

**The Ridge Church**  
7350 Old Hwy 13  
Carbondale, IL 62901

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Email: [RidgeChurch@OnTheRidge.org](mailto:RidgeChurch@OnTheRidge.org)

Web: [www.OnTheRidge.org](http://www.OnTheRidge.org)

### Join Us Sunday

Small Groups/SS 9:00AM  
Morning Worship 10:15 AM  
Children's Program 6:00 PM

### Wednesday Night is Family Night

All activities dismissed this week

Supper by reservation 5:30 PM

Bible Study and Prayer 6:30 PM

Mission Friends

Children in Action

Youth Bible Study

### Follow us on Facebook:

[facebook.com/OnTheRidgeChurch](https://www.facebook.com/OnTheRidgeChurch)

### Follow us on Twitter:

[twitter.com/TheRidgeChurch1](https://twitter.com/TheRidgeChurch1)

### Our Mission:

*The Mission of The Ridge Church is to lead non-believers into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ*

## SEVEN WEEK STUDY Jesus Changes Everything *Jesus Rules*

**The Point:** You can trust Jesus in the storm

Join us Sunday at 9 AM as we Study **Mark 4:35-41** and discuss these 5 questions

1. What's the craziest weather you've experienced?
2. Why are we often surprised when we encounter difficult circumstances?
3. When has following Jesus led you into a "storm"?
4. When have you felt like God was unaware or uninterested in your distress?
5. What evidences of Jesus' power have increased your trust in Him?

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*Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do little.*



# The Witness

Wes Henson, Pastor

December 17, 2017

Vol. 41, No. 49

## *Listen, Do You Hear His Call?*

Rambling on ...



Tuesday evening we completed six weeks of children's activities in Gorham. The response was beyond what I ever imagined. Not only was the response of the community over the top but the involvement and commitment from the people of The Ridge Church was as well.

**A  
Large  
Hats  
Off!**



Avis Barrett

Carla Bishop

Debi Hanson

Allie Hottensen

Dennis Howell

Angie James

Mathew Phillips

Betty Wilson

Amy Wilson

Jakob Wilson

Jillian Wilson

Adin Wilson

Kaitlyn Wilson

While numbers and stats do not tell the whole story, they do provide some insight:

**Children Registration: 18 Volunteer Registration: 15**

**Average attendance: 26 Average Children Attendance: 15**

**Where do we go from here?** Please pray specifically about what YOU are able and willing to do as we plan the next part of God's plan for Gorham.

On **Wednesday January 10, 2018**, we will discuss options going into the New Year. I look forward to the discussion. If you have thoughts, I would be glad to chat.

We Labor Together With God,

Wes

**Deacon of the Week:**

Donald McDonald

**Trustee of the Month**

Linda Garlinghouse

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**In Bible Study and Worship**

Sunday School/Small Groups: 133

Worship: 103

**God's Tithe and Our Offerings**

General Fund	\$3,329.00
Lottie Moon	150.00
Debt Retirement	897.58
Wednesday Supper	79.00
Gorham	15.00
BCM	55.46

**Online giving to The Ridge Church is available 24/7**

Scan this QR code Or, download the Tithe.ly app from iTunes Or, Google Play



**Home Connection**



Bonnie Wheaton  
955 Villa Court  
Carbondale, IL  
62901

Please remember Bonnie with a card or a phone call.

Home Connections!  
Make one This Week

**Hospitality December 17**

**Casserole:** Lois Anderson

**Bakery:** Angie James

**Fruit:** \_\_\_\_\_

If you would volunteer to bring food, please sign up in the hospitality area.

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**Save the Date  
February 24/25**

**February 24**

SS/Small Group

Workers Banquet

**Guest Speaker: Josh Hunt**

Details To Be Announced

**February 25**

Josh will speak during the SS/Small group hour and Worship

**More Details to follow**

**TEN CRITICAL TRENDS FOR CHURCHES IN 2018**

- Thom Rainer: [www.thomrainer.com/2017/12/ten-critical-trends-churches-2018/](http://www.thomrainer.com/2017/12/ten-critical-trends-churches-2018/)

**Never in my lifetime have I seen local congregations at such a critical juncture.** Cultural Christianity is all but dead. Many of the communities are no longer friendly to local churches; some have become adversarial. But in the midst of negativity there is hope and possibility. See how God would have your church respond.

