



WICONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty



Church Connection December 2017

*Strengthening,
Preserving
& Promoting
Marriage,
Family, Life &
Religious Liberty*

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Luke 2:15-16

Join us for...

“Punching Holes in the Darkness: Equipping Christians To Bring Light to the Critical Issues of Our Day”

A presentation by Julaine Appling, WFC president

Thurs., Jan. 18, 6-8 p.m.,
Plover Pizza Ranch

Thurs., Jan. 25, 6-8 p.m.,
Oshkosh Pizza Ranch

Thurs., Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m.,
Sheboygan Pizza Ranch

Register online at
wifamilycouncil.org or by
calling 888-378-7395.

The “Christmas Family”

The preeminent message of Christmas is that God’s Son came to earth, took on human flesh and “dwelt among us.” However, Christ did not just live the human life—He lived the ultimate, Holy Life and died the ultimate, sacrificial death so that we could have the ultimate, undeserved gift—eternal life with God. The Incarnation is truly a life-giving event that we celebrate!

Woven into the history of the Incarnation is also the affirmation and confirmation of God’s perfect design and plan for the family. What did the angels, shepherds, and later the wise men, see when they visited and worshiped the Incarnate Christ? They saw a family—a married father and mother, and their new child. God modeled through Jesus’ first coming His perfect design for marriage and family.

Consider also what preceded Jesus’ birth. The Holy Spirit came upon Mary, a virgin; and she conceived Jesus. The Lord of the universe began His human life as a tiny, human embryo—an unborn child. Mary, a special young woman, was still a very vulnerable person,



WFC Nativity on display in the Capitol

possibly still in her teens. She was promised to Joseph of Nazareth before she became pregnant. She appeared to be guilty of adultery by Jewish law and accordingly could be stoned to death. Yet, knowing the personal risks involved to her safety and reputation, Mary humbly submitted to God: “...be it unto me according to your word.”

Elizabeth, Mary’s aunt, rejoiced with Mary over her pregnancy. God’s Spirit had revealed to Elizabeth that Mary’s pregnancy was unique. Aunt Elizabeth encouraged her niece Mary and allowed her to stay with her for three months. In contrast, a modern day Aunt Elizabeth might have encour-

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Pray For...

- **Our country.** We have experienced many tragedies in recent months. Pray for healing and recovery for all who are impacted and pray for people to respond to the Gospel.
- **Our Supreme Court.** Jack Phillips is a Colorado cake artist. When he declined to use his artistic talents to create a custom wedding cake for a same-sex wedding, the state sought to force him to do so. Our friends at Alliance Defending Freedom are arguing his case on December 5 before the US Supreme Court. As ADF notes, "If the government can tell us what art to create and what message to express at the cost of abandoning our beliefs, that should concern us all." Pray for a good outcome for this and other important pending cases.

Praising God!

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aged her niece to abort her baby because of, well, you know, the social, physical, emotional and financial ramifications.

Joseph, Mary's betrothed, though initially reluctant, married his pregnant fiancé after a visit from the Angel of the Lord. He was, according to Matthew 1 and 2, a "righteous man," and a law-abiding, tax-paying citizen. Joseph was what many Christian parents want for their daughters—a man of character who will cherish and care diligently for their daughter and grandchildren and be a spiritual leader in the home.

And ponder Jesus' upbringing. He lived in a caring family. When unintentionally left behind at the Temple at the age of 12, Mary told him, "...Your father and I have sought you sorrowing." Mary and Joseph didn't realize Jesus had been left behind in Jerusalem because they thought he was in the larger group of extended family and friends. Jesus was part of a family unit and an extended family that was involved in each other's lives.

Jesus was known in His home-town as the son of a carpenter. As was normal for that day, Joseph most likely taught Jesus his trade, which means that Joseph was not an absent father but was actively involved in Jesus' life. Even though Joseph was not Jesus' biological father, Jesus treated him with respect and lived under his authority (Luke 2:51).

Scripture also indicates that Jesus had a great relationship with His mother. In fact, Mary was so confident of Jesus' respect for her that she practically ordered Him, as a grown man, to perform His first miracle when He turned the water into wine at the wedding in Galilee. And when dying on the cross, Jesus showed His care for His mother when He charged His disciple John to care for her upon His death.

The incredible story of Christ's incarnation is too wonderful to keep to ourselves. It is foundational for our faith and is the reason we celebrate Christmas. And God saw fit to reinforce His divine plan for marriage and family in this beautiful, life-giving, life-saving event, as well as in Jesus' earthly life. Let us re-commit ourselves to doing all we can to share the Gospel and to strengthen, preserve, and promote God's divine plan for marriage and family!

About Wisconsin Family Council

Wisconsin Family Council is a 501 (c)(3) organization that has been advancing Judeo-Christian principles and values in Wisconsin since 1986.

We have largely done this by informing Wisconsin citizens, policymakers and churches about the important legislative and cultural issues so that they can be involved in strengthening, preserving and promoting marriage, family, life and religious liberty in our state.

"Church Connection" is published monthly by WFC and is available to churches in Wisconsin.

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