Out of all the characters in the Christian story, there is none so intriguing, so inspiring, so downright awesome as Mary. And I am very much aware there is something deeply ironic about saying that. We know Mary was just a slip of a girl when the angelic visitation changed her whole life. To call her "awesome" is to use a word we wouldn't usually associate with a teenager (though it has become increasingly common for teens to use it of themselves!) And yet it fits precisely.

If I can sympathize with Joseph's difficulty in believing what was happening, I am absolutely staggered when my attention shifts to Mary.

Martin Luther said, "There are actually three miracles here: that God should become a man, that a Virgin should conceive, and that Mary should accept it." And then he added, "I wouldn’t have!"

For a Jewish girl to bear a child out of wedlock in ancient Palestine was both a scandal and a crime.

Mary faced at the very least formal divorce proceedings, the stigma of immorality following her all the rest of her life, and the probable hardship of raising a child without a husband (for who would take her to wife after all that had happened?)

And yet we hear no objection, no excuse, no equivocation, no refusal; only: "Let it be with me according to your word." And - amazingly! - her very first action, after learning that, out of all the women in history, she would be the one chosen to be the "God-bearer" - was to go serve her older cousin, Elizabeth, now heavy with child (about six months into her own pregnancy).

If it meant being laughed at, ridiculed, rejected, if it meant hardship, Mary was willing to accept it all at the hand of God. If it meant having no husband to share her life, to be to her "a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy" (the Common Marriage Service) - then God will be all those things to her, and Mary will be content. I wonder how many of us would be.

What would be the response of most of the young women in our day if they suddenly found themselves pregnant out of wedlock? Or most of their boyfriends? Or most of their parents?

(Of course, the circumstances of Mary's situation were obviously different! But the possible consequences of her pregnancy were not.)

What I find most intriguing is that Mary didn’t say, "Let me go check with Joseph, first." She didn't even ask, "Can this possibly wait until after the wedding?" She simply said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord."

How many books, sermons, and lectures have been addressed to the Christian wife saying that her obligation is to do whatever her husband tells her - even if it is directly opposite to the will of God? Just the other day I learned of a woman who has stopped coming to Bible Study...because it offended her husband. Of course, it did! He is not a Christian. If she studies the Bible she will learn that Jesus is Lord. And that husband wants to be her Lord.
Too often the great Biblical word “submission” has been turned into a brief for uncritical acquiescence. Biblical “submission” is the recognition that the one in authority - whether parent, employer, government, or husband - has the right to pass judgment on me; it does not mean that I agree with - or obey - that judgment. If it is in conflict with God’s word written, I cannot obey it.

The apostle Peter wrote more than any other biblical author about submission to authority, but when he was forbidden to preach about Christ his answer was, “You may judge us, but we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard; we must obey God rather than human authorities.” (Acts 4:19, 20; 5:29)

Mary did not check it out with her mother or father, with Joseph, with the chief priest, the Sanhedrin, or the Roman government. God said it, and she accepted it.

Mary was on the periphery of Jesus’ story from beginning to end. Scripture says she “kept these things and pondered them in her heart.” (Luke 2:51)

It was she who precipitated Jesus’ first miracle (just a little before he was fully ready to perform it!) They ran out of wine at a wedding, and she said, “My son can save the day.” There was a catch, of course (there always is). She instructed the servants: “Do whatever he tells you.” (John 2:5)

Mary and Joseph had other children after Jesus. Matthew 13 mentions James, Joseph Jr. (I think they called him “Chip”), Jude, Simon, and at least two sisters. (Some will insist these were Jesus’ “cousins,” or perhaps, Joseph’s children from a previous marriage. But there is no good reason to think that, especially since scripture calls Jesus Mary’s “firstborn” son.)

Possibly even more amazing is that - prior to the resurrection - Jesus’ siblings didn’t believe in him! (cf. John 7:5). Consider the implications regarding their view of the incarnation: “Yeah, sure, Mom, ‘Virgin Birth’ - right.” (And you think you have problems with your family!)

Mary knew from the beginning that her son had come to suffer and die. Simeon’s prophecy in the Temple included the prediction, “a sword will pierce through your own soul also.” (Luke 2:35). That is, as you identify with him, his anguish will become your anguish.

And yet Mary did not spare herself any of that anguish. She stood in open allegiance to Jesus as he was being executed for blasphemy and sedition. Have you ever considered the fact that she could have ended the crucifixion with a single word: “No, he is not the Son of God; he is Joseph’s son. He is not a blasphemer; he is crazy.”

