



Mark's thoughts at Christmas...

On the four Sundays in advent, we will be looking closely at Isaiah 9:6. This verse tells us of the coming Messiah, giving us four names that tell of who He is: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. In this verse, we see both His character and His role. This verse shows us that He gives us a future, His love and His peace extended to us. This verse gives us that He is both fully human (a child is born) and fully divine (a son is given). This verse tells us He is everlasting and that He alone brings us hope and comfort.

Read and reread this verse – pray that our Lord will enable you to see the full meaning of this significant verse. As you do, ponder this question: Which

name and character trait of Jesus do you cling to, as we close out the year 2025 and begin the new year 2026? Why is that name and character trait important to you?

Join me in praying every day during the Advent Season:

Father, as we remember You coming to earth as Your Son, be present in us so that we show You in our world. Thank you for your promised Holy Spirit – by that same Spirit be active in our lives. Remind us of Your promises to us, and direct our thoughts to the hope found in Isaiah 9:6. They are present in our Lord Jesus, they are present in us as well, for He truly is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Amen and Amen!

PREACHING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER:

December 7th - Communion Sunday "Wonderful Counselor" Isaiah 9:6

December 14th
"Mighty God"
Isaiah 9:6

December 21st
"Everlasting Father"
Isaiah 9:6

December 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00pm "To Us a Son is Given"

Various scriptures

December 28th
"Prince of Peace"
Isaiah 9:6

Orenco Church - 2 - December 2025







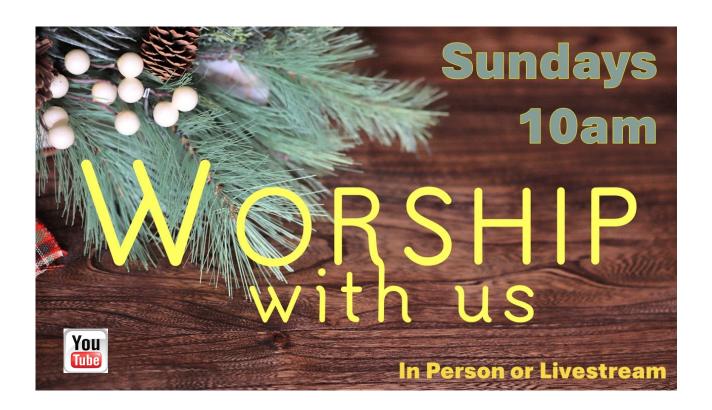
November was a great month for the youth group. We had a very successful Friendsgiving event, big thanks to the church for the food provided from that morning's potluck. December schedule is as follows...

Dec. 7th - Youth Group, 6-8pm
Dec. 14th - CHRISTMAS PARTY!
6-8pm, gift exchange, food & prizes
Dec. 21st - Normal Youth Group, 6-8pm

Ryan Abueg youthministry@orencochurch.org

Bring your bottles & cans on the 1st Sunday of each month! Next Dropoff date: Dec 7th





Orenco Church - 4 - December 2025

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

-John 3:16

Christmas reminds us that God's gift of Jesus was not a mutual exchange. Humanity had nothing to offer Him in return for His Son. We were broken, lost, and unable to repay such a gift. Yet God gave anyway, freely, abundantly, and joyfully. The manger in Bethlehem is a symbol of this unmatched generosity; God



giving His Son, knowing many would reject Him. Mary and Joseph gave their obedience without knowing how the world would respond, and the shepherds gave their worship without expecting recognition. Christmas is not about balanced exchanges of gifts or favors; it's about grace poured out with no expectation of repayment. When we give freely, we echo the heart of CHRISTmas.

We invite you to attend the preschool's "Once Upon Christmas" program on Thursday, December 18th, at 6:00 PM. This event will be a special time for the children, featuring a nativity presentation and performances of Christmas songs. Following the program, we will have cookies and hot cocoa. If you would like to contribute, donations of cookies or other homemade goods are welcome! We hope to see you there!

Lastly, I want to thank Mary B., Cindi W., Becky W., Annie, Julie, Nancy, and Louise for helping with the Thanksgiving Program. You did a fantastic job, and the love was felt!

Karen Campbell,
Preschool Director
orencochristianpreschool.org



Orenco Church - 5 - December 2025

Church Fundraiser!



Tuesday, December 9th is the last order we will be placing before Christmas.

Do your Christmas shopping with us! We sell giftcards, the church gets a little bit for every card we sell. Giftcards can be used for everything! To give as gifts, to buy groceries for your meals, to go out for dinner instead of cooking, to buy a new Christmas outfit, and even gas for your car before you go visit family. We have hundreds of vendors to choose from, pick up an order form to see them all. They're on our bulletin board in the hallway and the church website www.https://tinyurl.com/OrencoDocs.

We also try to keep a variety of cards onhand, but they sell quickly this time of year. Stop by our desk after Sunday worship or the church office during the week.

