

MESSENGER

VOLUME 65, NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2016

The Choirs of LCPC present



Candlelight Christmas

Three Services to Choose From

For families with children: Lambs, goats, rabbits, a donkey and other furry Nativity animals will be in front of the church to greet you for the 3:00 and 5:00 PM services! Tell your friends!

December 24, 3:00 & 5:00 PM

Family Candlelight Service—with Nativity Animals!

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. Special music includes two stirring new songs. We end with “Silent Night” by candlelight.

A children’s chorus will sing at 3:00 PM. Bring your dinner guests with you to church to welcome the King of kings. Andy Wilson will offer a brief, family-friendly message at the 3:00 and 5:00 PM services, “Unwrapping Christmas: God With Us.”

December 24, 10:00 PM

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Following a century-year-old tradition in the Church of England, this colorful, candlelit service will include readings, carols (old and new) and images that illuminate the beautiful Christmas story. A variety of singers, professional musicians and readers, including our Cathedral Choir, will lead us. (This service will not include a message.)

This Little Babe

An evening of beautiful music of the season featuring selections from Benjamin Britten’s “Ceremony of Carols” with recording artist Marcia Dickstein, harpist, and a brass and percussion ensemble of LA’s finest professional players. Also children’s chorus, solos and ensembles performing holiday favorites. Dessert reception to follow.

Wednesday Evening
December 21, 7:30 pm

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You are cordially invited to join the

CRUISER CLUB

members & friends to hear Rod Davis in his annual

CLASSICAL MUSIC

AT CHRISTMASTIME CONCERT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, AT 7:00 PM

in the Sanctuary.

Come be uplifted, soothed and blessed by Rod’s gift of music.

PASTOR'S LETTER



Dear friends,
 All my life I've been drawn to the wilderness. I've spent many blissful days exploring the western mountains with many of you. Actually, I find beauty and inspiration in every kind of terrain, from the inky lakes of Ontario to the gator-infested swamps of Louisiana, from the wind-swept beaches of California to the dense rain forests of the Dominican Republic.

One of the many things that appeals to me about wild places is the challenge of orienteering. Typically it's not so hard to find your way in the mountains. You simply follow a canyon, a ridge or a stream. You have peaks overhead to remind you where you are. Not so in a thick, hilly forest, or on a great Canadian lake with a serpentine shoreline and a low horizon. There you have to pay close attention to your surroundings. More than that, you have to consult your map and compass and defer to them. When your gut is telling you your distant campsite is to the left but the map and compass steer you to the right, it's best to go right. When you've lost sight of all familiar markers and your instinct is to keep going straight but the map and compass tell you to turn around, it's best to turn around. (Or if you're really lost, to stay put until a search party finds you.) Your map and compass are far more reliable than your internal radar.

For the past several days, I have been extremely worried about my dog. He is just a little fellow, about the size of a medium weight house cat, a miniature poodle. It started out with him not eating and he seemed to be in pain. After two trips to his doctor, we learned that he has a problem with one of the disks in his spine. A number of drugs several times a day seems to have relieved the pain and rest has helped his back heal.

This started me thinking of love – the love that we have for our pets, the love we have for our children, our parents, our siblings, our spouse and the love that we hope that God has for us. Love is different depending on the subject of our love. Each is a different type of love.

We love our children. We want our children to make us proud. We do our best to give them the gift of opportunity. We attempt to guide them on the course for success, however we measure that success. Of course we will still love our children even if they give us heart break and disappointment.

We might look at the experience of wilderness travel with map and compass as an allegory of our faith journey. When we surrender our lives to Christ, he calls us out of the world, out of our comfort zones. He sends us on a wilderness trek that's marked by sublime beauty, exhausting climbs, exhilarating vistas, unexpected deprivations, alarming encounters, startling accomplishments, stomach-churning twists and turns, and more adventure than we ever thought possible. And of all the dangers we face – assuming we stick with the Lord and we don't turn back – the biggest one is that we'll become disoriented and lose our way.

