

NORTH CANYON 5TH WARD SPIRE

Merry Christmas - Why, when we wish one another well this time of year, do we use the term “merry” Christmas? Why not “happy” Christmas, or “joyful” Christmas, or “nice” Christmas, or “adequate” Christmas? Saying, “Have a nice Christmas,” like, “Have a nice day,” doesn’t have the same ring to it because it isn’t commensurate with the size, grandeur and importance of the holiday. “Nice” does not match the emotion we should have when it comes to celebrating Christmas and its meaning. Have you ever noticed that we have a tendency to mirror the emotion and intensity of the people we are talking to? If they are whispering, we naturally tend to whisper back. If they are shouting, our volume tends to increase as well. If they are angry about something, we feel our blood pressure rise too. If they are excited about something, that gets us excited also. So, I wonder. What am I doing with my thoughts, my actions and my prayers to match the magnitude of the season? The Oxford dictionary says “merry” is “(of an occasion or season) characterized by festivity and rejoicing.” Am I rejoicing in Christ? Do I understand what his birth means for me, personally and individually? It means the power and ability to change—to be changed, to grow, to progress, to be better. It means finding more peace, more happiness, more love, more joy. I know from personal experience that change is possible, and through that change more peace and happiness come. I know that through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of His Atonement, each of us can have “a mighty change [wrought] in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.” (Mosiah 5:2). What a joyful, merry thing. No wonder we celebrate by giving gifts this time of year. Talk about a priceless gift. A new iPhone 14 Pro can’t even compete. “I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye remember that every good gift cometh of Christ.” (Moroni 10:18) But what is the greatest gift I can give God? According to Elder Neal A. Maxwell, ... “the submission of one’s will is really the only uniquely personal thing we have to place on God’s altar. The many other things we ‘give,’ brothers and sisters, are actually the things He has already given or loaned to us. However, when you and I finally submit ourselves, by letting our individual wills be swallowed up in God’s will, then we are really giving something to Him! It is the only possession which is truly ours to give!” How will I give my will to the Lord this Christmas? First, I need to keep in mind what Alma says about giving gifts: “For behold, God hath said a man being evil cannot do that which is good; for if he offereth a gift, or prayeth unto God, except he shall do it with real intent it profiteth him nothing. For behold, it is not counted unto him for righteousness. For behold, if a man being evil giveth a gift, he doeth it grudgingly; wherefore it is counted unto him the same as if he had retained the gift; wherefore he is counted evil before God.” (Moroni 7:6-8) How will I give my will to the Lord, and do it with real intent and not grudgingly? Oh boy. Now I am talking about something more than making and decorating a letter holder out of refashioned paper plates (which was actually a big hit with my mom when I was our.) I think I will start by questioning why I do the things I do. For example, am I writing this Spire message with the intent to entertain, to curry compliments from readers, to make myself popular and liked. Or am I writing with the intent to share my testimony of Jesus Christ with friends and neighbors who I love and care for with a desire to bless their lives and help strengthen their testimony of Christ so they can experience more peace and joy in their lives? Am I willing to be vulnerable and truly share of myself when ministering to others, especially if I know it will serve to benefit them or lighten their load in some way, and even if it means taking the risk of looking stupid and/or sharing my weaknesses with others? Am I willing to sacrifice my own comfort, pleasure, time, needs and wants and endure heartache, hurt and pain for the benefit of loved ones and others who need me to be there for them? Am I willing to love others and seek to serve them, even if they do not love me in return, or worse, treat me contemptuously? What am I willing to do, to give, to sacrifice, to share, to say, to be in order to show God my love for Him? What price am I willing to pay for that gift? Now here is the irony in all of this. Giving my will over to God only serves to benefit me, not Him. My gift does not make Him more powerful, more knowing, more perfect, etc. But it allows me to be changed, to progress, to garner lighter and knowledge, to shrug more of the natural man off and have my heart changed. It invites the Spirit deeper into my life and brings with it all the gifts that come with it. It truly is the gift that keeps on giving.

Randon Jensen – North Canyon 5th Ward Bishopric

Come Follow Me

December

November 28-December 4

Nahum; Habakkuk; Zephaniah

December 5-11

Haggai; Zechariah 1-3; 7-14

December 12-18

Malachi

December 19-25

Christmas



"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble" (Nahum 1:7).

The Lord can make me holy.

