

December 20th, 2009

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day, which is the Sunday nearest November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve (Dec. 24). The season of Advent serves as a dual reminder of the original waiting that was done by the Hebrews for the birth of their Messiah as well as the waiting that Christians today endure as they await the second coming of Christ. Each Sunday until Christmas we read scripture, light a candle on the Advent Wreath, and reflect upon God's word regarding the first and Second Advent of Jesus Christ our Lord. This morning we light the "Angels" candle. You are welcome to read Luke 2:8-14 in preparation for the lighting of our fourth candle.

"MERRY CHRISTMAS" FROM THE LANDENBERGER FAMILY

King David wrote, "As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him. For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?" (2 Samuel 22:31-32). We pray this Christmas that God would give you assurance that His work and intentions in your life are firm and laced with blessing. As a huge rock is unmovable so His faithfulness toward you is unchanging – even in times of trouble and major life interruptions. Lord bless you as you stand on Christ the solid Rock and celebrate the promises of God in Christ's birth! Merry Christmas! Love – Pastor Kelley & Jodi, Lacey, Lance, Reece, Grant, Brett, Brady, and Trent

JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE!

On Thursday, December 24 at 6 pm, we will celebrate our Savior's birth through carols, devotion, and candle light. Our service is less than an hour and will conclude with an opportunity to share some delicious refreshments before departing for the rest of this special evening. Plan to bring your family and friends, and start your Christmas Eve festivities by worshipping with us! (La Quinta Inn, 5500 W. Kellogg Dr – the hotel next to Denny's just off west Kellogg where we have met the last few years) BTW, Live Oaks will also meet at the La Quinta December 27, 10 am for our Sunday service.

THANKS FOR GIVING TO THE "CHRISTMAS BLESSING!"

Due to Live Oaks' giving spirit we were able to give \$1,000 in blessing to individuals and families connected to our congregation. Thank you for giving a financial blessing to those who could use this love gift at Christmas!

ELEMENT 26 NEWS:

No Element 26!! E-26 will not meet again until after the New Year. Enjoy your break!!

THANKS FOR SEEING CLAIRE WOOD OFF!

Claire made the move to Arizona this week to care for her mother. Thank you for sending her off in style through your expressions of love and commitment to partner with her in prayer. By God's grace we will see Claire from time to time. Please keep her and her family in prayer as she seeks to keep growing in God's love.

CAROLING WAS MEANINGFUL AS EVER...

Each year this annual singing of carols brings precious meaning to our Christmas celebration. Thanks for bringing Christmas cheer to the elderly residences of Sandpiper Bay nursing home and the Waterfront assisted living facility. Your presence was a blessing and a witness that God has not forgotten our seniors!

REQUEST FROM NICK HERRINGSHAW IN AUSTRALIA!

Our outreach locations and teams have officially been decided! I, along with three other leaders, will be taking 13 of our students to Cape Town South Africa! We will be leaving in approximately 2 months (February 7th) and will be staying there for 7 weeks. We are going to be there only a few months prior to the 2010 world cup so this is a very opportunistic time to be going! We will mainly be working with a few local churches and some with YWAM Cape Town, with their Performing Arts School. I don't know all the ministry opportunities yet, but we will be using the fine arts (music, art and dance) and going to villages on the outskirts of Cape Town to work with poorer communities, as well as being involved in church and kids' ministries.

Mable (the person with whom I am co-leading a team) and I are in the process of booking plane tickets, the best deal we could find was about \$1,700 a ticket. The approximate total budget of our outreach for each person, including the airfare, will be about \$3,500. Our students are doing well with having all their money, but it is us leaders that need some help. :) This is where I really need your help. Would you prayerfully consider and ask God if he would have you help me financially get to South Africa? Right now I have enough to pay my monthly expenses as a staff. However, I need to turn in a \$2,000 down payment as soon as possible! I know, it's a lot of money! I understand if you can't help financially, but your prayers are needed just as much for us as leaders and our finances, our team, and that God would really speak and give us a heart for South Africa! Thank you all so much for your prayers and support! If you are able to give, please make your check out to Vision of Glory Church and send it to my parents by the end of December at the following address: Jeff & Christine Herringshaw, PO Box 268, Rockford, MN 55373. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt. I love you guys! God bless you! -Nick

All Church Calendar

Sunday, December 20th:

Worship Service	10:00-11:30am Auditorium
Nursery & Toddlers (Birth-3yrs)	10:00-11:30am 300 Hall
J-Kids Junior (4 yrs—1st grade)	10:50-11:30am 300 Hall
J-Kids (2nd-5th grade)	10:50-11:30am 300 Hall

Wednesday, December 23rd:

Element 26	NOT Meeting!!
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Upcoming Events:

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Srvc.	6pm @ LaQuinta Inn (5500 W. Kellogg)
Dec. 27th	10am @ LaQuinta Inn



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

Sunday, December 20th—Brady Landenberger; Tonnya Lewis
Monday, December 21st—Dusty Elliott; Emily Wolf
Wednesday, December 23rd—Kelley Landenberger

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please fill out a "Welcome Card" with the correct information and place it in the offering box on the back table.