



The BCC Connection

*December
2025*

*Bancroft Congregational Church
Pastor Todd Evans*

217 S. Shiawassee St., P.O. Box 98, Bancroft, MI 48414 989-634-5724

Sunday Worship Hours

Christian Education Hour 9:45 am

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

There are Nursery and Jr. church programs available for children during our worship service.

Hope
THE SEASON OF ADVENT





From Your Favorite Pastor



As I write this there is Christmas music playing on my computer. While I am not one who starts counting down to Christmas on December 26, I do enjoy the music and the season. But for many, Christmas is a depressing time. An article written by a director of the California Department of Mental Hygiene (that title is not a typo :0) warned: "The Christmas season is marked by greater emotional stress and more acts of violence than any other time of the year." The reason for and the result of this is seen in people's actions. Christmas is seen as an excuse to get drunk, have a party, get something, give a little, leave work, get out of school, spend money, overeat, and all kinds of excess (\$950 billion is spent on Christmas in the US annually!). We see the root of sin bare out in people's actions- selfishness.

But for those who truly follow Christ, it is an excuse to exalt Jesus everywhere. It is an opportunity to share with others what Christmas is really about. The celebration of the birth of Christ is equally important to Easter and His death and resurrection. If not for Him coming, He could not have died and rose again. We have an opportunity to share that message as more people are willing to be tuned into what we have to tell them.

I believe this year is even more important for the church. We are on the cusp of two possible futures: 1) An outpouring of the Spirit and the Third Great Awakening in our nation, or 2) The collapse of the church and demise of our nation as we know it. I think we could see the first one as God has shaken our foundations in the previous years, giving us a warning shot across the bow that He wants to fill us but that He is also ready to walk away. We are also seeing God do amazing things across college campus' around the country, with kids being baptized in truck beds (even stories of God's mighty movement among that football team down south!).

So my message here? Be ready and willing to share Christ at every opportunity we have so that those around us can make a clear decision for Christ. People are looking for security and peace in a time of upheaval, and Jesus offers that peace for eternity and He uses us to bring that message.

To prepare yourself to share Christ, read the first 2 chapters of each Gospel. This will not only refresh the Christmas story for you, but it will also give you more knowledge of the Gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Hearts are ripe for Him, He just needs us to share with those around us.

"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor." John 4:34-38 NIV

Be blessed & be a blessing

Adel G. Sosa
P.T.





Twisted Scripture



Matthew 3:15-17
Apologetics Bible pg 1005

Members of cults and non-Christian religions take issue with Christian teaching about God's nature, particularly the doctrine of the Trinity. Critics point to this passage as evidence that the New Testament teaches tri-theism (three gods). After all, it is argued there are three distinct divinities referenced here: the Father, whose voice comes out of heaven, the Son, who is being baptized by John the Baptist and the Holy Spirit, who came down upon Jesus as a dove. Therefore, how can Christians speak of God as one when this clearly shows He is three?

The answer is that God is One in essence (Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29), yet three in Person: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That is no contradiction, for God is One in one thing (*what* He is – His unified, divine essence) and three in another (*who* He is – three individual Persons making up the Trinity). Each member is distinct from the others, and so they are described as distinct; and yet they share equally and eternally in the divine essence, making them fundamentally unified.

Matthew 7:1
Apologetics Bible pg 1010

In our politically correct age, we are told that it's not our right to point fingers and pass judgment on others. However, this is actually a judgment in and of itself, and thus it contradicts the principle that we should not judge others. So, when someone tells you that it's wrong for you to judge, ask, "So then why are you judging me?" Anyone who says Jesus prohibits all judgment in Matthew 7:1 has taken His words out of context. It is a self-righteous, hypocritical judgment that Jesus condemns (Romans 2:1-3). Elsewhere He actually commands His followers to 'judge according to righteous judgment' (John 7:24). Paul said Christians are responsible for discerning the actions of other Christians (1 Corinthians 5:9-13, 6:2-5). Of course, our goal must be correction rather than scorn when we make righteous judgments. We must keep a humble, non-hypocritical spirit when we judge others, but we should never buy into the idea that it is wrong to practice and communicate discernment.



