



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

December 24, 2025

Merry Christmas

The waiting is almost over. The celebration of our God incarnate is upon us. I certainly hope that amongst the hustle and bustle of the season that important historical moment is not lost.

When exactly was Jesus born? Well, nobody knows for sure, but there are some interesting thoughts on the matter. How did we arrive on December 25th? Recently Pastor John and I read a Christmas book by R.L. Solberg called "Full of Grace & Truth – The Biblical Roots of Christmas." It's an amazing book and I recommend it to all.



In the book he informs us that Hippolytus of Rome suggested December 25th for symbolic reasons. This reasoning comes from what's known as the "integral age." That is "the belief that prophets lived in complete life cycles, dying on the same date as their birth or conception." Hippolytus and others believed that Christ died on March 25th – therefore, if that was His conception date, 9 months later would be December 25th. Thus, Christmas Day.

But the other day I saw a video of people discussing the birth of Jesus and it was some very good food for thought. The people on the video suggested that Jesus was born in spring. Why? Well, we know that there were shepherds out on the night that Jesus was born and were the first to praise the Incarnate God. In the Talmud, Rabbis say that the shepherds would only be out in the field at night around March or springtime. Why were they only out at night with the sheep then? This is because spring is the only time of year that lambs are birthed. So, day or night they needed to be sure to be there if there was a birth. How perfect really – Jesus is the sacrificial lamb, and that He would also be born during the same time as the lambs really seems fitting.

Now to tie it back to Hippolytus and his “integral age” reasoning – he obviously decided to go with the conception rather than the birth, but if he had gone with the birth being the same date as death, this would certainly still fit his model.

I really found this fascinating, and I hope it sparks interest of your own to investigate more thoughts on the matter.

Regardless of when our Lord was born, I pray that all of us have a safe, blessed Christmas and that Jesus is at the forefront of our joy and celebrations this season. The tabernacle is now our hearts. God is with us. Hallelujah and amen.

In Christ,
Allan Esquibel
Director of Worship and Music Ministries



SUNDAY MESSAGE

Jim Turner | Sunday, December 28

MESSAGE FOR THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28
"A Very Large Array"
Psalm 19

We are blessed to have a special sermon this week by Pastor Jim Turner. He will be giving a message entitled, "A Very Large Array" based on Psalm 19.

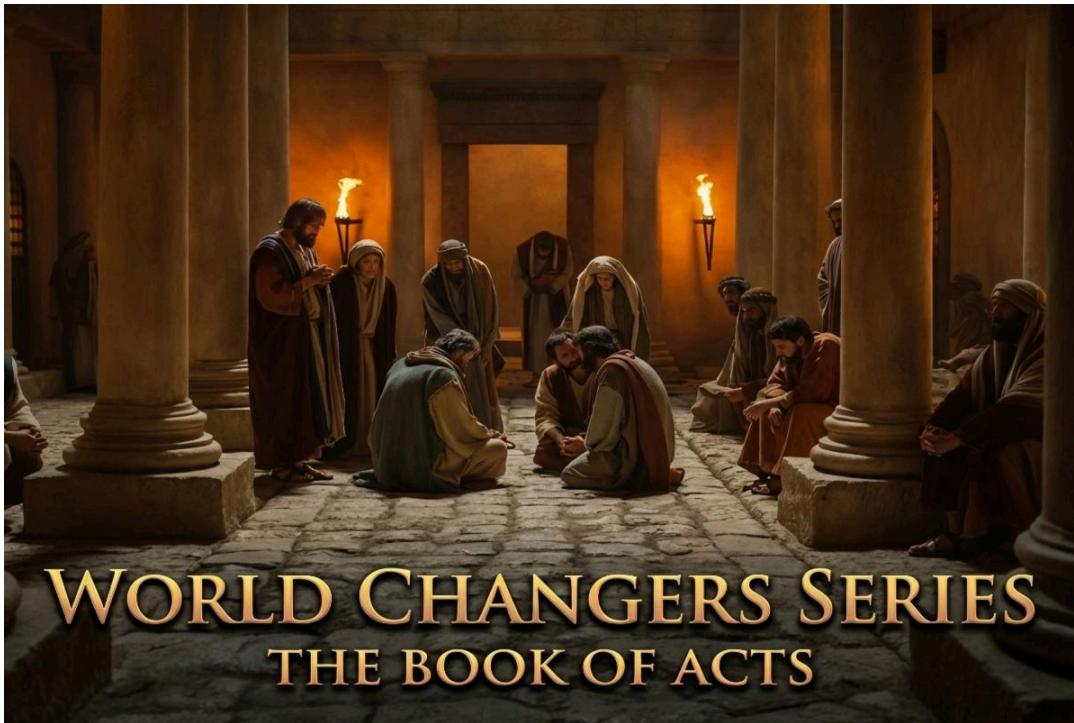


CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

This is a reminder that we are having a Christmas Eve Service tonight, December 24, at 4:00 PM at the **Ramada Plaza (2020 Menaul NE)**. This

will be held in the **Embassy Ballroom** which is off to the right after you enter the main entrance.

