

*"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and **the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**" Isaiah 9:6*



I don't think I'm going to make it by Christmas.

I'm writing this article mid-December and I'm thinking of my goal to read the Bible through in 90 days. I had hoped to finish by the 25th of December and kind of give my heavenly Father a Christmas Present by my sacrificial reading schedule.

But I'm not going to make it.

I could blame it on the illness I had back in November. For a couple of weeks, I really couldn't concentrate on anything, especially the kind of focus to read with that kind of intensity.

But someone told me once in my military life that "The maximum effective range of an excuse is zero meters." Meaning excuses don't get it done. Also meaning, "Don't make an excuse, because I don't want to hear it."

So, I have thought, I should just give it up and move on to something else.

One thing I love about God is that I don't have to earn His favor. He loves me. In fact, He loved me first! Back when I was face down in my sin and didn't even know where my Bible was, He loved me. The scripture says, "We love Him because He first loved us."

You can find that in 1 John 4:19.

And I do love Him. I love Him because He loved me anyway. Despite me being me, He loved me.

Wow.

How can you walk away from love like that?!

How can you give up on a love like that?!

I'm going to keep reading.

And when I'm done, even though the gift will be late, I think my Heavenly Father will be pleased anyway. I want to give Him this gift. It's what you do when you have a relationship with someone. You want to please them. And what do you get in return?

Joy.

Joy from the reciprocating love between you and the one you love.

It's a NEW YEAR! Find a way to put a smile on your heavenly Father's face this year.

Rejoice in the fact that you don't have to earn His love, He loved you first, before you even noticed Him.

Commit to Him and see it through.

I will be praying for you!

Pastor Matt

Pastor Matt Burns ----- 913.585.1026 --- [www.desotobaptistchurch.org](http://www.desotobaptistchurch.org) --- 8655 Copeland Way, De Soto, KS 66018

ENGAGED IN THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION  
**De Soto Baptist Church**





## ONLINE WORSHIP—LIVE SUNDAYS AT 10:30 a.m.

A recording of each service will still be available and posted to the website Sunday afternoons.

Link to weekly worship services and all past worship services can be found on our church website:

[www.desotobaptistchurch.org](http://www.desotobaptistchurch.org)

or on our Facebook account



De Soto Kansas Baptist Church

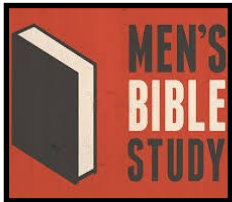


### January 7

Deacons Meeting 6:00 p.m.

Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Business Meeting 7:00 p.m.



### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

2nd & 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting in the Copeland Center



### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

All women are invited to Participate in our Ladies Bible Study and Prayer Group.

1st & 3rd Tuesdays 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Susan Reames.



### Board of Christian Ed Meeting

January 14th at 7 p.m.

### "PRAYER HOUR"

Beginning Friday January 2nd, we will begin having a prayer hour at the church.

Matt's vision for this is that it would be a time when folks can drop by and spend 5 minutes to 30 minutes in corporate prayer. Tell others. Perhaps we can make our sanctuary available for the community to come and participate. If you cannot make it to the church Fridays at 11 a.m., wherever you find yourself, take a moment to pray with us as a community of believers.





## Salvation Army Ringing of the Bells

### Hobby Lobby in Lawrence

Volunteers rang the bell in Lawrence this season, spreading joy and helping to raise funds for those in need.

Together we can make a difference!

Thank You Sharon Coatney for Organizing this event!



**De Soto Baptist Church** took on the challenge in providing Christmas gifts for a family of 4 from Bethel. Your generous spirits have made this possible to provide clothing and other necessities as well as a special gift for all members of this family. Thank You Mary Gale Kramer & Debbie Maniez for organizing this event!

**In addition**, we have filled the buckets lining our church aisle with cleaning supplies. These are greatly appreciated by the families at Bethel as those are items that are often overlooked by other donors.

Thank you to Rodger Brackett, Mary Gale Kramer, Debbie Maniez, and Jim Brashears for loading everything and getting it delivered to Bethel.

## Operation Christmas

From Operation Christmas at Starside Elementary:

We would like to thank everyone who helped us make Operation Christmas a success this year. With your help we were able to help 96 families with 229 kids. Please feel free to share with anyone who helped.