A Christmas Story December



- Day 1: Micah 5:2
- Day 2: Isaiah 7:14
- Day 3: Psalm 72:9-11
- Day 4: Jeremiah 31:15
- Day 5: Numbers 24:17
- Day 6: Isaiah 11:1-2
- Day 7: Luke 1:26-28
- Day 8: Luke 1:29-31
- Day 9: Luke 1:32-33
- Day 10: Luke 1:34-35
- Day 11: Luke 1:37-38
- Day 12: Luke 1:46-48
- Day 13: Luke 1:49-50
- Day 14: Luke 1:51-52
- Day 15: Luke 1:53-55
- Day 16: Luke 1:67-69
- Day 17: Luke 2:7
- Day 18: Luke 2:8-9
- Day 19: Luke 2:10-11
- Day 20: Luke 2:13-14
- Day 21: Luke 2:29-32
- Day 22: Luke 2:33-35
- Day 23: Matthew 2:1-2
- Day 24: Matthew 2:10-11
- Day 25: Matthew 2:16-18
- Day 26: John 1:1
- Day 27: John 1:4-5
- Day 28: John 1:14
- Day 29: John 1:15-16
- Day 30: 1 John 5:1
- Day 31: Romans 8:2-3

Kingdom Bloggers

Weekly Service Schedule for December 2025

Service	7th	14th	21st	28th
Music Team	Beth Jenny Maddie	Beth Jenny	Beth Jenny	Beth Maddie
Greeter	Walt Reed	Tom Wahl	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed
Greeter	Marion Reed		Cyndy Habermehl	Karla Reed
Nursery	Patty Hewitt	Cathy Taber	Jenny Habermehl	Volunteer needed
Nursery	Shana Post	Karla Reed	Paula Wahl	Volunteer needed
Sound	Aaron Zander	Maddie Bias	Caitlyn Crego	Volunteer needed
Computer	Matthew Zander	Sarah Bias	Wyatt Crego	Volunteer needed
Call to Worship & Prayer	Layne Valade	Brian Reed	Carl Cooke	Lee Habermehl
Prayer Elder	Lee Habermehl	Matt Post	James Huguelet	Layne Valade
Jr. Church Teacher	Becky Durling	Amber Bias	Diane Lepior	Paula Wahl
Jr. Church Helper	Cathy Taber	Shana Post	Amber Evans	Jenny Habermehl
Scripture Reader Message Prayer	Layne Valade Isaiah 9:6	Carl Cooke Isaiah 9:6	Dan Bryant Isaiah 7:4	Sandy Braid TBD
Benediction	Pastor	Carl Cooke	Layne Valade	Brian Reed
Financial Team	Layne Valade	Carl Cooke	Tom Wahl	James Huguelet
Financial Team	Lee Habermehl	Brian Reed	Dan Bryant	Matt Post
Communion	Tom Wahl			

Please remember if for any reason you are unable to meet your scheduled obligation, **please contact someone from your team to take your place as soon as you know you are unable to fulfill your obligation.**

The changes however, will not be printed in the bulletin.

Thank you for your service to our church!



MICHAEL OR GABRIEL?

The archangels Michael and Gabriel were active in the Bible story. Which one was involved or will be in these situations?

A. MICHAEL

B. GABRIEL

C. BOTH

- ___ 1. Argued with the devil over Moses's body.
- ___ 2. Announced to the shepherds that Jesus was born.
- ___ 3. Told Zechariah (Luke 1) that he would be a father.
- ___ 4. Will represent Israel in the tribulation.
- ___ 5. In Revelation 12:7, he fought against the dragon.
- ___ 6. Helped get a prayer to Daniel.
- ___ 7. Explained to Daniel about the 70-weeks prophecy.
- ___ 8. Explained to Daniel the Ram and Goat vision.



This Month's Cause for Celebration!



BRAID	SANDY	1-Dec
COTTENHAM	VIRGINIA	1-Dec
ZANDER	SEAN	8-Dec
TABER,	SKIP	14-Dec
VALADE	CALEB	14-Dec
LEWIS	SHARON	16-Dec
REED	MARION	16-Dec
MAHAR	KEN	19-Dec
POST	SHANA	26-Dec
WAHL	PAULA	28-Dec
ZANDER	ADAM	28-Dec
SIDDENS	JILL	30-Dec



16	Steve & Becky	Durling
17	Dan & Rose	Bryant

Kids Corner

Cut out these verse cards and place them in your Bible. When you place them where the verses are found, they will be ready for you to show these verses when sharing the Gospel with your friends.

John 3:16

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.

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mission News!

Merry Christmas from our mission team!

We send a Christmas gift of money to our missionaries every year. Thank you for support to take care of them all year round!