The Lord rarely speaks to us audibly or through visions or dreams, but God gives us his Word as a map to guide us. His Word reveals dimensions of reality that would otherwise be hidden from us. The Lord isn't physically present, but God gives us the Spirit to orient us. The Spirit is our compass – he's our True North – he's the one who perpetually and reliably points us to the source of all life and hope and strength. We often become bewildered on our homeward journey, but it's usually because we're not using the map and compass God has given us. We're relying instead on our gut instincts. Or on "what everybody knows."

Christmas is a reminder to us that God hasn't left us to find our own way, or to save our own skins. He sent his only begotten Son Jesus into the darkness of our world to light our path. The Word

became flesh, and that living Word reveals the heart and the character of our Father. God also sent his Spirit, and the Spirit gave us the written Word so that no matter what kind of mess we find ourselves in or how far afield we may have wandered, we'll always be able to find our way back home.

Praise God for his good gifts! Merry Christmas, LCPC!

Much love,
 Andy Wilson

CFC FAMILY FAITH UPDATE

Merry Christmas! I love celebrating Christmas with CFC. Of course, I find Christmas Craft Night to be such fun and I love our Christmas manger crafts and Chapel songs. But perhaps what I enjoy the most is the excitement in the air and the way the kids light up when they realize that they remember what this season is truly about – the birth of Jesus.

I used to worry that sharing the story of Jesus' birth might get boring year after year but the kids seem to love filling in the blanks as we read our Bible and talking about what they think that holy night must have been like. They always show me something new to celebrate in the familiar verses and every year I consider that one of the best Christmas gifts.



LOVE IS...

What is the love that God has for us? I find it difficult to even comprehend the degree of this ultimate love. We can disappoint, but forgiveness is just a request away. This ultimate love has even been

proven. Can any of us imagine the depth of love required for anyone to give up a child, an only child, for someone else? This is the time of year that we think long and hard about this great gift that we were given.

Just as parents will do everything possible to give their child the opportunity to be happy and successful in life, God has given us the opportunity to be happy and successful not only in life, but more importantly for all eternity. Let us not squander this wonderful opportunity that God has given us, but instead let us take advantage of it. At what cost, you say? No cost at all, just love God and come to Him. This is one of the months that such wonder is remembered.

Kathy Hill

MESSENGER

LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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**MESSENGER DEADLINE
 THURSDAY, 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.

Project Dominicana 2017: June 10-19

This year's mission trip to the Dominican Republic is now recruiting high schoolers, adults, and medical personnel. Working in partnership with the Beraca Church, this year's construction team will repair and improve the homes of families living in the KM 6 barrio. Our medical team will be conducting mobile health care clinics in the rural villages surrounding La Romana where Haitian immigrants work to cut sugar cane.

This mission 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.

Brochures are available in the church office. An informational meeting for those who have never been on the trip is scheduled on Monday, December 5, from 5:00 -7:00 PM in the Student Center.

Registration forms and a \$300 deposit are due

by January 20. However, please note that the trip may fill up before that deadline. Get your materials in as soon as possible to reserve your spot. For more information, contact Mary Wilson at (818) 957-4741 or mhw1@sbcglobal.net



LEE'S LATEST

As we say goodbye to 2016, most of us can agree it was a pretty unusual year. It contained one of the ugliest presidential campaigns in history, the Cubs finally breaking the curse, and the end of American Idol. America will indeed never be the same.

The most distressing message we've gleaned from 2016 is how divided and angry we are as a culture. Respectful dialogue has been replaced by shouting, and seeking to understand another viewpoint has been replaced by retreating further into our respective "safe zones" where we are assured yet again it is "their fault – whoever "they" happen to be.

What's the church's response? Unfortunately, the church is also deeply divided, hardly able to show the world a better way. We're divided about worship styles, politics, sexuality, and even the basics of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus.

Beginning in January, we'll be studying the Gospel of Mark. But this year we're going to do something other than "the usual Bible study." We're going to dig in to this story of Jesus to discover how we can be faithful today – in our own uncertain times. We'll incorporate different learning styles, games, homework, and candy (You gotta have candy!) to help us not just accumulate knowledge about Jesus but to become more deeply committed followers.



