

The Ridge Church
7350 Old Hwy 13
Carbondale, IL 62901

Phone: 618.457.0479

Email: RidgeChurch@OnTheRidge.org

Web: www.OnTheRidge.org

Join us Sunday Morning

8:30 am "Coffee And ..."

9:00 am Sunday School/Small Groups

10:15 am Morning Worship

5:30 pm Candlelight Christmas
Eve Worship

Wednesday Activities Dismissed

Follow us on Facebook:

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

Follow us on Twitter:

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 Saves*

The Point: Jesus was born to bring
us into a relationship with God

Join us Sunday at 9 AM as we
Study **Luke 2:4-20** and
discuss these 5 questions

1. What's something you'd love to
add to your celebration of
Christmas?
2. What do you find most surprising
in these verses?
3. What do these verses teach us
about the purpose of Jesus'
birth?
4. What can we learn from the
names the angel used for Christ
in these verses?
5. What steps can we take to
glorify God during the
Christmas season?

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



The Witness

Wes Henson, Pastor

December 24, 2017

Vol. 41, No. 50

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



What a great year #OnTheRidge! God has continued to bless and add to His church. We have been able to affect our communities in many positive ways with the gospel. We have baptized more believers this past year than we have in any year since I have been pastor.

Our commitment to missions continues to increase through the many ways we reach out. Missions begins at HOME with a strong base. It then continues through our state and nation and THEN around the world. Thank you all for your generosity of time talent and treasure.

I heard so many great comments on this year's Cantata. The Ridge Choir under the direction of **Debbie Henson** outdid themselves again this year. AND, of course the children's program Sunday night was "off the chain." Thank you **Jamie Robison** for your commitment and direction.

As we head into Christmas Day please don't forget our **Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 PM.** It is a very simple and meaningful service of singing carols and Scripture reading. Just come as you are and bring everyone with you. I promise, you will not be disappointed.

God always takes the first step and awaits our response. 2018 will present as many challenges as we leave in 2017. In the midst of all life's challenges may we respond to God with **faithful worship attendance and committed financial giving.**

We Labor Together With God,

Wes

Deacon of the Week:

Jack Peterman

Trustee of the Month

Linda Garlinghouse

In Bible Study and Worship

Sunday School/Small Groups: 120

Worship: 124

God's Tithe and Our Offerings

General Fund \$3,838.00

Lottie Moon 569.00

Debt Retirement 487.59

Wednesday Supper 80.00

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



Richard Stewart
2950 Westridge PL.
Carbondale, IL
62901

Please remember Richard with a card or a phone call.

Home Connections!
Make one This Week

Hospitality December 24

Casserole: Lisa Hottensen

Bakery: Wes Henson

Fruit: _____

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

Save the Date

February 24

Sunday School/Small Group

Workers Banquet

Guest Speaker: Josh Hunt

February 24

Josh Hunt will speak at

9 and 10:15 am services

Details To Be Announced

THANK YOU

Thank You folks of The Ridge Church for remembering us at Christmas!

Wes, Debbie, Jerene, Karissa, Pam, Gayl, and John

Coming Up In January

Wednesday Children Activities

We are in need of a team to provide activities for our children in grades 1-6 beginning January 3rd.

If you are available to assist or have questions, please contact the pastor

Winter Bible Study 1 Peter

Wednesdays 6:30 January 6 Thru February 17

The message delivered by Peter has great relevance for today, as more pressure is being exerted on believers around the world

Gorham Discussion Wednesday - January 10, 6:30 PM

Where is God leading The Ridge Church in the community?

What should the next step be in reaching the community?

What are you willing to do in reaching the community?

If you have thoughts prior to the discussion, please contact the pastor

Sunday School/Small Group Workers meeting

January 21, 5:00 PM

This is our first meeting of the New Year.

The agenda will include Josh Hunt Weekend

Moving classrooms to the new building

VBS training in March

If you are unable to attend, please contact the pastor

This Week on The Ridge

Friday, December 22

5:30 PM - Youth Christmas Party at the home of Bradley and Courtney Griffith Grades 7-12. No gifts. Guys bring chips, girls bring desserts.

Sunday, December 24

8:30 AM - Coffee and...
9:00 AM - Sunday School and Small groups
10:15 AM - Morning Worship
5:30 PM - Christmas Eve candlelight service

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day
Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 27

Activities Dismissed

Happy Birthday
Darline Cochran
December 24

Information You Need

Jesus Changes EVERYTHING

7 week small group study

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 24 Jesus Saves

Luke 2:4-20

December 31 - Jesus Heals

Mark 5:22-24,35-43

The next issue of The Witness will be published for January 7

Hats Off Lois Anderson



Lois has led Wednesday Children in Action group for several years. We thank her for her ministry.