Sister Carol F. McConkie taught: "Holiness is making the choices that will keep the Holy Ghost as our guide. Holiness is setting aside our natural tendencies and becoming 'a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord' [[Mosiah 3:19](#)]. ... Our hope for holiness is centered in Christ, in His mercy and His grace" ("[The Beauty of Holiness](#)," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2017, 9–10)

"Return unto me, and I will return unto you."

In Malachi's day, the Israelites had already rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem, but as a people they still needed to rebuild their relationship with the Lord. As you study Malachi, look for questions that the Lord asked the Israelites or that they asked Him. Consider asking yourself similar questions (some examples are suggested below) to help you evaluate your relationship with the Lord and draw closer to Him.

How have I felt the Lord's love for me? (see [Malachi 1:2](#)).

Do my offerings to the Lord truly honor Him? (see [Malachi 1:6–11](#)).

In what ways do I need to "return" to the Lord? (see [Malachi 3:7](#)).

Am I robbing God in any way? (see [Malachi 3:8–11](#)).

How does my attitude during difficult times reflect my feelings toward the Lord? (see [Malachi 3:13–15](#); see also [2:17](#)).



Relief Society

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may we all come to know Him better, and to use His LIGHT in our lives.

Sisters, we love you. Christ loves you. What a wonderful time of year when we get to celebrate the birth of the Savior who loves you unconditionally and forever.

We'd like to congratulate Mark and Jessica Freebairn on the birth of their new baby boy, born on Monday, November 21!

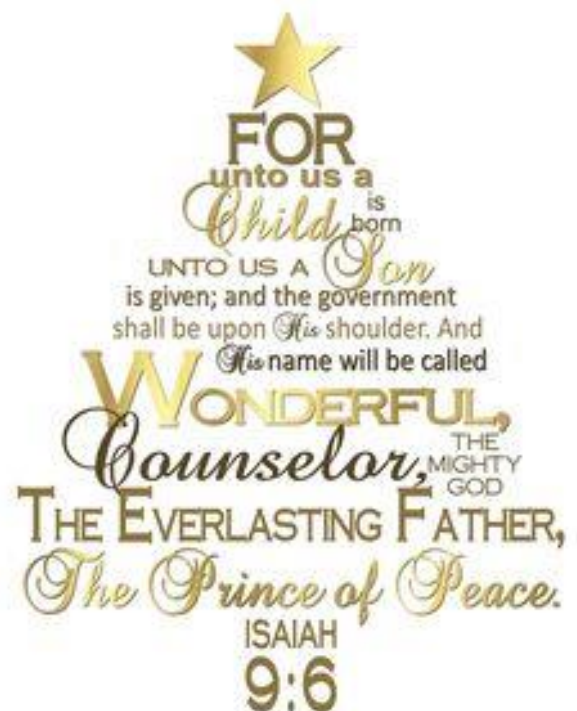
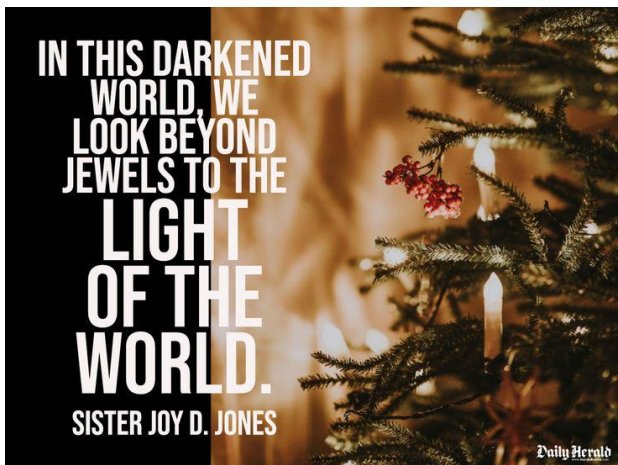
December 11 Lesson: "Is the Plan Working?" given by Adrian Ochoa.
There will be no Relief Society meeting on December 25.

Upcoming Events:

- December 9: Ward Family Christmas Party
- December 14: Ward family Sub for Santa wrapping party

Merry Christmas!

Your Relief Society Presidency



Primary

We would like to begin by thanking the Primary music leaders, pianists, teachers and parents for all of the work and support in putting on the Primary Program this year. It is a Sunday that so many look forward to each year and the kids work so hard learning the songs and their parts, sharing their testimony through music and word. This year did not disappoint, we are so proud of all of the Primary kids.

