

END OF YEAR GIVING

GIVING UPDATE:

Year end giving is extremely important to the financial health of the church. We are now almost through December, or 6 months into our fiscal year. We have received \$991,000 toward our budgeted income of \$1,278,000, so we are currently behind \$287,000. Let's close this gap. If you are able to make an end of year gift, it would be greatly appreciated. As a reminder, spending is also below budget. The staff and Session thank you for your generosity in any amount.

Budgeted Income Dec. 1-31 - \$455,000

Income Received Through Dec. 19 - \$227,000

CREATED FOR COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN REMINDER:

As you may recall LJPC did a major renovation of our Sanctuary and Children's Wing in 2015-2016. Pledges were to be completed by the end of 2017. If you are not sure you have completed your pledge please contact the Business Office.

GIVING FROM YOUR IRA DISTRIBUTION:

If you are 70 1/2 or older, you may donate up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA without paying taxes on the distribution. Daryl Bryant, DarylB@ljpres.org, (858) 729-5552.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADOPT A REFUGEE FAMILY: When refugees come to the United States, they may have nothing more than the clothes they are wearing but you can give the gift of Christmas celebration. Stop by the adopt-a-family table, and find a refugee family that you, your family, or your group can adopt for Christmas.

INTERFAITH SHELTER VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP: We are hosting individuals and families on a path to escape homelessness Dec. 31 - Jan. 13. It's a great opportunity to serve. There are currently needs for help with set-up before church next Sunday morning, and a few spots for overnight hosts. Sign ups and information in the courtyard. Jon Mangerich 858-483-9654, jonm360@gmail.com.

LADLE FELLOWSHIP/FEEDING THE HOMELESS NEXT SUNDAY: Each time there are five Sundays in a month, we go down to First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Diego to serve a warm lunch to 250 homeless people. This is a wonderful short term mission trip, and a beautiful way to cap the year. Meet at the fountain in the Courtyard before 12:00pm to carpool, or at First Pres. Downtown at 1:00pm. Find details at reception. Please bring clothes for Ladle to distribute.

ONE SERVICE NEXT SUNDAY: Dec. 31st there will be just one service at 9:30 in the Sanctuary. Rev. Scott Mitchell will be preaching, and it will be his Installation service as the Associate Pastor of Congregational Care. Come support Scott, and celebrate his call. There will be a reception following the service in LC1.

OPEN POSITION AT THE CHURCH: LJPC is looking for a part-time assistant to join our creative team focusing on the bulletin and administrative work. This position is 15-21 hours a week, (5 to 7 hours Monday - Wednesday). Learn more at ljpres.org/job-openings. Jim Sedgwick jims@ljpres.org

STORIES OF THE STAINED GLASS WINDOWS: Every Third Sunday of the month at 10:15am. Join us for a short tour of our Sanctuary's stained glass windows. Discover the secrets hidden in these incredible pieces of art. Meet at the front of the chancel. For tour information contact ronb@ljpres.org

GIFTS OF THE HEART is coming Feb. 24th. This is our annual Art Show showcasing the many artists of our congregation. If you are a member or regular attender of La Jolla Pres and an artist (full-time, part-time or hobby) we would like to see your work! Participation deadline is Jan. 7th. Please contact Jan Magot at jmagot2016@gmail.com for more information

SUNHOUSE FUNDRAISER THANK YOU: "Thank you all who came to support our High Schooler's mission this past Sunday by participating in the Raffle for the Farmers Insurance Open tickets. The winner was contacted this Monday and we were able to raise \$400, which is a great contribution. Keep in mind there will be future ways to support our youth, February 25th at our Annual Pancake Breakfast. See ya then!"

GOT BAGS & BLANKETS?: We are collecting reusable grocery bags, backpacks and new or gently used sleeping bags/blankets to distribute to the La Jolla homeless community. These items can be dropped off at the Reception Desk. Please contact: Melissa Guccini at melissag@ljpres.org with any questions.

FLOWERS: Dates are available to provide Chancel flowers for the Sanctuary. Carole Franks, 858-459-6520 or Wendy Browning, 858-459-6839.

SANCTUARY USHERS NEEDED: Join our amazing team of Sanctuary Ushers, greeting, seating, and passing the plate, only when you can, not every Sun. Be a part of "OUR La Jolla Pres. STORY". Ron Bolles, ronb@ljpres.org or 858-729-5511.

