

Letters at Christmas





St. Michael

Lutheran Church

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO JESUS

WELCOME!

- ❖ **INFORMATION CENTER:** Are you interested in Bible classes, Sunday School, youth activities or our J.O.Y. Group senior adult ministry? Stop by the Information Desk in the lobby—we want to meet and help you.
- ❖ **GUEST and HANDICAP PARKING:** For your convenience, parking is located across from the main church entrance and the west entrance door (4).
- ❖ **AUTOMATIC DOORS:** Two sets of automatic doors are available. One is located on the west entrance door (4) and the other is located on the main doors (2).
- ❖ **LISTENING DEVICES** for those who have difficulty hearing the service are available at the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary.
- ❖ **TODAY'S SERMON IS AVAILABLE ONLINE**, along with prior sermons and Bible studies, at stmfw.org/sermons.
- ❖ **ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE** at stmfw.org/giving.
- ❖ **WE VALUE YOUR ATTENDANCE:** Please complete a connect card or visit stmfw.org/iamhere.

St. Michael loves new parents and small children!

- ❖ **WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN WORSHIP**, but if you need it, a nursery for children under age 5 is located in Room 24B. Please ask an usher for directions.
- ❖ **THE CRY ROOM** is our lobby. Please pull up a chair so that you may watch and listen to our worship service.
- ❖ **BUDDY BAGS** are available for small children in the lobby. You may pick one up prior to service and return on your way out. Enjoy!
- ❖ **CHANGING TABLES** are located in the family and women's restrooms adjacent to the lobby.
- ❖ **CHILDREN'S CHURCH** is for children 5 and under during the sermon at the 10:45a worship.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 3, 2023

WELCOME AND OPPORTUNITIES

Theme of the Day: Have you ever waited expectantly for a letter to come in the mail . . . only to have junk mail clutter your mailbox? This week we continue our reading plan as we look at the book of Jude and a warning about the junk mail.

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.’” (Exodus 34:27)
C: Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. (Proverbs 3:3)
P: “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord.
C: “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (Jeremiah 31:33)
P: “Now about your love for one another we do not need to write to you,
C: for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.” (1 Thessalonians 4:9)
P: “My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.
C: But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father – Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.” (1 John 2:1)
P: “Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share,
C: I felt compelled to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to God’s holy people. (Jude 1:3)
P: “Then I heard a voice from heaven say, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.’
All: they will rest from their labor.” (Revelation 14:13)

HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates
(stanzas 1-3)

341

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C: Most merciful God, I confess to You that I have sinned against You in thought, word, and action, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved You with my whole heart. I have not loved my neighbor as myself. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me, renew me, and lead me, so that I may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

P: Almighty God, in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, I announce to you the forgiveness of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates **341**
(stanzas 4-5)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your Holy Word, we may not get distracted, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of ever lasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray.

All: **Amen.**

FIRST READING		Jude 1:1-8, 17-25
ANTHEM 8:00a	Infant Holy Infant Lowly	String Quartet
10:45a	Waiting for a King	Adult Choir
GOSPEL READING		Matthew 7:15-20. 24-29

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness **849**
(stanzas 1-3)

SERMON "Dealing with Junk Mail" **Pastor Davis**
Jude 1:20-23

NICENE CREED 8:00a

APOSTLES' CREED 10:45a

OFFERTORY 8:00a Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming **Karen Manges**
10:45a What Child is This **Woodwind Trio**

PRAYERS/THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 8:00a

PREFACE/PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION/THE PEACE OF THE LORD

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Come Thou Precious Ransom, Come **350**

Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure **533**

By Grace I'm Saved **566**

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less **576**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing **643**

POST COMMUNION

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you, and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
(stanzas 1-2)

338

SILENT PRAYER

Jesus, help me in my waiting to not be distracted by the junk mail that comes in but to wait patiently for You. Amen.

St. Michael Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Dennis Goff, Senior Pastor

Shawn Davis, Missional Pastor

Stephanie Maxson, Music Director

Rhonda Patterson, Communications Director

Celine Newman, Director of Belonging

Mark Neubacher, Visiting Pastor

Emma Deines, Youth Director

Tammy Bruns, Executive Director

Tina Hoover, Executive Assistant

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT

St. Michael Lutheran Church
2131 Getz Road 46804
STMFW.ORG | 432-2033
December 3/4, 2023



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

* Also available via livestream

Wednesday, December 6 7:00p*

Advent Service of Light at St. Michael

Wednesday, December 13 7:00p

All are welcome to attend the Vespers Service, presented by ESM preschool-eighth grade students, at University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center at 431 W. Berry St.

