



# The Outer Leaf

Live Oaks  
Community Church

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*"Leading edge news and views of the ministries of Live Oaks Community Church"*

## Getting Into The Christmas Spirit

On Tuesday, November 11 our family made history. For the first time in Landenberger annals our Christmas lights were on our house almost three weeks before Thanksgiving – and they worked! No, we did not pay to have them put up, and our lights only stretch the roof line and around the garage door opening – nevertheless, we finally took a new step to be more prepared ahead for Christmas.

As we trimmed bushes, raked leaves, and installed hooks in preparation for trimming the house and landscape with lights one son remarked, "Man, I am starting to get into the Christmas spirit! But, Christmas is still so far away!" At which I responded, "That is ok – stay in the Christmas spirit! Keep preparing to celebrate it well. Christmas will be here sooner than you think!"

When you see and experience "spirit" it is because an individual or group has made an effort to prepare along with a commitment to participate. Outsiders and rival schools see "school spirit" when a student body works enthusiastically in preparation for homecoming and everyone participates. Athletic teams and musical bands know that it

takes practice and a total commitment days, weeks and sometimes months in advance to flip the "spirit switch" come go time!



Getting into the Christmas spirit in your family and church is no different. Once you and I begin to take steps in preparation to celebrate Christmas well within our family and in our church... once we make a commitment to participate fully in our different roles... once we open up and give instead of hold back... we will find the Christmas Spirit and pass it on!

Christmas is upon us! Yet, it is never too late to give of your gifts, love, and presence. The time of preparation is getting short, but there is still time to participate fully... Buy gifts! Enjoy good food! Practice family traditions! Love deeply! Be at every church activity! Let the Word of God dwell within you richly! And worship with all your heart the Savior who was born for you!

Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Kelley & Jodi  
Lacey, Lance, Reece, Grant, Brett, Brady, and Trent

## Don't Forget Jesus

By: M.S. Lowndes



Christmas is a special time  
To reflect on Jesus Christ  
The wonder of His lowly birth  
Brings meaning to our lives

There really is no other reason  
We celebrate this day  
The birth of God's precious son  
And the life He willingly gave

But so much seems to distract us  
In the busy-ness of our lives  
We lose our focus in all the happenings  
Not knowing, we leave out Christ

We lose sight of the true meaning  
As we endlessly rush about  
Trying to find that perfect gift  
Seems to cloud our Savior out

We need to stop and reflect awhile  
Remembering our precious Lord  
His birth, His life and sacrifice  
And all that He stands for

For though the world may celebrate  
It seems though for other reasons  
Let's keep in mind that Jesus Christ  
Is the true meaning of the season





# Christ Bell



## THE BELL

### I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)  
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15 )  
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)  
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)  
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)  
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)  
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)  
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)  
I am free forever from condemnation ( Rom. 8: 1-2)  
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3:20)  
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)  
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)  
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)  
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)  
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)  
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22 )  
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28 )  
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16 )  
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12 )  
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)  
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)  
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)  
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)  
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)  
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)  
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)  
I belong to God  
Do you know  
Who you are?

## Upcoming Events

In order to help everyone be more prepared for the fast approaching Christmas season, here are some very important dates for you to mark on your calendars for the month of December. Dates and times subject to change, but we will notify you of such changes should they occur:

- Dec. 7th — Children's Christmas Program 10am
- Dec. 14th — All Church Annual Christmas Dinner at Cross Road 5pm—7:30pm
- Dec. 17th — Caroling at Sand Piper Bay Nursing Home at 6:30pm.
- Dec. 20th — Haag Open House at 1208 Arbor Meadows in Derby from 6-8:30pm
- Dec. 24th — Christmas Eve Service at LaQuinta Inn & Suites at 6pm
- Dec. 28th — Sunday Morning Service at LaQuinta Inn & Suites at 10am
- Jan. 25th — Budget/Vision meeting 10am