Next, we would like it to make all parents and teachers aware of the Meet Your Teacher Breakfast, to be held the morning of December 31st. It is a wonderful opportunity to allow the kids and teachers to get to know each other before the first day of class changes in the new year. It will be fun and delicious.

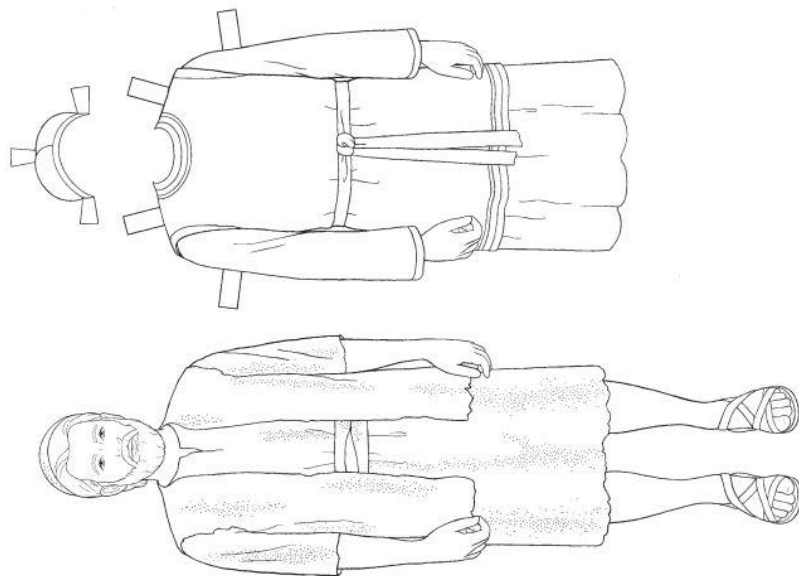
Also, for our amazing kiddos that will be turn 8 this coming year, we will be having our Great to be Eight program on Jan. 22nd. Look for more details to come!

And finally, we would like to wish our Valiant 10 class good luck as they move into YM and YW's this coming year. They are wonderful singers and have shared their testimony with the younger kids and been leaders and examples to all of us in Primary. We hope they know that we love them and they will be greatly missed.

Love, The Primary Presidency

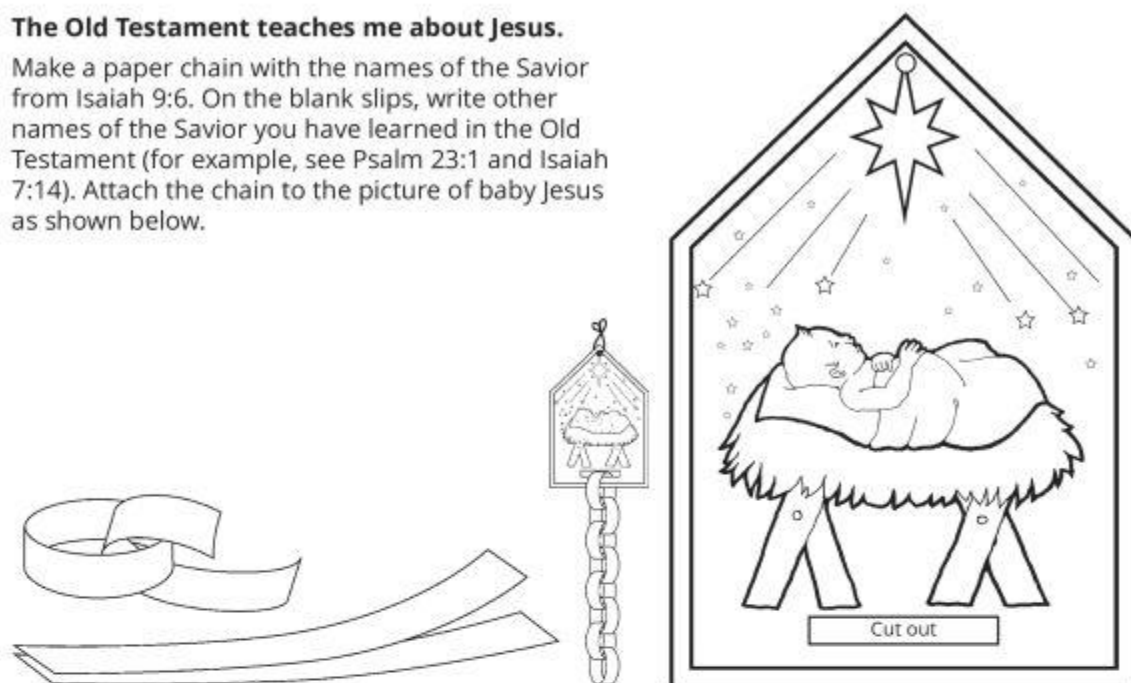
Jesus Christ can make my spirit clean (Zechariah 3:1-7).