Saturday, December 16 5:00p*

Sunday School Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 20 and Saturday December 23/No Services

Sunday, December 24 / Christmas Eve Services

Worship with lessons and carols and Holy Communion 10:00a

Family Candlelight Worship with carols (NO puppets) 5:00p

Candlelight Worship with choir, bells and orchestra 7:00p*

Candlelight Worship with choir, bells, orchestra, Holy Communion 11:00p

Monday, December 25 / Christmas Day

Festival Worship with Holy Communion 10:00a*

Saturday, December 30 5:00p

Sunday, December 31 / New Year's Eve 10:00a*

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

This year we will once again bless families in our community and The Redemption House through the Christmas Giving Tree. This year as you look at the Christmas Giving Tree you will see tags for:

- \$25 gift cards to stores (Meijer, Target)
- family daily needs (toilet paper, paper products, laundry soap)
- twin sheet sets
- twin mattresses

Our goal is to support 14 families and help the Redemption House with at least 15 new mattresses. We will also hang tags for:

- two \$25 gift cards to Target, Meijer, and Kohls (stores with clothes and toys) per family member

All items need to be returned by Tuesday, December 12. If you have questions, contact Robin Kaiser at rrkaiser@hotmail.com or Pastor Shawn at pastordavis@stmfw.org.

COUNT ME IN!

Cards and financial pledges continue to be added to the "Count Me In!" box in the welcome center. If you haven't turned yours in yet, you still have time. Please bring your financial pledge card and any other cards by December 3. Thank you for your response!

SHEPHERD'S HAND SAYS THANK YOU, ST. MICHAEL!

The generosity of our St. Michael members provided resources for us to meet and surpass our goal of preparing blessing bags for 25 families in our community this Thanksgiving. Your donations of \$1500 allowed us to distribute blessing bags at the Thanksgiving meal and again at our health fair in February. Thank you so much for partnering with Shepherd's Hand as we seek to fulfill our mission of "Reaching out in the city by caring for the Shepherd's people, daring to be the Shepherd's hands, and sharing the Shepherd's love."

PROJECT 216 SAYS THANK YOU!

It was such a joy to serve with you as a part of your Go and Serve Saturday! Thank you for giving your time, treasures and talents to make a difference to those in need, suffering displacement by war. Knowing that others are there to bring them the essential need of food will bring them hope! Thank you for being the hands, feet and heart of Jesus!

CAMP LUTERHAVEN WOMEN'S RETREAT—January 26-28

Dive into what it means to live on fire for Christ in life today with speaker Sara Scheiwe. This New Year's retreat promises to be an intentional, fun, and encouraging time with others and with Jesus. For more information and to register, please visit www.lutherhaven.org.

THE LUTHERAN FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Lutheran Foundation is now accepting Health Professions and Nursing Scholarship Applications for the 2024-2025 academic year. This is a broad category that encompasses undergraduate and graduate students in nursing, counseling, physical therapy, mental health, dental and medical programs, and more. Applicants of ALL denominations are encouraged to apply. Visit <https://thelutheranfoundation.org/investing/scholarships>.

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH—December 3/17 (Christmas Party)

Join us this Sunday, December 3, for a kick-off to the Advent season! Middle school is from 4:00p-6:00p and High School is from 6:00p-8:00p. See you there!

Food and Fellowship at Electric Works (date changed because of Vespers service) Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00p. High School Youth meet with DCE Intern Emma for a devotion, games, and some great food and fellowship!

Calling all 8th grade students and parents: "Connect" is a time for 8th grade students and parents to meet with DCE Intern Emma, play games, have some snacks, and get to know one another. "Connect" will be every Tuesday from 3:00p - 5:30p at Union Street Market at Electric Works. Our next gathering is Tuesday, December 5.

PARENTS OF YOUTH FALL SEMINARS—December 3

Join Celine Newman as she talks about sharing faith with your students. Middle School and High School parents: join us from 5:00p-6:00p in Luther Hall.

BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF) FOR YOUNG ADULTS 18-35 in Luther Hall

St. Michael is hosting Young Adult BSF on Monday evenings from 6:45p-8:15p.

REDEMPTION HOUSE UPDATE

We will provide a meal at Wayne Street on December 17 and Fairfield Avenue on December 17. Contact Candi Luchnenko to provide a dish at 422-2061. You are welcome to St. Michael on Sunday, December 3 at 4:00p, as we host the graduation for three ladies from the Redemption House. **Come and be a part of this celebration!**

J.O.Y. GROUP—Thursday, December 14 at 12:00p

Begin your Christmas festivities with enjoying Christian fellowship, a catered Christmas buffet by Goeglein's, songs by our ESM children's choir and special music by Jubilant Fields. All that and a Christmas carol sing-a-long! RESERVATIONS REQUIRED by December 5. Cost: \$20.00. Reserve your spot by completing the form in the lobby and returning it to the office with your CHECK made out to St. Michael Lutheran Church (reference JOY Christmas on the memo line). Questions - call Penny Pequignot at 580-8730 or Janet Maxson at 438-7442.

