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# THE GIFT OF JESUS



March 18th, 2026  
by Brandi Schweidenback



As December arrives, our hearts turn toward the celebration of the greatest gift ever given—Jesus Christ. In a season filled with lights, music, and gatherings, it is easy to get caught up in the busyness. But at the center of it all is the quiet, powerful truth: “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given” (Isaiah 9:6).

## The True Gift of Christmas

Christmas is not about what we find under the tree, but about the One who hung on the tree for us. Jesus came into the world as a humble baby, yet He brought salvation, hope, and eternal life. His birth reminds us that God’s love is not distant—it is personal, present, and available to each of us.

## The Importance of the Church

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The church is where we gather to celebrate this gift together. In worship, we lift our voices in praise. In fellowship, we encourage one another. In service, we extend Christ's love to the world. December is a beautiful time to come together as the body of Christ, to remember that we are not alone in our faith journey. When we come to church, we are reminded of the bigger story we belong to—the story of God's redeeming love. Each sermon, each song, each prayer draws us closer to Jesus and to one another.

## Living out The Message

This month, let us not only celebrate Jesus with words, but also with actions. Share kindness with those who are hurting. Give generously to those in need. Invite someone to church who may not know the joy of Christ. Take time to reflect on God's blessings and offer Him your gratitude.

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### December Devotional: Light in the Darkness

"And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not": John 1:5

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## Reflection

December brings long nights and early sunsets, but it also brings the glow of Christmas lights that brighten our homes and streets. In the same way, Jesus came as the Light of the World to shine into the darkness of sin, fear, and despair. No matter how heavy the world feels, His light cannot be overcome. When we welcome Jesus into our

hearts, His light fills us and shines through us. We become reflections of His love, bringing hope to the hopeless, peace to the weary, and joy to the brokenhearted.

## Application

Each time you see Christmas lights this month, pause and thank Jesus for being your Light. Ask God to show you one person you can encourage or serve this week. Carry His light into your workplace, your family gatherings, and your community.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the Light that no darkness can overcome. Help me to carry Your light into every place I go this December. May my words and actions reflect Your love, and may others see You through me. Amen.

 **Posted in** Christmas

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## About

At CAYA Fellowship, we are more than just a church; we are a family rooted in faith, love, and community. Our mission is to bring people closer to Christ through worship, study, and outreach efforts right here in Forsyth, Missouri.

## Service Times

### Sunday Mornings

11:00am

### Sunday Evenings

6:00pm

### Wednesday

### Evenings

6:00pm

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