But that was not a word she would speak. Because she knew it was not true. And only after the resurrection did the other children in the family come to understand and believe it.

And so may I suggest that Mary is the very icon of what it means to be a Christian. She was willing to be used as God saw fit. She was willing to have her body sanctified for his purposes. Note St. Paul’s definition of “worship”: “presenting your body as a living sacrifice.” (Romans 12:1).

The Christian is one who has been approached, wooed, and won by God’s Spirit, and impregnated with his new life: “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:27).

Mary’s whole desire was to exalt Jesus; to give to others, but first with a willingness to receive from God, and to be obedient to him regardless of what anyone else might say. May that be our desire, as well.

Christmas Blessings to you in our Lord,
Often, everything in society teaches us to move away from suffering, to move away from strangers, to move away from those who are desperate. But the Gospel calls us to do something altogether different. We are to forsake fear, lean into suffering, and to open ourselves to the stranger. Advent is the season when we remember how God the Lord Jesus put on flesh and moved in to live among us. God being born in a stable reminds us that he shows up in the most forsaken corners of the earth.

Jesus teaches us that good can happen wherever we are. Jesus comes from Nazareth, a town from which folks said nothing good could come. He knew suffering from the moment he entered the world as a baby refugee born in the middle of a genocide. Jesus knew poverty and pain until he was tortured and executed on a Roman cross. This is the Jesus we are called to follow. With his coming we learn that the most dangerous place for Christians to be is detached from others, complacent about the suffering around us. This month, Cross Currents is filled with opportunities for serving others. This Advent God the Lord Jesus wants to move in among us, using our gifts and talents to change the hearts and lives of those in our community.

Teresa of Avila wrote, “Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion is to look out into the world; yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good, yours are the hands with which God is to bless people now.”

As you read through Cross Currents this month, prayerfully consider where you can “move in” and serve. May God bless you in this joyous season.

Would you like to serve as a prayer counselor Sunday mornings after the services? When our pastors give an invitation, often people respond asking for prayer or seeking salvation. We would like to have prayer counselors at every service. If you would like to serve in this role, there will be training on January 13th & 27th. Please log on to the church website, or contact the office to sign up for this training.

Living Water Community Clinic is seeking volunteers to help with security Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. Please log on to the clinic website to fill out an application to serve at the clinic.

www.livingwaterclinic.life
As we prepare our hearts for this Advent season, we joyfully and eagerly celebrate the arrival of the Son of God, God in the flesh. However, when we realize that sadly, much of the world does not reflect the celebration of the first coming of the Savior of the world, nor the anticipation of the second coming of Jesus. Fear, sadness, and despair can quickly become our world and we scarcely reflect the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Remember, “God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Founder’s Room for “Starting Point” a new small group for Young Adults and Young Families where together we dive into God’s Word to learn and grow. Also, please join us on Wednesday, December 19th as we share the joy of the Gospel through song and sing Christmas carols in our community. Come out for dinner in the Friendship Hall, then we will divide up and serenade the community, singing songs of glad tidings.

Enthusiastically his,

Preparing for Advent
By Rev. Jordan Medas, Associate Pastor
Bereavement Ministry Committee
Night of Remembrance rescheduled for spring. The committee met and covered some important topics in regard to Grief Share and the special service we have each year remembering our loved ones. It has been decided that our past practice of holding a service in December should be moved to another time of the year. It is a very difficult time for those who mourn, to honor their loved ones in December. The majority of these types of services are held in November and March and our committee decided to have the service closer to Easter, the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. We want to make the service for our departed, an uplifting experience by remembering, honoring and celebrating our loved ones with a special service. We will begin notifying people of the service starting in February 2019 with the details.

Class Starts – January 14, 2019. This is a support group for those who grieve the loss of a loved one. The Grief Share Group meets on Monday nights at 6:45 PM. Please register on line at www.lowchurch.org/support-groups

Walk with Hope – for women that meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. at the church. For more information about the group check the church web site at www.lowchurch.org/support-groups or contact Minister Lemay 540-972-9060.

Our Journey of Hope® Cancer Care Ministry is now offered by Lake of the Woods Church. This program helps cancer patients and their families spiritually in the fight against cancer and is based on the Our Journey of Hope spiritual outreach program sponsored by Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA). Contact Minister Lemay to register or for more information.