- The audio revolution.** Many blog writers are reporting declines in readership. But audio books are rising in popularity. Listeners are moving to podcasts so they can learn while they jog, drive, and exercise. Churches have many other opportunities to reach and disciple people through audio ministries.
- Boomer retirement crisis.** Boomer pastors and church leaders are retiring in large numbers. We will have many churches that are looking to fill these voids with little success.
- The deferred maintenance crisis in church facilities.** Many churches have done little to keep their church facilities in acceptable condition. It's catching up.
- Churches moving into retail spaces.** The surplus of retail space will continue to grow presenting an incredible opportunity for churches to find prime space for new and additional sites.
- Ongoing church closures.** This trend shows no signs of slowing. Churches should be more receptive to acquisitions and mergers before its too late.
- The rise of the neighborhood church.** Churches that were once at the center of life in a neighborhood have declined and died. But we see them experiencing a renewal and revival both through acquisitions and re-plants.
- The learning revolution of the best church leaders.** Church leaders who are becoming ongoing learners are becoming the best leaders of these churches.
- Downsizing of worship centers/sanctuaries.** A number of churches have intentionally moved to smaller worship services through multiple services, venues, and campuses.
- The rise of networks.** More churches are aligning with both informal and formal networks with a common cause and common purpose.
- More Great Commission intentionality.** When cultural Christianity was alive and well, churches could do minimal evangelistic activity and still grow by transfer growth. Such is not the case any more. Churches will have to be highly intentional evangelistically in the months ahead or they will head toward death and closure.

## This Week on The Ridge

### Saturday, December 16

6:00 PM Adult 2 Christmas Party  
At the Ridge Italian beef & chips  
provided. Bring a dish to share and a  
\$5-\$10 Christmas decoration to  
exchange and a 2 liter of drink.  
For info call Lynette 618-534-9540

### Sunday, December 17

8:30 AM -Coffee and...  
9:00 AM - Small Groups  
10:15 AM -Christmas Cantata  
6:00 PM -Children's Program

### Wednesday, December 20

7:00 AM - Men's Bible Study  
5:45 PM - Dinner by Reservation  
**Menu:** lasagna, garlic bread,  
salad and dessert  
6:30 PM - Adult & Youth Bible Study  
and prayer time, and children's  
mission activities

### Friday, December 22

5:30 PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Youth  
Christmas Party At the Griffiths  
Grades 7-12 Games, crafts and food.  
No gifts. Guys bring chips. Girls  
bring desserts For more info contact  
Courtney @ 559-7139

## Information You Need

### Join us Wednesdays

#### **Because of Bethlehem**

6:30 PM Session 4

"Every Heart A Manger"

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#### **Jesus Changes EVERYTHING**

7 week small group study

Jesus came to bring us into a  
relationship with God—and  
that changes everything.

#### **Join us Sundays at 9 AM**

A study on the life of Jesus. He  
showed us how He cares about  
every aspect of our lives.

#### **December 17 - Jesus Rules**

Mark 4:35-41

#### **December 24 Jesus Saves**

Luke 2:4-20

#### **December 31 - Jesus Heals**

Mark 5:22-24,35-43

## **The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions**

**Church Goal: \$1,000**

Over 2.8 billion people have never heard the hope of the gospel.  
But together through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering,  
we can harness every dollar possible to reach them.

The International Mission Board has collaborated with  
Southern Baptists to send over 3,500 missionaries into  
global cities and hard to access places all over the world.

Compelled by the urgent spiritual need, we go to places  
only reached on foot, by boat, or on horseback. We give  
our lives to serve in high-rise apartments and places  
without roads, hospitals and air conditioners.

### **Facts:**

<b>\$50 Provides</b> 25 cups of coffee for workers in Mexico City meeting with business people to share the gospel	<b>\$500 Provides</b> Bible and videos to share the gospel in the heart language of refugees.	<b>100% of the gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering support IMB missionaries and their work around the world.</b>
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We will receive the **Lottie Moon Offering** through December 31<sup>st</sup>



# Christmas On The Ridge 2017



**Sunday, December 17  
10:15 AM**

**Parent/Child Dedication**

**"The Greatest Story Ever Told"**  
Presented by the Ridge Choir

Experience the story of the birth of Jesus Christ from the viewpoints of many who witnessed it firsthand.



