

Deliveries

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What this means is more and more people are shopping online and will be expecting packages on their front porch. The Lyon County Sheriff's Office has provided simple tips that can help protect anyone their deliveries.

1. Consider having your packages delivered to your workplace or office.
2. Get delivery alerts and retrieve your packages quickly. Don't let them sit outside for several hours.
3. Use a camera system with motion detection. This both deters thieves and provides evidence should you

become a victim.

4. Have good relationships with your neighbors. This goes a long way in more than just keeping an eye on your residence!
5. Use extra lighting in the area where your packages are delivered to deter crime.
6. Report suspicious vehicles.
7. Use the "ship to store" or "pickup" options when purchasing.
8. Set up vacation holds through the post office if you plan to be gone for a few days.
9. Register for daily alerts on all incoming mail at <https://informeddelivery.usps.com/> to get pictures of your incoming mail in your email inbox, daily.

MENUS

Coffey County

East Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging program congregate meals are available on a grab and go basis at the center Monday through Friday at the Burlington Senior Center (620) 364-2730, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at the Lebo Senior Center (620) 245-6166, and Monday, Wednesday and Friday at the Waverly Senior Center (785) 733-2603. Meal deliveries will continue as usual. A volunteer and the site manager will be available to oversee the meal distribution. Reservation or cancellation for a meal must be made with your site by 1 p.m. the day before.

Monday: Bacon ranch chicken, scalloped potatoes, diced carrots, orange cottage cheese salad, French

roll and milk.

Tuesday: Parmesan pork chop, rice pilaf, zucchini with tomato, peaches, wheat bread and milk.

Wednesday: Chicken fried chicken, whipped potatoes, green beans with red peppers, birthday cake, wheat roll and milk.

Thursday: Hamburger patty, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, pears, wheat bun and milk.

Friday: Roast beef with gravy, whipped potatoes, cream peas, ambrosia salad, wheat roll and milk.

Lyon County

Lyon County Congregate Friendship meals can be picked up Mon. through Fri. at Olpe, and Mon., Wed. and Fri. at Neosho Rapids. Call one day in advance for Olpe meals, (620) 475-3384 and Neosho Rap-

ids meals, (620) 342-8232. Home delivered meals will continue as usual. Please call before 9:30 a.m. to cancel a meal at (620) 340-8001.

Monday: Rib with bun, au gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, applesauce, cookie and milk.

Tuesday: Sloppy joes, baked potato, coleslaw, pears, bun and milk.

Wednesday: Pulled pork on bun, black-eyed peas, pickled beets, mixed fruit cup and milk.

Thursday: Hamburger steak with mushrooms, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, mixed fruit, bread and milk.

Friday: Pork taco salad, chips, apple crisp, bread and milk.

If you need frozen meals for the holidays, please call the Friendship Center at (620) 340-8001 by Dec. 15.

Meetings

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and approvals, driver's education fees will be discussed and a concrete repair bid will be awarded.

Neosho Regional Advisory Committee

The Kansas Water Office Neosho Regional Advisory Committee will have a virtual meeting 10 a.m. Dec. 18 to discuss regional goals and priorities. The agenda includes a presentation on water education and conservation efforts for Grand Lake Watershed as well as the Kansas Water Plan Update/Input on Draft Water Quality and Education Resource sections.

The agenda, webinar information and meeting materials can be found at www.kwo.ks.gov.

If accommodations are needed for a person with disabilities, please call the Kansas Water Office at (785) 296-3185.

Coffey County Planning Board

The Coffey County Planning Board will hold its regular meeting 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, in the basement meeting rooms of the courthouse, Burlington. Approval of the agenda and minutes of the Oct. 21 meeting will be covered. Other items on the agenda include a work session on the planning board by-laws, committee and staff reports.

The Coffey County Republican

Devotional Page

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What do we celebrate?

Pastor David Cochran
Penial Bible Church



Pastor David Cochran

Do you know why you celebrate Christmas? Be honest. What's the first reason that comes to your mind that gives you a little thrill to think about? I'm not going to go into all the different reasons people feel jolly around Christmas. I only want to talk about the original reason Christmas exists at all.

