

CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Bring your family and friends and
join us for an evening of food,
fellowship and drama!

DATE: Saturday, December 14

TIME: 5:00 pm Doors Open
5:30 pm Dinner Begins

PLACE: Church Sanctuary

PROGRAM:

"WHEN CHRISTMAS LEFT
RATTLER CANYON"

THIS IS A POTLUCK DINNER

- A-L bring: Main Dish + Salad
- M-Z bring: Main Dish + Dessert
- Singles: Drinks + Rolls

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR COMING!

(PLEASE COMPLETE AND PLACE IN OFFERING)

- Yes, I/we will be attending
___ Number attending

WAYS YOU CAN HELP:

- Setup and/or Decorate
- Cleanup/Tear Down



Poinsettias For The Season

You can order poinsettia(s) to decorate
the sanctuary and have placed

in honor of or

in memory of a loved one.

Cost is \$10 each. Please mark check for
"Poinsettia" and place in offering or
leave in office. List will be published
Dec. 15. Poinsettias may
be picked up after the
Christmas Eve service.

In memory of:

In honor of:



Name

Given by

I am ordering _____ # of plants for a
total of \$ _____ Check Cash

New Life in Christ Church
Nomination Form
for Elders and Deacons

The Lord has promised to provide godly leadership for His church. We are seeking men to serve both as elders and deacons. Please pray for the Lord's leading and evaluate the giftedness and qualifications of the men of the congregation and encourage those whom you believe God may be calling.

On the form below, please write down the names of those whom you would nominate for consideration for either the office of Elder or Deacon and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the office.

The Session will consider nominations before inviting men to join the training.

I would like to place the names of those below in nomination for the
office of Elder:

I would like to place the names of those below in nomination for the
office of Deacon:

Please give us ***your*** name (required) as you nominate candidates:

Your Name: _____

Christmas Gift Ideas



Olive Wood
Nativity



Olive Wood
Cross



Olive Wood
Bookends



Olive Wood
Lion and Lamb



Cashmere
Scarf's

We are blessed with an opportunity to support Baraka Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem during the holiday season. A fine selection of olive wood products are available in the Fireside Room. Please enjoy looking over these lovely items from Israel.

If you select something, please make your check out to Jerusalem Gateway Partnership (or JGP) and memo: Olivewood. Place your check (or cash) in the available box or give your payment to Christine in the office



One life.

What's it all about?

**Is there a God? What happens when I die?
Can I find lasting happiness?
What's a Christian?**

Find the answers at Christianity Explored

Starting Thursday 6:30 pm January 16 at New Life in Christ

Contact Church Office at (540) 786-4848 | nlicc@nlicc.org

or Craig Cuddy @ (239) 565-7349 | cuds4@aol.com

Dinner included (no cost) | Please let us know you plan to come!

Saturday, December 7, 5:30 p.m.
**MS/HS Youth Caroling
and Christmas Party**

Meet at the church for caroling to our shut-ins
and seniors. Christmas Party following:

High School - Plaia Home
Middle School - Greenberg Home



Sunday, December 8, 6:00 p.m.
Family Christmas Program

You and your family are invited to share a Scripture, story, vocal/instrumental song, or other celebration of the season. Contact Jonathan Allison or the church office to participate.



**When Christmas
Left Rattler Canyon**



**All-Church
Christmas
Banquet
(Potluck)**

Date: Saturday, December 14th

Times: 6:00 Doors Open / 6:30 Potluck meal / 7:15 Play Begins

What to bring: **-A-L** bring: Main Dish + Salad
-M-Z bring: Main Dish + Dessert
-Singles bring: Drink & Rolls

Please let the church office know of your attendance.

Sunday, December 15, 6:00 p.m.

Children's Choirs

Present a Christmas Story:

Three Wise Men and a Baby

FEATURING:

*Cherub, Angel, Trinity
and Youth Choirs*



Christmas Cantata

by Lloyd Larson



Presented by the Adult Choir and Orchestra

Sunday, December 22, 6:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve, 6:00 p.m.

The adult choir, orchestra, handbells
and soloists will participate in this
evening of *Lessons and Carols*.





IMPORTANT CHANGES to ONLINE GIVING

If you currently use Tithely for your online giving, or would like to give online, this is a CRITICAL update. Tithely will be unavailable for giving, starting January 1. You can begin to use our new giving platform immediately.

Introducing Pushpay!

We are happy to announce that we will begin using PUSHPAY for online giving at New Life In Christ Church.

Pushpay allows for simplified giving through a variety of ways, including mobile and on line.

By the end of December, we will move all mobile and online giving to Pushpay.

Why This Change?

Our online giving is important part of giving at New Life in Christ Church and we appreciate every person who uses it. We wanted this change because we believe that Pushpay offers a better product for you as a giver and the church as whole.

Better integration:

Pushpay better integrates with church financial software, saving the church time and money so we can better focus on our mission.

Better transparency:

*Givers can check online statements easier
Log into [Pushpay.com](https://www.pushpay.com) and see your giving history!*

Better Products:

We believe PushPay offers an improved church management system for the ministries of our church

Making the Change to PUSHPAY



Instructions for Changing to PushPay

It is very simple. To give online by Pushpay

1) Scan the QR code and follow the instructions there. It should be simple.



