



# NEWSLETTER

*The Crucifer*

## *For Someone's Christmas Problem*

*For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given...and he will be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)*

The readings and messages of Advent and Christmas rest heavily upon the Old Testament, and this causes, well... some issues. Many have a difficult time accepting Christianity's claim about the Old Testament. Specifically, our claim that when the prophets or even Moses said what they said, unbeknownst to them, they were actually speaking about Jesus, hundreds of years later. CS Lewis termed it as "the second meaning" of scripture. The first meaning was what they thought they were saying. The second was what God had intended to show the world by what they were saying, often, years later.

I think we can understand the struggle here. We all know someone's words can be twisted to mean about anything. Doesn't it indeed seem like Christians, and perhaps even Jesus, just twisted the words of the Old Testament to fit their purposes?

Well, if you are open to seeing it, CS Lewis helps us to sort this out by giving two different situations to consider. The first situation is like the fire that was recorded by Roman historians. Records show that there was once a fire in a provincial town that was believed to have originated in the public baths. What made them suspect arson was the fact that, earlier that very day, a gentleman had complained that the baths were not hot enough. To which the attendant had replied, "*it will soon be hot enough.*" Now, it was entirely probable that the attendant had spoken words that simply ended up being far truer than he had intended – mere coincidence. And to read a second meaning into his words in such a situation, especially at our current historical distance, would be going way out on a limb, to put it very mildly, and just being foolish to put it bluntly.

If reading second meanings of Old Testament verses were like this, to do so would undoubtedly be foolish. But there is another sort to consider.

Lewis lists multiple examples, but consider Plato and his *Republic*. Plato, over 400 years before Jesus Christ, argues that "righteousness is often praised for the rewards it brings – honor, popularity, and the like – but that to see [righteousness] in its

true nature we must separate it from all these, strip it naked. Plato asks us, therefore, to imagine a perfectly righteous man [being] treated by all around him as a monster of wickedness. We must picture him, still perfect, while he is bound, scourged, and finally impaled (the Persian equivalent of crucifixion). At this passage the Christian reader begins to rub [their] eyes. What is happening?" Mere coincidence? "Plato is talking, and he knows he is talking about the fate of goodness in a wicked and misunderstanding world. But that is [nothing] other than the Passion of Christ. It is the very same thing of which the Passion is the supreme illustration." If Plato was taken and shown the crucifixion of Christ he would say, "Yes! That is what I was trying to say!"

Plato's words had a deeper meaning than even he knew. He did not know that God was going to do what he did, but it was not by mere chance that his words were truer than he meant them to be. They were truer because he knew that "goodness is what it is and because the fallen world is what it is."

For us to read a deeper meaning into Plato's writing is not the same as us reading a deeper meaning into the chance situation of the fire in the bath house. The situation with the Old Testament and Christianity's reading second meanings into their words, is like this but even more so. They were literally speaking about the same God. I am completely and utterly convinced that, in most instances, if the Old Testament writers saw the truer meaning of their words they too would say, "Yes! Of course! That is what I was trying to say! That is God!"

When you hear the Christmas and Advent stories this year, don't let these *second meanings* distract you from what it is proclaiming to you. It is, in part, trying to show us that the God who always *was* is the God who always *is*, and it is right and good and even foreseeable that such a God was revealed to perfection in a little baby born in a dirty shed.

At one point, this teaching of Lewis helped me. I hope it may help someone else too. RPD+

\*\*\* CS Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*, chapter 10, pp115-123


## Worship

8:00am – In Person Worship & Live Stream  
10:30am – In Person Worship & Live Stream  
5:00pm - Worship (Contemporary)

## Wednesday Nights

5:30pm - Church Dinner  
5:30pm - Youth Group  
5:30pm - Children's Ministry - Pray & Play  
5:30pm - Nursery  
5:45pm - *Advent In Theater*

