



NEWSLETTER

Evangelical Free Church
2015 N. St. Joseph, Hastings NE 68901

December 2020
www.hastingsefc.org

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ~ Luke 2:11

CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES

Sunday, December 20

8:15 AM / 11:00 AM Worship Services
9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship Service (in Youth room)

** masks are
required for all
services*

Thursday, December 24 (masks required)

3:30 PM & 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Services
**we may add another service, but that is yet to be determined*

Sunday, December 27 (masks required)

8:15 AM / 11:00 AM Worship Services
**** NO Sunday School/ABF Classes**
11:00 AM Worship Service

MASKS TO BE WORN

The Hastings City Council approved a city-wide mask mandate on Monday, November 23. The mandate was passed unanimously and went into effect Thursday, November 26.

This means that attenders for Worship Services, Sunday school, Wednesday activities, weekly Small Group studies, and other meetings in the building, will need to wear a mask while meeting in the building. Attenders are welcome to wear one of their own masks or the church will have disposable ones available throughout the building as needed.



Our goal at Hastings EFree is to help in significantly slowing any spread of COVID19. Thank you for your understanding and helping to do your part in keeping our church family safe.

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Operation Christmas Child is all wrapped up! Our 413 shoeboxes were loaded in the truck on Monday the 23rd, along with 8 other area churches for a total of 2,543 shoeboxes! A HUGE thank you to my 12 helpers!



MISSIONS TRIP TO ZIMBABWE



I am excited to have the opportunity to return to Zimbabwe! I'll be partnering with one our own missionaries Bill Rapiet while there. I will be visiting the House of Hope orphanage in Whunga and will be taking supplies that needed there, especially since there have not been very many visitors from America this year due to Covid-19. Thank you to everyone who donated items for me to take. Thank you for your support and prayers as I travel and minister there.



Nathan Huyser

HASTINGS E-FREE YOUTH

Every Wednesday evening from 6:30-8:00 our Jr. & Sr. High Youth meets. They meet for games, worship and Bible study. They'll meet December 2, 9 & 16 this month. If you have questions, call Pastor Daniel @ 402-305-5731.

AWANA meets each Wednesday 6:30-8:00 PM.

Themes for December are:

- Dec. 2 Regular Night
- Dec. 9 Cupcake Night
- Dec. 16 Ugly Sweater Night
- Dec. 23 No AWANA – Christmas break
- Dec. 30 No AWANA – New Years break

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

	<u>8:15 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
Dec. 6	A Hughes	K Stoeger
Dec. 13	E Huyser/M Carriker	A/D Thayer
Dec. 20	P Birky	K Stoeger
Dec. 27	E Baker	K Stoeger

NURSERY

	<u>8:15 AM</u>	<u>9:45 AM</u>	<u>11:00 AM</u>
December 6	M McDaniel/S Jensby	M Stoeger/R Lemke	K Drake/P Engberg
December 13	A Armstrong	E Huyser/T Huyser	A & K Collins
December 20	E Stoeger/V Sidlo	D & M Conant	C & S Norlen
December 27	M/P Krueger	No Sunday School	A & AJ Hoagland



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:30 AM All Staff mtg. 6:30 Interface Group 7:00 CR Leaders mtg.	2 9:00 AM Interface Gr. 6:30 AWANA 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 ZOOM prayer	3	4	5 7:00 AM Mens St. 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
6 8:15/11:00 AM W.S. 9:45 AM S.S. 11:00 AM W.S.-YthRm 11:00 AM Not Alone 1:00 Hisp. W.S.	7 7:00 Interface Group 8:00 Men's Group	8 10:30 AM Staff mtg. 6:30 Interface Group 6:30 Elder Board	9 9:00 AM Interface Gr. 6:30 AWANA 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 ZOOM prayer	10	11	12 7:00 AM Mens St. 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
13 8:15/11:00 AM W.S. "Christmas Carol Sing" 9:45 AM S.S. 11:00 AM W.S.-YthRm 1:00 Hisp. W.S.	14 7:00 Interface Group 8:00 Men's Group	15 10:30 AM All Staff mtg. 6:30 Interface Group	16 9:00 AM Interface Gr. 6:30 AWANA 6:30 Youth Group 6:30 ZOOM prayer	17	18	19 7:00 AM Mens St. 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
20 8:15/11:00 AM W.S. 9:45 AM S.S. 11:00 AM W.S.-YthRm 11:00 AM Not Alone 1:00 Hisp. W.S.	21 7:00 Interface Group 8:00 Men's Group	22 10:30 AM Staff mtg. 6:30 Interface Group	23 No Activities	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3:30 & 5:30 Christmas Eve Services Office closed	25 CHRISTMAS Office closed	26 7:00 AM Mens St. 7:00 Celebrate Rec.
27 8:15/11:00 AM W.S. *NO* S.S. 11:00 AM W.S.-YthRm 1:00 Hisp. W.S.	28 8:00 Men's Group	29	30 No Activities	31 NEW YEARS EVE Office closed	JAN. 1, 2021 Office closed	

