

# leadership

## ELDERS

Pastor Mike Ruel  
Paul Fehrenbacher [Secretary]

Rob Downs [Chairman]  
John Lisa [Treasurer]

## DEACONS

**Building and Grounds**  
**Fellowship**  
**Benevolence**  
**Technology**  
**Kingdom Kids**

Len Baxter  
Kerry Westpy  
Jeff Lukawski  
Ray Westpy  
Alyssa Myhren  
Kim Bennett  
Pastor Josh Barlow  
Steve and Ally Gunther  
Pastor Jesse Morgan  
Ron Vreeland

**Jr & Sr High Youth**

**Worship**

## CARE GROUPS

**Highland Lakes**  
Family Focused Dinner  
Marc & Stacey Bray  
2nd Sunday • 3pm  
973-477-9340

**Lafayette**  
Andy & Amy Bennett  
2nd & 4th Sundays • 4pm  
973-886-4679

**Sussex/Augusta**  
Rob & Anna DeJulia  
Every Other Friday • 7pm  
973-919-6782

**Vernon/565**  
Len & Doreen Baxter  
1st Friday • 7pm  
201-230-7372

**Vernon Center/HBC**  
Pastor Mike Ruel  
Mondays • 7pm  
Downstairs Room #1



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Info@highlandsbiblechurch.org

**For Prayer Needs - Send Email To:**  
PrayerChain@HighlandsBibleChurch.org

The King  
is  
Born  
Matthew's Advent Narrative

The graphic features a stylized sunburst or starburst symbol on the left. The text "The King is Born" is written in a mix of serif and cursive fonts. "The" and "is" are in cursive, while "King" and "Born" are in a large, bold serif font. Below this, "Matthew's Advent Narrative" is written in a smaller cursive font. The background is a light, warm color with a dark wooden plank texture at the bottom.

# welcome

## our purpose

Our purpose is to glorify God by making and maturing disciples of Jesus Christ. Our ministry vision is to love God with all that we are, and love others as much as we love ourselves.

As you worship with us today, you'll notice how often we reference the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We don't have it all figured out, but we know that God saves sinners through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Please join us as we exalt God by singing about his greatness and as we seek to know more about him from the Bible.

## the gospel

You will hear us talk about the gospel a lot. Actually it is the center of everything we do here at Highlands.

1. **God** - the only all-knowing, all-powerful King and Creator of all things. He created us to enjoy and glorify him forever. [Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:18-32]
2. **Sin** - Yet, we rejected God, and established ourselves as gods of our lives, separating ourselves from Him, and becoming objects of His wrath. In so doing we also unleashed sin, sickness, death and evil. [Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:12-14]
3. **Christ** - In God's unparalleled mercy and grace, He already had a plan to reconcile us to Himself. The entire Old Testament points to the coming of the Messiah - revealed in the New Testament as Jesus Christ. [John 1; Ephesians 2:4-7; Romans 3:21-26]
4. **Response** - None of this is effective for us unless we respond in three ways: repent/turn from our self control and sin [Mark 1:15], believe in the gospel [John 3:16-18], persevere [Ephesians 4:1; Matthew 24:13]. We are then given new life in Christ, forgiven, justified, and adopted into God's family forever! [1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17]

## kingdom kids

We encourage you to worship as a family, however we provide nursery care [infants - 2.5 yrs] if desired. Kids will be dismissed downstairs before the sermon. Please see one of our security team at the check-in desk by the coffee table for more info.

Explorers	Newborn - 2.5 yrs
Discoverers	2.5 yrs - 3 yrs
Adventurers	Pre-K [4yrs] and Kindergarten
Navigators	Grades 1-5

## calendar

### Men's Bible Studies

6:30am Wednesdays @ Sussex Sit N Chat

7:00pm Thursdays @ Highlands

### Jr. and Sr. High Youth Group

7:00pm Thursdays @ Highlands Roadside Building

JYG Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 19, 7pm  
[Thomassen Home - 21 Laurel Dr, Stockholm, NJ]

SYG Christmas Party - Wednesday, December 19, 7pm  
[Brown Home - 252 Oak Ridge Rd, Oak Ridge, NJ]

### Family Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24, 2018

4pm and 5:30pm

### Corporate Prayer Meeting

Sunday, January 6, 2018 [First Sunday Monthly]

### First Highlands Member Meeting!

Sunday, January 20th 2019

5pm • Bring a dish to share!

### Youth Group - Winter Retreat

February 15-17, 2019

# worship guide

**December 16, 2018**

Our passage today is from Matthew 2:1-12

As you prepare your heart in prayer, please consider:

## COMPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURE

“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

[Micah 5:2 ESV]

## PRAY/CONSIDER

- What little “kingdoms” do we set up in our lives? What is our typical reaction when things threaten them?
- What is the difference between fake and genuine worship of God?
- Is there a difference between happiness and joy? What brings you joy?
- How do we practically live out lives of worship? How can we tell when we are not authentically worshipping Him?

## SING

This morning we will enjoy our Children’s Christmas Program for the first half of the service. Thank you to all who helped and welcome to all our visitors!

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# sermon notes

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December 16, 2018

## **MATTHEW 2:1-12**

*The Birth of the King*

### **1. A king and some wise men. [2:1-6]**

The King is a threat to our own kingdoms.

### **2. The Grinch who almost stole Christmas. [2:7-8]**

Fake worship is not worship at all.

### **3. Confronted with joy. [2:9-12]**

True worship of Jesus brings true joy.

### **Main Point:**

**Because Jesus is the Christ, the only right response is worship.**