

Grace and Truth

Grace Lutheran Church - Fremont, Ohio
January 2021



During this holy season of joy, let us look upon the face of baby Jesus and find in Him the hope that lights our hearts, and the love that shapes and moves our world.

We pray that you have a blessed and Christ-filled Christmas, and a new year of hope, health, and happiness.

Merry Christmas!

Please see page 2 for complete details on Christmas Eve with Grace Lutheran Church.

CHRISTMAS EVE

at

Grace Lutheran Church

On-line and Drive-In

As we prepare for Christmas Eve 2020, we are excited to offer a variety of ways for you to experience Christmas Eve at Grace Lutheran Church. Whether you tune in on Facebook or attend drive-in church, we pray that you will join us in some way throughout your day, as we worship Christ, the joy of our world!

Thursday, December 24, 2020

10:00 a.m. “Little Drummer Boy” Children’s Christmas Program

A premiere presentation on Fremont Grace Lutheran Facebook page.

5:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Worship including our Chancel and Bell Choirs. This live-stream service can be found on Fremont Grace Lutheran Facebook page.

7:00 p.m. “Candlelight & Communion” joint Drive-In Church with St. John’s in St. John’s parking lot on Clover Street. Luminaries lighting the way for the Christ child, candles, and communion for everyone! At this service we will collect non-perishable food items and baby wipes for the Bridge of Hope food pantry. Our Christmas Eve special offering will be collected for Camino de Vida. This service will also be available via live-stream on both Fremont Grace Lutheran and St. John’s Lutheran Church Facebook pages.

9:00 p.m. “Sights and Sounds of Christmas” a virtual recital prepared by our gifted music director, Mr. Tom Curry, featuring a variety of Christmas hymns and music from inside our beautifully decorated sanctuary. A premiere presentation on Fremont Grace Lutheran Facebook page.

Sunday, December 27, 2020

9:00 a.m. “Lessons and Carols” a compilation of readings and carols presented by the LIFT churches. A premiere presentation on Fremont Grace Lutheran Facebook page. **Please note, there will be NO Drive-in Church on this Sunday.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund

As of NOVEMBER 2020

	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>	<u>2019 Actual</u>
Year to date receipts:	442,997	427,966	386,756
Year to date expenses:	<u>417,862</u>	<u>467,450</u>	<u>430,353</u>
Receipts less expenses:	25,135	(39,484)	(43,597)

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Morris
Financial Assistant

CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes December 14, 2020

- Council meeting was held via Zoom
- Mid-week Advent live-streamed services are going well
- Drive-in Church continues to attract positive attendance. Will have service on Christmas Eve; NO service on Sunday, December 27.
- The PPP loan has been forgiven in full
- LIFT Call Update - official Call extended to Pastor Paul Bailie; will start January 1, 2021
- Budget Review Meeting - Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6 p.m. via ZOOM.
- Annual Congregational Meeting - ballot vote is required for budget approval; ballots will be sent via mail and will also be available online
- Toledo Food Bank will continue with food box distribution events through March 2021.
- Youth/Growth Committee to purchase 3 adult bikes for Community Christmas
- Rohr Lawn Care has been hired for snow removal



REMINDER: All end of year donations must be received in the church office by NOON on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020 to be credited to your 2020 giving.

The Grace Lutheran Church Endowment Board is seeking two (2) candidates to fill upcoming open seats in 2021. This is a 2-year term to begin March 2021. Endowment Board meets four (4) times per year. If anyone from the congregation would like to serve on the Board, please contact the church office. Elections for these two (2) positions will be held at the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2021.

BUDGET REVIEW MEETING will be held MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021 at 6 p.m. via ZOOM.

(The link will be sent via e-mail prior to the meeting along with a copy of the proposed budget.) The purpose of this meeting is to review and discuss the proposed operating budget for 2021. To request a hard copy of the Proposed 2021 Budget prior to this meeting, please contact the church office. If you are not able to participate in the Zoom meeting, please feel free to call Ruthann House, 419-680-5852, or Jean Dupey, 419-341-6549, if you have questions.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE ...

One of my all-time favorite songs is by Sister Sledge called *We are Family*. The verses talk about the fact that everyone can see they are a close family because they see how united they are. They are there for each other like birds of a feather. It is a great song about the unity, love and support found in a family. My sister and I can break into the song on occasion because it describes my family, and my guess is it describes your family. Don't get me wrong all families go through struggles and differences of opinion due to politics, social issues, choices, personalities, etc. But if your family is like mine, we do not walk away from each other we hang in there and see each other through the difficult times. We are a family, and we have history which is made up of good times and bad times. We have celebrated together, grieved together, played together, and raised our children together. We are a family and when times are hard, we think about all the history we have together. We are children of Keith and Virginia McClure and we want to honor our parents by staying a close, loving, supportive family through good and hard times.