4 Steps to Managing Holiday Stress

by Rick Warren



Although the holiday season is one of the happiest seasons of the year, it can still be stressful—particularly for or those of us in ministry. Not only do we have our regular weekly stresses, such as preparing sermons, counseling people in need, and leading our staff and volunteers, many of us are not able to gather with family and friends due to the pandemic. But I don't want you to just survive this season. I want it to be a joyous time for you—and a fruitful time for your ministry. In Philippians 4:4-8, Paul gives us four simple yet profound statements about how to manage stress during this season.

WORRY ABOUT NOTHING.

“Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks.” (Philippians 4:6 GW).

Worry has tempted many of us this year. It's a killjoy, and it adds unnecessary stress to our lives. We worry about getting sick. We worry about making someone else sick. We worry about how our churches will respond to the unique challenges that the pandemic brings.

But worry, even during the holiday season of 2020, isn't inevitable. It is something we learn. If it is learned, it can also be unlearned. Jesus tells us how in Matthew 6:34: *“So don't ever worry about tomorrow. After all, tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own”* (GW).

Insight: *In order to relieve stress, live one day at a time.*

PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING.

“In every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests” (Philippians 4:6 GW).

Whenever God tells you to eliminate something in your life, he always has something better in store. He always replaces a negative with a positive. In this case, he wants you to replace worry with prayer.

When you stop worrying, you'll create more space in your life that can be filled with prayer. The time you once spent worrying will now be spent praying, and you'll have less stress in your life.

God wants you to pray about more than just your ministry. He wants you to pray for all areas of your life, including the areas that are stressing you out. Philippians 4:6 says we're to pray *“in all things.”*

The Phillips translation of Philippians 4:6 says, *“Tell God every detail of your needs in earnest and thankful prayer.”* If it's big enough to worry about, it's big enough to pray about.

Many pastors feel like they have no one to talk to. While it's important to have someone you feel comfortable sharing your problems with, you can be rest assured you can tell God anything.

Insight: *There is no problem that is too big for God's power or too small for God's concern.*

THANK GOD FOR ALL THINGS.

“In every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks” (Philippians 4:6 GW).

The attitude of gratitude is the healthiest human emotion. It actually increases your immunities. Ungrateful people also tend to be unhappy people. Nothing ever satisfies them.

If you're depressed, make a list of 50 things you can be grateful for. When you're grateful, it gets the focus off your problems and puts the focus onto the many blessings in your life.

First Thessalonians 5:18 says, *“Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this”* (GW). God's will for your life is to constantly give thanks—for the good days and bad days, the ministry highlights and the struggles.

Insight: *There is always something to be grateful for.*

THINK ABOUT THE RIGHT THINGS.

“Finally, brothers and sisters, keep your thoughts on whatever is right or deserves praise: things that are true, honorable, fair, pure, acceptable, or commendable” (Philippians 4:8 GW).

You'll need to change how you think to reduce stress. The stress is inside of you, not outside of you. Your mind is a special gift from God. It's capable of storing more than 100 trillion thoughts. What you think about impacts your entire life. And God gave you the freedom to choose what you think about.

God wants you to use your brain's power to focus on *“whatever is right or deserves praise.”* Yet many people, even Christians, are totally indiscriminate about what they allow to enter their minds. They let all kinds of negative books, movies, music, and television shows into their minds. Then they wonder why they are depressed. Your thoughts affect how you feel, and your feelings affect your actions. So keep your mind on the right things.

Insight: *Whatever I think about is what I am becoming.*

Philippians 4:7 says, *“Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus”* (GW). God stands ready and able to give you peace that goes beyond anything you can imagine—even in the middle of one of the busiest seasons of the year, in the strangest year anyone can remember. This is God's promise.