ONGOING EVENTS - MOST ARE ON BREAK THIS WEEK AND NEXT

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: On break for December and January. We are studying Acts 10. 10:00-11:00am in LC-4. Stan Beard, Stanb@ljpres.org

CHILDRENS CHOIR No choir practice today or next week.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MID-WEEK PROGRAMS: There's no Sunday morning, or mid-week programs this week or next week.

MONDAY NIGHT MEN'S FELLOWSHIP: On break and will not meet Dec 25th or Jan. 1st, but will meet for the NCAA Championship on Jan. 8th. Dinner at 6:00pm & evening program starts 6:45pm in LC-4. Men of all ages welcome. Brooke Phelps, brookep@ljpres.org

HEART AND SOUL: Resumes Monday, Jan. 8th 10:00-11:00am, and Wednesday 9:30-10:30am, Fellowship Hall. Exercise for seniors and almost-seniors. Brooke Phelps, brookep@ljpres.org

GOLF AND GROW: Mondays, 8:30am, Mission Bay Golf Course. Lee Browning, 858-459-6839.

GROWING IN PRAYER: Every second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, in the Chapel. Pastor Scott facilitates this class on prayer for anyone who wants to grow in prayer & pray more effectively. Scott Mitchell, scottm@ljpres.org

BREAKFAST & BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00am, LC-5. A Men's Bible study. Resumes Jan. 3. Rob Langsdorf, mctrob@yahoo.com

WOMENS BIBLE STUDY: On break until Jan. 10th Wednesdays 9:30-11am For women of all ages with Childcare Provided. Cynthia Blase, Cynthiab@ljpres.org

GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH: is on break until Wednesday January 10th.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY (CBS): On break. Thursdays, 10:00am-Noon, Fellowship Hall. For more information, check online at lajolla.cbssclass.org or for registration information, Jennifer, CBSJenniferS@gmail.com

WORSHIP TEAM BAND: Instrumentalists and singers are welcome! Tim Wingert, wingetti@hotmail.com

CIRCLE 8: Thursdays, 10:00am-2:00pm, LC-3. Sewing, needlework, quilting and knitting. New members are needed, and we are willing to teach. Bring a sack lunch. Ruth Preskitt, 858-453-0342.

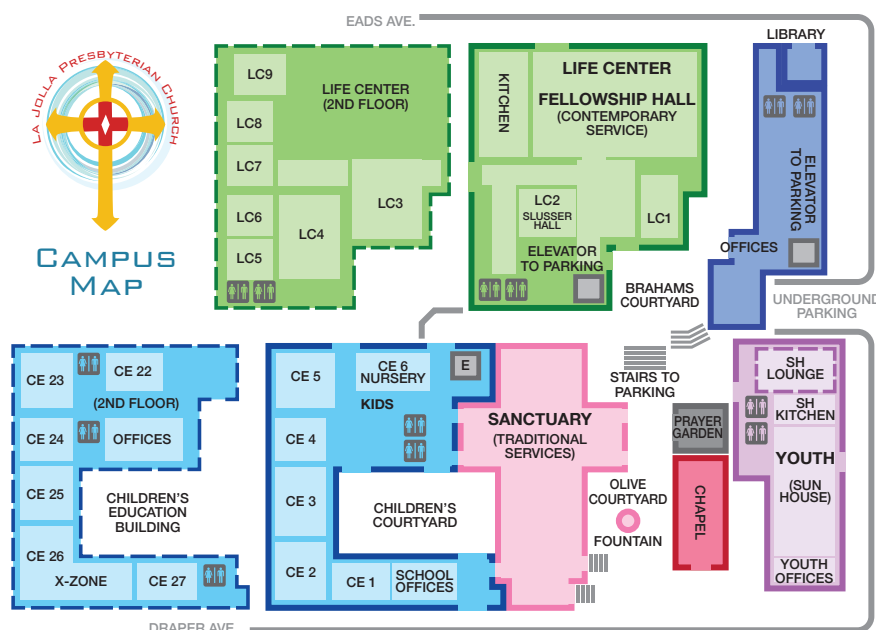
LA JOLLA BRASS: Thursdays, 7:00-9:00pm, Chancel. For more info, Colin Wied, cwwied@gmail.com, for schedule and information.