Color and cut out the picture of Joshua in dirty clothes and the picture of his clean clothes. Use the pictures to tell the story of the Lord giving Joshua clean clothes and taking away his sins (see Zechariah 3:1-7). Put the clean clothes on Joshua, and fold the tabs toward his back.



The Old Testament teaches me about Jesus.

Make a paper chain with the names of the Savior from Isaiah 9:6. On the blank slips, write other names of the Savior you have learned in the Old Testament (for example, see Psalm 23:1 and Isaiah 7:14). Attach the chain to the picture of baby Jesus as shown below.



WONDERFUL

COUNSELOR

THE MIGHTY GOD

THE EVERLASTING FATHER

THE PRINCE OF PEACE



50 IDEAS TO SHARE YOUR LIGHT

Who needs your light today?

- 1 Laugh with a friend.
- 2 Call someone you miss.
- 3 Carry an extra snack for someone in need.
- 4 Send a homemade Christmas card to a friend.
- 5 Plan some one-on-one time with a loved one.
- 6 Let a stranger go ahead of you in line.
- 7 Smile at someone.
- 8 Learn to say "Merry Christmas" in a new language.
- 9 Share a link to a holiday song that you love.
- 10 Apologize to someone.
- 11 Pay for the person behind you at the grocery store.
- 12 Complete an item on a loved one's to-do list.
- 13 Make a Christmas playlist and share it with a friend.
- 14 Send a thank-you note to a healthcare worker.
- 15 Help someone research their family genealogy.
- 16 Support a local small business.
- 17 Text a photo of a fond memory to a family member.
- 18 Give your neighbor a compliment.
- 19 Let someone else be kind to you.
- 20 Learn how another culture celebrates Christmas.
- 21 Be patient with waitstaff and customer service.
- 22 Help a loved one clean their home.
- 23 Contribute to the Giving Machines locally or online.
- 24 Invite others to a Christmas celebration.
- 25 Leave a gift on a neighbor's doorstep.
- 26 Watch *The Christ Child* with family or friends.
- 27 Send a funny meme or video to a friend.
- 28 Give your favorite book to a loved one.
- 29 Make a meal with a family member.
- 30 Donate cans to your local food bank.
- 31 Be kind to yourself. Practice self-care.
- 32 Text someone "I'm grateful for you."
- 33 Leave a kind note for your mail carrier.
- 34 Invite a neighbor to a worship service.
- 35 Leave an uplifting comment on social media.
- 36 Visit with an elderly neighbor.
- 37 Tell a loved one they matter to you.
- 38 Clean up trash in your community.
- 39 Ask a coworker how you can lighten their load.
- 40 Stop to help someone who is having car trouble.
- 41 Go caroling with a group.
- 42 Take a walk with a friend.
- 43 Post about a loved one using #LightTheWorld.
- 44 Offer to teach someone a new skill.
- 45 Hold the door open for a stranger.
- 46 Host a family game night.
- 47 Pray for someone by name.
- 48 Volunteer at your local library.
- 49 Give a hug to a friend.
- 50 Forgive someone.



THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



December 1

Hannah Wilson

December 3

Grace Baker

Brodie Jespersen

December 4

Elsa Jensen

December 5

Harold Reid

Dylan Meldrum

December 6

Michael Hernandez

Bradley Hood

December 7

Byron Nielsen

Jacob Thiriot

December 9

Calista Minson

Holley Morrill

December 10

Marian Meldrum

December 13

Preston Hooker

December 14

Phyllis Atwood

Abigail Baker

Ammon Ericksen

Andrew Morrill

December 17

Tamara Jespersen

Karen Multalo

December 24

Evan Phillips

December 26

Tyler Holzer

December 27

Kalli Holzer

December 29

Michael Freebairn

December 30

Ken Barnett

Chloe Harker

Elli Harker

Zachary Rogers

December 31

Benjamin Freebairn

Courtney Morrill