These are some of our top sellers, just to give you an idea of the potential of this fundraiser that we offer all year round. Amazon, Starbucks, Home Depot, Kohl's, prepaid Visa cards, Safeway/Albertsons, Walmart, Fred Meyer, Walgreens, Target, Panera, Subway, Red Robin, Outback, Barnes & Noble, plus a variety of fast food places.



Our Deacons have a limited number of grocery gift cards available to assist those who are running short to provide their family's Christmas meal. Please contact the <u>office</u> or email <u>deacons@orencochurch.org</u> if you need a little extra help in this area.

The Deacons also provide a community food pantry where anyone may stop by during office hours or on Sunday mornings and pick up non-perishable goods. "Ready to Go" bags are also available that do not require cooking. We had a GREAT response to our food drive last month, THANK YOU! We can always use more canned meats and canned fruits if you'd still like to donate. Thank you for helping us help others.

2025 Donations

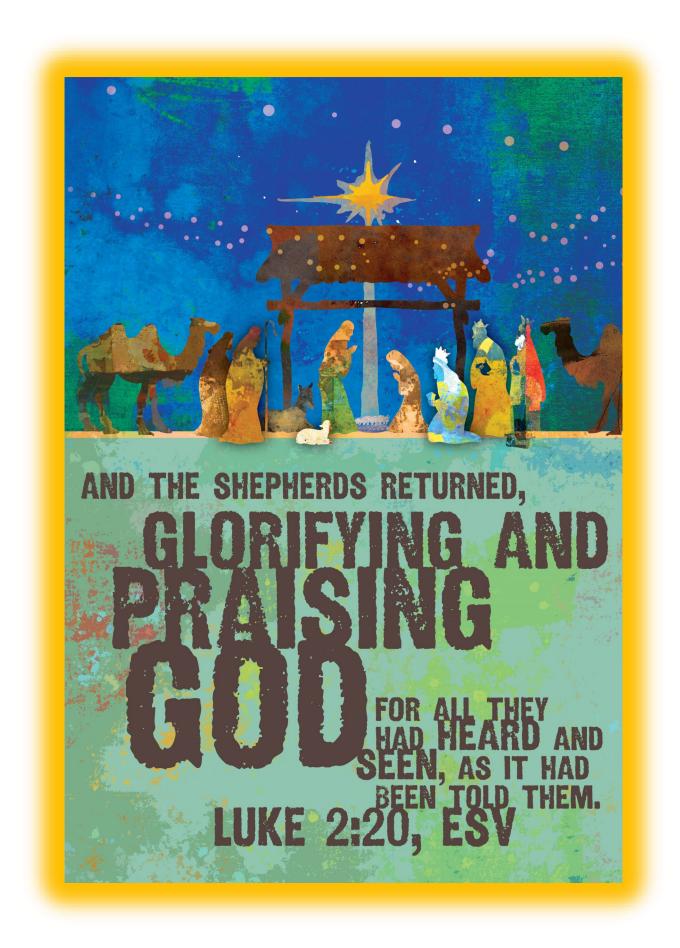
Thank you so much for your support of our many ministries! We can't do this without you! Your gifts are what make it possible for us to share God's love with others and to fulfill our Vision to "Joyfully serve Jesus and our Community." Please continue to keep our church finances in your daily prayers. It makes a difference!

Reminder, donations must be received by December 31st to be reflected on your 2025 taxable donations report. Online donations use the processing date and may be made at www.orencochurch.org/Give or with the QR code on the back cover. Thank you!

Do we have a Directory photo of you?
Have your kids grown taller since then?
See Bob Kuest after worship either December 7th
or 14th if you need a photo taken for the new
Church Directory. We prefer to use Bob's photos
for a consistent look, however, if you attend
remotely you may also send one to
office@orencochurch.org.



Orenco Church - 6 - December 2025





Bring in a Card for Your Church Family

Mailing out Christmas cards can be overwhelming and, for some, has become a lost art. We'd like to help out by offering a way for you to wish "Merry Christmas" to your entire church family with just one card.

Mail or bring in a card to hang on our *Merry Christmas* bulletin board. When you're at the church, read all the cards from your friends and remember to check the board each week for new cards.

Merry Christmas!

Please let us know if you'd like to <u>unsubscribe</u>. Printed copies of the newsletter are always available at the church.

Orenco Church

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www.orencochurch.org www.facebook.com/orencochurch https://tinyurl.com/OrencoYouTube

Pastor: Mark Rainey

Office Manager: Nancy Collins
Youth Director: Ryan Abueg
Children's Director: We're hiring!

Orenco Christian Preschool

www.orencochristianpreschool.org https://www.facebook.com/OrencoChristianPreschool1

Director: Karen Campbell

Inside this Newsletter:

| From Pastor Mark | page 2 |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Sunday Worship Schedule | page 2 |
| Special Christmas Events | page 3 |
| Youth Ministry | page 4 |
| Orenco Christian Preschool | page 5 |
| Deacon Ministry | page 6 |
| Gift Card Fundraiser | page 6 |
| Church Calendar | <u>online</u> |
| | |



"We joyfully serve Jesus and our community!"



Orenco YouTube



Online Giving