Volunteer opportunities;
Shepherd Ministry meets once per month, connects with our members. Outreach Visitation, welcomes and visits with new visitors to our church. Contact Minister Mike Lemay for more information or to serve as a Shepherd.
"For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord, "the plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

This is one of my favorite verses. As I am jumping in and learning the ropes as the Children's Ministry Director, I’m reminded and hopeful of God’s plan for the children at The Lake of the Woods Church. As Christmas draws near let us stop and reflect on the reason for the season and what God has planned for you and your walk with him.

Have you been wondering how you can get plugged in at church? Have you thought about working with the children in some way? We welcome all to come and assist us in the Children’s Ministry.

I would ask you to consider the children this Christmas season. Consider how you can show a child at The Lake of the Woods Church your heart for Jesus. Help them and show them how Jesus is our very best friend and how he is always there for us no matter what we face in life. He already knows our hearts and our plans, and it is good. Stop in and visit with me. We can find where your talents can help our children and families grow at LOWC. I’m excited about the future and the plans God has for our children.

Many Blessings,

Mandy

Upcoming December Activities:
December 5th: Children’s Craft Workshop Discovery Zone
December 12th: Christmas Emoji Lesson and Craft
December 19th: Family Christmas Caroling

PLEASE NOTE: This is a family event - Parents/Guardians must attend with Children - NO regular Wednesday night drop off for this event.

December 26: NO KIDS CLUB - Winter Break!
Can You believe it’s almost Christmas!? We had our annual Preschool Thanksgiving Program on November 9th....Everyone had a great time. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate. Pastor Jordan Medas welcomed our guests and provided the Thanksgiving message. We hope you can join us for our Preschool Christmas Breakfast and Christmas Program on Friday, December 7th at 9:00 a.m. with breakfast in the Discovery Zone. The Children will present their Program in the Worship Center, immediately following the breakfast.

The Child Care Center and Preschool will be closed December 24th through January 1st.

As always, we ask and thank you for your prayers and support.
Dear Church Family,

Our teen missionaries and the many who send them to the mission field gathered again this fall at the “Go Ye Therefore Banquet” to celebrate God’s goodness and his many marvelous works in the past summer mission field. The teen missionaries, dressed in black and white attire, served a delicious meal from Clearwater Grille under a canopy of white lights. Each table was meticulously decorated and set for our treasured guests. During the meal, our teens shared their testimonies from the mission field. All hearts were deeply moved by the sense of “God in our midst” as each story of young souls saved was recounted in detail. Afterwards, teens guided their guests through an art gallery of pictures from the summer mission field. Upon celebrating all that had been accomplished for the Kingdom, our guests gave generously to help our young people “go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations” in summer of 2019.

Having celebrated, we turned our focus to the task at hand, raising the necessary funds to do it all over again. Our teens, who plan to carry the gospel message through sports camp to the young people of Navajo Nation and to the young people in our own community, who need our help. Our church family and local community mobilized in two major ways to raise these necessary funds. First, our Fall Classic at Fawn Lake raised over $12,000 with more than thirty local businesses sponsoring the golf tournament. Even after the event was rescheduled due to the rain, we had a great turnout and a wonderful time of fellowship and golf. Our golf committee had worked tirelessly from March to October to ensure that every detail of the event was handled. The increase of support from last year was impressive!

Next, the crafters of LOWC did it again! After working all year to make homemade, one-of-a-kind, goodies, this special group of ladies hosted another incredible two-day Bazaar. Many bazaars have quantity. Other bazaars have quality. The LOWC Craft Bazaar has both. The Friendship Hall buzzed with eager shoppers punching down their Christmas lists as teens carried the precious cargo to their vehicles.

Please join me in praising the Lord for the success of all three Fall events. The same God who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, is indeed providing for what He is asking us to do. So, we thank you Lord for touching our hearts with your Gospel message. We, then, thank you for the blessing of training and sending our teens to share your Gospel message with others. All praise belongs to Him!

December 2nd Luminary Sales Begin You can sign up to have a luminary placed along 1 Church Lane or Exodus Way on Christmas Eve. These luminaries can be given “in honor of” or “in memory of” friends and family. For a contribution of any size to youth missions, a luminary will be placed along Church Lane, and the name will be listed in the Christmas Eve easel in the Narthex. Teens will be taking luminary orders on Sunday mornings December 2nd through December 16th.

