

# Welcome

A *meridian* can be defined as "the highest point reached by a heavenly body in its course."<sup>1</sup> Although we are not literally in heaven, we have been placed, as believers in "heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6). As we set our aim of *Lifting Christ Higher*, focusing on Heaven, and seeking to continually draw nearer to Jesus, then we will begin to comprehend those "heavenly places" as more of a reality than just some words on a page.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for choosing Meridian as the place for you to give honor and praise to our wonderful Savior on this Lord's Day. We trust that you will come to know and understand more fully the relationship you can have in Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup> Webster's New World Dictionary. ©1971.

# Meridian Online



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# Sermon notes

## The Best Gift of All 2 Corinthians 9:15

### What makes the gift of Jesus so special?

**1. Because of Who He is**  
Emmanuel – God with us.  
**Matthew 1:23**

**2. Because of Why He came to earth**  
Virtually every prophecy, whether by prophets or by angels told those around them and us why He was coming to the earth.

**Luke 2:11**  
He is a Savior, a Deliverer, because deliverance is needed.  
Our spiritual awareness is nil and our ability to achieve what is necessary to appease God's wrath for our sin is useless.

**3. Because of the Worth of what He did while on earth**

Nothing holds the worth that Jesus and His gift has for us.

**Matthew 1:21**  
Jesus offered to be our substitute to pay the penalty that we all deserve to pay for our sins.  
**Romans 6:23**  
**This is a "life-changing" gift that yields a life-changing experience.**  
A person comes into your life to bring a needed change.

**When we see the WHO, the WHY, and the WORTH of Jesus, we should surrender our WILL and WORSHIP Him.**



December 15, 2024



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~ December 15, 2024 ~

*We extend a warm WELCOME!  
If you are visiting today,  
Connect Cards are available for you  
to register as our special guest.*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL . . . . . 9:30am**

**MORNING WORSHIP . . . . . 10:40am**

Hymns – (Red) 93, 84, 101

**JESUS – THE GREATEST GIFT OF ALL**

**EVENING SERVICE . . . . . 6:00pm**  
**Pastor Caleb . . . . . 2 Timothy 1:11-14**

**CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

Young people ages 4 - 4th grade are invited to be dismissed before the sermon for age-related teaching.

**THIS WEEK AT MERIDIAN**

**Wed – 6:30PM – Bible Seekers; Teen Bible Study; Adult Bible Study and Prayer**

**CHRISTMAS EMPHASIS**

We are grateful to Hannah Goering for her work in producing the children’s program today, and to Deidra Hendricks and Tracy Bussard for their part in the production. May we realize anew that the gift of Christmas is the gift of Jesus as the Savior of the world.

**LOOKING AHEAD AT MERIDIAN**

**Dec 22 (Sun, 5:15PM) – All Church Caroling**  
**Dec 25 (Wed) – NO Midweek Activities**  
**Dec 29 (Sun, PM) - Communion**  
**Dec 31 (Tue, 6:00PM) – Soup Supper and Fellowship (No Wed activities)**

**ALL CHURCH CAROLING**

NEXT Sunday night we will meet at 5:15pm to organize ourselves for caroling. This is a wonderful opportunity for our church family to care for one another. This is open to adults and young people and involves singing about three Christmas Carols at each of the various homes from our congregation, some of whom are "shut in" and unable to get out very much, including coming to church. Our desire is to let them know that we care for and love them, especially during this season of celebration of the gift of Jesus. The goal is to have enough participants to divide into several groups. We plan to be out for about an hour and a half. At the close, all participants are invited to return to the church for refreshments, which will include chili. **If you are able to bring a pot of chili to share, please see Deidra Hendricks. Also, let us know on a Care/Share Card how many from your family plan to participate.**

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

We are pleased to report that the following items were unanimously approved at our recent annual business meeting.

- 2025 General budget
- 2025 Mission budget
- 2025 Officers and Committees
- February Mission trip for Pastor Kliever
- Pastoral salary and benefit packages

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Systematic giving to God’s work is a Biblical mandate and should be practiced by obedient Christians. **Offering Envelopes are available under the bulletin board next to the Church Office** to aid you in this practice. By using this method, you are provided with a reminder and our Financial Secretary will be able to maintain your giving record in a discreet manner. It will also provide you with documentation at the end of the year. If you are not currently using this system and would like to begin doing so, please find an unmarked box and begin using the envelopes. The Financial Secretary will note your envelope number and offering accordingly. Otherwise, please find the box with your name on it. We pray for God's blessing upon you for your generosity to His work.

**2025 CALENDARS**

BIEM has again provided some calendars featuring their ministries for your use. The calendars are located on the shelf below the bulletin board.

**CHRISTMAS TRACTS**

Christmas tracts are available on the ledge under the bulletin board for those who would like to share the Gospel with a seasonal message. Feel free to take what you can use.

**NURSERY SCHEDULE**

**Dec 15 – AM – Daina  
PM – Kathy / Deidra**

**Dec 22 – AM – Deidra / Kathy  
PM – (Caroling)**