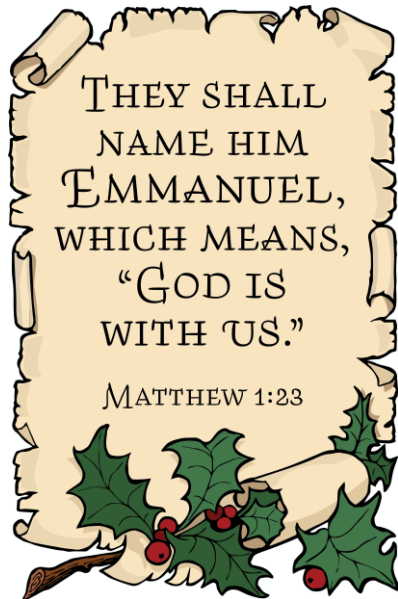




WCC UPDATE

DECEMBER 2022



"Of all the seasons of the church year, Advent most closely mirrors the daily lives of Christians and of the church, asks the most important ethical questions, presents the most accurate picture of the human condition, and above all, orients us to the future of the God who will come again."

*— Fleming Rutledge, *Advent: The Once and Future Coming of Jesus Christ**

PERSONALLY FROM THE PASTOR

Did you know that, worldwide, an average of 259 babies are born every minute? That means more than 140 million babies are born per year. Birth is such a common occurrence that one has to wonder why it is that we celebrate the birth of Jesus every Christmas. What is it about this baby in particular that is so special? What is so remarkable about a baby born in a manger over two thousand years ago, far away in the Middle East? Why all the lights, carols, and festivities?

In 1865, a 29-year-old insurance salesman named William Chatterton Dix was afflicted with a mysterious illness that left him bedridden for several months and caused him to fall into a deep depression. Fortunately, Dix underwent a spiritual renewal as he recovered from this near-death experience. During this period, Dix wrote the words to one of my favorite Christmas carols. I think he articulates why it is that we celebrate the birth of Jesus year-after-year far better than I could ever hope to! Dix writes:

*"What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!"*

Indeed, we celebrate the birth of Jesus every year precisely because the Baby of Bethlehem was no ordinary child—he is Christ the King! The reason we make such a big deal about this one baby is because he is the promised Messiah, who is God with us and God for us.

There are many ways for you to celebrate the incarnation and birth of Jesus with us during Advent and Christmas this year. Here is a look at some upcoming activities in December:

Advent Service Project

This year, we are collecting gift cards for Hope House, a local, faith-based non-profit organization that provides vital resources for teen moms. We are specifically looking for King Soopers, Walmart, and Grub Hub gift cards in \$25 increments. Check out the Christmas tree in the narthex to get a gift card tag!

Ladies' Christmas Party—Sunday, December 11 at 11:30 am

Ladies, please bring a small dessert to share and a \$10-\$15 gift to exchange!

Seniors' Christmas Luncheon—Thursday, December 15 at 11:30 am

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship—Saturday, December 24 at 5:30 pm

Christmas Day Worship—Sunday, December 25 at 9:30 am

On behalf of Teresa, Karen, and Rico, I want to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!

A YEAR WITH JESUS DEVOTIONAL

We hope you will enjoy the heartfelt messages in the WCC devotional—this year the devotional spans a full year. Most of the readings are on Sundays, but you will find some other special dates included as well. There are a few hard copies remaining in the Narthex (and we will gladly print more upon request). Pastor Matt has emailed the digital copy to everyone.

MUSIC AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

It's Christmastime once again, and I am very excited for the adult choir to share the Christmas cantata very soon. It is a beautiful work called "Love Came Down." The cantata has central themes of hope, peace, joy, and most importantly love. You will hear familiar, beloved Christmas melodies along with other beautiful, original tunes that we hope will minister to you during this season. The cantata will be presented during the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, December 18th. Please invite your family, neighbors, and friends!

The children's play is called "Deck the Halls and Trim the Tree." A group of children discover the real meaning of Christmas through a box of decorations while decorating the Christmas tree. They will be singing popular Christmas carols such as "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "Away in a Manger," and others. The children will be presenting this play during the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, December 11th. Once again, please invite everyone you know! May God bless you during this Christmas season.

Dr. Teresa Crane, D.M.A.

OUR WCC THANKSGIVING DINNER WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

Thanks to everyone who provided yummy food, helped with setup and cleanup, and participated in our Thanksgiving dinner. We are truly blessed!



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Saturday, December 3	10:00 am-noon	Cantata Rehearsal
Sunday, December 4	<p>* We collect <u>Pocket Change offerings</u> on the first Sunday of every month and use the money given to this program to promote and purchase materials for the church.</p> <p>* Congregational Meeting following the worship service—approval of the 2023 Church Officers</p>	
Tuesday mornings	8:00 am	Men's Bible Study—Gospel of Matthew Meeting at IHOP at 221 W. 104 th Ave., Northglenn
Tuesday, December 6	9:30 am	Church Women United-- join the ladies of our church and other local churches as they create items to give to local care centers
Wednesday, December 7	6:00 pm 6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Potluck dinner (bring main, side, or dessert dish to share) Adult Bible study (Romans), and Youth Group Choir
Saturday, December 10	10:00 -noon	Cantata rehearsal
Sunday, December 11	9:30 am	Kids' Christmas Play, "Deck the Halls and Trim the Tree"
	11:30 am	Ladies' Christmas Party—Ladies, please bring a small dessert to share and a \$10-\$15 gift to exchange!
Thursday, December 15	11:30 am	Seniors' Christmas Luncheon
Saturday, December 17	10:00 am – noon	Cantata rehearsal
	12:00 – 2:00 pm	<i>Lessons in Grief Group.</i> Please bring a sack lunch with you. Contact Judy Clay, Sharon Keel, or Kay Stevens if you have questions.
Sunday, December 18	WCC Choir Cantata, "Love Came Down at Christmas"	
Saturday, December 24	5:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Sunday, December 25	9:30 am	Christmas Day Worship
Monday, December 26 – December 31	Church office will be closed for Christmas break.	