NATIVITY SET

Every family has their own holiday traditions – everything from the food they eat to the child-made ornaments that are always placed in the center of the tree says a lot about how seriously families take these holidays. Some traditions have happened for so long that sometimes we forget how they even ended up becoming a tradition. Others are an annual joke or a memory to share with the family. We have one such tradition.

Growing up in my parents' home, we always had multiple Nativity sets on display. We placed the nicer, more expensive, easily breakable Nativity set on the TV set out of harm's way and the smaller plastic Nativity set was placed on the coffee table. You can guess which set we, the children, were allowed to play with. We used to play with that Nativity set the same way we would play with our Barbie dolls.

One day, my sister and I decided that it was silly that baby Jesus was already placed in the center of the Nativity set. In our minds it was common knowledge that baby Jesus wasn't born until December 25. Well, my mother didn't like having an incomplete Nativity set on her coffee table. After all, the Nativity set without Jesus is just a dirty stable. While my sister and I would be at school she would move baby Jesus back to the center.

This of course turned into a game of hide and seek. We would hide baby Jesus in the oddest places – under a candle, in the silverware drawer, on the edge of the fireplace and my mom would search for him, find him, and return him

to where he belonged. This would happen until Christmas day when we all could agree the Jesus deserved to be at the center of the scene. This has gone on for 18 years now.

Even though I no longer live at home, and even though I know Jesus most likely wasn't born on December 25 (some scholars believe he was born in July), this tradition has become a part of our Christmas season. It wouldn't be Christmas without it. But in all seriousness, Christmas truly wouldn't be Christmas without Christ.

In the midst of the "busyness" of the season and all the traditions we carry out, too often

we place Christ as an accessory to the Christmas season, when in actuality he belongs in the center. He belongs at the center whether it is the heart of giving, time with family, or searching for an

unseen parking space. It says in Colossians 3:17 *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks*

to God the Father through him." I know that through all that we have to do, it's hard to think of him first. Maybe Christ seems hidden or far away. Then we must do what my mom did, search for him, find him, and return him to where he belongs. . . at the center.

Kim Cox

PS. On Thursday, December 22, from 6:00 -9:00 PM in the Student Center, all junior high and high school students are invited to participate in a fun video game, "Glitch," brought to life. Dress up as your favorite character and we'll see you there!



ABIDE STUDENT MINISTRIES

ADOPT-A-FAMILY

This Christmas, you are all invited to join the LCPC children in their efforts to share Christ's love with neighbors in need. Local elementary school administrators were contacted and asked if there were any families who are really struggling this holiday season and could benefit from some gift cards and Christmas cheer. Each year, the response to this offer is growing.

So, Children's Ministries will be collecting Target and grocery store gift cards to include in gift baskets that will be anonymously delivered to more than three dozen La Crescenta families! Gift cards in any amount are appreciated. Every little bit helps!

All donations are due Monday, December 19, and can be dropped off any time in the church office or put in the offering plate with a note that says "ADOPT-A-FAMILY."

Thank you for your participation and generosity! *"If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday."* (Isaiah 58:10)

children's Ministries

by Ashley Pollock

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10)

Darren and I subscribe to a magazine called *The Week*. It is basically a magazine full of condensed versions of major news stories from around the world. In every issue, usually at the bottom of a middle page, there is a section entitled "It Wasn't All Bad." "It Wasn't All Bad" is comprised of three very short human interest stories that have elements of hope and generosity and joy in them. Often, I save this section until after I have skimmed the serious articles, so that I end my reading time with a reminder that when God created this world He looked down and said it was good and much of that goodness remains thanks to His faithfulness.

With Christmas fast approaching, I decided to look over Luke 2 before sitting down to write this article and see if anything jumped out at me in the oh-so familiar narrative of Christ's birth. And Luke 2:10 did just that. A humble birth, a crying baby, a manger likely smelling of hay and animals was good news that the angels promised would cause great joy. And that great joy continues today for every person who knows the saving grace of Jesus.

