



January 2025

Dear Christian Friends,

Debi and I pray that all of you are experiencing a merry 12 days of Christmas, and that your New Year will be blessed with the peace and joy that comes in trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior.

I began preaching at Good Shepherd January 28, 2024, and again I want to tell you what a privilege and honor it is to serve you with God's good gifts of grace here in Chiefland.



Since Ash Wednesday is about as late as it can be this year (March 5), the Epiphany season is longer than usual!

Our nine-part sermon series in this upcoming Season of Light is "Brightest and Best," based on Reginald Heber's Epiphany hymn with that same name. My mom told me once this was one of her favorite hymns, and I agree. In our sermons, we will be exploring how Jesus is so much better and brighter than all of the shiny objects we so often chase in life, thinking they will bring us some measure of happiness and peace.

Let these lyrics calm and bless your heart in this season of Christ - centered joy, which is for Jews and Gentiles alike:

*Brightest and best of the sons of the morning;
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid;
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.*

*Cold on His cradle the dewdrops are shining;
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Savior of all!*

*Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and offerings divine?*



*Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?*

*Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.*

In Revelation 22, Jesus identifies Himself as the bright morning star:

I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”

17 The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Larry Griffin

News and Notes

Upcoming Sermons: 9 Part Series - Brightest and Best

- January 5 - Jesus, the Student (First in a Series)
- January 12 - Jesus, the Beloved Son (Second in a Series)
- January 19 - Jesus, the Winemaker (Third in a Series)
- January 26 - Jesus, the Home Town Prophet (Fourth in a Series)



- **All are invited to a New Member Orientation** on Sunday, January 5, after our monthly fellowship meal. Those who have joined our fellowship in recent months and anyone interested in a brief review of Bible teachings are especially urged to attend.
- **Our Church Council** will be meeting for the first time in the new year January 19.
- **All are invited to Lunch after Church at Beef 'O' Brady's** on Sunday, January 26. Please sign up in the church entry if you plan on joining us.
- **The Caring Fund** will be used to assist members of our church and community with cash and gift cards for gas, groceries, etc. Donations may be given through the envelope system or placed in the Caring and Sharing jar in the church entry. ***And the King will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Matthew 25: 40***