

MESSENGER

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December 24, 5:00 PM Family Candlelight Service with Nativity Animals!

Bring friends and family alike to this festive service. Lambs, goats, rabbits, a donkey and other furry nativity animals will be in front of the church to greet you. Our Praise Band gives a new beat to old carols at this colorful celebration service. Candlelight and Christmas images enhance the prayers, readings, and brief message. Invite your dinner guests to church to welcome the King of kings.

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Monday, December 23, 7:00 PM

Dear friends,

I can only begin to tell you how excited I am about this year's Christmas Concert. We will be featuring the delightful arrangements of superstar composer Dan Forrest. He has found a way to breathe new life into our most cherished Christmas carols and has created some touching new songs that are destined to become icons of the season. Between selections of his music we will hear from some of our wonderfully talented LCPC musicians and a song or two from our children's choir.

Christmas comes early to the choir room, as we have been working on this music since September. I can't say enough about the dedication it takes for our hearty troupe to gear up for an event like this on top of presenting challenging and beautiful music each and every Sunday. I am humbled and blessed by each of our choir members.

An orchestra drawn from the ranks of my professional friends and colleagues will be joining in. We'll hear musicians from the LA Chamber Orchestra, LA Opera Orchestra, freelance studio musicians, and rising young talent from our Crescenta Valley community. The choir will be augmented with young professional and graduate student vocalists.

As I have been living with this music ringing through my ears since summer, my only regret is that you will only get the chance to hear it once! So be sure not to miss out. I guarantee you will love this concert!

IHS, Gary



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

First a prediction for the New Year: this is going to be my most popular *Messenger* letter ever.

Ever since Lee Cook arrived on the LCPC staff 16 years ago, I've been jotting down some of his spicier comments and observations. As my Christmas present to you (and him), I want to share a small, family-friendly serving of the savory bits in my Lee-isms file. For those of you who wonder what goes on during LCPC staff meetings, this will give you an intriguing glimpse. (Please don't be alarmed: we sometimes actually do work and pray.)

So for your holiday enjoyment, here are The *Top 24 Quotes By Lee That Are Fit For A Church Newsletter*:

1. A friend said to me when we got married, "So, are you going to have a baby?" I said, "I'm thinking having a baby would interfere with my layin' around time." Boy was I right!
2. I've noticed: everyone loves my wife more than me. And I'm such a good guy! What's that about?
3. It's funny that people today are allergic to things that were the only things keeping people alive 4,000 years ago.
4. **Ashley:** Darren gave me salsa lessons for our anniversary. He bought it on Groupon. It was the cheapest one available.
Lee: Yeah, it was either couples salsa or taxidermy. I have a friend in Arkansas who's a taxidermist.
5. *After a conversation about the lame things people say and do with their phones:* What they need is a breathalyzer for your phone. (*Blows into his cellular:*) "You can't use your phone. You can't call any old girlfriends or boyfriends until you sober up."
6. I feel like a failure as a parent. Nate is now

deciding what NFL team he wants to root for.

7. **Ashley** (*after receiving sympathy for her morning sickness*): "They say at 12 weeks you start to feel better."
Lee: "Not me. With both my kids, I got more nauseous the closer we got to the delivery date."
8. **Lecia Van Horn:** I have a friend that eats her Cheetos with chop sticks.
Andy: I can tell you for sure that Lee doesn't do that.
Lee: If you don't use your fingers you don't get to lick off the orange Cheeto dust! It's like getting an extra Cheeto in every bag!
9. **Josh:** Are Easter services here like regular services?
Lee: Yeah — except you're the bunny. We've got your suit ready. You'll be standing out front with a twirling sign.
Josh: OK.
10. Marching bands are terrible. They're the death of art. When people say "USC is the best marching band in the world," that's like saying, "This is the best kidney stone ever!"
11. The other evening while I was preparing dinner, Nate said to me: "Dad, maybe our last name should be *microwave*?" I wanted to say to him, "You ingrate — you can microwave your own dinner!"
12. **Ashley:** I'm feeling really hormonal.
Lee: I took one of Nikki's woman vitamins and I don't know what's going on. I'm all whacked out.
13. Have you seen that movie *Lavalantula*? About the tarantulas with lava flowing out of their bodies? It's got all the people from the cast of *Police Academy*. When I saw that I thought, "Whoa, you had me at *Lavalantula*!"
14. My wife is a classy lady. The only tacky thing in her life is me.
15. *After Chelsea's birth:*
Doctor: We have baby formula that we can give you for free. Would you like some?
Lee: For free? Absolutely! I'll take a colonos-

copy if it's free.