That grace, that amazing grace, doesn't mean that life goes the way we planned. It doesn't mean that we will be protected from sickness and injustice and pain. It doesn't even mean we will always be happy. The angels definitely didn't say "I

bring you good news that will cause great ease and oodles of fun for all people." But it does mean that there is an eternal promise of intimacy with God, of freedom from sin, of endless love and we get to participate in the fulfillment of that promise every day that we follow Christ.

That purpose, that hope, that relationship . . . is always cause for joy. So LCPC family, I pray that your Christmas season, whether it is filled with gifts and candy canes or even memories of loss or financial stress, will still be a season of joy.

I look forward to celebrating this joy with my church family and especially with the children of LCPC in the events listed below. Please check them out and I hope you can make some of them in the coming month. Merry Christmas!

Love,
Ashley

Upcoming Events!

Adopt a Family 2016: From November 27 through December 19, Children's Ministries will be collecting gift cards to Target and grocery stores that we will include in gift baskets for 20 La Crescenta families struggling financially this holiday season. These baskets are given to local school administrators and then distributed anonymously to the families. Gift cards can be turned into the church office or put in the offering plate on Sunday mornings labeled "ADOPT A FAMILY." Thank you!

Service Project Sundays: Each Sunday in December, while reading and discussing Luke 1

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR IS COMING!

The Alternative Gift Fair is coming to Koopmans Hall on Sunday, December 4, after both services. You can shop for gifts from a bounty of scarves, purses, jewelry, and much, much more. 100 percent of the proceeds of your purchases support the poor people around the world who make these products. For more information about our provider, please go to heavenlytreasures.org — and don't forget to shop!



and 2, children will end their time in FISH or Sunday School with a service project. These projects will include packing lunches for the homeless and creating ornaments for local nursing homes.

Children's Ministries Volunteer Appreciation: Monday, December 5, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. This event is for anyone who has volunteered for Children's Ministries in 2016. We will have dessert, coffee, cocoa, games and more all in Koopmans Hall. RSVP to Ashley@lcpc.net.

Children's Christmas Cocoa Party: Friday, December 16 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM. A now 8-year tradition, children in Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to come enjoy cocoa, cookies, games and two famous Christmas shorts—Mickey's Christmas Carol and Small One. RSVP to Ashley@lcpc.net.

Children's Caroling at Windsor Assisted Living and Verdugo Vista: Sunday, December 18, from 1:30 – 4:00 PM. All children are invited to come distribute homemade ornaments and sing Christmas carols and share prayers with the residents of Windsor and Verdugo Vista.

LCPC Christmas Concert: Wednesday, December 21, at 7:30 PM, featuring our Cathedral Choir and Children's Choir. Parents: all children are encouraged to come sing "He Made a Way in a Manger" that evening. Please bring your child to the Chapel by 7:00 PM if he or she would like to sing.

Christmas Eve Services on December 24 at 3:00, 5:00 and 10:00 PM: Come to a family service at 3:00 or 5:00 PM for contemporary Christmas worship, live animals and a living nativity. Children at the 3:00 PM service will be invited up to lead one of the Christmas songs we have been learning in FISH and at PEAK. Enjoy a more traditional Candlelight Lessons in Carols service at 10PM.

Christmas Service: Christmas is on a Sunday this year, so come on over to LCPC for a 10:00 AM worship service and feel free to wear your PJs!

Kids Say The Darndest Things

CFC Teacher: (to the 3-year-old class leader of the day) Would you like to tell Ashley that you are today's leader?

3-Year-Old: No. She already knows.

CFC Teacher: She does? Who told her?



SUNDAY AFTERNOONS IN THE GARDEN

Please join us for Conversations in December. We meet once or twice a month on Sunday afternoons at the home of Nancy Coler to discuss the week's sermon, and enjoy some heartfelt fellowship that will carry us into the New Year. All are welcome!

This month we'll meet on **December 4**. Arrive at 4:30 PM, and we'll be finished by 6:00 PM. For more information, please call Nancy Coler at (626) 755-1880.



Joy to the World and Deck the Halls because **It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year!** Here at LCPC, it's going to be a month full of events and activities to help us celebrate the true reason for the season.