We will be receiving our Christmas offering that will also include the opportunity to donate to the Living Waters International which is a Christian based ministry that provides water wells and fresh water for needy communities throughout the world. You can donate online through our **website** or you can bring a check written to Sandia Fellowship GMC and place "LWI" in the memo.



WORLD CHANGERS: The Book of Acts **New Series Begins January 4**

They did the impossible. How in the world could a small band of persecuted believers eventually overcome the dominating Roman Empire and a polytheistic pagan culture with a belief in one Creator God? Christianity's rise in the Roman Empire wasn't a sudden takeover but a gradual transformation, overcoming the Empire through its compelling message, community, and eventual imperial endorsement. It was a result of the power of the Holy Spirit released through these humble and faithful servants who became the World Changers. In this twelve-week series on the Book of Acts beginning January 4, we will discover and be challenged by the amazing characters of this colossal, world-transforming event.

GUIDELINES ON Year-End GIVING

2025



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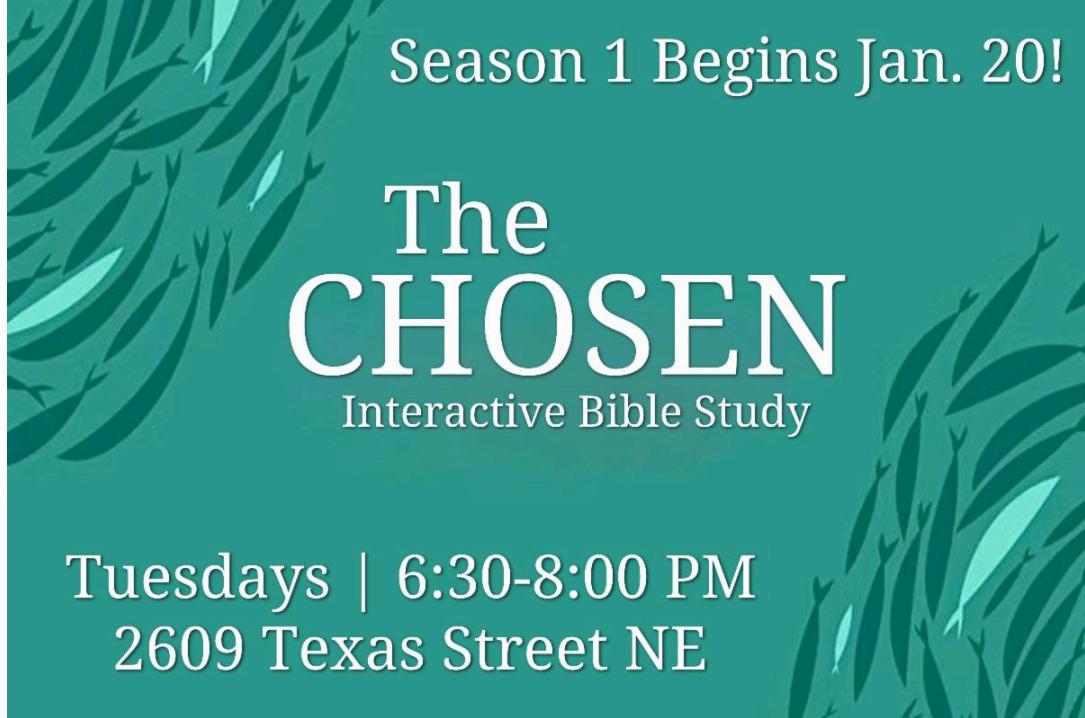
We are so thankful for everyone who has been faithful to support the ministries of Sandia Fellowship through your giving to the general budget.

If you desire to offer a special or additional year-end gift, this would be greatly appreciated and also helpful in the support of our missionaries who always have been receiving an additional year-end gift from Sandia Fellowship.

If you would like to **receive credit for donating in 2025**, please submit all electronic donations by December 23. The last day to submit all cash and check donations at church is Sunday, December 28.

If you want your giving to count for 2026, please wait to give until Sunday, January 4 (or if giving online, please wait until January 1 or after -- otherwise your gifts might end up in the bank before 2026).

Again, we thank you for your generosity and partnership in the work of making disciples for Christ through the ministry of Sandia Fellowship GMC.



Season 1 Begins Jan. 20!