John 1:14 says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among men, and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

No, this passage is not from the Charlie Brown Christmas special. But it's perhaps the most concise declaration for why this holiday exists. This statement was written by John, one of Christ's closest disciples. In fact, in one place, the Bible says that John was the "disciple whom Jesus loved." Not that Jesus didn't love his other disciples. Rather, the statement reveals a type of nearness with Christ that was unique to John.

I can imagine that, when John wrote "we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father," a chill went up his spine, similar to the experience a child might have when looking upon the grandest display of lights, decorations, and gifts on Christmas morning. Only for John, he was excited about Jesus. They weren't related. They didn't grow up together. But John knew who Jesus was. He was Immanuel.

Immanuel is a name given to Jesus in the Old Testament. Isaiah 7:14 says, "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Immanuel means "God with us." Hebrews 1:3-4 describes Jesus as "the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making

purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Can you imagine being around someone like that? It sounds like a wild fantasy, to be with Christ face-to-face, the God-in-the-flesh who radiates God's glory from heaven to us. To be a mortal human being standing in the presence of the eternal One who created this world and has been involved in all human history would be intimidating. I can't imagine I could stand on my feet for long or look at him without crying and trembling!

We have to remember that Jesus is not a legend or a fable. Jesus, the son of God, really came to the earth and lived here for around 33 years and was crucified for the purification of our sins! And his life began in a humble estate, having been born in an animal shelter, in a feeding trough no less. He was treated with contempt from his very birth. Who is so heartless to subject a woman in labor to a stable? A man ought to give his seat on the bus to a woman, let alone his room to a woman giving birth. He lived in obscurity for most of his life, and after 3 years of ministry he was murdered by the people He came to save. That really happened in a real place in real time.

When John said that we saw the glory of the son of God, what did he notice first? That he was full of

"grace and truth." Jesus didn't just come to show off and be seen and worshiped. First, he came with grace. Grace is not something that the giver benefits from. Grace, simply put, is a gift or privilege given to someone based solely on the love of the giver. Jesus didn't deliver our earnings for a life well lived. He delivered a gift from God that God wanted to give because He loves us, just as a parent or grandparent would give a gift to a child on Christmas. That gift was forgiveness from God for our sins, and reconciliation with God because our unity with God had been broken by our sin.

John saw Jesus as full of not only grace, but also truth. Throughout human history, God has revealed Himself to the world in several ways. God has always wanted to make His presence known. Think about it - is there any way we could discover anything about the one true God if He did not make Himself known to us? There is literally no way for us to know anything about Him unless He tells us. We can know there is a God because of what we see in creation, but to actually know Him is impossible unless He makes it possible by showing us the way to know Him. Hebrews 1:1 says, "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son." If we want to know God, God Himself has shown us how to know Him. We look to Jesus. We discover what He said and did according to the Word and we believe and receive Him, because Christ revealed God to us. Then, "to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

Enjoy Jesus, God-in-the-flesh, this Christmas.

Joy in God's words

The deacon was asked by his pastor to meet a guest speaker at the local airport. He stood patiently waiting and looking at each traveler as they claimed their luggage and then left the airport. But he was not comfortable in approaching any of them and asking, "Are you the one who is scheduled to speak at the First Baptist Church?"

Finally, he noticed a gentleman who was wearing a dark blue suit, red tie and carrying a briefcase. Ah, he thought, that's our guest.

Approaching him he asked, "Pardon me, sir, but are you the minister who is to speak at the First Baptist Church tomorrow?"

"No," came the reply. "It's my indignation that makes me look like this." How sad it is that people associate gloom and doom with godliness and

not happiness and gladness. If there is anything that should separate the born again from those who do not know Christ as Savior, it is the sign of joy! We who have been released from the power of sin and the grip of Satan ought to always have a smile on our faces and thankfulness in our hearts.

"I might have been a minister myself," confessed Oliver Wendell Holmes, "for all I know, if a certain clergyman had not looked and talked like an undertaker."

God's Word does not say, "Be careful not to smile. The world is in terrible shape. The end will soon be here." Rather, "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship Him with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs."

Visit us at SowerMinistries.org

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