

Parkside Nazarene Church

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## DECEMBER MESSENGER

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By LaVerne Kling

### O Holy Night

Would it still be Christmas without music? It's hard to imagine. All Christmas carols give voice to our adoration of Christ because two thousand years ago God's plan to redeem mankind began to unfold. When God moves we are lost in wonder.

God's love for us that sent his perfect Son Jesus into our world humbles our finite minds. Emanuel, Holy God living among us by choice, is beyond words. And I have always wondered about the people involved that holy night ... the Jewish couple Mary and her husband Joseph, alone without support of family or friends, weary and anxious from a long journey, in a strange town needing shelter to give birth to the Messiah! They always acted in humble unhesitating obedience to God. Though young, Mary was spiritually mature because she responds to the angel's message with pure faith and obedience. Joseph, a descendant of King David, was a reverent man faithful to the law, so he was understandably upset with her pregnancy. Yet he determined to somehow be kind to Mary and not bring her any shame. Struggling with this decision as he slept, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream saying "fear not", and instructed him to take Mary as his wife. This was the first of three times an angel would instruct Joseph to safeguard Mary and baby Jesus.

Then see the shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem ... young Jewish men, probably boys like the shepherd boy King David once was, beholding the light of a heavenly host telling them to go to Bethlehem and see what God has done\*. Having been brought up hearing about a Messiah, they run to Bethlehem to find and behold the baby lying in a manger surrounded by the holy heavenly light ... at once they knew the truth of the angel's message ... wonder of wonders! We know the truth too ... I hope we, too, excitedly spread it to others as they did. I also wonder if thirty years later they made the connection to Jesus, the travelling teacher/rabbi, who miraculously healed people and spoke of the kingdom of God. Were they in the crowd following him? "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

### STAR OF WONDER

Then came the magi from the East ... celestial astronomers or learned watchers of the skies. It's thought they were the hereditary priesthood of the Persian Empire. For centuries they had, in their possession to study, the Holy Scriptures of the God of Israel left by the prophet Daniel, Chief of the Court of Seers, who was exiled there. They knew of the Star of Jacob (Numbers 24) and the coming of a King in Judah (Daniel 9). They determined to follow the star when they saw it, travelling hundreds of miles, and were led to Jerusalem. Their arrival was probably a formidable entourage of men, scaring Herod as well as the citizens. When they left Jerusalem, the star reappeared, led them to Bethlehem. When it rested over the place where Jesus was, they were overjoyed. You see, they knew it portended great things to come. "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:17

The Christmas story about the young Jewish couple Mary and Joseph, the stable birth of Jesus, the boy shepherds, the visiting magi, and all the angels is full of rich cultural history as well as God's miraculous wonders. Wishing you a blessed wonderful Christmas.

*(If you would like more information, my sources came from Got-Questions.org)*

**\*Listen to the song Noel, or go to our website for the link to listen to it on YouTube. <https://parknaz.org/ministry-news/parkside-monthly-messenger/>**

**Weekly Services: (services: in person & online)**

**Sundays at 10:00 a.m.** Go to: [www.facebook.com/parknaz/](http://www.facebook.com/parknaz/)  
[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) Parkside Nazarene Church

**Life Groups are weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays!**

Go to: <https://parknaz.org/ministry-news/> for details

**Weekly Prayer: Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m.**

# The December Messenger Continued..

## SIGNIFICANT DECEMBER DATES:

01: 1st Sunday of Advent– Hope

01: College Package Treats Due

03: Cookies & Convo– Mrs. Kizzee’s

05: NCO Christmas Dinner

08: 2nd Sunday of Advent– Peace

08: Giving Tree Gifts Due

13: CCC Christmas Program

14: Parsonage Open House

15: 3rd Sunday of Advent– Joy

22: 4th Sunday of Advent– Love

22: Carols & Lights Service

25: Christmas Day!

31: New Year’s Eve



## MERRY CHRISTMAS!



It's the most wonderful time of the year! December is here, and we are thrilled to bring the joy of the season into our program.

Our teachers and children have been hard at work preparing for the Christmas Concert. The sound of cheerful Christmas songs fills our hallways daily! Mark your calendars — the concert will take place on **Friday, December 13, at 4:00 PM in the sanctuary**, followed by a festive cookie reception.

Please note that we will be **CLOSED** on **December 23, 24, 25, 31, and January 1** as we celebrate Christmas and ring in the New Year.

Wishing you and your family the merriest Christmas and a Happy New Year!

If you have any questions regarding the Child Care Center, please contact Cheryl Sczcepanski or Nancy Lain in the school office.

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY

The Giving Tree is up and gift ideas are hanging from it in the foyer. **Please return wrapped/gift bagged presents by Sunday, December 8. Please include the coded tag on top of the gift.** If able, please include a gift receipt inside the package. Contact Joanne in the Church Office with any questions.



## December Birthdays

Alex Burnham	12
Rev James Laker	16
Scott Ward	18
Joanne Murphy	21
Romeo DeMeo	25

## COOKIES & CONVERSATION

Vivian is inviting all ladies to her home on Tuesday, December 3 at 2:00 p.m. for Cookies, Coffee and Conversation. If able, please bring cookies to eat and cookies to share. Contact the Church Office if you need her address.



## CHRISTMAS EVENTS/SERVICES

01: 1st Sunday of Advent– Hope: 10:00 a.m.

03: Cookies & Conversation: 2:00 p.m. Hosted by Vivian Kizzee

08: 2nd Sunday of Advent– Peace: 10:00 a.m.

13: Child Care Center Christmas Program: 4:00 p.m.

14: Christmas Open House: 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Hosted by the Lain’s at the Parsonage

15: 3rd Sunday of Advent– Joy: 10:00 a.m.

22: 4th Sunday of Advent– Love: 10:00 a.m.

22: Carols & Lights Service: 6:30 p.m.