CHANCEL CHOIR: January is the perfect time to come sing with us! Thursdays 7:00-8:30pm. Keith Pedersen, KeithPedersen@pointloma.edu

HANDBELL CHOIR: Thursdays 6:00pm-7:00pm, LC-3. All are welcome! Jennifer Sedgwick, jennifer.sedgwick@sbcglobal.net

MONTHLY MOM'S PRAYER NIGHT: 1st Thursday each month, rotating homes, 7:30-9:30pm An evening prayer group, designed for moms who can't attend the morning groups, will focus on praying together and supporting each other. Cynthia Blase, Cynthiab@ljpres.org

#MOMLIFE: On break resuming January 12 LC3 Fellowship and support for those in their "Mom" stage in life. RSVP to Cynthiab@ljpres.org Childcare Provided!



**WE SEE JESUS TRANSFORMING LIVES IN THREE STORIES:
AS WE SHARE GOD'S STORY
AND HEAR YOUR STORY
WE DISCOVER OUR STORY**

CHRISTMAS EVE 9:30AM ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE *The Coventry Carol* arr, Hayes
William Lullo, pianist

WELCOME AND GREETING Rev. Scott Mitchell

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Andy, Courtney, Carter & Sydney Irwin
Justin, Melissa, Russell, Conor, & Holden Reyna

†**OPENING HYMN #192** *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Chorus - Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song? (Chorus)

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore, on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
(Chorus)

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION Rev. Scott Mitchell

While we have asked, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess having done so little with so much. Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee, for not reading Your Word, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins. Deal with us according to Your tender mercies, O God. Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of Your presence, and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ's glory. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANTHEM *Sweet Child of Bethlehem* Joel Raney
Chancel Choir
Dr Keith Pedersen, director

Sweet Child of Bethlehem; humbly we worship Him,
Son of God, the Everlasting Lord.

Lift up your Voice and sing, Praise to the King of kings.
Hearts rejoicing, great glad tidings tell.
Holy Savior, Jesus, Emmanuel.

Lift up your voice and sing, Praise to our God and King;
for unto us a Child is Born, a Son is given.

Sweet Child of Bethlehem, Kneel down and worship Him,
Holy Savior.

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning.
Come adore Jesus, Emanuel.

Glory in the highest! Glory to God and peace on earth.
Sweet Child of Bethlehem.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Rev. Mike Sedgwick

CHURCH LIFE

CALL TO TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY All Creation Sing (Joy to the World) arr. Rhodes
Please join us singing when directed:

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King:
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

†**OUR THANKS TO GOD #382** *Doxology*

†**OFFERTORY PRAYER** Rev. Mike Sedgwick

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-3 Page 1551

THE WORD OF GOD PROCLAIMED Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

“Let's Start at the Very Beginning”

†**CLOSING HYMN #180** *What Child is This?*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The Babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
(Refrain)

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
(Refrain)

†**BENEDICTION** Rev. Dr. Paul Cunningham

†**POSTLUDE** *Fanfare on Come, O Long Expected Jesus* Barr
William Lullo, organist

COME BACK THIS EVENING FOR

Christmas Services

AND BRING A FRIEND!

Make Room for Jesus

5:00PM - This Fun, Interactive Experience is great for the whole family, with Joyous Christmas Music, Wonderful Storytelling, and lots of Holiday Cheer.

Won't you be our Neighbor? Come join our special guest host "Mr. Rogers" and a fun cast of special visitors stopping by to say 'Hello'! Come early to get a seat, it always fills up!

Candles and Carols

7:00 & 9:00PM - Join us for these traditional candlelight services with hymns and carols, and a moving message celebrating the coming Messiah. Emmanuel.

NEW YEAR'S EVE, DEC. 31ST 9:30AM - Start the New Year right! Join us for a special New Years Eve service at 9:30am in the Sanctuary with music from the 10am band.



After the service, please join our LJPC Community and enjoy coffee and scones in the upper courtyard.

† Please stand if you are able. Our thanks for leaving your discarded bulletins at either end of your pew.

ARE YOU VISITING TODAY? Be sure to visit our Welcome Table at the west end of the Lower Courtyard to pick up your gift and complete a Visitor Information Card. If you need help navigating the campus, please ask us to help! And plan to join us again in worship soon. We're very glad you're here!

FLOWERS: The flowers today are given to the Glory of God by Duane and Gail Nelles in Celebration of the Birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

PRAYERS AND PRAISE: Healing and Comfort: Geri C. & Joseph C., Edith B-A., Theresa S., George B., Vlado A., and Carmello. **Strength, Protection, and Encouragement:** Jaime A., and Frank S. **We Also Pray For:** Neo and Ankit S. *For prayers, praise, or to be included on the prayer list, email: prayerdeacon@ljpres.org by Sunday night to be included in the next week's bulletin. Requests are held in confidence.*