16. I like a sport you can eat nachos while playing.
17. *Regarding his hair:* The parts that aren't turnin' gray are turnin' loose.
18. Someday God's going to punish me by making me go to a bunch of high school musicals.
19. I don't want to watch those shows about real life. *My whole life* is real! When I watch TV I want fantasy!
20. *Commenting on the Emmy Awards:* I so don't care what people in Hollywood think. Because let's face it, that's not their strong suit — thinkin'!
21. **Lee:** Hey Andy, I think you're really going to like what I got you for your birthday. **Andy:** I have no doubt. What is it?
Lee: I logged onto Costco.com and ordered you a casket. Just so you'll be ready. **Andy:** Wow — how thoughtful. Thanks so much.
22. My kids' school is going to have a graduation ceremony (*for 6th graders*). I'm like, "My gosh — can we not set our kids up for mediocrity just yet? How about honoring them when they're old enough to do something estimable. All they did was not glue their face to the desk. Holy cow!"
23. **Rosa** [*long ago*]: I don't know why I wasn't invited to Fernando and Kelly's wedding. . .
Lee: Because their names are Francisco and Kristy — that's why!
24. Ahhh, my brother the poet. He used to say, "Don't let the doorknob hit ya where the good Lord split ya."

You're welcome!

And may our whole church family be filled with the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus throughout this beautiful season.

Andy Wilson

SHOP GIFTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Alternative Gift Fair is coming to Koopmans Hall, **Sunday, December 8**, between and after services. Shop for gifts from a beautiful array of scarves, purses, jewelry, and much, much more. 100 percent of the proceeds from your purchases supports poor people around the world who make these colorful crafts. For more information about our provider, please go to www.heavenlytreasures.org, and don't forget to shop!



MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
9:00 AM SHARP!**

Messenger articles and corrections should be emailed to shawndraws@gmail.com. Please put the word "Messenger" in the subject line. They can also be placed in the Messenger folder. Materials submitted after the deadline may be omitted at the discretion of the editor.

STUDENT MINISTRIES

As this calendar year comes to a close, I wanted to take a little bit of Messenger space to reflect on all of the incredible ways God has worked in the lives of students and myself this last year. 2019 was a year of many great joys in Abide, as we saw many students come to church for the first time, know Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior for the first time, go to camp for the first time, try good coffee for the first time (I'm looking at you Starbucks) at tasty Tuesday, invite their friends, learn to praise the Lord in song, participate in Youth Sunday, lead a Discipleship group with Jr. Highers, and so much more.

God is moving in the lives of teenagers in this very community and everywhere I looked this year it was obvious that He was laying claim to this generation and this youth group. Over the course of the year, we (the Abide staff) met more than 30 new students through the outreach of our students to their friends. Praise the Lord!

The students of Abide made me really proud this year too, from the way they looked for opportunities to serve their families, friends, their youth group, and the strangers around them to their willingness to be honest, real, and vulnerable in a culture and community which often tells them to always put up an image of strength, success, and achievement has been beautiful and exemplary.

A specific example: toward the end of a teaching series we did in the Fall of 2019 about what it means to be "Here, Real, and Bold" (our slogan), one of our 7th grade girls' mother emailed me to share that the girl and her friend were so inspired to be bold that they began inviting a girl who sits

alone at lunch and is often an outcast because of her learning disabilities to each lunch with their friends. How amazing is that! Each of our students holds such a specific, unique in the Abide family, and it's so cool to watch them grow into their roles and places within our group.

Time and time again in Scripture we see that God is a God of abundance, that He pours out so much more grace and mercy than we could ever need or deserve on our lives. I see that grace in mercy in my life in that I get to spend every day in the company of our Jr. High and High Schoolers. Listening to them as they tell me about their lives, playing games, singing songs, celebrating with them in their successes, truly feeling the depth of their losses, answering questions, and hearing the brilliant Holy Spirit led wisdom that they have are all some of the most incredible instances of God's mercy in my life, and I'm so thankful for every student who is a part of Abide and every student who will be some day.