We are a family here at Grace. We are children of God united in Jesus Christ. We see the world differently and have different opinions on politics, social issues, even theology. We have different personalities and make different choices. But, in the end we are a family and there is a call on this family to show others how united, supportive, and loving we are with each other. Why would anyone want to join this family of God if we are anything different?

The past 10 months have been a source of stress for our world, country, community, and the church. As we have been living through this pandemic, we have seen great division about many issues. Some still believe the whole thing is a hoax. There are differences of opinion about whether to mask or not, whether to be in school or learning virtually, how many people to have in a group, and whether to worship in person or not. Most people believe their opinion is backed up by science. I am not here to argue that. Time will tell.

What I do know, is that we are called to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are called to be a united family. In Ephesians chapter four the Apostle Paul calls the church to be completely humble and gentle; to be patient, bearing with one another in love. To make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. To love our neighbor is to do what we can to ensure that they are safe and healthy. When we, at Grace, made the decision to suspend in person worship, when the Covid color is red, we did not do it without prayer and a lot of discussion. We struggled with the decision because we are aware there are members of our family that disagree with the decision. We realize many will be disappointed that we will not be in our beautiful sanctuary on Christmas Eve as we have been in the past. But we pray for a spirit of love, unity, and support for this congregation from the members of this family. We pray you realize we are doing what we honestly believe is the right decision based on God's Word. We pray when we are through this pandemic and gathering back in our sanctuary, all members of our church family will be at the table having weathered this time of trial in a loving and united way.

My sisters and brothers in Christ. Grace is my home, and you are my family. You have rejoiced with me and grieved with me. We have walked through joyful and difficult times as a church family. My prayer is when we are through this pandemic we will be able to look back and see that The Shepherd walked through it with us and we came through it as the loving, supportive, unified family we are called to be.

We are family!
God's Peace and Love,
Maureen
Synodical Authorized Minister (SAM)

LIFT NEWS

LIVING IN FAITH TOGETHER

LIFT YOUTH FACEMASK COLLECTION - The mask collection that began in September to benefit Fremont City Schools continues and to date 231 masks have been collected. We continue to collect the following types of masks: hand sewn (size must be marked), purchased cloth masks, or disposable masks. Masks may be dropped off to the church office during regular business hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information contact Heather Hawn by email at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com.



NORTHWEST OHIO SYNOD FRESH EXPRESSIONS PROGRAM

Heather Hawn has been chosen to be part of the Fresh Expressions Innovator Academy, a focus group with intention to forming new communities and re-imagining church. How can we reach those who don't come to church and be church outside the walls of our church? For the next 14 months she will work along side staff from the Northwestern Ohio Synod and a small team from our area. They will start by studying the book of Acts. Using Acts 1:8, we will be witnesses, learners, innovators, and guides who will partner with God, Northwest Ohio, and the world. You are invited you to read the book of Acts and join Heather in praying for those who don't know Jesus, have been hurt by other Christians, and those in our focus group. If you are interested in learning more about this journey you may reach out to Heather through the church office or by email at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com. Heather is looking forward to this opportunity and is excited to bring these practices to Fremont.

WELCOME PASTOR PAUL BAILIE!

The word is out that Pastor Paul Bailie has been moved by the Holy Spirit to accept the Call of Pastor for the LIFT Parish! He, along with his wife, Brandy, and their young son, James, are targeting early January 2021 to be well into the transition. Pr. Paul has an impressive mission presence in online ministry and information to this end is being shared by our church leadership.

We want to extend a grand welcome and offer any help that we can for their move. In an effort to make Pr. Paul and his family feel welcome and aid in their transition to Fremont, we would like to put together a welcome basket to give to Pastor and his family upon their arrival. If you would like to contribute to this basket, please drop off a greeting card of welcome and/or a gift card from a local restaurant or business, to St. John's or Grace Lutheran by December 31. Anything coming in after that time will be given to Pr. Bailie when he is settled.

This is an exciting time for the LIFT Parish and we want to thank everyone for their efforts to make Pr. Paul and his family feel welcome to LIFT and the Fremont community.

in **YOUTH** **Action**

CONFIRMATION IS GOING VIRTUAL - If you have work that needs to be made up it can be found by scanning the QR code on this announcement.

