said the Rev. Krista Betz, director of ministerial assistance for The Pension Boards, which administers the Christmas Fund. “As UCC members and congregations, this is your opportunity to participate in God’s promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.”



Sunday Funday youth did a great job with the salad bar after services on Nov. 19th. Was enjoyed by all who attended.



Youth Funday meets on Sundays after service until 11:00.

The Sunday Funday Group continued their Joyful Giving session by hosting a salad bar for the congregation to raise awareness for the Palmyra Food Pantry. The collected items will be taken in the next week or two - if you would still like to donate please get them in!

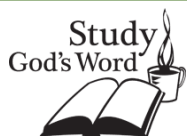
December will finish up our Joyful Giving Lessons as we make cards for the shut ins.

Sunday Funday will meet after church on December 3, 17, and 31. There will be no class on December 24.

Youth group making ornaments for the tree for the Christmas party and senior gift bags!!



Youth Group meets the second Sunday of the month 10:00 a.m. (after service) in the fellowship hall. Grades 6th thru 12th. For December on the 10th!!



Adult Bible study right after service every Sunday



Thank you so much to our church friends for the many special cards and prayers that have been sent my way! So very much appreciated!

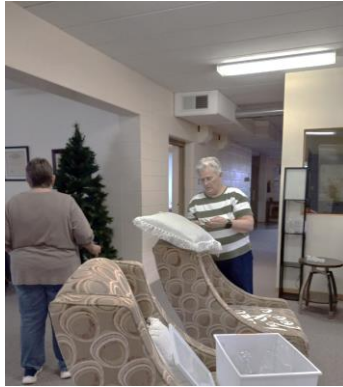
Also, thank you to our church counsel, Roger Mansfield, and the Southeast Lions for the very special bench in memory of our beloved grandson, Daniel. He had made a very nice patio stone path for me through one of my gardens. It's now Daniel's Garden and the bench looks so comforting there!

Love,
Donna and Bill Kibler

Thank you to Beth, Kim, Cindy, Susan and Cyndi for coming out on Friday to help decorate the church. We still have some decorating to do for anyone wanting to stay after on Sunday.

Thank you to the scouts for helping to bring Christmas stuff down, it was very appreciated.

Thank you to Adain and Landon for coming on Wednesday to help get some of the stuff situated.



We will be making ham balls on Wednesday, November 29th at starting at 6:00 p.m.! All are welcome.



Senior Funday

Wednesday, Dec. 6th from 11:30 to 2:00, Come out and enjoy the fun!!!

Bring a dessert or something to share. All are welcome



Salvation Army bell ringers need Dec. 21 & Dec 22 10-6 p.m. at Rootstown Giant Eagle. Would like you to volunteer for 2 hours (make it a family event) we can divide the hours up, if needed. Sign up sheet on the whiteboard or see Jeneen.



The First Congregation Church of Rootstown will be having a casual Christmas pipe organ concert on Friday, **December 8th** from 6-8 p.m. Flyer is on the whiteboard or visit their facebook.



Ready for some fun and fellowship??

Christmas Party

December 9th at 6:30 p.m.



There are 24 Chapters in the Book of Luke — a book that tells about the life of Jesus from birth to ascension into Heaven. It's the perfect number to read one chapter as a family every night December 1st-24th... and then wake up Christmas morning ready to celebrate the birth of Christ fully knowing the story of our King!



Longest Night Service: December 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve SERVICES

Last Advent Sunday (Dec. 24th) 9:00 a.m. (come as you are)

Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.



Communion at both evening services

Dec. 31 service will be at 9:00 a.m. Will be Hymn/Song Singing



Advent Study: The light of Grace at 6:30 p.m.
Thurs. Nov. 30th
Thurs. Dec. 7th
Mon. Dec. 11th
Mon. Dec. 18th



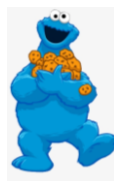
The Edinburg Light Tour will brighten spirits all December! Maps will be available on the church facebook page by Dec. 9th. If you'd like to see live characters wishing you Merry Christmas, be sure to drive down Stroup Road on December 10th from 6-7 p.m. If you have questions or would like your house added to the map, email Melissa Dills at dillsmelissa70@gmail.com or text her at 330-687-7529.