Our missionaries Mark and Kim Dalman will be with us at church December 28th. Please take time to say hello to them! They are our newest missionaries we support.

Christmas cards

We will have our bulletin board ready for you to bring a Christmas card to our congregation. Instead of spending money on cards for each person consider putting the money you would spend on cards toward missions. Fill our bulletin board with cards from you to our whole congregation!

Mini Mission Conference

Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 12th, we're having a mini mission conference during our church hour. I think you'll love it!

Mission Team

There's no mission meeting in December.

We would like to invite you to join our mission team! We have a small team and would like to invite more members to join us. We value your ideas and opinions in our team!

Our next meeting is January 12th at 10:00. We meet every second Monday. For more information contact our mission chairperson, Karla Reed.

Food Pantry News

Our November pantry was also known as our Thanksgiving Pantry! Because we add some traditional Thanksgiving foods for Thanksgiving month. We helped 40 families this year. We had a lot of extra people helping in November. Thank you to everyone!

We picked up over 2100 pounds of food! We load, unload, and pack bags for people coming to our pantry. Just a side note—We get our produce for free from the food bank! Also free is our milk, butter, and cheese at the times they are available. We were also able to receive a free 4x4 pallet of boxed bread from donations from bakeries to the food bank to our food pantry.

Thank you for your support for our food pantry. You help us feed a lot of people. We could not do this without the amazing, positive, dedicated team that we have! We hear stories every month from people receiving of how much of a blessing and a help our pantry is to them.

Our next Food Pantry Workdays are Friday, December 19th and Saturday, and December 20th, for the food pantry, 9 to 12. (It opens at 10). Please let Karla Reed know if you plan on helping, you can call or text Karla at 989-277-5284.



Grandma's Kitchen



Salted Caramel Jicama Salad (Fake apple dish)

Serves 4, per serving: 1/4 lean, 1 1/2 greens, ~1.5 condiments, 1 snack

Ingredients:

- 390g raw jicama, peeled and cubed (6 Greens)
- 12 oz 2% plain Fage Greek yogurt (1 Lean)
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract (1/2 Condiment)
- 1/2 tsp ground cinnamon (1 Condiment)
- 1 packet stevia (1 Condiment)
- 2 tbsp Walden Farms caramel syrup, divided (1 Condiment)
- 1/2 tsp coarse sea salt (2 Condiment)
- 28 walnut halves (4 Snacks)

Directions:

1. How to toast walnut halves: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil for easy clean up. Spread walnut on prepared baking sheet in a single layer. Roast for 5 to 10 minutes. Frequently stir the nuts to ensure even baking. Nuts are done when they appear a shade darker and smell toasted.
2. Let them cool and then chop. Set aside.
3. Combine chopped jicama, yogurt, vanilla extract, cinnamon, stevia, 1 tbsp caramel syrup and half of the chopped walnuts in a medium bowl. Stir until jicama is evenly coated.
4. Pour into a serving dish. Drizzle 1 tbsp caramel syrup on top and then top with the other half of walnuts. Sprinkle sea salt on top.
5. Serve immediately



Healthy Chicken Parmesan

YIELD: 3 Serving

PER SERVING: 1 Leaner, 1 Green, 1 Healthy Fat & 3 Condiments

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1 tsp chopped thyme
- 1 tsp chopped rosemary
- 1 tsp chopped Italian parsley
- 3 chicken cutlets (about 4 ounces cooked each)
- ¼ tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- ¾ cup Rao's marinara sauce
- 1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella
- 8 tsp grated reduced-fat parmesan
- ½ Tbsp unsalted butter, cut into pieces

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 500°F.

In a bowl, stir oil, thyme, rosemary, and parsley. Brush both sides of chicken w/herb oil and sprinkle w/salt and pepper.

Heat a large, heavy ovenproof skillet over high heat. Add chicken cook just until browned, 1 minute per side. Remove from the heat.

Spoon marinara sauce over and around the cutlets. Sprinkle w/mozzarella, 2.6 tsp of Parmesan. Dot tops w/butter pieces bake until cheese melts and chicken is cooked 5 minutes.