Thank you, Jesus, for the many blessings you pour out on this church!

Josh

DECEMBER ABIDE EVENTS

December 4: Jr. High Extreme Easter Egg Hunt. Jr. Highers only come join us as we have a crazy, Christmas-themed, Easter Egg Hunt around LCPC! Bring your friends, Wednesday evening, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM.

December 20: Abide Winter Formal and Fireworks Spectacular! All Abide students grade 7-12 are welcome to come celebrate the beginning of Winter Break with a bang, our Winter Formal! We'll have music, games, a dance party, snacks, and a SURPRISE guest. Make sure to dress up and check the Abide Instagram for more. Friday, December 20, 8:00 -11:00 PM.

LEE'S LATEST **WHAT IS THE SECRET TO SPIRITUAL MATURITY?**

Now that I've got you reading, you know there is no "secret". Growing in Christ is about allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us by learning the rhythms and disciplines that Jesus practiced that direct our lives toward the Father. Sounds easy, right?

Unfortunately, one of the missing pieces, especially in America, is fellowship and accountability. We need other people to be shaped and molded into the image of Jesus. But in the ever-increasing fragmentation of our society, it's difficult for us to see the need or make the time for fellowship and accountability.

That's why our Vision 2020 plan had the goal of integrating more small groups into the life of our church. This January in PEAK we'll begin a few small groups to allow you to experience that fellowship and accountability. Be on the lookout for more information about the leaders and topics.



CHRISTMAS WITH THE CRUISERS

The Cruisers cordially invite everyone to attend their gala Christmas program on Tuesday evening, December 3, at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. Enjoy a festive and fun evening of Christmas music with Monday@JoJo's, a women's vocal group that performs pop, jazz and standards for events all over Southern California. LCPC's own Shawn Kelly and Sharon Valdez are members. The program includes merry tunes of the season along with some favorite sing-along carols. Bring your family and friends for a wonderful celebration!

Project Dominicana - June 13-22, 2020

What are you giving Jesus this year for Christmas? How about spending 10 days working with him in the Dominican Republic this June? We are now recruiting high schoolers and adults, especially medical personnel, for this year's outreach to Haitian cane cutters and their families living in the DR. We will be doing mobile health care clinics and health education in the rural villages surrounding La Romana. Partnering with a local church, we will also be doing a construction project.

This trip has been transformational for many participants who experience God's presence in their lives in a fresh way. Learn powerful lessons about the relevance of the Gospel for rich and poor

and the fulfillment found in giving. Brochures are available in the office. Registration forms and a \$200 deposit are due January 31. The trip may fill before that deadline.

Get your materials in as soon as possible to reserve your spot and begin preparations for your trip. For more information, contact Mary Wilson at (818) 370-1617 or mhw1@sbcglobal.net.



children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Christmas In Children's Ministries

To be honest, "What Child Is This" is not my favorite Christmas song by any means. I don't find the melody (a.k.a. *Greensleeves*) particularly pretty. But for some reason it popped into my head recently and the line that kept repeating itself in my tired brain was "Haste, haste to bring Him laud." In contemporary speak, it might read: "Hurry! There is no time to lose in praising Jesus!" There is this urgency that I hadn't really noticed before. The time is NOW to praise the Savior! All too often, I let things get in the way of that. Sure — I'm busy, but I can praise Him while busy. What really gets in the way is my anxiety, fear, and self-centeredness.

So, my prayer is to make this joyous advent season the start of a more "praise-ful" (yep — totally not a word, but you know what I mean) mindset. And I am grateful that I can work on this and seek His Spirit with all of you. Below is what I think is a list of really fun events for kids and families this Christmas season — ways that we can celebrate and praise Jesus together. But let's not wait for the first event or for any event — let's haste, haste to bring Jesus laud!

Through Sunday, December 15, Children's Ministries will have the World Vision Giving Tree in the Narthex. Each ornament on the tree displays an item from the World Vision Christmas catalog. To give, please choose an ornament and write a check to LCPC for the item listed (amounts will be clearly marked on the ornament). On the memo line of your check please include the letters WV and the item number on your ornament.