December 3rd Youth Leader Appreciation Dinner Adult leaders and spouses gather for food, fun, and fellowship as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

December 16th Luminary Sales End

December 19th Family Caroling Party This event will take place during youth group and will be for the whole family. We will gather at the church at 5:45pm. After praying, we will disperse to several parks within the Lake (how many determined by participation). We will reconvene in the Friendship Hall at 7:00 for Chick-Fil-A nuggets, hot cocoa, cookies, and a Christmas message. There will be a family photo opportunity as well, so be sure to wear your most festive (tacky) Christmas sweater!

December 24th Luminary Set-Up Teens who are interested and available will set up luminaries along One Church Lane and Exodus Way at 3:00pm. Luminary clean-up will take place at 11:00pm. Set up and clean up do not require a lot of time.

December 26th No Youth Group
Every evening young people, and women are trafficked throughout the world into horrific situations where their bodies are abused for the gratification of others. Those who have been trapped in this slavery often feel abandoned, hopeless, and forgotten. The Bible says in Isaiah 58:6 “Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?”

Shared Hope International exists to carry out this verse among victims trapped in sex slavery. Their mission: Shared Hope International strives to prevent the conditions that foster sex trafficking, restore victims of sex slavery, and bring justice to vulnerable women, boys and girls. They envision a world passionately opposed to sex trafficking and a community committed to helping survivors build lives of purpose, value, and choice – one life at a time.

Shared Hope International was established in 1998 to provide hope to hopeless women, boys and girls whom Congresswoman Linda Smith found enslaved in the brothels of Mumbai. Their early efforts targeted the international sex trafficking industry. But as they became established leaders in the global movement to end sex slavery, their eyes were opened to the scourge of sex trafficking in the US as well.

“We could not ignore this injustice, so we expanded our work to bring hope to American women, boys and girls victimized by the commercial sex industry. Today we are privileged to serve as a 20-year leader in the movement to end child sex trafficking.” Shared Hope International is currently operated by a staff of 20, and supported by an incredible army of nearly 1000 volunteer Ambassadors of Hope serving in 47 states in the US.

All around the world Shared Hope children are dreaming, hoping, and wishing! Yes, even dreaming of what they will get for Christmas! Some were born in brothels and pulled from harm’s way as toddlers, others were young girls sold to the lust of men willing to pay for a few minutes with these children. But children at Shared Hope have dreams not much different than children in our own family. They are safe in homes and dreaming of Christmas.

The boys with towels flowing from their back ....imagining they are super heroes, wanting the super hero pajamas. Some of the girls want to be Wonder Woman.... and at times in the same day they want to be a princess with a wand and tiara. Soon dreams grow from focusing on the question ‘what do I want to be when I grow up to who do I want in my life?’ But we know that you can't dream of a future when you are not safe, don't belong, and live in constant fear and pain.

Some have found the restorer of dreams at Shared Hope. This is true for thousands of young women, young men, and children. Shared Hope assures that the children have a safe permanent place to call home, a place with their own bed with no fears of hurt in the night, where they get up to a good breakfast, put on their uniforms, pack their books and lunches in their back packs and head safely to school, a place where they can count on someone to help with the homework, a place to play, and a hot evening meal to carry them over to breakfast. Shared Hope offers the children an opportunity to experience peace and joy, the same joy that Jesus brought to the world so many years ago. That message of hope finds a special place in the hearts of the children and women rescued by Shared Hope, a Gospel message of peace on earth and good will. Pray for Shared Hope that God will continue to raise up staff and volunteers to help break the yoke of slavery, and loosen the chains of injustice.

Shared Hope International is a “partner” ministry of The Lake of the Woods Church, and receives support through tithes and offerings.

For more information about Shared Hope International, please visit www.sharedhope.org