Class will meet via Zoom from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. on January 3 & 24, February 7 & 28, March 7 & 28, April 25 and May 2. If you have questions about confirmation please contact Heather Hawn by email at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com to register.



SCAN ME

WANTED: LIVE STREAM TECHS!

Are you computer savvy? We are looking for individuals willing to learn how to run the new live streaming equipment and cameras during Sunday morning worship. If you are interested or you want more information please contact Heather Hawn by email at HeatherRHawn@gmail.com or by calling the church office, 419-332-1558.



2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available and can be picked up in the church office during business hours. If you would like to call ahead and let us know you are stopping in, we will have them ready and waiting at the door! Stop by anytime Monday through Thursday, 9am – 4pm or Friday, 9am – 1pm. *(Please note, the office is closed on Tuesday mornings from 9:30am – 10:30am for staff in-service.)*

Pastor Jody Farewell Gift



– Pr. Jody and family are doing well in Gettysburg
– unpacking and getting settled in their home! We are happy to share that in honor of Pr. Jody's retirement, Grace Lutheran has given a gift of \$2500 to the United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg for Student Scholarships. Pr. Jody is a 2009 graduate of this seminary and it remains close to her heart. If anyone would like to make a donation to offset this gift, please make your check out to Grace Lutheran Church and note "Pr. Jody Retirement" in the memo line. Thank you!

AVAILABLE ONLINE



WEEKDAY MORNINGS at 8:30 a.m. Good Morning Devotion with Moe - via Facebook Live. You can find Maureen on Facebook at Maureen McClure Pump.

TUESDAY 1:00 p.m. - Women of the Bible Study via Zoom - We might be at home but gathering around God's Word doesn't end. We are currently discussing the Women of the Bible. *For details on how to connect with Zoom for this Bible study, contact Maureen at maureenpump@yahoo.com*

SUNDAY 6:00 p.m. Virtual Prayer Group with Maureen via Zoom on the first Sunday of each Month. The next meeting will take place on December 6. Please email Maureen at maureenpump@yahoo.com and she will send you the ZOOM link.

For Online Bible Study with interactive posts and Facebook Live moments throughout the week, connect through the LIFT Fremont Facebook page.

Grace Lutheran worship is posted weekly online at www.gracefremont.org

JUGGLING ACT - HEY LADIES, do you feel like your days are spent doing a juggling act? So many of us do. We juggle family, work and social issues every day. Sometimes it feels like no one understands what we are dealing with. But that is not true! Many of us are doing our own juggling acts! Come and join with other women who are juggling just like you. We have dinner together at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month. Currently we are going to The Garrison. The next gathering will be January 5. Please call the church office at 419-332-1558 and let us know you are planning to attend so there are enough seats for all.

BOOKWORMS NEWS

We are always looking for new members. Bookworms will meet on **January 25 at 2 p.m.** in the lounge. We will discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover. This is a non-fiction account of Westover's educational journey is particularly relevant with so many children learning from home during this pandemic.

Then in March the group will meet to discuss *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. The group meets every other month on the fourth Monday throughout the year. Members are responsible for obtaining their own books.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

will be held Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. via ZOOM. (The link will be sent prior to the meeting.) The proposed 2021 Budget will be sent out prior to the Annual Meeting along with a ballot & instructions for voting. Completed ballots can then be mailed to the church office or dropped off directly at the church office. There will also be an option to vote online at www.gracefremont.org

- ANNUAL REPORTS -

The 2020 Annual report will be available beginning January 15, 2021. Reports can be picked up in the church office during business hours or viewed online at www.gracefremont.org

Sharing God's Bounty

January

Forgetting What Is Behind

Forget about it." It's a phrase we may say to ourselves when we don't want to face up to something. Perhaps we give it in the form of advice to someone who's complaining about an offense he's received. According to Paul, it's a good thing to do. It's counsel he followed himself: *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13b-14).

Paul had a past anyone would want to forget. In his Pharisaical zeal, he had caused the imprisonment, persecution, and even death of many who were followers of the Way. All that changed, we know, when he himself faced Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Yet, from our reading of Scripture, we know he didn't "forget what was behind." He brought it up many times as he explained the change that Jesus had brought about in his life to the other apostles and as he testified in the highest courts of the day.

Like Paul, we can't forget about our past sins ... and maybe that's good, as long as we remember that Christ has forgotten them! Remembrance of our sins serves the purpose of keeping us humble and grateful, aware that we walk in God's ways only as we rely on him to lead us, thankful that he forgives all sin, past, present, and future. Then we are not encumbered by guilt (1 John 3:20). We can "[forget] what's behind" and "press on toward the goal" that Christ has lain out before us as we serve him with all the gifts he so graciously gives us.

