FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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DECEMBER - 2023

Hello Eric,

As Christmas approaches, I've been reading a book called On the Incarnation. It was written by a man named Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria. He wrote this around the year 330 AD. Yes, it's really old, but it's really good. It is a straightforward, theological meditation on the divine Word made flesh.

Athanasius states the following - - -

"You may be wondering why we are discussing the origin of men when we set out to talk about the Word's becoming Man. The former subject is relevant to the latter for this reason: it was our sorry case that caused the Word to come down, our transgression that called out His love for us, so that He made haste to help us and to appear among us.

It is we who were the cause of His taking human form, and for our salvation that in His great love He was both born and manifested in a human body. For God had made man, but man, having turned from the contemplation of God to evil of their own devising, had come inevitably under the law of death. Instead of remaining in the state in which God

had created them, they were in process of becoming corrupted entirely, and death had them completely under its dominion."

When you think about what Athanasius wrote so many years ago, he was correct. We lost our way and God, not wanting us to remain lost, sent His Son, His only Son, to live and to die for you and me.

Jesus came into the world to save the world from themselves. So, it is - - - 16 For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. - John 3:16-17

May your focus be on Jesus and His immense love for you!

Have a blessed Christmas season.

Pastor Michael

NEWS AND EVENTS



Please have your child bring a new clothing item, book, toy, or game for us to donate to a child in need!



S.A.L.T. Society

On December 4th at 5:00pm, S.A.L.T. will leave the church and head to Andy's Diner in Elwood for dinner and then tour the Christmas lights.



ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT

Sunday, December 10th - 7:00pm at First Baptist Church





Attention Children and Youth!

Sunday, December 3rd: Birthday Party for Jesus from 12:00-2:00pm! We will have lunch and a party. Please bring a new clothing item, toy, book, or game to donate to a child in need. We will also practice for the Christmas program.

Wednesday, December 6th: Kids Christmas Program at 6:30pm.

Wednesday, December 13th: High Point, Crew 456, and Impact Christmas parties at 6:30pm.

Wednesday, December 20th: Impact will leave the church to go caroling at the Alex Care Center at 6:30pm.

High Point and Crew 456 will not meet on December 20th or December 27th.

The Children's Ministry is in need of juice boxes, Capri Sun drinks, individually wrapped snacks like cheese crackers, fruit snacks, and cookies

A word from the Board of Trustees

We would like to announce that our Family Life Center will be getting a new look soon. On November 1st at the special business meeting, the church accepted our proposal to replace the FLC carpet with vinyl plank flooring. We are hoping this project will be completed early in 2024.

Over the last few months, we have replaced all of the church's flourescent light bulbs with LED bulbs. We will soon receive a 52% rebate of the total cost of the bulbs from Indiana Michigan Power amounting to around \$2,900.00.



NEW TEXTING PROGRAM

FBC will periodically send texts out with relevant information about church activities and special needs. If you would like to be added to our text list, please do *one* of the following:

- 1. Text "Hello" to (833) 558-0264. This is our church texting phone number. It will ask for your full name and then you will be added to our list.
- 2. OR, fill out a blue card during the next worship service, drop it in an offering box, and we will add you to the list.

Once you are signed up for texts, feel free to text that number any time and a staff member will get back with you. We suggest adding our number to your phone contacts as "FBC text" or something similar so that you know it's us reaching out to you.

If at any point you would like to opt out of texts from the church, simply send the word "Stop" to our number and you will be removed.

If you don't already have access to RightNow Media, you're missing out! We encourage everyone in the church to sign up for this great service so they can enjoy Biblical teaching from great authors and speakers like Francis Chan, Kyle Idleman, David Platt and many more! There are kids shows, sermons, small group studies... and they're all FREE to you.



There are two easy ways to get signed up:

- 1. Text "AFBC" to 49775 using your mobile phone.
- 2. Give your email address to our secretary, Elida Stillwell, and she will send you an invite link.

SERVICES



Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

6:00-8:00pm: Impact (7th-12th grades)

Tuesday

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study with Debbie Deutsch

S.A.L.T. Society meets on the third Tuesday of every month

Wednesday

6:30pm: Prayer Meeting (first Wed. of month), Bible Study (remaining Wednesdays)

6:30pm: High Point (K-3rd), Crew 456 (4th-6th), Impact (7th-12th)

PASTOR MICHAEL'S BOOK LIST

Books to Read in 2024

If you're thinking about doing some reading in 2024 (other than the Bible) I want you to consider some books to read. I really don't read fiction, so no recommendations on that genre. I average about 30-40 books a year, and honestly don't remember all of them, but I can give you additional books if you wish.

This is a long list and very easily could have been longer. These are some of my favorite books. Some I have, some I have received from the library. If you have questions, please feel free to ask.

Secular Books

Good to Great by Jim Collins (Leadership / management)

Think Like a Rocket Scientist by Ozan Varol (Personal Development) (one of my favorites)

Deep Change by Robert Quinn (Development / Leadership)

Atomic Habits by James Clear (Development)

How to Win Friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie (Leadership / Development)

The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership, by John C. Maxwell (Leadership)

The Five Dysfunctions of a Team by Patrick Lencioni (Leadership / Development)

Extreme Ownership by Jocko Willink (Development / Leadership) Start With Why by Simon Sinek (Development / Leadership)

Leaders Eat Last by Simon Sinek (Development / Leadership)

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey (Development / Leadership)

The Art of War by Sun Tzu (Development / Leadership)

Christian Books

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (my all time favorite book)

Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

The True Vine by Andrew Murray (my #2-3 books, very similar to one another)

Abide in Christ by Andrew Murray (my #2-3 books, very similar to one another)

Anything by Andrew Murray

The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

Christian Theology by Wayne Grudem (Theology)

Institutes of the Christian Religion by John Calvin (Theology)

Christian Theology by Millard Erickson (Theology)

The Crucifixion by Fleming Rutledge (Theology)

The Practice of the Presence of God by Brother Lawrence

Celebration of Discipline by Richard Foster

The Spirit of the Disciplines by Dallas Willard

Renovation of the Heart by Dallas Willard

Crazy Love by Francis Chan

Desiring God by John Piper

Wild at Heart by John Eldredge (For men)

Captivating by Stasi Eldredge (For women)

Between Two Trees by Shane Wood

What's So Amazing About Grace by Philip Yancey

Grace by Max Lucado

In the Shadow of the Cross by Ray Pritchard

Prayer by O. Halsbey

Kicking Habits by Tom Bandy (Church leadership)

A Second Resurrection by Bill Easum (Church leadership)



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