

# Christmas Blessings

*“And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:12 (NASB)*

To Our Covington Church of the Brethren Family:

As Christmas quickly approaches, “signs” are all around. We see Christmas decorations as we shop in the stores and often a Christmas tree as we drive through the center of towns, big and small. We hear the music of Christmas almost everywhere we go. Houses are beautifully lit, bringing us the brilliant colors of Christmas. Yes, “signs” of the season abound. They are everywhere we look!

Yet, as followers of Jesus, we also look for a different kind of sign. While our homes are also decorated with the trappings of the season, including presents under the tree waiting to be opened; there is a manger scene at the center of our Christmas. For many of us there is a literal manger scene in our home. For some, more than one manger scene can be found in our house! For others of us, we may not have a manger scene in our home, but there is most certainly one in our hearts. We celebrate the arrival of the Babe in a manger! Yes, the sign we look for is the one given unto us to be “God with us,” Immanuel!

Of course, the original scene was not quite as beautiful as the manger scenes in our home tend to be. The Passion Translation expresses Luke 2:12 this way, “You will recognize him by this miraculous sign: You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in the feeding trough!” This miraculous sign did not look miraculous at all. Many of the people in Bethlehem that night had no idea this baby was “God with us.” Yet this is a miraculous sign because it shows us exactly how far God will go to become “God with all of us.”

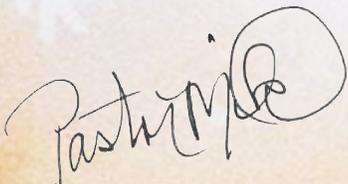
The Good News is the best news. God came into the world as a baby born to a peasant couple who were not important enough to bump any one out of a crowded inn. They went to a stable and laid the newborn Son of God in an animal feeding trough. Miraculous signs of God coming into our world are all around. To see these “signs of the season,” we must open our eyes to see the Christ Child coming to us in all the unexpected places of life. God is with us, wherever we are. We will find God with others wherever they are. Sometimes, our own lives are the miraculous sign that someone is looking for.

This Christmas and New Year, may we at Covington Church of the Brethren be reminded that signs of “God with us ~ Immanuel” are everywhere, including in some of the most unexpected places and with some of the most unexpected people.

May our worship together continue to be a sign that God has come into the world to be “God with us.” One such sign will take place soon as we gather on Christmas Eve at 7:00 P.M. in our sanctuary and online for worship, safe communion and candlelight.

Please join us as we welcome the Babe in a manger into our hearts once again. As we bring in a New Year, may we, the people of Covington Church of the Brethren, continue to be a sign to all that God is with us. God is with us indeed.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year From the Covington Church of the Brethren Office.



Peace Joy Love