Christmas On The Ridge 2017



Sunday, December 24

5:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Dress Casual

The Ridge Church

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 7:00 am Men's Prayer 5:45 pm Dinner by Reservation 6:30 pm Bible Study & Prayer 1 Peter Bible study Begins 7:15 pm Trustee Meeting	4	5	6
7 9:00 am Sunday School/Small Groups 9:00 am Sunday School at Century Assisted 10:15 am Morning Worship 6:00 pm Birthday Supper	8	9 12:00 pm Adult 5 Brown Bag Lunch 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	10 7:00 am Men's Prayer 5:45 pm Dinner by Reservation 6:30 pm Gorham Discussion Meeting	11	12	13
14 9:00 am Sunday School/Small Groups 9:00 am Sunday School at Century Assisted 10:15 am Morning Worship 6:00 pm Dismissed Evening Devotion	15 MLK Day Church office closed	16	17 7:00 am Men's Prayer 5:45 pm Dinner by Reservation 6:30 pm Bible Study & Prayer 6:30 pm Quarterly Business Meeting	18	19	20
21 9:00 am Sunday School/Small Groups 9:00 am Sunday School at Century Assisted 10:00 am Worship Service @ Prairie Living 10:15 am Morning Worship 5:00 pm Sunday School/Small Group workers meeting 6:00 pm Evening Devotion	22	23 6:00 pm WMU Mission in Action Meeting	24 7:00 am Men's Prayer 5:45 pm Dinner by Reservation 6:30 pm Bible Study & Prayer	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Sunday School/Small Groups 9:00 am Sunday School at Century Assisted 10:15 am Morning Worship 6:00 pm Evening Devotion	29	30	31 7:00 am Men's Prayer 5:45 pm Dinner by Reservation 6:30 pm Bible Study & Prayer			

January Birthdays

2 Imogene Piland;
 3 Carter Wilson
 7 David Etherton
 10 Joel Carrington
 13 Jeff Yates
 14 Hope Futia
 16 Tristan Easter
 17 Erin Anderson
 18 Susan Russell
 19 Chris Robison
 21 Siri Hackney
 27 Venida McKinnies
 29 Peter Wright
 30 Jackson Hertter,
 31 Louis Hertter V
 Selina Hackney
 Abbi Williams



Please notify the office of errors or omissions.

Events and activities subject to change. Go to OnTheRidge.Org/Calendar for the latest updates

Sunday School and Small Group Study December 24, 2017

Preschool (birth-5)	Jesus was Born	Luke 2:1-20
Children (gr 1-6)	Jesus Was Born	Luke 2:1-20
Students (gr 7-12)	Jesus Saves	Luke 2:4-20
Adults	Jesus Saves	Luke 2:4-20

ONE CONVERSATION™

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

CONNECTION POINT: Jesus was born to help people know God.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE: The story of Christmas—the birth of Jesus—is a familiar one to so many. Familiarity may cause many people to lose sight of what God accomplished with that event and the reason Jesus came. Unfortunately many people leave Jesus in the manger, and fail to look beyond His birth to discover that God came to earth to bring us to Himself.

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE**

LUKE 2:8-11,15-18
Jesus Saves

PRESCHOOL



LUKE 2:1-20

LIVE IT OUT: Help your child focus on Jesus during the Christmas season. Read the Christmas story from Luke 2. Find Bible storybooks about Jesus' birth. God sent Jesus to earth, and Jesus was born.

The leader of their country decided to count all the people in the land. While waiting for Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown, to be counted. Bethlehem was crowded with people. Mary and Joseph could not find a place to stay. They found a place where they could rest. That night Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger. Nearby, shepherds were watching their sheep. An angel appeared and said, "Do not be afraid. I have good news for you! A baby was born in Bethlehem. He is God's Son. You will find Him lying in a manger." The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. They found Baby Jesus lying in the manger, just as the angel had said. The shepherds told everyone what they had seen and heard. They thanked God for Baby Jesus.

KIDS



LUKE 2:1-20

LIVE IT OUT: Jesus was born! This is the day we celebrate that God sent Jesus. Because Jesus was born, died, and rose again, we can choose to believe in Jesus and have eternal life with God. Celebrate with your family by singing favorite Christmas carols that are about the birth of the Savior.

Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to be counted. In Bethlehem, Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in soft cloths. She laid Him in a manger, a feeding trough, because there was no room for them in the inn. Nearby, shepherds watched their sheep. An angel of God appeared. They were afraid! The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I tell you good news for all people. Today a Savior has been born in Bethlehem. You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly, many angels appeared. They praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth to those He favors!" The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. They found Mary, Joseph, and the baby. The shepherds told others about the angel's message. Everyone who heard it was amazed!

STUDENTS

THE POINT: Type

- Jesus was born to bring us into a relationship with God.
- What would you love to add to your celebration of Christmas?
- When have you experienced God's perfect timing?
- What do these verses teach us about the purpose of Jesus' birth?
- What steps can we take to glorify God during the Christmas season?

Discuss the following quote: "I want no Christmas without a burden for lost souls, a message for sinners, a heart to bring in the lost sheep so dear to the Shepherd."¹

—John R. Rice

1. John Rice, "26 John R. Rice Quotes," Christian Quotes [online], [accessed 19 May 2017]. Available from the Internet: <http://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-author/john-r-rice-quotes/#azzo6wckTN317>.

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:** When the shepherds heard the news of Jesus, they went straight to see Him and shared the news with the world. How can your family share this same good news with the world today?
- **COMMUNITY:** During times of pursuing Jesus, how will you and your family share that passion with other believers?
- **CULTURE:** Challenge your student to consider how our Christmas celebrations should look different and how you can be lights in the darkness this season.

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