Prayer for Missions

Our Father in heaven, you have told us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God: we thank you for the ministry of Shared Hope and its mission to end human trafficking. We ask you to strengthen the efforts of all who serve, and bring your freedom, love, and perfect peace to all those they seek to rescue, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
12/01  Linda Rupard
12/01  Warren Hamblet
12/02  Sally Goodrich
12/03  Lois Bailey
12/03  Tracey DeMarco
12/04  Gene Daly
12/04  Gladys Southern
12/04  Jennifer Lovell
12/04  Joe McFadden
12/05  Thomas Savage
12/06  Joan Schafer
12/06  Heather Naples
12/07  Jim Hopkins
12/07  Rachel Reynolds
12/07  Steve Dement
12/08  Tracey Williams
12/10  Ed Taylor
12/11  Janice Mackes
12/11  Bill Engels
12/12  Edward Rossi
12/12  Janice Mincey
12/13  Jeff Woosley
12/13  Samuel Jones
12/14  Lisa Kuhn
12/14  Holly J. Schwartz
12/14  Nikki Payette
12/15  Gary Duley
12/15  Jill Johnson
12/16  Julie Lovell
12/17  Doug Rogers
12/18  Edward Rozelle
12/18  Erlinda Wight
12/19  Stone Leighty
12/20  Wendy Boheim
12/21  Boyce Wray
12/21  Dan Gaskill
12/21  Wayne Thompson
12/22  Linda Vranken
12/22  Janet Sanborn
12/22  Joan King
12/23  Donna Crawley
12/23  Jackie Hill
12/23  Robert Haring
12/23  Dick Manthei
12/25  Sally Reder
12/27  Alice Ann Halverson
12/28  Kathy Strickler
12/28  Rosemary Mills
12/28  Daniel McGee
12/29  Sparky Watson
12/30  Lois Householder
12/31  Art Griggs
12/31  Audrey Schmidt
12/31  Laura Handy
12/31  George Schneider
12/31  Betty Collins

12/01  Frank & Stacy Kalder
12/02  Richard & Monique Wright
12/03  Scott & Shannon Smith
12/05  Don & Pat Cope
12/08  Greg & Christie Leitz
12/12  Ray & Toni White
12/15  Roland & Janite Hamilton
12/16  Danny & Dee Thompson
12/18  Charles & Mary Lewis
12/19  Bruce & Beth Sundberg
12/19  Randy & Robbie Royce
12/22  George & Diane Blackwell
12/23  Warren & Toni Hamblet
12/28  James & Kristen Miller
12/29  Eddie & Vicki Greenan
12/29  Craig & Diohn Benedict
12/30  Gene & Susan Santucci
12/30  Robert & Joyce Haring
7 Things Every Church Member Needs to Know About Charitable Contributions

By Richard R. Hammar, J.D., LL.M., CPA

1. If I make a contribution in early January 2019, can I claim it on my 2018 taxes? No, charitable contributions must be claimed in the year in which they are delivered.

   **Example:** Mary writes a check to her church on December 31, 2018, and deposits it in the church offering on Sunday, January 6, 2019. Her check is not deductible on her 2018 taxes. She can claim it on her 2019 tax return.

2. If I mail my contribution in December 2018, but it doesn’t reach my church until January 2019, for which year should I claim it? On your 2018 tax return. A check that is mailed to a charity is deductible in the year the check is mailed (and postmarked), even if it is received in the next year.

   **Example:** Mary mails (and postmarks) her check in December 2018. Her church doesn’t receive the check until January 2019. The check is deductible on Mary’s 2018 tax return.

3. Can I deduct the value of volunteer work I did for the church? No, the value of personal services is never deductible as a charitable contribution. However, unreimbursed expenses you incur in performing services on behalf of a church or other charity may be. For 2019, you can use a “standard mileage rate” to compute a deduction for any miles you drive in performing services for your church. Be sure to maintain accurate records.

   **Example:** John is an electrician and donates 10 hours of time to his church’s construction project. He cannot deduct the value of his donated labor, but he can deduct the value of materials he purchased in performing the donated labor.

4. I gave $135 to my church when I registered for a spring retreat. Can I deduct that? No, assuming you received benefits (e.g., lodging, instruction, materials) worth $135 or more. Charitable contributions generally are deductible only to the extent they exceed the value of any premium or benefit received by the donor in return for the contribution.

5. Is there any limit to the amount of my contributions I can deduct on my taxes? Yes, a contribution deduction ordinarily cannot exceed 50 percent of a donor’s adjusted gross income (a 30 percent rule applies in some cases). Donors who exceed these limits may be able to “carry over” their excess contribution and deduct it in future years.

6. I designated my contribution to the church benevolence fund. Is it deductible? That depends. “Designated contributions” are those made to a church for a specified purpose. If the purpose is an approved project or program of the church, you can deduct the contribution (if you claim itemized deductions on Schedule A).

[over please]
If you designate a $100 gift to the church benevolence fund, it is deductible, unless you specify that your contribution be applied to a named individual; then no deduction is allowed.

Contributions to a church or missions agency that designate a particular missionary may be tax-deductible if the church or missions agency exercises full administrative control over the contributions and ensures that they are spent in furtherance of the church’s tax-exempt purposes.