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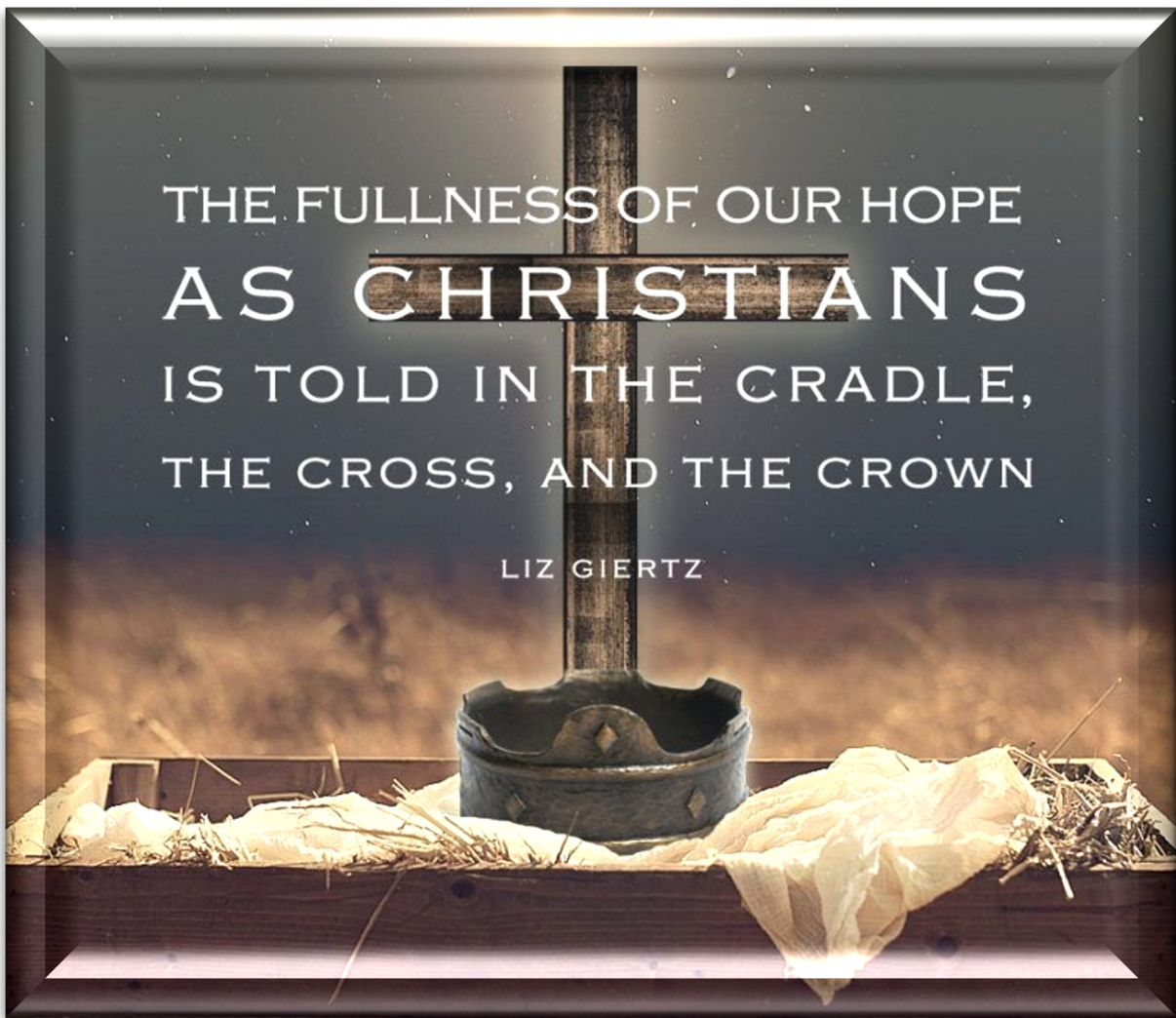
Bancroft Church Phone Number:
 989-634-5724
 Secretary: Diane Lepior
 Office Hours: 9-2 daily
*Call ahead please,
 most days the office works offsite*
Tuesdays by appointment
Please use the church phone or Facebook

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 	8	9	10	11	12	13 8 am 
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 10 to Noon Food Pantry Ministry 
21  Awana & Youth Group 6-7:30 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 PM	25 	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Weekly activities: Wednesdays: 10am Adult Bible Study
 Thursdays: 6:30pm Adult Small Group
 Thursdays: Karate

MICHAEL OR GABRIEL?

- | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|
| 1. Michael | 4. Michael | 7. Gabriel |
| 2. Gabriel | 5. Michael | 8. Gabriel |
| 3. Gabriel | 6. Michael | |



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