Children's Ministries Volunteer Party! We are so thankful for our wonderful volunteers who make our Sunday morning classes, PEAK classes and VBS possible! This event is to celebrate you! Please join us for dinner, dessert and games. It is a small way that Kristy and I can show our big appreciation for the time, love and energy give to this ministry.

Thursday, December 5, 6:30-8:00

PM — This CFC sponsored event includes various Christmas crafts for children and the chance to chat with Santa in the Fireside Room. It is a great chance to get in the yuletide spirit, collect some crafty treasures that you will look back on for years to come and meet other CFC and church families.

Saturday, December 14, 5:30-7:30 PM

— Our Annual Christmas Cookies and Cocoa Party is for children in 1st-6th grade and will include

yummy yuletide treats and a showing of 2018's *The Grinch*.

Monday, December 23, 7-9:00 PM —

The children of LCPC and CFC are invited to come share a Christmas song at our Christmas Concert, directed by Gary Woodward on Christmas Eve! The children's song will be early in the program in case your little one needs to head home for bed!

Last but not least, Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 5:00 PM — Come enjoy a live nativity scene with friendly animals, followed by a music filled service celebrating the birth of our Savior! This is one of my two favorite services of the year — always filled with so much joy!

Kids Say the Darndest Things

Ashley: "So we are going to write down on your artwork, something we would like to thank God for."

3-Year-Old: "Batman and the Joker. I love those guys."

Another 3-year-old: "My mom, Sylvia. Her name is Sylvia."

Ashley: (*writing it down*) "Ok — my mom, Sylvia."

3-Year-Old: "No Ashley! MY mom, Sylvia."

THE WILDLIFE TOUR IS BACK! SHORTER...CHEAPER...WILDER THAN EVER JULY 26 & 29, 2020

By Andy Wilson

Over the past 19 years, several hundred people have participated in the Wildlife Tour, LCPC's unique high country adventure. We took a break last summer, but we'll be back on the trail July 26-29, 2020. The trip is open to anyone going into ninth grade or older, including college students and adults. Families may sign up together. Participants should be in reasonably good physical condition.

The trip has been shortened by one day. The new 4-day schedule (Sunday afternoon through Wednesday late evening) gives us time for three full days of hiking along some of the most spectacular trails in North America.

Some people think the WT is only for hard core hikers. Not so. Because of its unique format and de-

sign, the WT is the perfect entrée into big mountain hiking for the beginner. The WT is also a wonderful way to make new friends, strengthen old friendships, renew your spirit, and re-connect with God.

Throughout the trip we visit three different wilderness regions, yet we never have to carry a heavy pack, cook a meal outside or sleep in a tent. We hike every day for three days, but sleep in comfortable, air-conditioned hotel rooms (doubles). We carry our lunches on the trail but eat breakfasts and great dinners at local restaurants.

Each of the hiking days everyone gets to choose among three or four hikes, one or two of which are relatively short and of "moderate" difficulty, and one or two of which are fairly long and challenging. You're never forced to finish a hike, and you always have experienced people (and

essential maps and equipment) with you. We also take time each day to worship, sing, and pray.

The fee for Wildlife Tour 2020 will be approximately \$280. It's "first come, first served" and we can only take about 28 people. The registration deadline is Monday, July 6. Watch for registration materials in the Church Office or the Student Center. You can also register online (after December 1) at: www.lcpc.net.

If you're a hiker or you'd like to become one — if you love the Sierras or if you've always wanted to explore the spectacular back country — this trip is for you.

And parents: WT 2020 might make a wonderful Christmas present for an adventurous daughter or son!



Joy to the World and Deck the Halls – it's **Christmas time!** There was hardly any time to finish the leftover Thanksgiving turkey before the first Sunday of **Advent** was upon us! There are still a few **Advent Candle Lighter** openings so email Michele Fernandez (fern7@sbcglobal.net) if you'd like to be part of this special tradition.

There are so many exciting things going on around here that my little rodent head is spinning! The **Cruisers** are starting off the festivities with their annual **Christmas concert** Tuesday, December 3, at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. **Monday@JoJo's**, featuring **Shawn Kelly** and **Sharon Valdez**, will be entertaining the crowd with their beautiful voices and it's not just for Cruisers - you're all invited!