**Sunday, December 17  
6:00 PM**

**Children's Program**

**12 Symbols of Christmas**

Dessert social to follow

Please bring a  
dessert to share

**Sunday, December 24**

**5:30 PM Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**

**Dress Casual**

# Sunday School and Small Group Study December 17, 2017

Preschool (birth-5)	Mary Visited Elizabeth	Luke 1:39-56
Children (gr 1-6)	Mary Visited Elizabeth	Luke 1:39-56
Students (gr 7-12)	Jesus Rules	Mark 4:35-41
Adults	Jesus Rules	Mark 4:35-41

## ONE CONVERSATION™

Use these discussion starters to help foster a spiritual conversation with your family.

**CONNECTION POINT:** Jesus gives people hope for the future.

**THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE:** If you've ever been in an area hit by a flood, tornado, or hurricane, you know you can only do so much to protect life and property. A time comes when you just need to get out of the way. The forces of nature are powerful, but Jesus is more so—and He is present with His followers in everything they face. The Lord over all creation is with us, and He invites us to trust Him.

**BIBLE  
STUDIES  
FOR LIFE**

**MARK 4:35-41**

*Jesus Rules*

### PRESCHOOL



#### LUKE 1:39-56

**LIVE IT OUT:** Christmas is a happy time to celebrate with your preschooler. Locate some happy Christmas songs you can sing with your child. Enjoy singing them together in the car or at home. Tell your child that Mary was happy and sang a song to God.

An angel had told Mary that she was chosen to be the mother of God's Son. Mary went to visit an older relative named Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary speak, Elizabeth knew something special was going to happen to Mary. Elizabeth told Mary how special she was because of the baby she was going to have.

Mary sang a praise song to God. She sang, "You do great things. You are kind to all people. You keep your promises." Mary thanked God for the promises He had given. Mary knew God would keep the promises He told her.

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months, and then she returned to her home in the town of Nazareth.

### KIDS



#### LUKE 1:39-56

**LIVE IT OUT:** Does your family celebrate Jesus during Christmas? Discuss with your child ways to make Jesus the focus of all you do during the season. Think of ways to show the love of Jesus to those less fortunate.

Mary traveled to see Elizabeth, part of her family. The angel Gabriel had told Mary that Elizabeth was going to have a baby, even though Elizabeth was old.

Mary called out a greeting to Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard the sound, the baby inside her jumped!

God's Spirit filled Elizabeth. Elizabeth said to Mary, "You are the most blessed of all women. Your child will be blessed! How wonderful that the mother of my Lord has come to me! When I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped for joy! You are blessed because God will do what He said!"

Mary began to praise God. She told of the greatness of God. She told how God had been good to her. She thanked God for what He had already done and what He would do.

Mary stayed for three months. Then Mary went home.

### STUDENTS

**THE POINT:** You can trust Jesus in the storm.

- What's the craziest weather you've ever experienced?
- Why are we often surprised when we encounter difficult circumstances?
- How do the trials of life compare and contrast with a physical storm?
- What lessons can we learn from Jesus' calming of the storm?

Discuss the following quote: "God brings storms into your life to show His strength and to gain glory from His providence."<sup>1</sup>  
—Paul Chappell

1. Paul Chappell, "24 Paul Chappell Quotes," Christian Quotes [online], [accessed 21 May 2017]. Available from the Internet: [https://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-author/paul-chappell-quotes/#:~:text=thru&utm\\_source=facebook.com](https://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-author/paul-chappell-quotes/#:~:text=thru&utm_source=facebook.com)

**LIVE IT OUT:** Your student has been encouraged to take practical steps to take his or her faith and Live It Out in the Personal Study Guide.

*Here are some ways you can encourage your students to live out their faith with Christ personally, in community, and in their culture:*

- **CHRIST:** Challenge your student to name examples of how God has proven to be faithful to him or her in the past. Share some examples from your own life.
- **COMMUNITY:** Discuss with your student people who may be encouraging in his or her faith journey. If they do not have someone to fill this role, pray with your student for the right person to come along. Pray that your student would also fulfill this role for someone else and encourage others in their faith.
- **CULTURE:** How can you help your student clearly see the blessings of living by faith when surrounded by worldly concerns?

**We have a small group and a class for everyone.  
Join us Sunday at 9 AM**