BOOK CLUB—December 14 at 10:00a

This month we are reading *The Christmas Spirit* by Debbie Macomber. If you'd like, bring a book to donate to Kate's Cart! Contact Camille Blake at 409-9196.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF INDIANA (LSSI)

The Cup of Kindness Program, through referrals from social-service agencies and Lutheran congregations, offers supportive services through case management, financial-literacy education and/or financial assistance to help families move toward financial stability. Call LSSI Works at 426-3347.

CHRISTMAS AT THE EMBASSY—December 10 at 4:00p

Celebrate the holiday season with Concordia Lutheran High School's annual Christmas at the Embassy. "The Savior Reigns: Repeat the Sounding Joy!" will showcase the talents of CLHS music department students with choral, instrumental and orchestral music. Tickets are now on sale at the Embassy Box Office and Ticketmaster. Tickets are \$12 for students/seniors and \$18 for general admission.

CHRISTMAS TREES FROM CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Concordia Lutheran Church Men's Club will once again be selling Christmas trees and wreaths this year to help fund the church and school. The tree lot is located at the Church-School, 4245 Lake Avenue. The lot will be open 2:00p to 8:00p weekdays, 9:00a to 8:00p Saturdays, and 12:00p to 8:00p Sundays. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS TREES FROM HAPPY GOAT TREE FARM

Owned by congregational members, Loren and Lisa Schaefer, this farm is located at 7602 Butt Road. Visit their farm and animal friends, and choose from pre-cut trees and wreaths. After your purchase enjoy a complimentary hot cocoa and trivia trail. Visit their website www.happygoatchristmastreefarm.com or Facebook at Happy Goat Christmas Tree Farm!

HOLIDAY HELP CENTER FOR THE GRIEVING

The holiday season can be especially difficult when grieving the loss of a loved one. GriefShare has created a Holiday Help Center to help grieving people cope with the many emotions they will face during the holidays. It also provides practical tips for surviving social events and establishing new holiday traditions.

Visit <https://www.holidays.griefshare.org/blog>.

COUNT ME IN! . . . TO WORSHIP

Saturday, November 25 **125** Sunday, November 26 **339** Sunday Livestream **133**

iLEAD—check out this amazing opportunity!

Last year, St. Michael collaborated with three other sister Lutheran congregations – Emmanuel, St. Peter’s, and Holy Cross to participate in a leadership development opportunity called **iLead – “Inspiring Leaders through Engagement and Development.”** This leadership development opportunity included four large group sessions, one at each of the four congregations, and four small group sessions with current and future leaders at our own individual congregations. In January, we will begin year two of iLead!

Everyone in the congregation, currently serving in a leadership role or not, are invited to any of the four large group sessions without guest presenters. Here is the lineup for coming this year and notice that St. Michael will host on January 20:

- January 6 (8:30-10:30) at Holy Cross: Rev. Mike Newman, President of the Texas District of the LCMS. President Newman’s topic is “The Job of the Church” where he will lay a foundation for all that we do in the church, focusing on the central role of forgiveness and the church’s call to deliver that gift.
- **January 20 (8:30-10:30) at St. Michael:** Dr. Josh Wymore. Josh is an executive coach, keynote speaker, and trainer with WYMOR sharing skill sets and practices to become a “humbler” leader. Josh and his family proudly call Fort Wayne their home.
- February 3 (8:30-10:30) at St. Peter’s: Gabe Kasper, Lead Pastor at University Lutheran Chapel in Ann Arbor, MI. Gabe’s focus will be to describe a resilient faith that not only doesn’t fade during this cultural moment but is strengthened and refined even as the world around us changes.
- February 17 (8:30-10:30) at Emmanuel: Angie Moellering, CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Indiana will lead a panel discussion on the importance of involving women as leaders in ministry.

SERMON SERIES FOR 2024

The theme we will highlight for our 70th anniversary next year is “Jubilee: Set Free to Tell the Story.” The preaching focus throughout 2024 (with a few exceptions), will focus on a number of Old Testament characters who were a part of God’s salvation story down through the ages that has become our salvation story. Similarly, there have been countless people connected to St. Michael who have been a part of “telling the salvation story” here. We are all a part of, and continue to share in, that legacy.