Liturgist for December are:



Dec 3: Sue Francis
Dec 10: Brenda Hards
Dec 17: Eva Rowley
Dec 24: Cindy Jarrett
Dec. 31: Cindy Jarrett

Cookie queens for December are:



Dec 3: Julia Hayes
Dec 10: variety from the Party!!!!
Dec 17: Julia Hayes
Dec 24: Lisa
Dec. 31: Lisa

MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

If you would like to do any of the following:

Liturgist: see Cindy Jarrett

Cookies: see Lisa Morehead

Greeter: see Sabrina Finney

Offertory: see Barb Rohn

Future Council Dates

(2nd Thursday of the Month) 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 14

Council members: Lisa Morehead, Lenny Reiter, Barb Rohn, Audie Morehead, Cyndi Oblisk, Diane Ringer, Jeneen Kubala, Matt Finney, Roger Mansfield & Sabrina Finney



Save your can tabs and give to Diane Ringer to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

FINANCE

Jan-Oct. 2023

Tithes/Offerings: \$85,926

Income: \$101,300

Total spending YTD: \$129,100

Starting in January, we will have a **GUESS WHO!** Email to EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com or give Cyndi baby pictures or something about yourself to let people guess who it is!!!



Have the kids, grandkids and adults color a page (or more) to hang up at the Church!! Pictures are available at the Church or bring your own picture that you like.

Do you need to fill out a building use form?? Go to our website at

<https://www.edinburgunitedchurch.org>

Click on resources and then forms. Click on the link and it will take you to the form.

Have you, your kids, grandkids or anyone else done something you would like to announce??? If you would like anything added to the newsletter, please let Cyndi know by the November 22.

NEW EMAIL: EUCNEWS1823@gmail.com

Edinburg United Church
Unofficial Council Minutes
October 12, 2023

PRESENT: Lisa Morehead, Janeen Kubala, Cyndi Oblisk, Audra Morehead, Lenny Reiter, Matt and Sabrina Finney, Diane Ringer and Pastor Susan

SPEAKER: Nevaeh Berringer

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Lisa Morehead and opened with a prayer

Nevaeh Berringer updated the council in regards to her Eagle Scout project of erecting a flag pole on the church property. Council was informed that Nevaeh had procured a donation for the concrete. The concrete is to be picked up 10/13 and Nevaeh will inform Lisa, Matt and Sabrina with the date if it is changed. Nevaeh was under the impression that the church was going to donate the flag pole. There was no plan for installation of a light on the pole. The request was made again that the flag pole have an internal mechanism for raising/lowering the flag in case of inclement weather. There is also a need of donations for the landscape blocks and mulch to be placed around the pole. Janeen informed Nevaeh that she can contact our State Representative to receive a free flag and the contact information of the State Representative was also given to Nevaeh.

The council members discussed amongst themselves about asking for donations from the congregation to help move the project along. It needs to be completed by 12/7/2023 due to Eagle Scout program age requirements.

A motion was made by Diane Ringer and Janeen Kubala made a second motion to request donations from the congregation at the 10/15 and 10/22/2023 services. Nevaeh Berringer agreed to make the presentation to the congregation on 10/15.

A motion was made by Matt Finney to approve a 30' pole for the flag. Audra Morehead made a motion to second the proposal. The vote passed unanimously.

The minutes from September's meeting were read and approved with a note to correct the spelling of *Nayiri*.

A motion was made by Janeen Kubala to donate \$500 to Charm and Sabrina Finney made the second motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Diane requested the actual dollar amount that we have donated year to date. Lenny informed us that \$650 went to EP, \$515 went to Southeast lunches and \$376 was given to VBS.

(East Palestine)

A discussion was had in regards to new rules for the Scout troops sponsored by EUC. Cyndi Oblisk as well as Matt and Sabrina Finney were not involved in the discussion due to their affiliation with the Scouts. The rules that were discussed were the result of congregational feedback.

A motion was made by Janeen and Lenny made the second motion to adopt and implement the new rules for the Scouts. The vote was passed unanimously.

It was also determined that the church owns the Scout troop's trailer because it is the charter organization.

Snow removal was discussed. The quote received was from Billiter Snowplowing. The proposal was \$150/plow and \$25 for sidewalks each time there was 2" or more snow. A monthly set price was also discussed. This would entail paying \$530/mo. November through March and would include any time there was at least 2" or more to be removed from the parking lot as well as the sidewalks.

Gage Billiter also gave a quote for \$75.00 to trim the trees in front of the church so you have a better view of the church. We will also be asking him for a quote for trimming the taller trees.

Janeen made the motion to approve the \$530/mo. fee and Matt made the second motion. The vote passed unanimously. Cyndi is to contact Gage Billiter to inform him that he received the snow plowing contract.

The two new council members, Diane ~~Rovitcher~~ ^{Rovitcher}, Cindy Jarrett, will be invited to the November and December council meetings to help them be better informed for when their terms start in January.

