A Time Set Apart

December 5, 2016

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus, there are many ways we set apart time for special events and activities. Just this week we have enjoyed the ECE Christmas Service and are looking forward to the Elementary Christmas Service this Thursday at 6:00.

These are moments to treasure as we await the wonderful gift of Jesus, born just at the right time to be our Savior from sin. In Galatians 4:4 the Bible tells us that *"…when the time had fully come, God sent his Son…"*. The plan and purpose of God from before the creation of the world, is now the promise fulfilled in the birth of his Son Jesus.

Timing is everything. So often, the times of our lives are filled with fretting and getting, and chasing after endless holiday activities that have no lasting value – for ourselves or our children. We need to be blessed with times that are set aside for truly drawing close to our loving God in the worship of Jesus born as our Immanuel – God with us.

For those of you who open your Christmas gifts on Christmas Eve, St. Paul's Christmas Eve service with Candlelight Caroling (at 6:30) would be the perfect time to begin your evening festivities. If Christmas morning (at the break of dawn) is when Christmas gifts are opened, what better way to highlight the gift of giving than with your worship of the gift of Jesus during St. Paul's Christmas Day service at 10:15.

Set aside that time to celebrate the "fullness of time" in Jesus' birth. God bless you and yours in this time…and always.

Pastor Mark