2) You can also use this URL in your browser:
URL: <https://pushpay.com/g/nliccva>

3) You can install the PushPay App.



4) Or you can text "Give" to (877)566-7559

Once you start using Pushpay, you no longer need to use Tithely anymore. After December 31, we will no longer be able to accept gifts by Tithely.

In mid-December we will update our website with the new Pushpay giving link.

If you have questions, please direct them to our Bookkeeper, Michelle Trampe after Church services in the foyer on December 1st, 8th, and 15th. We are excited about this easy way to give and think you will like it too!

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST
— CHURCH —

For Reflection and Discussion

Week of December 8, 2024

The Gospel According to Matthew:

“Do You Know God? Does He Know You?”

Matthew 7:21-23

Read Matthew 7:21-23.

One of the key themes of this passage is *Assurance of Salvation*. How do we know that we are truly saved.? It is clear that some think they are acceptable to God when they are not. How is it that we can be sure that we have been made acceptable to God at the final judgment? This is what we mean by “assurance of salvation

You may find it beneficial to read the Westminster Confession of Faith on Assurance, included in this Bible Study.

1. Make some observations from verses 21-22. Jesus says that some think they are entitled to enter the kingdom of heaven when they are not. They will not enter. On what basis do they think they will be admitted to God's kingdom? Can you think of some ways that people today think they will enter heaven, when maybe they will not?
2. From verse 23, on what basis does Jesus reject the claims to enter His kingdom?

Notice that Jesus is the gate to the kingdom of heaven (review Matthew 7:13-14). Everyone who wants to enter must go through His judgement.

3. Notice the claim Jesus rejects from verse 22, the people think that they are acceptable to God because of their extraordinary giftedness and spectacular actions. But Jesus rejects them because of their "lawlessness" (verse 23).

What does this show us about the kinds of works that matter to God?

4. What is the basis of our salvation, according to Ephesians 2:8-9 and Galatians 2:16 and Titus 3:5?

5. What is the place of good works, according to James 2:14-26?

Consider how good works are "necessary" ... they are the necessary result of true faith. When you flip a light switch, the light will necessarily go on. If the light is off, it is because the switch is not flipped. In a similar way, when we have genuine faith, good works will always happen as a result. When there is a lack of good works, it is because genuine faith is not present.

6. How do verses like Matthew 5:6 and John 6:37 encourage those who feel uncertain about their salvation? What practical steps can we take to grow in assurance of salvation?

7. In verse 23 of Matthew, we see the most important thing for us in the final judgement is whether Jesus knows us. Consider these passages and what they say about God *knowing us*.

John 10:27 - Jesus speaks to the "sheep" He knows. Why do they follow Him?

2 Corinthians 8:3 - Notice here how knowing things does not make us known by God (8:1-2). What does show we are known by God?

Galatians 4:9 - Notice we know God because He first knew us, meaning He loves us and chose us for salvation. How does being known by God encourage us? How does being known by God lead us away from sin?

2 Timothy 2:19 - If God knows us, how should that change our behavior?

8. How can you apply this passage to your life this week?

Westminster Confession of Faith
Chapter 18
Of Assurance of Grace and Salvation

Paragraph 1.

Although hypocrites and other unregenerate men may vainly deceive themselves with false hopes and carnal presumptions of being in the favor of God, and estate of salvation (which hope of theirs shall perish): yet such as truly believe in the Lord Jesus, and love Him in sincerity, endeavoring to walk in all good conscience before Him, may, in this life, be certainly assured that they are in the state of grace, and may rejoice in the hope of the glory of God, which hope shall never make them ashamed.

Paragraph 2.

This certainty is not a bare conjectural and probable persuasion grounded upon a fallible hope; but an **infallible assurance** of faith founded upon the divine truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidence of those graces unto which these promises are made, the testimony of the Spirit of adoption witnessing with our spirits that we are the children of God, which Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance, whereby we are sealed to the day of redemption.

Paragraph 3.

This infallible assurance does not so belong to the essence of faith, but that a true believer may wait long, and conflict with many difficulties, before he be partaker of it: yet, being enabled by the Spirit to know the things which are freely given him of God, he may, without extraordinary revelation in the right use of ordinary means, attain thereunto. And therefore it is the duty of every one to give all diligence to make his calling and election sure, that thereby his heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, in love and thankfulness to God, and in strength and cheerfulness in the duties of obedience, the proper fruits of this assurance; so far is it from inclining men to looseness.

Paragraph 4.

True believers may have the assurance of their salvation divers ways shaken, diminished, and intermitted; as, by negligence in preserving of it, by falling into some special sin which wounds the conscience and grieves the Spirit; by some sudden or vehement temptation, by God's withdrawing the light of His countenance, and suffering even such as fear Him to walk in darkness and to have no light: yet are they never so utterly destitute of that seed of God, and life of faith, that love of Christ and the brethren, that sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty, out of which, by the operation of the Spirit, this assurance may, in due time, be revived; and by the which, in the meantime, they are supported from utter despair.