We begin a new year in God's grace. We also begin each day, sometimes each moment, as newly forgiven, cleansed stewards equipped through Word and Sacrament to fulfill God's purposes for our lives.



Our own growth and the growth of our church depend on the willingness of us all to invest that talent for others. As a member of your church, you are called to share in all aspects of its life. Membership is responsibility - the response to the call to ministry, and service. To be a church member is to answer that call with time and talent.

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to those who are celebrating 75 years and more!

January 1	Joyce Wickert	2375 McGormley Rd.
January 2	Ardis Curliss	720 Tucker Rd.
January 2	Richard O'Donnell	4380 Co. Rd. 183, Clyde
January 4	Gary Willey	2737 N. River Rd.
January 6	Janice Serwin	1997 E. State St.
January 8	Eugene Mills	1677 Clelek Dr.
January 9	Carole Miller	1830 Port Clinton Rd.
January 9	Loretta Sieberg	151 W. Drew Ln., Clyde
January 9	Evelyn White	609 Whittlesey St.
January 12	James Streeter	2022 Roselawn Dr.
January 19	Beverly Bradford	1328 Circle Dr.
January 21	Ronald Gierhart	1510 Napoleon St.
January 22	Gary Nossaman	42 Linda Dr.
January 25	Margaret McGue	1545 Buckland Ave.
January 25	Marleen Savage	136 Briarwood Cir.
January 25	Leslie Widmer	7415 US HWY 6, Gibsonburg
January 28	William Sherick	1407 Rosewood
January 30	Patricia Rife	5212 St. Rd. 101, Clyde

Many thanks for the well wishes and healing prayers. We are doing well and are blessed to have you all in our lives.

Larry & Judy Overmyer

**Thank
You!**

The Liberty Center would like to thank the members of Grace for all of their support during this challenging year. Without you we would not be able to help members of this community in this great time of need. We have not been able to use volunteers at this time and have had to rely solely on paid staff to cover all shifts. Thanks to some of the recent government programs, we have been able to cover most of the extra costs. Please continue to keep the Center in your prayers.

Thank you to George Dupey for helping with the Christmas program and to all of the families who participated. Your flexibility and willingness to serve is appreciated.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Heather Hawn

Many thanks to the helping hands of Greg & Jody Jess, Gregg Kinsey, Jim Post, and Charlotte Urban for their help in decorating our Sanctuary for this Christmas season. It is beautiful!

(You will be able to see the sanctuary during "The Sights & Sounds of Christmas" that will air at 9pm on Christmas Eve on Facebook and our web page!)

RECEIVING THE GIFT OF BAPTISM

December 11 - Samuel Hayes Woughter, son of Joseph & Laura (Burmeister) Woughter

FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE: for the month of January, we will collect canned soup or fruit and crackers, please take your items directly to the Food Pantry located in the Share & Care building. Food Pantry hours are M - F, 12noon to 2:30pm.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Maureen Pump, Synodically Authorized Minister
maureenpump@yahoo.com
Linda Baumer, Office/Financial Administrator
gracefremont@yahoo.com
Tricia Dabrunz, Secretary/Receptionist
dabrunztricia@yahoo.com
Heather Hawn, Youth Minister ~ Middle/High School
heatherrhawn@gmail.com
Tricia McElfresh, Director, Noah's Ark Preschool
noahs_ark_fremont@yahoo.com
Tom Curry, Director of Music,
musicatgracelutheran@yahoo.com



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

**DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES
IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13.**

*The newsletter will be assembled
on Thursday, January 21.*

JESUS
is the Reason
for the
Season

A small illustration of holly leaves and red berries tied with a red ribbon.

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25,
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28 &
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021!
WE WISH YOU A SAFE AND
JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Grace Lutheran Church
705 West State Street
Fremont, OH 43420

Return Service Requested

Office Hours – 9:00am-4:00pm, M-Th
9:00 a.m.-1:00p.m., F
Phone: 419-332-1558
E-mail: gracefremont@yahoo.com
Web page: www.gracefremont.org

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Permit #133

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



JANUARY 2021



OFFICE CLOSED

Worship available via
Grace website

3
9:00 Drive-in Worship/Communion
at St. John's
9:00 Worship via Facebook
12:30 - 1:30 Confirmation via
Zoom
6:00 Sunday Prayer Group w/
Maureen via Zoom