7. What kind of records do I need in order to prove I made a contribution?

For individual cash contributions of under $250: You must have a bank record (such as a cancelled check) or a receipt from the church containing the church’s name, and the date and amount of each cash contribution.

For individual contributions (cash or property) of $250 or more: You must receive a written receipt from your church that includes the church’s name; the date of the contribution; the amount of any cash contribution; a description (but not the value) of noncash contributions; and one of the following: (i) a statement that no goods or services were provided by the church in return for the contribution; (ii) a statement that goods or services that a church provided in return for the contribution consisted entirely of intangible religious benefits; or (iii) a description and good faith estimate of the value of goods or services other than intangible religious benefits that the church provided in return for the contribution.

The church may either provide separate receipts for each single contribution of $250 or more or one acknowledgment to substantiate several single contributions of $250 or more. Separate contributions are not aggregated for purposes of measuring the $250 threshold.

If you’ve made individual contributions of $250 or more, don’t file your federal income tax return until you receive a contribution statement from your church that satisfies these requirements. Otherwise, your contributions may not be deductible. Canceled checks cannot be used to substantiate cash contributions of $250 or more.

For noncash property valued at $500 or more: Other rules apply (see the instructions to IRS Form 8283). If the value is more than $5,000, you must obtain a qualified appraisal of the property and attach an “appraisal summary” (IRS Form 8283) to the tax return on which the contribution is claimed. Some exceptions apply.

For contributions of cars, boats, or planes: If a church sells the donated property without significant use, the donor’s contribution deduction is limited to the sales proceeds. In addition, the church must provide the donor, and the IRS, with a written acknowledgement (use IRS Form 1098-C) by the deadline prescribed by law. If the church significantly uses the property, the donor can deduct the market value. However, the church must still provide Form 1098-C to the donor and the IRS. Qualified appraisal and appraisal summary requirements apply if a deduction exceeds $5,000 (see instructions to Form 8283).

About the Author.
Richard Hammar, a graduate of Harvard Law School, is an attorney and certified public accountant specializing in legal and tax issues for churches and clergy.
Help Wanted

The Lake of the Woods Church Administrative Office has an immediate opening for an experienced Office Assistant. Part-time (20 hours a week) Monday through Thursday afternoons, & Friday mornings. Please stop by the Administrative Office to complete an application, or submit your resume by email to admin@lowchurch.org.
The Lake of the Woods Church
Chancel Choir
Christmas Cantata
Friday December 14th &
Saturday December 15th
7:00 p.m.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
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<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Bell Choir - Sanctuary</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AA Group</td>
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<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Pastor’s Bible Study for Men</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>LOWC Crafters Group</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Ladies Bible Study</td>
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<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Good News Clubs (LGPS &amp; LGES)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Senior Singles</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Shining Hands Ministry</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Praise Team Practice</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Choir Practice</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>MOPS</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Restoration Dance Preparation</td>
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<td>Alzheimer’s &amp; Dementia Support (3rd)</td>
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<td>Communion Service</td>
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<td>Family Dinner</td>
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<td>Youth Group</td>
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<td>Shepherds Meeting (3rd Thurs)</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Prayer Group</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Women’s Guild (1st &amp; 3rd)</td>
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<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Faithbooking &amp; Faithcarding (2nd &amp; 4th)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Second Half of Life Bible Study (1st &amp; 3rd)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Living Water Community Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>RISE Special Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Aerobics</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Malachi 3:16 Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>AA Group — Rt. 20 - Suite O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Men’s Bible Study Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Restoration Dance Ministry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION**
**SUNDAY**
**DECEMBER 9TH**

**POT LUCK LUNCH AT 12:15 IN FRIENDSHIP HALL**
(Please bring a side or dessert to share)

**MEETING BEGINS AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE WORSHIP CENTER**
Articles for the January 2019 issue are due by Friday December 14th at 2:00 p.m.

December 2nd - 1st Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday
8:30 Blended
9:45 Traditional
11:00 Contemporary

December 9th - 2nd Sunday of Advent
8:30 Blended
9:45 Traditional
11:00 Contemporary

December 16th - 3rd Sunday of Advent
8:30 Blended
9:45 Traditional
11:00 Contemporary

December 23rd - 4th Sunday of Advent
8:30 Blended
9:45 Traditional
11:00 Contemporary

December 30th
8:30 Blended
9:45 Traditional
11:00 Contemporary