EPIPHANY BY CANDLELIGHT—January 7 at 2:00p

Just like Advent by Candlelight, except in Epiphany! Sign up at the Information Desk to attend, decorate a table with dishes and a centerpiece or to bring an hors d’oeuvre or dessert! We will enjoy a speaker who will share about astronomy and the Christmas Star.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THIS WEEK December 4-10

Monday, December 4

8:30a Mom's Bible Study
3:45p Grace Notes
6:00p Harmony Ringers
6:45p BSF Young Adults
7:00p Resound Rehearsal
7:00p Men's Bible Study/Jones

Tuesday, December 5

1:00p Purls
1:00p JOY Bible Study
5:15p Life Team Meeting
6:30p Trustee Team Meeting
7:00p Praise Teams Rehearsal
7:00p Quintet Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 6

10:30p Men's Bible Study
1:30 Praying for Our Nation
6:00p Women's Choir
6:30p Men's Choir

Wednesday, December 6

7:00p Dart Ball
8:00p Elders Meeting
7:00p Worship
8:00p Adult Choir

Thursday, December 7

6:30p Brass Rehearsal
7:00p Jubilant Fields Rehearsal
8:00p Faith and Friends Bible Study

Friday, December 8

8:00p Men's Basketball

Saturday, December 9

5:00p Worship

Sunday, December 10

7:30a Flute Rehearsal
8:00a Worship
9:30a Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
10:30a ESM Rehearsal
10:45a Worship
3:00p/5:00p Academy Recitals

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER AND MEETING RECAP

- Pastor Goff updated us on the status of some organizational priorities. (See December newsletter)
- Pastor Goff and Pastor Davis had a Q and A time on the realignment of Pastor Davis' call focusing more intentionally on young adult ministry in 2024.
- ESM Principal, Dr. Ben Stellwagen, offered a state of the school including record enrollment this year for ESM – 448 students.
- A current financial update was given by Treasurer, Brent Panning and Financial Secretary, Joe Lees. YTD financials show \$49,000 behind budget in the first ten months of the year, but an increase in giving of \$139,000 over last year.
- A ministry budget was presented and approved for 2024.
- Craig Patterson, chairman of the Elders, introduced a "Call" recommendation to Emma Dienes as Director of Youth Ministry. Craig summarized the status of youth ministry over the last 5 years and what has brought us to the point of extending this call. The call was unanimously approved. Emma will give her official response to the call in the coming weeks.

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

We are privileged to pray for each other. Please notify the staff on your connect card or by email if you would like your prayer needs kept private. Otherwise, we will print them in this publication on a weekly basis.

- **December Milestone Birthdays:** Monica Zoch, 12/2, 85; Joe Pyle, 12/9, 82; Mary Jones, 12/13, 95; Shirley Lehman, 12/13, 89; John Patterson, 12/13, 81.
- **Pray for:**
 - The family of Lois Mytas, Anna Davis's aunt, who died last week.
 - The nephew of Randy and Silvia Grote, whose wife died and he is caring for their 10 mo old baby.
 - Cindy Kaszowski's mother who is in hospice care.
 - Diane Wise, sister of Walt Hess, struggling with health issues.
 - James Maier recovering from a spinal cord injury.
 - Colleen Berger's brother and his family for peace; mother neighbor whose son died on Thanksgiving, expectantly.
 - College students returning to school; their faith to remain strong as they work towards their goals and dreams.
 - Brenda, Wanda Buuck's daughter, having surgery on Wednesday
 - Kathy Magner who is hospitalized and Don Magner as he continues to recover.
 - Continued prayers for Brian Wielosinski, Carleen Richard, Neil Swartz, Sue Doepner and her family, Mason Leininger, Jacob (nephew of Dennis and Lynnette Brink), Dennis Brink, Otis Vincent, Stephanie Weaver, Amber Afarin

SERVING AT ST. MICHAEL this weekend

Are you able to join a worship service team? Contact Tina Hoover at tina@stmfw.org or 432-2033.

