

## For the Record...

Bible Study:	Weekly Giving: \$ 7,362
Sunday Worship:	Weekly Budget: \$ 14,818
Sunday Evening:	YTD Giving: \$ 654,494
Wednesday:	YTD Budget: \$ 711,164

### Our Ministers

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## WELCOME TO WEST SIDE!

For our visitors:  
If you have any questions, if you want to get involved with our church, or if you just want to meet some of our leaders, please stop by the Starting Point kiosk in the lobby. We'd love to meet you and answer your questions. Thank you for worshipping with us today!

*West Side Church of Christ  
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Russellville, AR 72801*

*Office Information:  
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Email: office@westsidear.org  
Jenifer's hours Mon-Thurs 8:30-3, Fri 8:30-12*

## Sermon Notes



# WEST SIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Pax Romana

by Tim Tripp

Sunday  
December 6, 2020

Nursery:

Kids For Christ:

2yr. olds -

3 & 4yr olds -

K-2nd grade -

Puppets:

Greeters:  
North -

West -

East -

Communion:  
Table 1 -

Table 2 -

Caesar Augustus was the first emperor of Rome. He held that position after the assassination of his uncle, Julius Caesar in 44 BC and after the Senate named him as their supreme leader in 27 BC. He remained so until his death in AD 14. Secular history holds him to be among the best of the emperors of Rome. He also spread the empire out to its farthest reach and devised a system for taxing the peoples he ruled over. He also was successful in squelching all open conflict within the empire so that the wars of expansion were the sole focus of the famous Roman military. The iron fist with which he covered the empire was a peace keeping force of military detachments in every province and territory he ruled. He called this peace "Pax Romana" or Roman Peace. It basically meant that provinces and territories which had previously been independent states were not to have a military or use armed force to attack Roman forces or neighboring peoples. Put bluntly it meant "live peacefully or die violently." Crucifixion was one of the ways devised to enforce Pax Romana and it was used with great effectiveness...with at least one notable exception.

It was both ironic and providential that Jesus was born during such a time. It was Augustus who ordered the census that required Jesus' parents to be in Bethlehem at the time of his birth. It was Pax Romana that allowed Jesus' parents to take him safely to Egypt when threatened by the edict of Herod. God was at work through the metanarrative of the powerful Roman Empire, a force which the world had not known before nor since, to bring about the seemingly smaller story of a little baby born in a sleepy town on an otherwise ordinary night.

The child born that night would grow up to lead a movement that would change the world. The story of the Roman Empire would eventually pale in comparison to the story of the followers of the little baby boy. It was beyond unlikely that the baby in Mary's lap would one day lead a group of followers who would take his message all over the Empire of Rome; something that could only have been accomplished under Pax Romana. Roman Emperors would later try to squash the spread of Christianity but could only succeed in being a catalyst for its explosive growth.

The child born that night, the one Herod tried to have killed, the one Pilate condemned to death, whose followers would burn on poles as torches to light the garden of a later emperor named Nero, and whose followers yet another emperor, Domitian, would have torn apart by wild animals in the arena before crowds of cheering onlookers; that same child, named Jesus would be the one proclaimed by leaders of that same Empire as Lord and Christ. How amazing that one so small would lead a revolution at the pleasure of God that would one day take over the greatest Empire in the history of mankind and subdue it. What Augustus knew as the Empire of Rome would one day be called the Holy Roman Empire. His idea of Pax Romana literally paved the way for the revolution.

The Christ child would lead a revolution in the time of Pax Romana, or Roman peace to bring peace to the world. He would be called the Prince of Peace. His peace would be a real peace, a "peace that surpasses understanding." We can read about Pax Romana in our history books but we can still have the peace of Jesus in our hearts.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

### Dios Le Bendiga! (God Bless You!)

by Aris Ortiz

Blessings my West Side Family!

I find it hard to imagine how this segment on this bulletin makes an impact, or a moment of "hmmm" or any other reaction, because so far, I know only one reader has let me know that will take the time to read my section on this bulletin. I hope there is more than one reader putting attention not only to my section, but to the whole bulletin. I just want to share this, because I always have that question in my mind. But the important thing is that it is going to be here for long, until someone will delete all these bulletins from the system (now that we are under this pandemic time). This is another way to keep sharing messages of hope and encouragement to others. This pandemic has made a big dent in the fellowship of the church, and has made us see life in a different view and evaluate what we had and what we don't have today. Yes, technology has replaced a lot of things in our daily life, but in our spiritual life, we still have the Scriptures to feed ourselves and guide us to walk on the Lord's path that will take us to the eternal place for our souls. So, let us keep doing our part and encourage each other in ways that we can find in order to help each other to reach our eternal destiny. May God keep blessing all our West Side Family!

