God's Light shines on our dark places at Christmas!

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS:

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FOR KIDS



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

December 17, 2023 during the 10:30 am Worship Service

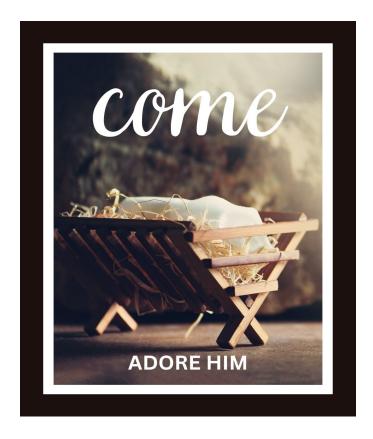
'Twas the Night Before: The Christmas Story for Kids

In this one-act, children's Christmas play, the story of Jesus' birth is told. As the storyteller narrates in rhyme, Joseph, Mary, the Innkeeper, and a Shepherd share their stories.

Nursery will be provided for newborns through 2 years of age.

NOTE: This worship service will be an in-person service only. It <u>will not</u> be live streamed or placed on NLC's website.





Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 pm in the Gymnasium

Glo-stick candles will be provided for children 12 years old and younger.

Nursery will be provided for newborns through 2 years of age in the Fellowship Hall.

This service is an in-person service only. The service <u>*will not*</u> be live streamed or placed on NLC's website.



New Cumberland, PA www.nlcfamily.org

FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARY UPDATES

Darin & Kathy Ishler - South Africa

The Ishlers begin with sharing that "The Lord is Good". A story about food was told and ended with a challenge: "Take a few minutes to thank God for His Goodness and listen to the "Goodness of God" sung by CeCe Winans. Next is a "Congratulations!" to Ella who has officially graduated high school. Darin & Kathy took Ella "...on an epic senior trip. Darin and the girls zip-lined, bungee jumped, and went for a helicopter ride overlooking the Cape Town harbor." In a few months Ella will return to the states to get a job before beginning college next fall." Praises they share are: 1) Tyler coming to visit for Christmas; 2) Great turn out for the Child Protection Workshop; 3) Kathy attended a Thrive Retreat. Prayer request are: 1) Waiting for their visas to be processed; 2) Church building plans to be processed quickly; 3) Their health and safety; 4) Wisdom as their kids make decisions.

Tony & Becky Rizzo - Youth Action Ministries

Tony begins by saying Christmas is their favorite time of year. "The most important thing about Christmas and the Advent Season is the opportunity to worship the Lord and again fall in love with the Lord and His goodness to us, His children." The Rizzos then give an update on each of their children & families. "We thank the Lord for each of our children and grandchildren. We pray they continue their walk with the Lord and serve Him. Please remember them in your prayers too." Their update ends with "We hope you have a blessed Christmas and New Year. We hope you get to spend time with your family and loved ones. This is the most significant time of the year of rejoicing in the Lord for His goodness to us."

Kirk & Julie Zuercher - China Outreach Ministries

Kirk shares about the Open Doors Report on International Education Exchange. "This is an annual report detailing information on international students at higher education institutions in the US. ... According to this year's report, the number of students from China is holding steady. Chinese students continue to be the largest demographic among international students so the door to reach them continues to be wide open." "The opportunity to reach Chinese students with the gospel of Jesus Christ is still vast and one that we take on with great excitement." Kirk & Julie gave an update on their children Keving & Kelsie and their families. They end their update with "God is still changing lives one by one. He calls each of us to share His love with those around us. That is what COM is all about. Thank you for joining us in this work and being a part of our family around the world."

Nick & Darianne Serino - Alaskan Arctic

The Serinos begin by sharing about the Thanksgiving feast at the church. There were about 30 folks and many brought food and/or family. People gave lots of good testimonies that blessed everyone. "Darianne and I are so thankful for Bro. Jim Ferris from FBBC in Rochester, NY in 1977 knocking on our doo and showing us how we could know for sure we could have sins forgiven and a home in heaven from a King James Bible! Wow! It has been nothing but a great and miracle filled adventure ever since!" The Serinos are planning an East Coast Furlough this spring. There are over 15 churches to visit in a short period of time. It has been 11 years since they have seen some of their supporting churches! Nick & Darianne ask that we "...pray for more missionaries to answer the 'call of the wild' here in the Arctic. The harvest truly is plenteous but the laborers are fewer and fewer, is God calling you?" They also ask that we pray for their health - Darianne has a bad wrist and Nick "messed up" his right shoulder.

