



WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

Church Connection December 2020

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

*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
Counsellor, The mighty
God, The everlasting
Father, The Prince of
Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6

*Wherefore God also hath
highly exalted him, and
given him a name which
is above every name: That
at the name of Jesus every
knee should bow, of things
in heaven, and things in
earth, and things under
the earth; And that every
tongue should confess that
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the
glory of God the Father.*

Philippians 2:9-11

Mark Your Calendar!

- **Sanctity of Life
Sunday, January 17th,
2021**

The Nativity: An Illustration of Marriage, Family, Life & Religious Liberty

Every year at Christmas Wisconsin Family Council sets up a Nativity display in the State Capitol.* We do so because the Nativity is at the heart of the Christmas story and reflects the heart of God. It also depicts WFC's core values of marriage, family, life and religious liberty.

You know the historical record. The angel came to the young virgin Mary and told her she was going to have a baby—a very special baby, the Messiah. Mary was betrothed to Joseph. When Joseph learned his fiancé was pregnant, he nearly panicked.

It appeared Mary had been unfaithful to him, a crime punishable by death. However, a subsequent angelic appearance let Joseph know that he should not fear but should go ahead and wed Mary. She had not been unfaithful; the Lord had annointed her to give birth to Immanuel.



As Scripture informs us, Joseph married Mary before Jesus was born—so Mary was listed as His mother and Joseph was listed as His earthly father. Marriage and family were important to God in this story and are important for the example they set. God wanted His Son to have the very best in family life as He grew up and lived here on earth.

Every Nativity display is a reminder that God designed the nuclear family for His glory and mankind's good. It reminds us of the strength of the family unit, of the importance of children having a married mother and father, of the necessity of providing them a birth right, safety, security, spiritual guidance, and the transmission of values and beliefs that will help them grow up to be all God wants them to be.

But there is tragedy associated with Jesus's coming. Within a year or so of Jesus's birth, King Herod set out to kill all Jewish boy babies ages two and under in Bethlehem,

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What Now?

“What now?” is probably a good question to ask after any significant life event. It is a question that requires intentional reflection. It is a question that forces us to stop, or at least slow down, and consider what is next. And it is a question that demands an answer.

2020 has been an unusual year:

- The President was impeached;
- COVID-19 struck with all the issues related to it;
- Destructive riots took place in our major cities;
- Hurricanes and wildfires struck our land;
- A contentious and as yet (at this writing) undecided presidential election was held.

Will things be better or worse in 2021? We don't know. But we do know the answer to the “what now?” question, because answers to that question never change for the believer.

We continue trusting God. He is faithful and merciful. He is sovereign, and He has not abdicated His reign over the universe. We continue praying. We continue sharing the good news of the Gospel, because we are ambassadors for King Jesus. We continue loving our spouses, our families, one another, and our neighbors. We continue being salt and light. We continue faithfully doing all that God expects, and we continue trusting Him for the outcome.

What now? We occupy 'til Jesus comes! (Lk. 19:13)

because he had heard that a baby had been born whom people were saying was a king.

This Baby was a threat to his power, his prestige, his plans, and his position. For Herod, the answer was to massacre the babies just to make sure. How tragic that today there are so many who prefer to take the life of an unborn child because the child's life is viewed as some kind of threat to their own plans and purposes. Yet God sent an angel who told Joseph to take his little family and flee to Egypt until Herod died. Perhaps those who today stand outside abortion facilities praying and counseling are rather “angel-like” in their message and mission as they urge women to flee, to reconsider, and to allow their babies to live.

The Christ-child came to set the captive free. In His salvation we have true liberty. But ironically, at the time of Jesus's birth most of the then-known world was not free. It was living under the iron control of the Roman Empire. Nevertheless, within this foreign government that was subjugating the Jewish people in their own homeland, God set in motion His story of deliverance—of liberty—that would some 33 years later culminate in the sacrificial death of the One Whose birth we celebrate. His crucifixion was carried out by those who enslaved people rather than liberated them. But God's plan could not be thwarted, and on the third day, Christ arose victorious over death, hell and the grave.

Now in 21st century America our liberties are threatened and our future is uncertain, yet we have hope. The God Who planned the human birth of His Son and Who sent Him to Calvary and then raised Him from the dead is still in control everywhere and at all times. Nothing and no one will thwart His plan—ever!

In light of all this, with the songwriter of old we declare, “Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!”

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year to all of you from all of us at WFC. Thank you for your support and encouragement during this very unusual year!

*No displays were allowed this year due to concerns over COVID-19.

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 freedom in our state.

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