Over the last 13 years, with all your help we have been able to help over 500 families with over 1,500 kids enjoy the holiday season. What started as a small operation has really become something we could only dream about. When we started, we never really thought about it becoming what it has. Thank you for helping us make the season bright for the kids and families in our community.

This endeavor is something that is close to our hearts and we really appreciate all the help we get from the community! We could not have done this without all of you.

We have already started receiving thank you's from the families and I have included a couple below.

*"Thank you so much for the smiles on my children's faces this Christmas. Many blessings to all of you thank you very much!"*

*"Please thank those who supported, thank you from the bottom of my heart and I hope they have a wonderful holiday season!"*

We will be sending out our email in October for the 2026 Christmas Season, so keep an eye out for it.

Have a happy and safe Christmas!

Coleen Marney and Nikki Leisten



## Annual Adult Choir Dinner

Sunday, January 18th at 5:30 PM

Jeff & Richelle Hodges' Home

Anyone who has been a part of the choir over the years is invited to attend. Meat will be provided. Please bring side dishes, appetizers, &/or desserts.

RSVP to Richelle at 913-481-7610 and let her know what you plan to bring.

## JOIN US FOR THE NEXT NEW THEATRE & RESTAURANT OUTING!!



Many of you LOVE musicals! Here it comes!

**ELVIS AND ELTON!**

Starring Victor Travino, Jr.

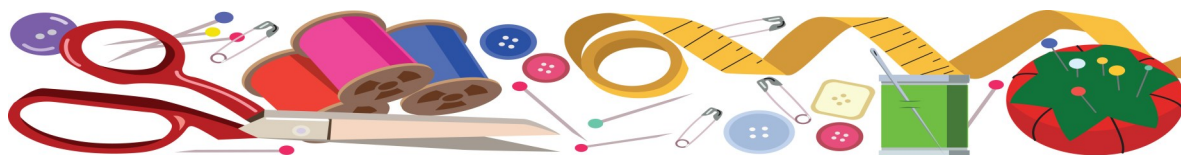
Wednesday Matinee, April 15, 2026

Tickets are \$41

Reserve your seat with a \$5 down payment by Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026

Final Payment due on March 15, 2026

**CONTACT: Karen Wall, 913-669-1991 ( text or call) or email: karenwall61@yahoo.com**



On December 6, the DBC ladies had the joy of assisting the Girl Scouts with their sewing badge project. It was a wonderful time of learning, creativity, and encouragement.



A heartfelt thank you to Rhonda Burns and Donna Gulley for volunteering your time and talents to help make this project a success. Your willingness to serve made a meaningful impact!



## Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting

DBC had a craft table for children  
Hot Chocolate outside for adults and children



## What's Next?

Philippians 1:6



Mid Winter Missions Conference  
January 16-17, 2026  
Prairie Homestead, Wichita  
Guest Speaker: Jill Lowery

## 2026 MID WINTER MISSIONS CONFERENCE JANUARY 16-17, 2026

Prairie Homestead 1605 W. May St., Wichita, KS

Register online by going to [www.abccr.org](http://www.abccr.org), and click on the "events" tab.

Please join us January 16th and 17th at Prairie Homestead in Wichita, Kansas as we hear from Jill Lowery..

Registration is \$45 per person ~ this is to help cover travel expenses and honorarium for Jill Lowery. The registration fee also includes two meals, (dinner and lunch provided by Prairie Homestead).

Registration is due no later than January 3, 2025. One registration per person.

Lodging is on your own.

## Cantata & Santa

Each December, our annual cantata fills the sanctuary with music, candlelight, and the timeless story of hope and love. Voices rise, hearts are stirred, and the meaning of Christmas feels close and real.

As the final note fades, joy turns playful when Santa arrives, bringing smiles, laughter, and wide-eyed wonder. Together, the cantata and Santa's visit remind us that Christmas is both deeply meaningful and beautifully joyful.