The CHOSEN

Interactive Bible Study

Tuesdays | 6:30-8:00 PM
2609 Texas Street NE

"THE CHOSEN" SEASON 1 BEGINS SOON!

"The Chosen" Life Group will be starting over again with Season 1 in 2026, so if you haven't seen "The Chosen" or even if you have but would like to watch it again, join us! The season begins on Tuesday, January 20. Led by Gina Rivera, the Bible study uses an interactive guide that follows along with the television series by the same name.

Only newcomers need to register. If you're new to the study, please sign up [here](#) so we can purchase the correct amount of books.

Sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30–8:00 PM in the Sandia Fellowship church office building located at 2609 Texas Street NE. This study is open to all interested men and women.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Every 1st and 3rd Sunday

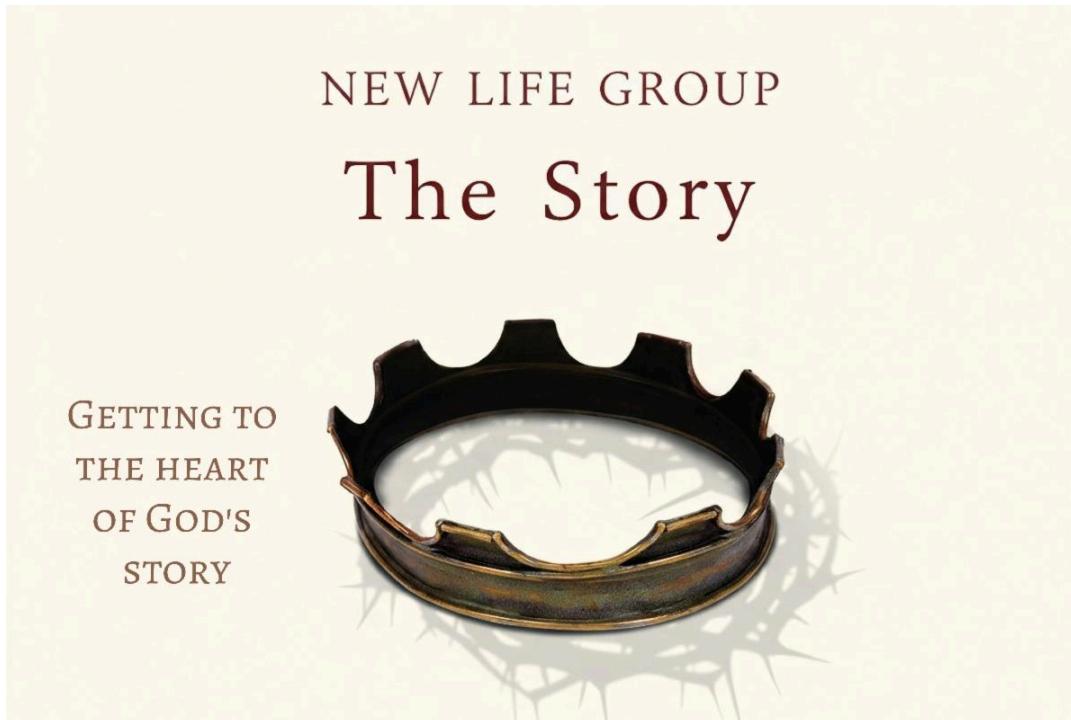
We offer Children's Church on the **1st and 3rd Sundays** of each month. This program is for children in kindergarten through 6th grade and takes place during the message portion of the morning service.



A LIFE GROUP RESOLUTION FOR 2026

If there was ever a great time to start involvement in a Life Group and for us to grow in our call to discipleship, then the beginning of a new year is a great time for this. Beginning in 2026, we will have eight Life Groups for anyone to join in and get to know and grow with other members of Sandia Fellowship.

Life Groups are the best way to develop friendships in our church and offer your gifts and graces to be a blessing to others. If you are interested in joining a Life Group, click [here](#) to find a particular Life Group that you would like to participate in. Then, [email us](#) the name of that Life Group and Holly will put you in contact with the leader of that group. Some groups meet at night, some during the day, and some on weekends.



NEW LIFE GROUP: THE STORY

There is a new Life Group starting this January that is based on *The Story* which is an abridged, **chronological Bible** that reads like a novel. For those intimidated or overwhelmed by reading through the entire Bible in a year, this is a great option. *The Story Life Group* will be meeting on the **first and third Monday of each month at noon** at our church office building. We will offer a **Zoom option** if you are unable to travel to meet in person. *The Story* book will need to be purchased in advance of the first meeting that will be on January 5. If you are interested in participating in this class, **PLEASE SIGN UP** by clicking [here](#) today.