There was a discussion about the UCC organization being involved with Ohio Issue #1. There is no affiliation with UCC.

We will be asking for donations of candy to hand out during Trunk or Treat.

Updates on the septic repairs. We are still waiting to hear when the parts arrive in order to set up a date for the repairs to be made.

Janeen and Pat Campbell will be making sample ham balls to be able to give an accurate cost for them. If it is cost effective, they will be in charge of taking orders and making them.

Offerings were down approximately \$3,000 in September. All other expenses stayed steady.

Cindy Jarrett is in charge of the Liturgists.

There will be a Christmas dinner December 9 at 6:30 pm for the congregation. RSVP's will be handed out during the weekly service. It will be catered and there will be a mug exchange for those interested in taking part in it.

Pastor Susan will be on a one week vacation starting November 8.

Cyndi Oblisk will be taking over the duties of paying bills from Eva Rowley. A motion by Audra Morehead was made to have Eva train Cyndi. Janeen made the second motion and the vote passed unanimously.

The next council meeting will be November 9 at 6:30.

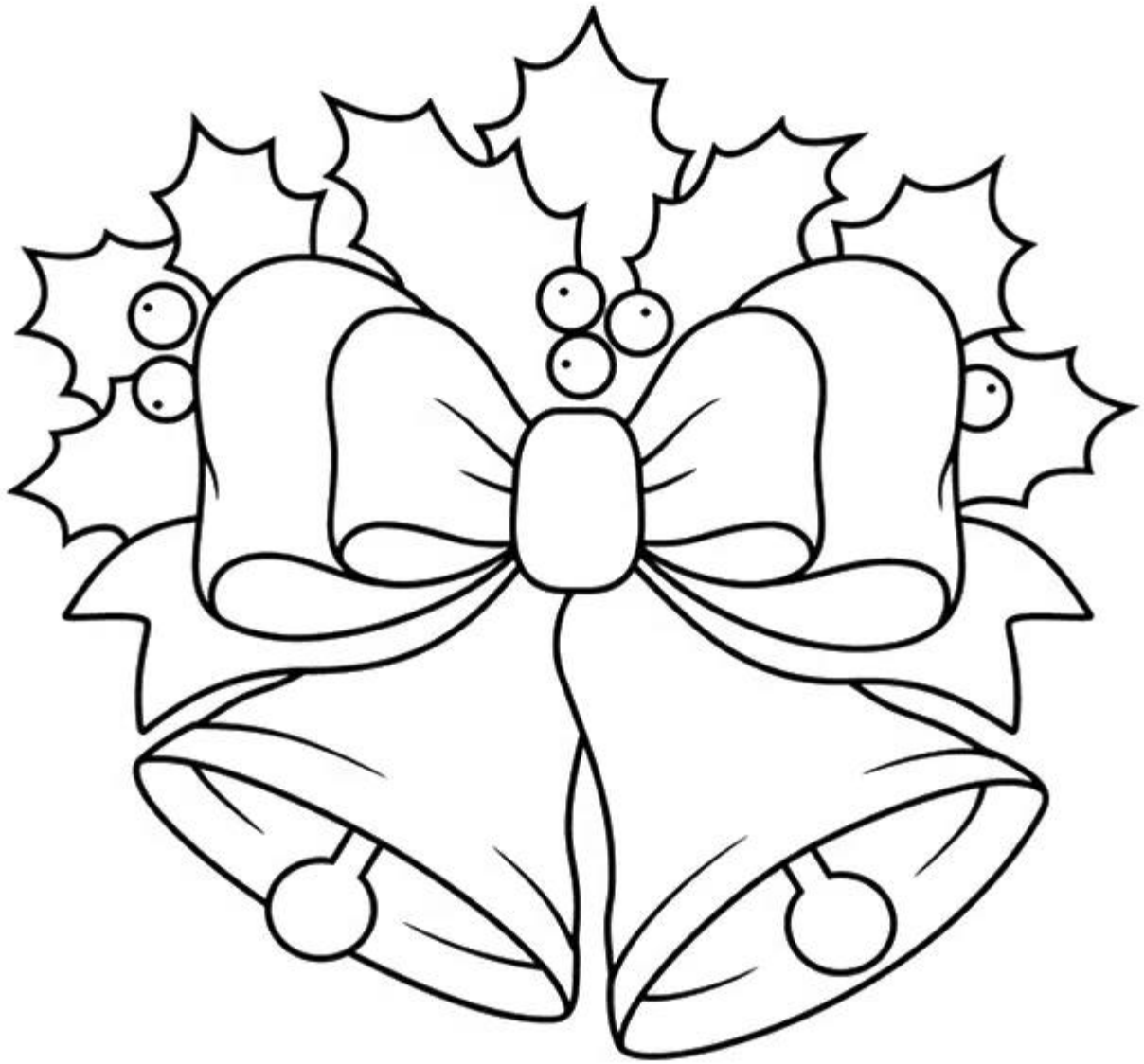
The meeting was adjourned by Lisa at 8:30.