Charles & Janet Baldis - Slovakia

The update begins with "Thanksgiving is a time for food and family and fellowship. We were sad that we couldn't be with our family in America for Thanksgiving, but we were blessed to have Emma's family come celebrate with us this year. Another small thing we were thankful for was to have harvested some pumpkins this fall. Pumpkin pies and cookies are not part of the culture here, so it was special to be able to have them!" Charles & Janet celebrated their 40th anniversary in Ireland, then traveled to the US to be with family, especially their new granddaughter. Charles' father turned 97 and they know there are not too many more birthdays to celebrate with him. Prayer requests are: 1) There is a need for good Biblical worldview books in Slovakia, 2) A retreat for Slovak youth leaders after the New Year, and 3) As the Biblical worldview ministry grows, there is a need for a bigger team. Please pray as they raise the support to be able to hire more workers, and that God would provide people who have the same passion for Biblical Worldview.

<u> Hannah Strayer - Togo</u>

Hannah shares the story of 10 year old Martin who does not lack for energy, intelligence, or adventure. He enjoys playing and has joined in games with Hannah, the Ward kids and other students. "We play anything from Keep Away to soccer and Martin is in the thick of it cautiously running as fast as he can with his arm outstretched to help him avoid collisions and his ears attuned to the ever changing flurry of action. His inability to see does not hinder his desire to enjoy his life." Martin is in 3rd grade and is proficiently reading the Bible in braille. Over the summer break some school staff visited with him and asked him to quote verses he had memorized as they shared the Gospel with his mother. The staff asked Martin to explain the Gospel to his mom. He explained the Gospel to her. Clearly, he had been listening very intently in class and understands salvation. After more discussion, Martin's mother said she would accept God's gift of salvation. What a won-derful reason to praise the Lord! Hannah's praises are: 1) Her residency papers are being processed, 2) The shipment arrived and nothing was damaged, and 3) South Africa trip went very well. Hannah asks that we pray for: 1) The residency card process goes smoothly and quickly, 2) Students leave on break Dec 21st, and 3) The project for the Togo 50th to continue to come together well.

Sam & Megan Beard - Jeju, South Korea

As 2023 comes to a close, the Beards are thankful for a wonderful fall in Jeju. Three people were baptized and four couples completed their church membership class. They continued to see a steady flow of new visitors to Nations Baptist Church. Their co-workers Mike & Jill Ivey (Megan's parents), returned to Jeju following their emergency furlough. In October they led their people to begin praying and looking forward to the next step God is leading their church to take...planting a second location in "Shin Jeju" city! The small Bible study group has been meeting weekly for prayer, seeking God's direction for this new church plant. "We hope to identify a meeting space by February; please pray that we can find a space that is conveniently located near a major bus stop, as most people will walk or use public transportation. We're praying towards launching the first service on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Megan just had her check-ups and her doctors are pleased with her progress. She is now three years into the 5-year treatment plant reduce risk of cancer recurrence. Please continue to pray for her sleep and stress management, as this is critical to managing the side effects of her medications. "Thank you for your partnership to engage the nations with the gospel from Jeju, South Korea!

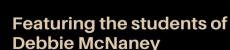
<u> Tina Baldis - Slovakia</u>

Tina begins her update with a thank you: "Thank you all for being a support and prayer partner. There's so much to love about Christmas. Whether it's the miraculous story of Jesus' birth or the cherished time we spend with family and friends, this is truly a blessed time of year. And I would like to share a few of my blessings...". In September, Tina & Emma began writing a Biblical worldview study (God's Big Story) which they use for weekly meetings with their girls from camp. In November there was a 13th birthday celebration similar to a Jewish Bat Mitzvah for Noemi. They "promised as a church to pray for her and help her develop into a mature and godly woman." The Lord has really bonded the girls from camp, as many do not have Christian friends outside of this group. The seminary undergraduate and master's level student that Tina teaches are required to take English classes. Tina was given permission to use whatever materials she wanted in teaching English. "Since I have a passion for teaching God's Big Story through Creation, Fall, Redemption and Restoration, I decided to use these materials along with aspects of defending your faith. It has also been a blessing that many have commented on how this class challenged them to grow in Christ and learn many new things. The discussions are dynamic and enjoyable." Tina's prayer requests are: 1) Hosting a youth group leadership weekend retreat for churches in Slovakia. Please pray as we present a challenge to view all of life (not just the spiritual life) from God's perspective; 2) Pray that God will lead in the research and writing of the Biblical worldview study on God's Big Story; 3) As the Biblical worldview ministry grows, there is a need for a bigger team. Please pray for us as we raise the support to be able to hire more workers, and that God would provide people who have the same passion for Biblical Worldview; 4) Tina as not been in the States in 4 years, and she needs to know when God would have her to go. She is thinking of going to the worldview conference that the Colson Fellows sponsor at the end of May/beginning of June. Please pray for her to have wisdom to hear God's voice in all of these decisions. Tina ends with "Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas!"