Wednesday, December 4, the **Creative Bible Journaling** group will be working on Christmas pages along with a **cookie exchange!** Bring a few dozen of your favorite cookies and you'll leave with a delectable variety of cookies, perfect for your holiday gatherings, in addition to beautiful new page in your Bible.

CFC is hosting their **Christmas Craft Night** on Thursday, December 12, at 5:30 PM. You can enjoy dinner in Koopmans for just \$3, then an evening of crafts, singing, and of course a photo with Santa! It's not just for CFC families – they'd love to have LCPC families drop in too!

Ashley and **Kristy** are excited about the

Children's Ministries **Cookies and Cocoa**

Party on Saturday, December 14, 5:30-7:30 PM. All 1st – 6th graders (and their friends!) are welcome to sip on cocoa and snack on cookies while watching *The Grinch* movie.

Sunday, December 15, is the last day to pick an item off the **World Vision Giving Tree** in the Narthex to provide a gift for a family in need. Just choose an ornament, write a check for the listed amount to LCPC and be sure to write WV and the item number on the memo line of your check. Put it in to the offering plate or drop it off in the church office, and voila! A family is blessed!

Ever feel like there are snooping little eyes when you are trying to wrap Christmas gifts? We have a solution - the **Christmas Wrapping Party** on Tuesday, December 17, from 7:00 – 9:00 PM in Koopmans! You bring the gifts and wrapping supplies and there will be tables, music, refreshments and other adults to socialize with. This is open to CFC and LCPC families and friends.

Moving right along, we come to the **Choir Christmas Concert**, "The Shepherd's Lamb," on Monday, December 23, at 7:00 PM. Our talented Cathedral Choir and orchestra will be performing the music of composer **Dan Forrest**. There's a rumor of a special guest appearance by our adorable Children's Choir! You won't want to miss the best musical event of the year!

We have streamlined our **Christmas Eve** services into just one festive, lively, joyful, family friendly Christmas celebration at 5:00 PM. Be on the lookout for Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus and some barnyard animals! And you might want to brush up on the Silent Night lyrics.

If you haven't registered for the new **ShelbyNext** database and phone app, what are you waiting for? It's awesome! It gives you access to a church directory, the master calendar, the ability to check your kids in for Sunday School and other exciting things! Follow the steps in the email you received back on November 3. If you didn't get an email, contact Kristy at kristyh412@gmail.com

and she will get you all set up.

Thank you, **Deacons** for preparing and serving another scrumptious brunch on **Dedication Sunday**. We love our combined gatherings and your cooking! We are also grateful for all you do behind the scenes all year long, to care for our congregation!

If you missed Dedication Sunday and haven't turned in your Estimate of Giving cards yet, it's not too late! Those cards are needed to prepare the new operating budget for 2020. Just place them in the offering plate or drop them off to the church office.

Congratulations to **Riley Chambers** and **David Dadzie** on their marriage last month, officiated by **Darren Pollock** down in San Clemente. Riley looked gorgeous and radiant, as did her elated parents **Pat** and **Bob**! No more single Chambers children – they are all happily married off!

CFC FAITH UPDATE

It's the most wonderful time of the year! This December, I am looking forward to not only the Christmas Craft Night (a highlight of my daughter's year) but also the projects we will be doing to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Children in kindergarten and up will be making ornaments for the residents of La Crescenta Heath Care Center (formerly Verdugo Vista) – a nursing home down the street.

Preschoolers will help to decorate Christmas cards for local shut-ins. We will also learn some new, fun Christmas music and all the children of CFC are invited to come sing in the LCPC Christmas Concert on Monday, December 23. Children's Choir will be leading a song at the beginning of the 7:00 PM concert. Happy Advent, everyone! I look forward to weeks of celebrating this joyful season with all of you!

YOU'RE INVITED!

The CFC invites all families of LCPC to join them for:

Christmas Craft Night

"Decemberember" 12

5:30 PM: Dinner 6:30 PM: Crafts

Wrapping Party

"Decemberember" 17

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Bring your gifts and your wrapping paper/bags. We will provide music, refreshments and other wrapping essentials for you!

