

December 17th , 2025 #1,118

Ask Before You Judge!

Many will be upset with the picture I have chosen. The typical response is, “They have taken Christ out of Christmas,” or “they need to put Christ back into Christmas” I will admit that some have indeed taken Christ out of Christmas.



Probably those that have “taken Christ out of Christmas” never had Christ in their lives or their Christmases. Others who do have Christ in their lives, may have simply used this as an abbreviation. “Xmas appeared in a list of common abbreviations and contractions in an American version of the *Royal Standard English Dictionary* when it was published in Boston in 1800.”

I although I rarely use that abbreviation anymore, quite often when I was in College and Seminary and through the years, I have used the “X” as a shorthand for Christ. What follows is a great explanation by the late Dr. R.C. Sproul about the use of “X”.

“For some the “X” in Christmas is used like the R in R.C. My given name at birth was Robert Charles, although before I was even taken home from the hospital my parents called me by my initials, R.C. First of all, you have to understand that it is not the letter “X” that is put into Christmas. We see the English letter “X” there, but what it involves is the first letter of the Greek name for Christ, **Christos (Χριστός)**. The first letter of the Greek word **Christos**, which is “**Chi**,” looks like an “X”. That “X” has come through church history to be a shorthand symbol for the name of Christ. There’s a long and sacred history of the use of “X” to symbolize the name of Christ, and from its origin, it has meant no disrespect.”

The church has used other similar symbols as abbreviations, especially during years of persecution. “The church has historically used the symbol of the fish because it is an acronym. Fish in Greek (*ichthus*) involved the use of the first letters of the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.” (**ΙΧΘΥΣ = I – Jesus, X- Christ, ΘΥ- son of God, Σ – Savior**)

So, the title of the article is “ask be for you judge.” If you don’t ask, you may judge a person, like me, who knows they are using the Greek letter for Christ, or a person who grew up in a liturgical church who knows about the symbolism of Greek letters. And so, you don’t have to assume, ask. If you learn they have taken Christ out of Christmas, you will have a great opportunity to witness to them about Jesus the Christ, the Son of God our Savior who was born in Bethlehem. Here is the link to a reel that also explains the usage of “X” for Christ. He makes a great point at the end. www.facebook.com/reel/842321148641152



Prayer & Praises

- Pray for Merv for his scan and Doctor's appointment. tomorrow (Thursday) at Gettysburg Hospital.
- Kathi Eisenhart was admitted to the hospital for overnight observation related to a TIA that she experienced late yesterday. She is doing very well today and should be discharged with virtually no symptoms remaining.
- Foy Stambaugh is still in York Hospital and still awaits transfer to a rehab facility.
- Pray for Melinda Little's cousin Julie for recovery from surgery relating to her thyroid cancer.
- Kathy McWilliams is asking us to pray for her father, Lester Laughman who is facing several health decisions. Also be in prayer for Kathy and the whole family as they give support to Lester during this time of discernment and answers for the health issues he is facing.
- Please pray for Sue Smeltzer's cousin, Kathy, for recovery from a double mastectomy.

Luke 1:39-56. This is the "Song of Mary." Mary has received a visit from the angel Gabriel. She then travels to be with Elizabeth, a relative. She speaks of the greatness of God as well as His strength, wisdom, service to the lowly, and mercy. Pray that we also might speak of God's greatness as well as His strength, mercy, and wisdom and let us, like Jesus, serve the lowly in love.

Please pray for these congregations and pastors:

- Gitsimbi Congregation in Rwanda, Africa and Pastor Salomon Rushigatjiki
- Greenmount Congregation in Rockingham, VA and Pastor Scott Harris

January 13th, 2025

Commission Meeting 6 pm
Board Meeting 7 pm

Mens & Women's Choir Practice

**Wednesday
December 17th
at 7:45 pm**

WELCOME TO Bermudian Church

DECEMBER 21st, 2025

You can now go to the home page – bermudianchurch.org to download a PDF digital bulletin on your phone if you would prefer that!



We switched to a new system for sharing prayer requests and announcements a couple of months ago, and you can receive text messages in addition to or instead of phone calls. If you want to change, just let us know in the office that you would like to change how you receive these communications.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24th, 2025

5 pm – Bermudian Church

279 Bermudian Church Road, East Berlin, PA

7 pm & 10 pm

Altland Meeting House

Meeting House Road, Thomasville, PA

Wednesdays

December 17th, January 7th, 14th,
21st, 28th

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm with Pastor Gary

Life Group

Highlights on the book of Daniel

Save the Date!

Holiday Dinner
January 10th, 2026

at 5:30 pm
The Gathering Place
RSVP by December 28th

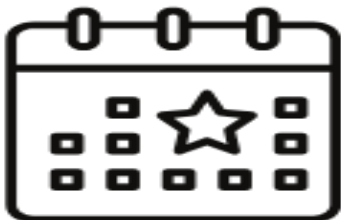
Open Gym Nights
Starting January 12th, 2026
All welcome to attend
6:30 pm in The Gathering Place

MEN'S BREAKFAST

FOOD × FELLOWSHIP × FAITH

NEXT MEETING
December 20th, 7 am
Dover Valley Restaurant





Reminders

Wednesday 12/17

6:30 pm – Life Group 
7:45 pm – Women's/Men's Choir Practice

Sunday 12/21

 Merv Good's Birthday

09:00 am – Come Worship
10:00 am – Intersection's Café
10:20 am – Sunday School

Monday 12/22

 Brett Miller's Birthday


Wednesday 12/24

5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service at Bermudian

7:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service at Altland Meeting House, Thomasville

10:00 pm – Christmas Eve Service at Altland Meeting House, Thomasville

Thursday 12/25

 Jesus' Birthday! Merry Christmas

Saturday 12/27

 Lucille Meyer's Birthday

Sunday 12/28

 Fred & Connie Shultz's Anniversary

09:00 am – Come Worship
10:00 am – Intersection's Café
10:20 am – Sunday School

RSVP deadline for Holiday Dinner

Thursday 01/01/2026

Happy New Year

Saturday 01/03

 Amy Staples' Birthday

 Dave Titzell's Birthday

 Bill & Tricia O'Bryan's Anniversary

Sunday 01/04


09:00 am – Come Worship
10:00 am – Intersection's Café
10:20 am – Sunday School

Tuesday 01/06

 James Kauffman's Birthday

 Charlotte Little's Birthday

Wednesday 01/07

 Tina Good's Birthday

6:30 pm – Life Group 

Friday 01/09

 Mark & Liz Lipsitz's Anniversary

Saturday 01/10

5:30 pm = Holiday Dinner

Sunday 01/11

 Flossie Deardorff's Birthday

09:00 am – Come Worship
10:00 am – Intersection's Café
10:20 am – Sunday School

Monday 01/12

6:30 pm – Open Gym Night

Tuesday 01/13

6:00 pm – Commission Meeting

7:00 pm – Board Meeting

Wednesday 01/14

6:30 pm – Life Group 

Friday 01/16

 Dorothy Kauffman's Birthday

Sunday 01/18

 Gary Breighner's Birthday

09:00 am – Come Worship
10:00 am – Intersection's Café
10:20 am – Sunday School