4
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe

5
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
1:00 Bible Study with Maureen
5:30 Juggling Act at The Garrison

6
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe

7
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
11:30 Soup Kitchen

8
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe

Worship available via
Grace website

10
9:00 Drive-in Worship/Communion
at St. John's
9:00 Worship via Facebook

11
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
6-6:30 2021 Proposed Budget
Review via ZOOM
7:30 Church Council via ZOOM

12
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
1:00 Bible Study with Maureen

13
G & T DEADLINE
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
6:00 Bell Choir Practice

14
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
11:30 Soup Kitchen

15
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe

Worship available via
Grace website

17
FOOD PANTRY CHALLENGE
(canned soup or fruit
and crackers)
9:00 Drive-in Worship/Communion
at St. John's
9:00 Worship via Facebook
12:30 - 1:30 Confirmation
via Zoom

18
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
6:00 Grief Support Group -
Lounge

19
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
1:00 Bible Study with Maureen

20
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
6:00 Bell Choir Practice

21
G & T ASSEMBLED
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
11:30 Soup Kitchen

22
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe

Worship available via
Grace website

24
9:00 Drive-in Worship/Communion
at St. John's
12:30 - 1:30 Confirmation via
Zoom

31
9:00 Drive-in Worship/Communion
at St. John's
10:30 Annual Meeting via ZOOM

25
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
2:00 Bookworms - Lounge

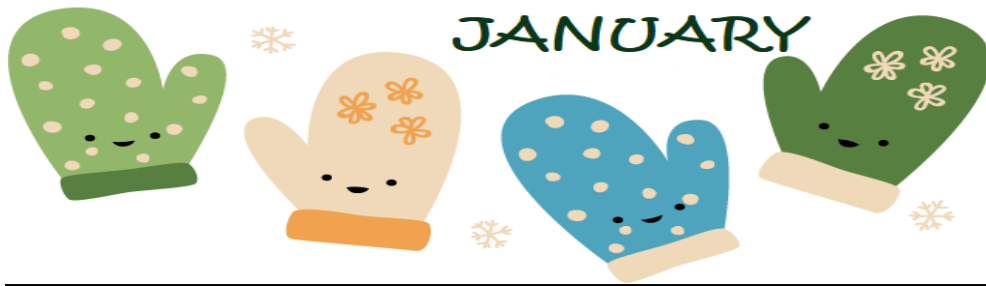
26
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
1:00 Bible Study with Maureen

27
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
6:00 Bell Choir Practice

28
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe
11:30 Soup Kitchen

29
8:30 Morning Devotion with Moe

Worship available via
Grace website



An Angel Visits Mary

You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.
Luke 1:31 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS SCHEDULE
IS ONLY FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AT GRACE.
WORSHIPPING IN-PERSON WILL DEPEND UPON SANDUSKY
COUNTY'S COLOR ON THE COVID-19 COLOR CHART.**

JANUARY 3 -

GREETER: P. Bargerstock ATTENDANCE: B. Muffler
USHER: E. Muffler
BULLETIN/COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION: C. Haaser

JANUARY 10 -

GREETER: A. Fisher ATTENDANCE: J. Gangwer
USHER: K. Fisher
BULLETIN/COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION: P. Antesberger

JANUARY 17 -

GREETER: B. Schling ATTENDANCE: T. Schling
USHER: C. Slemmer
BULLETIN/COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION: R. House

JANUARY 24 -

GREETER: J. Moses ATTENDANCE: T. Moses
USHER: B. Hollister
BULLETIN/COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION: M. Hollister

JANUARY 31 -

GREETER: P. Bargerstock ATTENDANCE: B. Muffler
USHER: E. Muffler
BULLETIN/COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION: C. Haaser

FEBRUARY 7 -

GREETER: B. Schling ATTENDANCE: T. Schling
USHER: P. Antesberger
BULLETIN/COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION: J. Gangwer

E	O	U	N	X	B	F	R	Z	T	L	H	Q	V	D	J	S	A	K	I	C	Y	P	W	G	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 18-4-25-1-11 _____

2. 25-18-6-8-20-1-11 _____

3. 14-20-8-25-20-4 _____

4. 16-2-17-1-23-12 _____

5. 26-18-8-22 _____

6. 18-7-8-18-20-15 _____

7. 6-20-8-10-12 _____

8. 17-2-4 _____

9. 16-1-17-3-17 _____

10. 6-2-8-4 _____

GABRIEL	SON	MARY	BORN	VIRGIN
AFRAID	JOSEPH	ANGEL	BIRTH	JESUS