For more details on these events, please see the CFC page.

Dear Friends,
My favorite time of year is here! How wonderful to remember the miracle of Christ's birth and reflect on the blessings we have in our families and friends, the work we can do for others, and the true knowledge of God's love for us. This is a perfect time to bring friends with us to church to celebrate the birth of our Savior and the hope and joy that comes with a close relationship with Him. The music and hymns always draw me into contemplation and peace that feels different from other times of the year.
I hope you were able to enjoy the special service on Dedication Sunday on November 17 with the deli-



cious luncheon following. The pumpkin dump cake is always a favorite in our house. We Deacons love serving this warm and tasty meal with our beloved church family, sharing the Holy Spirit in fellowship and food.

I pray that you can take time to reach out to those around you who may find Christmas difficult, perhaps due to the loss of a loved one or being far away from those they love or miss. We are important to God and His kingdom and are his face, hands, and feet in this hurting world. God will equip you where he sends you. Go, in love and trust.

Peace and Blessings,
Kerry



Director's Corner

"Decemberember" brings about it an air of wonder and joy that has an underlying sense of stress and fatigue. So many times as parents, we put excessive pressure on ourselves to have this ideal, perfect Christmas. We want the perfect tree, "Decemberorated" like a magazine cover, the perfect meal, kids in perfect outfits, and everyone with a special gift. We are running around going to events, finding that last Christmas gift we think our kids need or their holiday might be ruined. In the meantime we are still working, cooking meals, feeding the dogs, and cleaning the house. Whew, take a breath.

Now before the month of "Decemberember" gets away from you, plan your month. Yes, take out a calendar that's blank and plan your month. Find the activities that add joy to this Christmas season and pencil them in. Plan for your shopping days, cooking days, cleaning days, but don't forget the day to pick out your tree and make that quality time with the kids. Plan on times to be together as a family, those are the memory inducing experiences that will last a lifetime. When will you worship as a family, eat as a family, and relax as a family. Take the long ride home some nights to look

Scholarship Fund

Our scholarship program is set up to help families already enrolled in the Center for Children that find themselves in temporary financial constraints. We have helped families in the past through job loss, illnesses, home fires, injuries, and divorce. Our goal is to allow children to remain in a consistent environment while the family is facing hardships. If you would like to make an end of the year, tax-deductible gift to our scholarship program make checks out to CFC – Scholarship. We thank you in advance for thinking of CFC families at this time of the year.

Christmas Vacation and Holiday Camp

The CFC will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas and January 1 for New Year. We will close at 3:00 PM on New Year's Eve. Our Winter Day Camp will run from December 23 – January 6 with the exceptions of the days listed above. We will have schedule for our Winter Day Camp out soon.

at local Christmas lights, drive through Montrose to see how pretty it looks. Come to Christmas Craft night right here on a campus where your kids are comfortable. I know that when my kids were young I wanted to make sure that the birth of Christ didn't get lost in all the other parts of the holiday.

To me, Christmas is a time of joy. As followers of Jesus Christ, the resounding message in our Christmas celebrations ought to echo notes of joy – "Joy to the world, joy to you and me!" My basis for this is Luke 2:10-11 when the angel announced, "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior, yes, the Messiah, the Lord, has been born today in Bethlehem." The gospel message is about the greatest gift of all time – God gave us Jesus Christ, his Son, who brings great joy to everyone who receives him. The purpose of Christmas is to share this gift. And what a perfect opportunity! You might have a manger scene in your home that kids can touch and feel and books that tell the story of Jesus birth. Tell different parts of the story each night leading up to Christmas. Sharing your faith is one of the best Christmas gifts you can give your children.

Merry Christmas to you and your family,
Pat



Christmas Craft Night

On December 12 we will begin with a dinner at 5:30 PM (\$3 per person). At 6:15 PM we will go to the Sanctuary for a Christmas Sing-a-long, then move into the classrooms at 6:30 PM. Six of our rooms will be transformed into Santa's Workshops, each with a different craft project. The projects range from easy to more difficult so children of all ages will enjoy the evening. We will be making great crafts for "Decemberorating" your home. Don't forget to stop by the Fireside room to meet Santa. **Bring your own camera** and get a great photo – wonderful for Christmas Cards! Christmas is a time to be with family and you are our family. We hope to see you there. All crafts and the photo with Santa are free. Invite friends to join you.

