

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND MAY GOD BE WITH YOU!!!

Carry the light of Christ with you always!

CENSUS FORM



By order of his imperial majesty



CAESAR AUGUSTUS

All the world is to be counted and taxed.

Please look at the following questions and discuss your answers with your family and your neighbors. They are intended to help you prepare for the census which will register people for taxation purposes.

You, as the head of your household, will be required to walk to the place of your birth.

- a. Where is that place? How far is it from here?

- b. How long will it take you to travel on foot? (average speed is 3 miles in an hour, or 20 miles a day)

- c. Where can you stay if the census registration involves a day or two of waiting?

Worship Resources for this Sunday:

Tonight's worship is based on "the ABCs of Christmas" <https://youngclergywomen.org/the-abcs-of-christmas-a-worship-service/>

Census Form – *Cloth for the Cradle*. Wild Goose Worship Group

All translations of the Bible were the Common English Bible, except for Luke 1:28, which was from the Message Translation.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Every member is a minister in the community

*Greg Briggs, Interim Pastor Leah Dice, Office Manager
Roger Waters, Music Minister Shelley Fisher, Music Minister
Lynette Webb, Childcare Supervisor Larry Minch, Custodian*

**101 State Street - Charlevoix, MI 49720 * Phone: 231.547.9122
www.chxucc.org * Email: office@chxucc.org
Pastor Greg: pastor@chxucc.org, * 616.283.2971 cell
Office Hours 9 a.m.— 3:30 p. m. Mon—Thurs**

Welcome to our church family!

A special welcome to guests and visitors! Please fill out a Welcome card in the pew pocket and put it in the offering plate. (indicates that all who are able are invited to stand. **Bolded** text is to be read by the entire congregation. Traditional unison prayers are in italics and are also read in unison.)*

Welcome and Introduction



*PROCESSIONAL “Angels We Have Heard On High”

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
ech-o back their joyous strains.**

Refrain: Gloria in ex-cel-sis De-o, Gloria in ex-cel-sis De-o.

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heavenly song.**

Refrain:

**Come to Bethlehem and see Christ
whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee,
God our world now entering.**

Refrain:

A is for **Adventure & Angel**



When the Angel came to Mary, it said, “Good evening! You’re beautiful with God’s beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you!” *Luke 1:28*

B is for **Beauty & Bethlehem**

C is for **Candles**  & **Census** 

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. Everyone went to their own

W is for **Wonder** (and What about the Wise Men?)

X is for **Christ** (Wait, that’s not spelled right at all!)



Light this final candle, the candle of Christ. Through God’s gifts of Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace, may the greatest gift of all, the gift of Jesus Christ, our forgiving friend, come to be with us here on earth.

Y is for **You**

Z is for **Zenith & Zeal**

RECEIVING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST



We are going to make a circle and light our candles from our neighbor’s candle. Be sure light candles by holding lit candles upright, and tipping the unlit candle into the flame, so we won’t spill wax. We also have glow sticks for anyone who wants them instead of a candle.

Once everyone’s candle is lit, we will begin to sing together.

Carol:

“Silent Night, Holy Night”



**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven a-far, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia; Christ
the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

**Silent night, holy night, Child of God, love’s pure light,
radiant beams from your holy face bring the dawn of redeeming
grace; Jesus Christ at your birth, Jesus Christ at your birth.**

Ω BENEDICTION

*Please extinguish the candle before you leave the sanctuary,
taking care to let the wax harden before tipping the candle holder.*

Q is for **Quiet**

Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.
Luke 2:19-20

R is for **Revelation**

S is for **Shepherds**

Carol: "What Child Is This?"

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?



**This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God's holy offering;
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!**

Why lies the Child in manger bare where ox and ass are feeding? Give heed, draw near; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mary!

**Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;
the Holy Child, though meek and mild,
has come with God's salvation.**

**Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby; Joy, joy,
for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mary!**

T is for **Trust**

U is for **Unity**

V is for **Vulnerable**



cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.
Luke 2:1, 3-5

D is for **Divine Dumbfounding**



The birth of Jesus took place like this. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. Before they came to the marriage bed, Joseph discovered she was pregnant. (It was by the Holy Spirit, but he didn't know that.) Joseph, chagrined, but noble, determined to take care of things quietly so Mary would not be disgraced.

While he was trying to figure a way out, he had a dream. God's angel spoke in the dream: "Joseph, son of David, don't hesitate to get married. Mary's pregnancy is Spirit-conceived. God's Holy Spirit has made her pregnant. She will bring a son to birth, and when she does, you, Joseph, will name him Jesus—'God saves'—because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:18-22

E is for **Expectations**



[Mary sang out] Holy is God's name! God shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors God. God has shown strength with their arm.

God has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. God has pulled the powerful down and lifted up the lowly. God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed.
Luke 1:49-53

F is for **Family**

G is for **Good News**



While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her first born child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Luke 2:6-7

H is for **Hope**



Light this candle, the candle of Hope. May it represent the ever-burning fire of our mighty God's spirit in our souls.

I is for **Imagination**

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.



The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, Joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. It is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: You will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors." When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us."

Luke 2:8-15

J is for **Joy**



Light this candle, the candle of Joy. May it represent the deepest joy that can be found, the joy found in the embrace of God.



"Joy to the World" played on the Youthful Bells

K is for **King**.



They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.

Luke 2:16-18

L is for **Love**



Light this candle, the candle of Love. May it represent the connections that bind us together, person to person, place to place, church to church, and country to country.

M is for **Manger**

Carol:

"Away in a Manger"



**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; protect me, I pray,
and stay by my side until night turns to day.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

N is for **Noel**

O is for **Offering**



★
THE CHRISTMAS FUND
for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

P is for **Prayers & Peace**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.



Light this candle, the candle of Peace. May it represent the positive peace of God. A peace that transforms the world with justice and mercy, just as the Prince of Peace did.