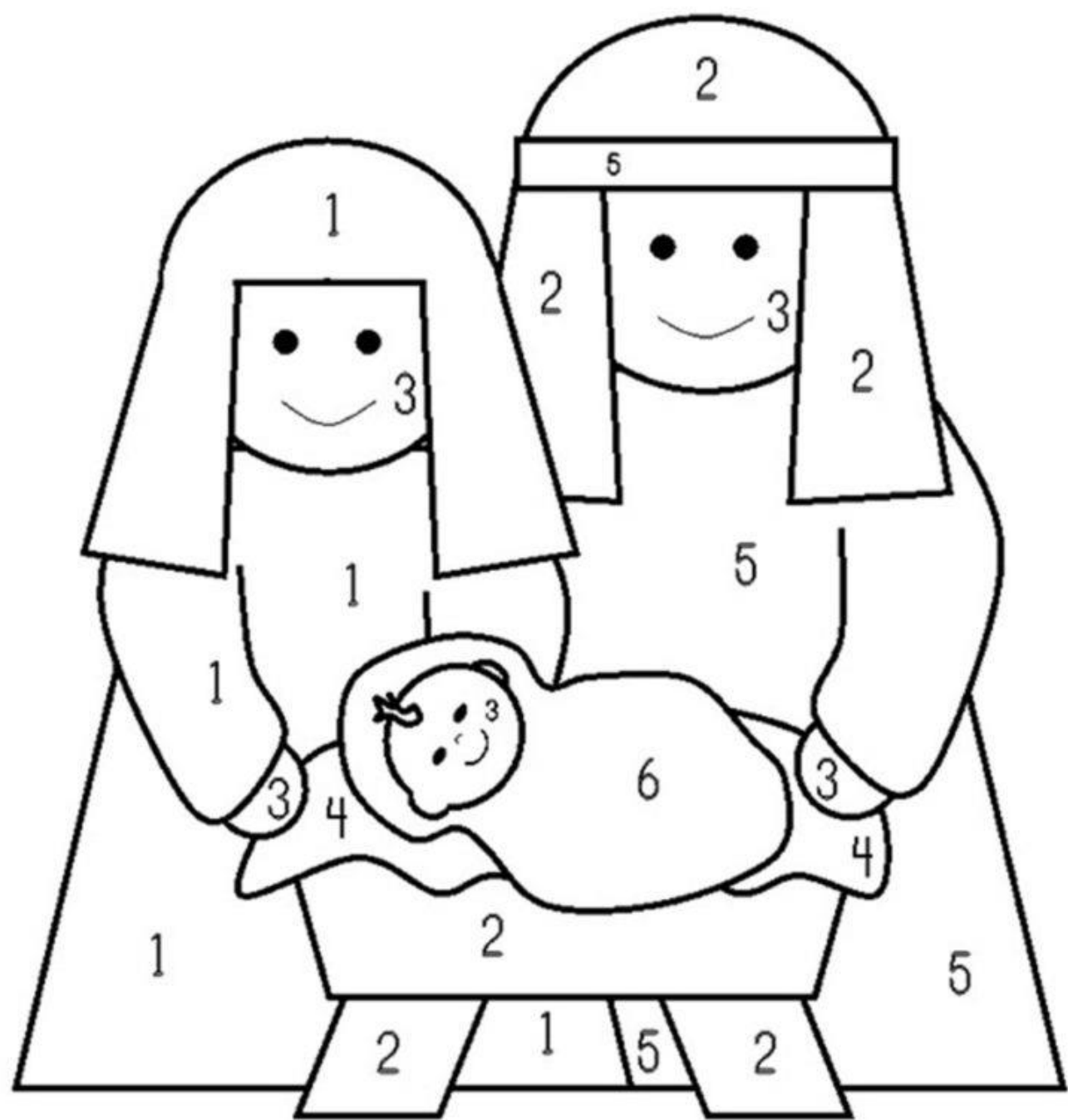
CHRIST *the savior*
is **BORN**







Nativity Color by Number



1-blue 2-brown 3-skin 4-yellow 5-orange 6-white



