



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty



Church Connection December 2019

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

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary...

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name

JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Luke 1:26-27, 30-33

Mark your calendar...

**Join us for "2020 Vision:
Contending for the Faith,
Challenging the Culture."**

Thurs., Jan. 16 - 6:00-8:00 p.m., Schwefel's Restaurant, Oconomowoc

Thurs., Jan. 23, Janesville (exact venue TBD)

Register at 888-378-7395 or wifamilycouncil.org/events.

The Way, The Truth, and The Life

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hosea 4:6) This may sound out of place for the month we celebrate Christmas, but this is a good time to remember why this verse is so important to us at Wisconsin Family Council and to families in Wisconsin.

Hosea 4:6 is God's indictment of Israel because they had forsaken Him. Israel's culture was deceitful, murderous, violent, languishing, and unfaithful—in other words, the Israelites were living as those who had no knowledge of God or His truth.

That same indictment could describe our own society

today. What our society needs, and needs desperately, is the Truth, with a capital T. Laws and public policy are important because bad policy perpetuates and promotes oppression and all manner of personal and societal ills. Unless the Truth informs and undergirds policies and laws, they will damage and destroy society.

Our society is experiencing a crisis—a crisis of the ignorance of Truth and of denying Truth. The consequences of ignoring and denying the truth are easy to see. Yet many of the things our world cries for are found in the person of Christ: peace, love, true justice, fulfillment, meaning and lasting joy, to name just a few.

The prophet Isaiah announced: *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment*

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Keeping Christ in Christmas

In our commercialized, secularized culture, keeping Christ as the focus of Christmas is a challenge. Here are some suggestions.

- Read Scriptures about Jesus' birth together as a family in the days before Christmas and on Christmas Day.
- Remind yourselves regularly that the greatest gift ever given was the gift of God's Son to the world.
- Reject the commercialization. Giving gifts is a wonderful tradition, but if giving and receiving gifts is the primary focus, maybe something needs to change.
- Resist going into debt. Too often people spend much if not all of the new year digging out of debt created at Christmastime. Don't give in to the idol of materialism.
- Remember others with care packages to our troops, special gifts to missionaries and their families, special offerings to help those in poverty-stricken countries or victims of natural disasters. In other words, look for ways to turn the focus from self to others.

and justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” (Isaiah 9:6-7)

In the coming new year, we may have some changes in government both here in Wisconsin and in Washington. Our response to these changes could be excitement, dismay, or ambivalence. However, our response to the glory of the Incarnation on earth of the Prince of Peace over 2,000 years ago should be sheer exuberance and excitement.

Jesus' birth in the rural town of Bethlehem, during a time of siege and oppression in the land of Judea, was the beginning of a brand new government, whose representatives do not wield sword, but the sword of Truth.

Our circumstances today are not terribly different in substance from that of the Roman Empire at the time of Christ's birth. After all, human nature is still fundamentally depraved. Because of sin, corruption invades government, and irresponsibility and recklessness still threaten the economy; promiscuity and a cult of self still seriously threaten the family unit and the welfare of children; and a conflicting mix of godlessness and all sorts of so-called spirituality undermine the true knowledge of God.

But Christ, praise God, came into the world; and His followers, armed with His Grace and Truth, turned the Roman Empire on its head. When the Word became flesh, and dwelt among men, they “...*beheld his Glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth*” (John 1:14). That same Grace and Truth which guided the lives of the first Christians still guides and informs our lives today.

The knowledge of that Grace and Truth is the key to saving the families, communities, state and nation we love.

May the reality of the Incarnation compel us to live radical lives, proclaiming that the Messiah has come; and may God grant that this truth will powerfully impact our own society. This is a wonderful time of year to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father, is The Way, The Truth and The Life!

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.