BUILDING UPDATE

BUILDING OUR FUTURE - UPDATE

In the building update provided a couple of weeks ago, we indicated that the renovation costs were significantly higher than originally expected. The Leadership Team made some immediate decisions to reduce costs. Also, various team members are pursuing some additional cost reductions while other team members are investigating supplemental funding options. To start construction as soon as possible we are pursuing a two-phase option that would allow completion of the worship center and nursery/children's area first and then the fellowship hall area to follow. While we almost have enough funds to complete the entire renovation, it would deplete all our current financial resources of which we are trying to avoid. We are believing that by the time the renovation will be completed we will have the necessary funds in place to meet expenses. However, we are wanting to always do our best to be prepared for less-than-ideal circumstances. Your prayers on this are greatly appreciated.



**SANDIA
FELLOWSHIP**
Global Methodist Church

THERE'S A LIFE GROUP FOR YOU!

Sandia Fellowship has several LIFE Groups regularly meeting in homes throughout Albuquerque, as well as two that meet in local restaurants:

Tramway Group: This LIFE Group meets every first and third Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 PM. Contact: **Ed Boucheron**

Northeast Group: This LIFE Group meets every first and third Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 PM. Contact: **Tim Ownbey**

Women's Group: This LIFE Group meets every second and fourth Saturday at 10:00 AM at the church offices (2609 Texas St NE). Contact: **Lindy Rech**

Foothills Group: This LIFE Group meets every first and third Tuesday from 2:00-3:00 PM. Contact: **Jim Turner**

“The Story” Group: This LIFE Group meets every first and third Monday from 12:00-1:00 PM at the church offices. Contact: **Pastor John**

“The Chosen” Interactive Bible Study Group: This LIFE Group meets seasonally using an interactive guide that follows along with the popular TV series. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM at the church offices (2609 Texas St NE). Contact: **Gina Rivera**

Men's Breakfast: This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 AM at Sunnyside Up (6909 Menaul Blvd). Contact: **Ed Boucheron**

Women's Breakfast: This group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM at Dave's High Desert Grill (5200 Eubank Blvd). Contact: **Linda Hess**

All of these groups welcome new members! If you're interested in information about any of these, please contact the person listed or send an

email to the church [here](#).

Visit our [LIFE Groups page](#) on our website to learn more!



NEED ASSISTANCE WITH HEARING AT CHURCH?

If you are needing assistance with hearing, please download the **Listen Everywhere** app on your cell phone.

When you arrive at our service, please connect to our Wi-Fi.

The password is: **17x9c9s0ua**

On your hearing aid, make sure your Bluetooth is turned on. If you do not want to use the app on your phone, we have two devices available. It has a headphone that goes over your ear and you can adjust the volume on the provided phone. Please ask an usher if you need one of these devices.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Have you visited our website lately? There's always fresh content being added: announcements and church news, current sermons as well as past sermon series, weekly newsletters, and more.

You can also submit a prayer request, learn about our various Life Groups, read about the missionaries and outreaches we support, set up online giving, learn more about the mission and vision of Sandia Fellowship as well as the Global Methodist Church, and so much more!

Bookmark our site and check back regularly!

www.sandiagmc.org



SEND US YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS!

Sandia Fellowship has a dedicated Prayer Ministry that intercedes weekly for various needs and requests. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

There is no prayer need "too small" or "too big" for the Lord. If our hearts are burdened by anything, God wants us to bring it to Him in prayer -- and He promises us His peace when we do.

You can submit a prayer request in one of three ways:

- Send a request through our **website** or click the red button below.
- Email us at **prayer@sandiagmc.org**.
- Fill out a **Prayer Request card** available at the Welcome Tables on Sunday mornings.

If you'd like to be a part of this Prayer Ministry, please email Holly at hklein@sandiagmc.org.

[SUBMIT YOUR PRAYER REQUEST HERE](#)



Join us for worship this Sunday!

Childcare is available for ages six months through five years old.





SANDIA FELLOWSHIP YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Did you know you can subscribe to the Sandia Fellowship YouTube channel? All of our weekly sermons are uploaded to our YouTube channel [here](#) as well as on our [website](#).

Search [@sandiafellowship](#) on YouTube (or just click the photo).



This exciting venture in faith would not be possible without God moving upon the hearts of people to give towards this work. Your generosity helps create a church where we can bear witness to the transforming power of the Gospel. The mission of Sandia Fellowship is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. We strive to humbly serve others as ambassadors of Christ.

Click [HERE](#) to give safely and securely online.

NOTE: Donations can be made to either the **General Budget** or the **Building Fund** by choosing from the dropdown menu. You can also make a donation to our monthly **Communion Offerings** via the dropdown.

Checks can also be mailed to:

Sandia Fellowship GMC
P.O. Box 16702
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87191



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