What better Christmas gift can you give someone than a pint of blood? The **Deacons** will be holding **their annual blood drive** on Sunday, December 4, on the church campus. If you would like to sign up to donate, contact **evanomeara@aol.com**.

Did you see the stacks of colorful **Operation Christmas Child boxes** on the Chancel steps? As always, our congregation was extremely generous and we collected more than **300 boxes** that will be distributed world wide to children in need. Thank you to everyone who lovingly packed boxes for this important ministry.

The entire church is invited to **CFC's Christmas Craft Night** on Thursday, December 8, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Craft stations will be set up in various rooms of CFC and **Santa** will be there for that perfect photo opportunity! Bring the whole family and a few friends too - it's free!

Ashley is hosting a **Children's Christmas**

PHANTOM

On October 22, Phantom of the Auction returned to LCPC and raised more than \$20,000 for our children's and youth programs. Specifically, it will reduce the cost of camps, mission trips and other activities. It also will provide need-based scholarships for individual children and youth of LCPC.

We bid on more than 200 Silent Auction items while watching the Dodgers vs. Cubs game and eating great food. We got excited over the 14 Live Auction items after listening to our Youth Band perform.

Thank you to the 100+ donors of goods, services and cash! Last, but not least, thank you to the 40+ adult and youth volunteers who made it all happen.

Sincerely,
Jenny Wolfe Schwing
Chairperson

Cocoa Party on Friday, December 16, from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, for kids ages kindergarten through 6th grade. She will have cookies, hot cocoa, games and Christmas movies. RSVP to Ashley@lcpc.net.

Children's Ministries is collecting gift cards for the **Adopt-a-Family program** for the ninth straight year. Grocery store and Target gift cards will be wrapped up by our kids and distributed anonymously at local schools to give to families in need in the La Crescenta area. Please drop gift cards off in the office or offering plate by December 18.

The **Christmas Choir Concert** is coming up on Wednesday, December 21, at 7:30 PM. Under the direction of **Gary Woodward**, the **Cathedral Choir, Bell Choir, and Children's Choir** will perform a glorious collection of Christmas music that will fill your heart. Bring a friend – it will bless them too!

As always, we will be offering our **three Christmas Eve services**. The 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM family services will feature contemporary worship with the live nativity and farm animals outside. If we're lucky, **Jesse the donkey** will take Mary for a ride! The 10:00 PM traditional Candlelight Lessons and Carols service will have sacred music performed by the **Cathedral Choir and Bell Choir**. It's a beautiful, peaceful night of worship.

On **Christmas morning** we will offer **one service at 10:00 AM**. Kids come in your pajamas (adults too, if you're so inclined) and there will be a casual service with Christmas Carols and a message by **Josh Horton**.

We had two precious little girls baptized in the past month - **Georgia Jane Lo**, daughter of **Gerald Lo and Carrie Christiansen**, and **Charlotte Baillie Pollock**, daughter of **Darren and Ashley Pollock**. Both girls were perfect angels as Andy flew them down the center aisle to be introduced and they each wore gorgeous gowns. Georgia's has been in their family for generations and Ashley wore Charlotte's at her baptism.

Thank you to **Ed and Shirley**

Carlson and Ashley for hosting an intergenerational ministry training last month through **GenOn Ministries**. Shirley has been on the GenOn Foundation Board for 13 years. Their Executive Director **Liz Perraud** led an informative hands-on workshop that sparked lots of new ideas for intentionally encouraging relationships among multiple generations. I see some exciting opportunities in our future!

Thank you to the **Cathedral Choir** for leading a wonderful **Evensong** service earlier this month with classic hymns, readings by choir members, a moving testimony, and a meditative musical benediction titled "Deep Peace." The evening was topped off with an old-fashioned ice cream social.

The **SPARKS** entertained us with another fabulous talent show featuring great musical acts, comical skits, and their famous homemade apple pie for dessert. All donations of money they received will be going toward children's books for the orphanage **Megan Doeding** is working at in Guatemala.