Greeters:	Mary Bear; Mary and Rich Busch (5p); Heather Maloney (8a) Erin and Mark Bains; Jan Fillmore (10:45a)
Lay Readers:	Cindy Mendenhall (5p); Rich Kraus (8a); Elaine Lester (10:45a)
Children's Church:	Kira Clendenen (10:45a)
Acolytes:	Adriana Briney (5p); Bonnie Allyn (8a); Abigail Carsten (10:45a)
Information Desk:	Terry Hammond (5p); Rich and Linda Kraus (8a) Holly Booth (10:45a)
Ushers:	Dave and Myra Atkinson, Andrea Tarbet (5p); TBD (8a) Dave Crow, Karen Hall (10:45a)
Elders:	Ryan Meyer (5p); Mark Muntzinger (8a); Paul Selking (10:45a)
Nursery:	Emma Latin and Lexi Panning
Fellowship:	Alan Geyer, Darlene and Paul Buuck
Altar Guild:	Karen Martin



Reading through the New Testament—Week 48

December 3-9

Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

The Art of Letter Writing

In school at an early age, I was taught the skill of writing a letter in a formal and informal setting. There is something about putting pen to paper that is timeless and brings an intimacy to communication that transcends screens and phones.

In an era dominated by emails and instant messages, the carefully crafted words on paper embody a personal touch that is often lost in the electronic exchange. Each stroke of the pen carries the weight of emotion, thought, and intention, creating a tangible connection between the sender and the recipient. The art lies not only in the choice of words but also in the rhythm of sentences, the flow of ideas, and the choice of paper and ink. A well-written letter is a work of art that captures the essence of the writer's voice, allowing emotions to unfold in a way that is both eloquent and genuine. It serves as a testament to the importance of taking the time to express what's on your mind with purpose, forging a lasting bond between correspondents that endures far beyond the moment of writing.






This Christmas season we are going to explore the theme of Letters at Christmas as we dive into the books of Jude and Revelation. Originally these books would have been written by hand and then transcribed to be sent to the many churches.

As we look at Jude as a Letter at Christmas, we can see the care and compassion the arthur took in order to warn against the ungodly people who are started to corrupt the church and a call for those who were holding on to their faith to persevere, to stay away from the junk mail.

To learn more about the book of Jude, check out the Bible Project overview video: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/jude/>

New Testament in a Year—December 3-9

3John/Jude/Revelation

Chapter 1  1  1  2  3 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

This week as you read, take note of the words and phrases from each chapter. As you notice these parts of the letters, ask the question:

1. What from these verses connects with my life?
2. Pray: God, what are you speaking into my life through this reading?

John 3 | A short personal note regarding hospitality

- 1.
- 2.

Jude | See Sermon Outline

- 1.
- 2.

Revelation 1 | Introduction to the Revelation of John

- 1.
- 2.

Revelation 2 & 3 | Notes to the seven churches receiving the letter

- 1.
- 2.

Blessing the World

As we take on being Christ's hands and feet by blessing those around us through the Christmas Giving Tree (see page 6), the organization that we are blessing with mattresses is the Redemption House - one of our partners in ministry. The Redemption House is a faith-based, transition home that works with the court system, in an attempt to redeem the lives of young women from their past destructive behavior. All programming has a faith element. Key components include daily devotions, a Monday night Bible study, required church attendance, and Celebrate Recovery, a faith-based program for overcoming addictions. All the women have responsibilities in the house itself—cooking, cleaning, etc. In addition, each resident focuses on career development. The Redemption House wants them to gain the tools necessary to become self-sufficient. They strongly encourage residents to further their education or work full-time, and want to see this happen within three months of entering the home. Redemption Houses are located on Fairfield Avenue and Wayne Street. Both homes have a capacity of each housing 16 young ladies. The women are grateful to be at Redemption House, recognizing it as a chance for a fresh start. For more information, please go to www.redemptionhousefw.org.

Belonging in Community

At the end of Jude in vs. 24 -15, there is a doxology which is an expression of praise to God. Take some time to read this as a group.

- What declarations about God stand out to you?
- Take some time as a group to brainstorm attributes and actions of God that you think are worthy of praise.
- If you were to write a Doxology or a praise to God what would you choose to uplift about Him?

The Advent season is one where many send out Christmas letters, make social media posts, or various other ways of sending Christmas blessings. Maybe take some time to write a short Doxology that you can make a part of your "letters" to others this season.

Close with a "Praise Popcorn" Prayer. Start with the Phrase "God you are..." and then give time for people to jump in with a praise for who God is or what He has done. Close with "we thank you for all that you are. Amen."

THIS WEEKEND'S SERMON OUTLINE

Letters at Christmas
Dealing with Junk Mail
Jude 1:20-23

Letters at Christmas

Jude

Revelation

The Art of Letter Writing

Dealing with the Junk Mail

Matthew 7:15-20:

Jude 1:4:

What to do while you wait:

Jude 1:20-23

Bible Project:

Jude's letter is applying what Jesus first told his disciples: *"If you really love me, you'll obey my teachings"* (John 14:15). And for Christians of every age, how we live is the most reliable indicator of what we actually believe.

Waiting Expectantly

Jude 1:21

Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.