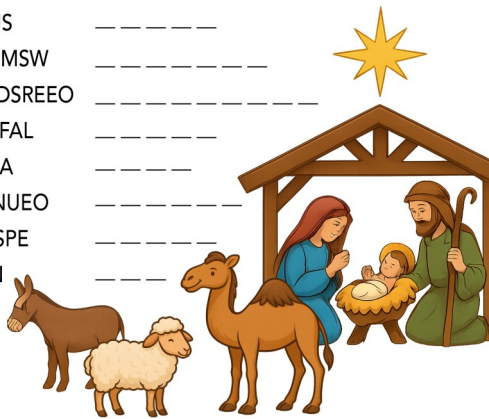


# Puzzle!

## The Christmas Story

Unscramble each set of letters to form a word from the Christmas story. One letter in each set doesn't belong. Write each extra letter below, on the line above the correct number. Then answer the question: What did we all receive at Christmas?

- (1) TGLBEHHEME \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) NEAGLO \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) NRMEDAG \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) ODEKSNY \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) AMGYR \_\_\_\_\_
- (6) OHESJIP \_\_\_\_\_
- (7) EFJSUS \_\_\_\_\_
- (8) ITEENMSW \_\_\_\_\_
- (9) SPHDSREEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (10) EMCFAL \_\_\_\_\_
- (11) TLSRA \_\_\_\_\_
- (12) CSSNUEO \_\_\_\_\_
- (13) HEVSPE \_\_\_\_\_
- (14) ENIN \_\_\_\_\_



1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8

9    10    11    12    13    14

Answers: Bethlehem (G), Angel (O), Manger (D), Mary (G), Joseph (I), Jesus (F), Wise men (T), Shepherds (O), Camel (F), Star (L), Census (S), Donkey (D), Sheep (V), Inn (E), God's gift of love

## DE SOTO FOOD PANTRY Donations Needed

*Thank you so much for supporting this vital resource in our community!*

### MOST NEEDED ITEMS:

- Canned Fruit & Applesauce
- Dried beans
- Cereal
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Spaghetti sauce
- Box meals (*like Hamburger helper*)
- Tuna (*canned meat*)
- Personal items (*shampoo, razors*)
- Toilet paper

Donations bins are located at Harps & Great American Bank or can be dropped off at the Food Pantry during regular hours.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please mail your check to: De Soto Food Pantry, 32905 W 84th, De Soto, KS 66018.

### HOURS OF OPERATION:

**Tuesdays — 10 am to 12 pm**

**Thursdays — 4 pm to 6 pm**

**Saturdays — 9 am to 11 pm**

*The food pantry is located in the same building as City Hall and the Community Center. Anyone with a DeSoto address or a student enrolled in the DeSoto School District, and that can show proof of residency, is eligible to shop.*



## TITHES & OFFERINGS THANK YOU!!!

For submitting Tithes and Offerings to:

DeSoto Baptist Church  
PO Box 578- DeSoto, KS 66018  
Online Tithing and Donations are available!

[https://  
collectcheck-  
out.com/r/yyw9d](https://collectcheck-out.com/r/yyw9d)



**SNACKS FOR STARSIDE** is making a big difference for children and teachers in need!

Want to help? Look for the large blue donation bucket in the church narthex. Prefer to give money? Place a marked envelope in the offering or make a check out to De Soto Baptist Church with "Schools" or "Starside" in the memo.



Thank you for supporting this important ministry!

Suggested Snacks (No nuts, peanut butter, cookies, candy, or chips):



Fruit snacks, Teddy Grahams, Cheez-Its, Pirate Booty, granola bars, fruit bars, Belvita bars, and pretzels.

# BIRTHDAYS

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	
4 Anita Martin Jennifer Weese	5	6 John Toner	7	8 Patti Hollingsworth Griffin Cosby	9	10
11 Jonny Hodges	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Kristen Huang	23 Jim Ellis	24 <i>Jeff &amp; Candy Sipe</i>
25	26	27	28 <i>Richard &amp; Mary Etta Copeland</i>	29 Jim Brashears <i>Tanner &amp; Leslie McNamara</i>	30 Julie Riffel Mason Griffin	31

# Calendar

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
					Prayer Hour 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion Deacon's Fund		Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM	Deacons 6:00 PM Trustees 6:30 PM Business Meeting 7:00 PM		Prayer Hour 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	GS Troop #5516 6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	Board of Christian Ed 7:00 PM		Prayer Hour 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Hillside Service 9:45 AM Annual Choir Dinner 5:30 PM @ Hodges' home		Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM			Prayer Hour 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM			Prayer Hour 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	

De Soto Baptist Church

P.O. Box 578

De Soto, Kansas 66018

Address Service Requested