Children's Ministry Grades K - 5 Meets Sunday at 9 AM and Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

*Our Raising Arrows Children's program is currently suspended until further notice in an effort to keep everyone safe and healthy.*



Virtual Youth Group

Wednesdays

YOUTH GROUP - ONLINE

Download Zoom app for your device

Link to the meeting will be sent out on Social Media and Remind text.

Hangout and talk

What's going on

Devotional

Prayer requests

Games and Giveaways



CHURCH OF CHRIST STUDENT CENTER - ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY

We are soon closing out a unique semester here at the student center. To say that this Fall has been tough to navigate for our students and our ministry would be an understatement. Even with all of the uncertainty and difficulties, there have been many good things happening in the college ministry. Regardless of the twists and turns, knowing the heart of this church and the love you have for college students is such a blessing! Thank you to those that have helped out— either in-person or at a distance. Your love and service is greatly appreciated! We thank God for you! To the Pandemic Pals, please continue to find ways to bless your college student. If you have any questions, please let us know!

The Student Center will be closed for Winter Break beginning November 23rd.

## Adult Bible Classes

**Sunday Morning:**

Room 2:

Room 3

FC Classroom:

Rock:

**Wednesday Night:**

Room 3:

FC Classroom:

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

### VIRTUAL SUNDAY

Our Services have been moved to Online this week Sunday

Dec. 6th in continued effort to ensure safety and mitigate any potential spread of the virus.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this time when planning is fluid and we are forced to navigate through unprecedented times.

We will plan to resume our In-person gathering at 10am on Sunday Dec. 13th.

Please watch for updates as we to work to keep you informed with the latest information.

As of now, our next scheduled upcoming virtual Sundays are:

Sunday Dec. 27th, and Sunday January 3rd.

### Note of Thanks:

Thank you for the love that was shown to us during the loss of our precious mother. We appreciate the calls, cards, texts, food, the lovely flowers and most especially your prayers.

Love and Blessings,

The Hancock Family

## Gathering Times

*These meeting times are currently suspended*

SUNDAY

9:00 AM Bible Class

9:00 AM Clase en Español

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Adoración

WEDNESDAY

6:30 PM

6:30 PM Clase en Español

7:00 PM

## Family Illness and Recovery

Ann Humphreys has been moved to Danville Nursing home. Continued prayers on behalf of Richard and Ann are appreciated.

Chris Johnson, nephew of Carol White, recently had a colonoscopy that determined malignancy in a large portion of his colon. Please keep him in your prayers as he works with physicians to determine course of treatment.

Niles Raines, father of Kristen Davis, is undergoing chemo therapy for leukemia. Please pray for his strength to continue, effective treatment and successful results.

Eli Thomas continues to recover from extensive blood clots in his arm. Please keep him in your prayers for complete healing.

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to Ruby Clancy and Linda Taylor in the recent loss of their mother, Inez Selby. Please keep them in your prayers for peace and comfort in this time of such significant loss.

We extend our sympathy also to Hazel Russell and family in the loss of her brother-in-law Alvin Drittler. May God's love and comfort surround this family.

We also extend our sympathy to Mattie Martin and family in the recent loss of her aunt Linda Cox. Please keep the entire family in your prayers for peace and comfort during this difficult time.

We continue our special prayer request for Luke Allen, grandson of Glenn and Brenda Holmes. Luke ran away from home 3 weeks ago and is now on the national register of missing children. Please pray for his safe return.

**Please see the post on our West Side Church of Christ facebook page for more details.**

## RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN COUNSELING

West Side Church of Christ has partnered with Paul Senn of River Valley Christian Counseling to provide high quality, affordable, Christian counseling. Hourly fees are based on the client's income and services will be provided regardless of the income/insurance situation of the client.

If you would like more information, please contact Paul Senn at 479-219-3019 or rvccounseling@gmail.com.

You may also visit [www.westsidear.org/rvcc](http://www.westsidear.org/rvcc) for more information.

### Those in Nursing Homes

Wayne Nordin - Brookdale 101

Glennette Price - Stella Manor 305

Don Todd - Russellville Nursing Center - 317

### Expectant Mothers

Lacey Hines

### Military

Ethan Grace

James Cole, Jr

Micah Hunter

Charles Pitney

Carson Curtis

### Missions

James & Abigail Rucker

WBS Students

Paul & Noemi Crites

## A Look Ahead...

12/13: & 12/20: In person worship at 10am with Livestream

12/27: Virtual Sunday - Online worship only at 10am