Have you turned in your **stewardship campaign pledge card** yet? If not, get your cards in soon so the Finance Committee can set up an accurate budget for 2017. Thank you **Phil Van Horn** for inspiring us all during this campaign to give our time, talents, and treasures. Phil shared stories of people in our congregation who recently donated a car, and about generous gifts of money to families and charities in need in our own church. That is true kingdom giving.

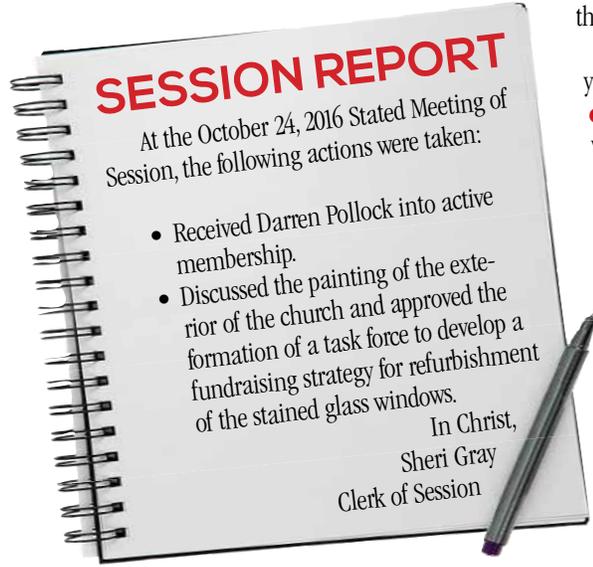
Thank you to the **Deacons** for preparing and serving the delicious **Thanksgiving brunch** after the **Dedication Sunday** service. It's always special to have the whole congregation together in at one service, and then fellowship together afterward over a scrumptious meal.

Have you noticed how fresh the **new exterior paint** looks on the church buildings? It's been a big task, but **Mark Kauffman** has done an excellent job coordinating and overseeing the work. Be sure to thank him!

If you happen to have a pine tree at your house, or an abundance of **pinecones** that you have no use for, the **CFC** would love them for an upcoming craft project. You can drop them off in the CFC office.

One CFC three-year-old named **Kristin** informed **Pat**, "Hey Pat! **Kristin** in the office has the same name as me, but she has a different face." You gotta love the simple observations kids make!

Wishing you and your loved ones a magical Christmas season filled with the love of Christ, and let's make **Peace on Earth** our daily prayer for 2017. See you next year!





Director's Corner

It's Christmas time, the time to share with your children the wonders of a God that loved us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, as a baby to earth to walk among us. I hope that you will find time this Christmas season to share that story with your children. It is so easy to get caught up in all the "busyness" of Christmas and forget the wonder of the birth of Christ. Here at the Center for Children we will be sharing that story with your children along with all the other holiday traditions.

There is often a tendency to over indulge during this season. We might be afraid that we will disappoint our children if not everything on their "wish" list is under the tree on Christmas morning. I encourage you to embrace that teachable moment. It is good for children to begin to understand that not all their wishes will be met by either their parents or Santa. This can be a time to talk to children about the idea of giving to others and thinking beyond themselves or their family.

Find other traditions to enhance your season like making homemade gifts and giving the gift of time together. Give a board game with a couple of gift certificates that allow them to pick where and when you play. How about a snuggle night, when you all watch a movie together on the floor of the living room – popcorn mandatory! So many ways to make the season is special and not all of them need to go on your credit card!

On behalf of me and all the staff, may it be a very merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year for your entire family.

Merry Christmas,
Pat

CFC Holiday Schedule

There will be a Full Day Holiday Camp on December 21, 22, and 27–30, and from January 3–6. We will have an exciting time together. Look for a detailed schedule in your parent file soon.