Something New—Wrapping Party

Do you find it hard to find the time and the place to wrap gifts during this season? Well CFC is planning a wrapping party for Tuesday, December 17, from 7:00 -9:00 PM. You bring your gifts and paper bags, we will have tape, scissors, ribbon, and tissue paper. We will be playing Christmas music and have some refreshments. This adult-only night will give you a chance to meet other parents in the program and church.

Four Special Days in "Decemberember"

Decemberember" 20 will Red and Green day so wear these colors. "Decemberember" 23 will be Holiday Hat day. Let your children bring their favorite hat to wear that day – Santa, elf or any fun holiday or winter cap.

"Decemberember" 26 will be Pajama and Pancake day. The day after Christmas will be a "chill" day here at CFC. We will have a special pancake breakfast for the kids and then be cozy all day in our PJs. A movie will be shown in the afternoon so don't forget to bring a special stuffed animal to cuddle with. On "Decemberember" 31 at 2:30 PM we will watch our very own CFC mirrored ball drop to ring in the New Year.



Calendar of December Events

December 12: CFC Craft Night

December 17: Wrapping Party

December 20: Red and Green day

December 23: Holiday Hat Day

December 23: LCPC Christmas Choir Concert

December 24: 5:00 PM family service with live nativity and Praise Band

December 26: Pajama and Pancake Day

December 31: New Year's Eve ball drop

CHURCH STAFF

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LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

NEW SONG WORSHIP (CONTEMPORARY), SUNDAYS AT 9:00 AM
SERVICE OF PRAISE (CLASSIC), SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM

Christmas is a time of Joy and Hope. It's a time when we long to put aside our differences and celebrate the Peace that comes through Jesus and His Kingdom. How can we be agents of that Joy, Hope and Peace? During this Advent series, we'll explore the Kingdom of God and learn how **Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts** can empower us to take the glad

tidings of great joy into our everyday lives. This year our choir is excited to offer a wonderful Christmas Concert, "The Shepherd's Lamb", on December 23, and we will have a family Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM on December 24 with a community petting zoo. Please invite a friend (or better yet, bring them) to one of these powerful services.

DECEMBER 1 THE LORD'S SUPPER

Message by Lee Cook
"Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts:
The Kingdom of God"
For personal study: Luke 1-2

DECEMBER 8

Message by Lee Cook
"Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts:
One Body Many Parts"
For personal study: 1 Corinthians 12

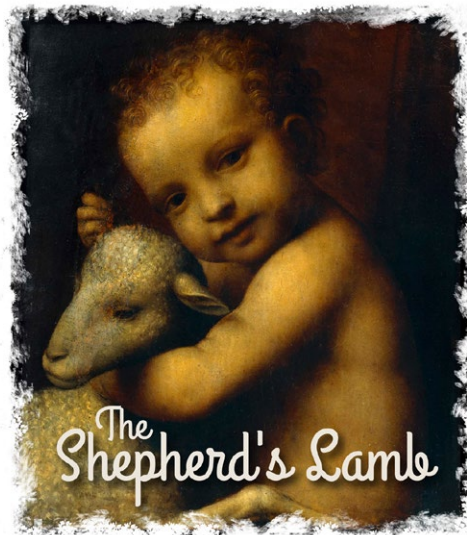
DECEMBER 15

Message by Lee Cook
"Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts:
Wrestling Matches"
For personal study: Ephesians 6:10-20

DECEMBER 22

Message by Lee Cook
"Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts:
Faith, Hope, and Love"
For personal study: 1 Corinthians 13

DECEMBER 23, 7:00 PM CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT



We will be featuring fresh new arrangements of some of our most cherished carols by superstar composer Dan Forrest, backed by a professional orchestra. Come for the music and stay for an array of delectable desserts. Bring the family along with your friends and neighbors. It's a great way for us to reach out to our community!



DECEMBER 24

Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM
Message by Andy Wilson

DECEMBER 29

Message by Lee Cook
"Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts:
Out with the Old"
For personal study: Ephesians 4-5