*December*  
*2021*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><b>5 2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p><b>CLASSES:</b> 9:30 am - Youth Sunday School 9:35am - Rev. Roger's Class 9:35am - Chris Dake's Class 9:35am - Melodie Rowland's Class 9:15am - 12:15 pm - Library Open 3:00pm - Volleyball &amp; Board Games 8:30am - 12:30pm - Blood Drive</p>						
			<b>1</b> <i>Advent in the Theater</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4 BLUE CHRISTMAS</b>
		6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm <b>**Wednesday Night Supper &amp; Classes**</b> **Details above**			7:30am - Running Club 9:00am - 12:30pm - Library Open 4:00pm - <b>Blue Christmas</b> 6:00pm - AA
	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <i>Advent in the Theater</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11 Youth Group Bowling</b>
	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 4:00pm Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 6:30pm - Theology on Tap	6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm <b>**Wednesday Night Supper &amp; Classes**</b> **Details above**	6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - <i>THE POINT</i>		7:30am - Running Club 9:00am - 12:30pm - Library Open 8:00am - Brotherhood of St. Andrew 10:00am - GriefShare 11:00am - We Care 1:00pm - <b>Youth - Bowling @ OOPS!</b> 6:00pm - AA
<b>12 3<sup>RD</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Advent in the Theater</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Theology on Tap	6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - Compassionate Friends	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm <b>**Wednesday Night Supper &amp; Classes**</b> **Details above** 5:30pm - Youth Christmas Party	6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - <i>THE POINT</i>		7:30am - Running Club 9:00am - DOK 9:00am - 12:30pm - Library Open 10:00am - GriefShare 3:30 - 5:00pm - <b>Youth Service Day</b> 6:00pm - AA
<b>19 4<sup>TH</sup> Sunday of Advent</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Advent in the Theater</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>24 Christmas Day</b>
	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 4:00pm Pensacola Philatelic Society (Stamp Club) 6:30pm - Theology on Tap	6:15pm - AA	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship 5:30pm <b>**Wednesday Night Supper &amp; Classes**</b> **Details above**	6:15pm - AA 6:30pm - <i>THE POINT</i>	<b>10:00am - Contemplative Worship</b>  <b>5:00pm - Family Worship Children's Pageant &amp; Nativity</b>  <b>10:00pm - Traditional Candlelight Worship</b>	6:00pm - AA
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29 No Wednesday Night Dinner or Classes</b>	<b>30</b>		
	5:30pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Theology on Tap	6:15pm - AA 6:00pm - Vestry Meeting	9:00am – Food Pantry 9:15am - 6:00pm - Library Open 10:00am - Worship			
	<b>CLASSES:</b> 9:30 am - Youth Sunday School 9:35am - Rev. Roger's Class 9:35am - Chris Dake's Class 9:35am - Melodie Rowland's Class 9:15am - 12:15 pm - Library Open 3:00pm - Volleyball & Board Games					

**Please Note:** The calendar is subject to change at ANY TIME to fit the needs of the Church. For updates, please see our website, [www.holycrosspensacola.org](http://www.holycrosspensacola.org).

## OUR WEEKLY ACTIVITIES & BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



COME  
*Worship*  
WITH US!

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

10:00am - Contemplative Worship

5:00pm - Family Worship, Children's Pageant & Nativity

10:00pm - Traditional Candlelight Worship

### ADVENT IN THEATER

Featuring "The Chosen"

Dec 1st - Hope

Dec 8th - Faithfulness

Dec 15th - Joy

Dec 22nd - Peace



*Join us!*

Bring the Advent themes alive for your life with a powerful movie and discussion facilitated by both Rev. Rob Dixon & Rev. Roger Hungerford.

5:30pm.....Dinner Served

5:45pm.....Showtime

7:00pm.....Evening Ends

# YOUTH GROUP



Join us for an awesome  
**Christmas Party!**  
Wednesday, December 15th

Hot Chocolate Ugly Sweater Contest Games COOKIES!

*Please Bring a Friend!!*

### December

#### *Birthdays*

03 - Stephen Bell  
03 - Rosemary Stoner  
03 - Laura Welter  
04 - Robin Polischuk  
05 - Sean Haight  
05 - Olga Stone  
08 - Michele Hendrixson  
08 - Ethan Winn  
11 - Sydney Doggrell  
12 - Wendy Boyer  
14 - Brad Brennan  
14 - Art Harrison

14 - Lamar Parsley  
17 - Tom Backes  
18 - Neill Sidebotham  
22 - Doris Pemberton  
23 - Victoria Wallington  
24 - Jacob Boyer  
26 - Michael Schantz  
28 - Stella Rose Dixon  
28 - Ruth Goshorn  
29 - Sarah Chau  
30 - Sarah Peacock  
30 - Jean Thatcher  
31 - Jaxson Coleman  
31 - Nettie Umbreit  
31 - John Walker

### December

#### *Anniversaries*

09 - Pat & Linda Tillery - 53 Years!

27 - Ray & Clara Potter - 63 Years!

28 - Craig & Rachel Iversen - 30 Years!



Let's spread love, joy, and hope by helping the foster children at Lakeview Center have a Merrier Christmas this year!

Simply choose one or more angels off of our Angel Tree and purchase the suggested toy. You may purchase some a different other toy if you prefer.

**Please place your unwrapped toys under the tree by Sunday, December 12th.**

Holy Cross Episcopal Church  
7979 N. 9th Avenue  
Pensacola, FL 32514  
(850) 477-8596

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[www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEpiscopalPensacola](https://www.facebook.com/HolyCrossEpiscopalPensacola)

**Total Number of  
People Served  
YTD: 7,422**