Christmas Craft Night

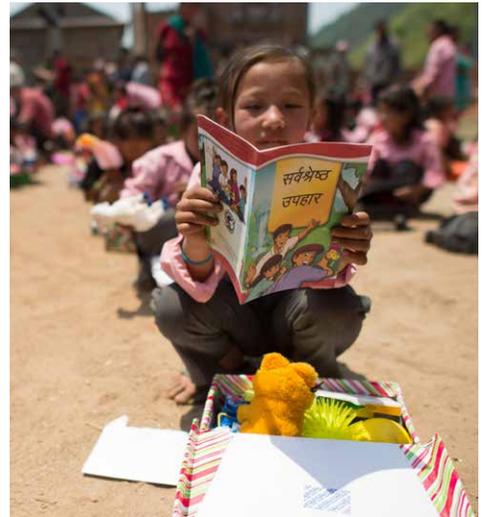
We are busy getting ready for our family craft night on Thursday, December 8. Come join us for dinner at 5:30 PM and then at 6:30 PM we will move about the campus and find different crafts for you to complete as a family. This year you can make handprint wreaths, ornaments, Christmas trees, snowmen, etc. As always, Santa is due to make an appearance and will be available for family photos, bring your own camera. The crafts are free, and dinner is only \$3 per person. This is open to the church, CFC, and the community so bring a friend. We will end the night at 8:00 PM and you will have lovely Christmas items to decorate your home and share with family. See you there.



Thank You

Thank you to the many of you who participated in Operation Christmas Child. The boxes have been sent around the world. It was wonderful to see your children participate in the project.

We are now collecting gift cards to give to GUSD families that are in need this holiday season; Target, Grocery, Toys R Us, etc. Ashley will be distributing them into baskets and handing them out to families. Please bring your donation to the CFC office.



Christmas at LCPC

We hope that you will look throughout the entire newsletter and find many ways to join the LCPC family for this Christmas season. We would love to see you at all our activities. Our Christmas Eve services at 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM will be our band lead service. There will be a live nativity and family friendly worship. At 10:00 PM we will have a lessons and carols service which is more choir lead and takes us through the Christmas scriptures with music to go with them. Families are welcome at this service as well.



CHURCH STAFF

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Helen Tuma Teri Reid	Assistant Director Office Administrator



LA CRESCENTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MATERIAL**



WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

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

At every worship service in December we'll be "UNWRAPPING CHRISTMAS" to see what makes it "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year." We'll think about why so many people seem so angry, frustrated and disappointed with life. More important, we'll explore how God satisfies our heartfelt longings and fulfills our deepest needs. This series will help you relate the astonishing good news of Christmas to the struggles and challenges you face each day.

For many weeks the Cathedral Choir has been preparing for the LCPC

Christmas concert, "This Little Babe," Wednesday, December 21, at 7:30 PM. Included in the diverse program will be selections from a stirring modern classic, Benjamin Britten's "A Ceremony of Carols."

Our family-friendly Christmas Eve services (December 24) will help those without a church home to find their way home to Jesus. Whether they come for the lambs and the goats, the candles and the carols, or the prayers and message, Christ's joy and peace will abound.

DECEMBER 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT THE LORD'S SUPPER

Message by Lee Cook
"Unwrapping Christmas: Peace on Earth?"

DECEMBER 11 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Message by Andy Wilson
"Unwrapping Christmas: Giving and Getting"

DECEMBER 18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT INVITATION TO RENEW BAPTISM VOWS

Message by Lee Cook
"Unwrapping Christmas: Light and Life"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 7:30 PM "THIS LITTLE BABE"

(LCPC CHRISTMAS CONCERT)

This candlelit, Spirit-filled celebration features the Cathedral Choir, Cathedral Bells and our youth and children's choirs. The Cathedral Choir and an ensemble of professional musicians will perform selections from Benjamin Britten's marvelous "A Ceremony of Carols." No charge for the concert or for the scrumptious dessert reception that follows in Koopmans Hall. Bring your friends!

DECEMBER 25 CHRISTMAS DAY ONE SERVICE ONLY, 10:00 - 10:50 AM

This family-friendly gathering will include carols, prayers and a brief message by Josh Horton - "Unwrapping Christmas: All Is Bright." Children of all ages are encouraged to wear their PJs!

SEE FRONT PAGE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Many people that don't have a church home will gladly come to church at Christmas. Don't just invite your friends - bring them!