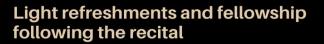
You are invited to join us for a Christmas piano recital

Dec 15th at 7 pm





Students will celebrate the Christmas season with piano music, rhythm cups, Christmas carols and more



New Life Church 530 Big Spring Rd New Cumberland, PA www.nlcfamily.org





FREE Admission to Public Event

Join us on *December 16th from 10 AM-8 PM* and experience the joy of the season featuring:

- A LIVE Nativity
- Walk through charming Drexel Hills and vote for the best holiday lights Caroling and <u>LIVE Entertainment</u>
- Crafts and Games for YOUth
- Hayrides and Sleigh Rides
- Food and Refreshments available to purchase
- Holiday Gift Shop available
- Pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus
- An appearance by The Grinch
- Check back for BIG Announcements regarding additional activities of this spectacular holiday event!

For more information, go to: https://thelink4youth.org/an-olde-town-christmas/

CONNECT CARD

Welcome to New Life Church! We love welcoming and connecting with people from our community. If you are visiting with us today, please complete the top portion of this card so we can connect with you. You may place your card in the basket when exiting the worship service. Thank You!

How did you hear about us?

Friend/Family Friend/Family Name:
Website Advertisement Other:
Please circle: First Time Guest Returning Guest New Resident Would Like To Be Contacted Member Regular Attender
Contact Information (Please Print - Thank You!)
Name(s):
Address:
City, State & Zip:
Phone: Email:
Family Information (Please Print - Thank You!)
Age Group (please circle): 13-18 19-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-65 65+
Category (please circle): Married Single Engaged Divorced Widowed Youth
Children (names & ages):
FOLD HERE AND PLACE IN BASKET
have a <u>PRAYER REQUEST</u> that I would like to share with the (circle all that apply): Congregation Pastor Staff I Would Like The Pastor To Contact Me

Hark The Herald Angels Sing / King Of Heaven

Verse 1

Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled Joyful all ye nations rise Join the triumph of the skies With angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

Verse 2

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace Hail the Son of righteousness Light and life to all He brings Risen with healing in His wings Mild He lays His glory by Born that man no more may die Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King

Chorus

King of Heaven come down King of Heaven come now Let Your glory reign shining like the day King of Heaven come King of Heaven rise up Who can stand against us You are strong to save In Your mighty name King of Heaven come

Verse 3

Christ by highest heaven adored Christ the everlasting Lord Late in time behold Him come Offspring of a virgin's womb Mild He lays His glory by Born that man no more may die Born to raise the sons of earth Born to give them second birth Hark the herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King the newborn King

Chorus

King of Heaven come down King of Heaven come now Let Your glory reign shining like the day King of Heaven come King of Heaven rise up Who can stand against us You are strong to save In Your mighty name King of Heaven come

Ending

King of Heaven come down King of Heaven come now Let Your glory reign shining like the day King of Heaven come

Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Jason Ingram, Paul Baloche CCLI Song #7019799

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Angels We Have Heard On High

<u>Verse 1</u>

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains

<u>Chorus</u>

Gloria In excelsis deo Gloria In excelsis deo

Verse 2

Shepherds, why this jubilee Why your joyous strains prolong What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song

<u>Chorus</u>

Gloria In excelsis deo Gloria In excelsis deo

Verse 3

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King

<u>Chorus</u>

Gloria In excelsis deo Gloria In excelsis deo

Verse 4

See Him in a manger laid Jesus Lord of heaven and earth Mary Joseph lend your aid With us sing our Saviour's birth

<u>Chorus</u>

Gloria In excelsis deo Gloria In excelsis deo

<u>Chorus</u>

Gloria In excelsis deo Gloria In excelsis deo

I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day

<u>Verse 1</u>

I heard the Bells on Christmas Day Their old familiar carols play And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth good will to men

Verse 2

And thought how as the day had come The belfries of all Christendom Had rolled along the unbroken song Of peace on earth good will to men

Verse 3

'Til ringing singing on its way The world revolved from night to day A voice a chime A chant sublime Of peace on earth good-will to men

Verse 4

And in despair I bowed my head There is no peace on earth I said For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on earth good will to men

Verse 5

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep God is not dead nor doth he sleep The wrong shall fail the right prevail With peace on earth good will to men

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, John Baptiste Calkin, Nathan Drake CCLI Song #7197591 Words: Public Domain; Music: 2022 Reawaken Hymns For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved, v

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Crown Him (Christmas)

<u>Verse 1</u>

Crown Him with many crowns The King who left His throne Creator of the universe Born to the world He holds And with that first drawn breath The Word has become flesh Emmanuel has come to us O crown Him all the earth

Verse 2

Crowned by the angel choir They tell His royal birth Sing glory in the highest height And peace upon the earth They break the silent night Announcing endless worth The King of grace and love is here O crown Him all the world

<u>Verse 3</u>

Crowned by their royal gifts Gold frankincense and myrrh Wise men approach this manger throne With honors from afar Behold the Son of God And bow down in this place The Prince of Peace has come to us O crown Him with your praise

Verse 4

Crown Him with many crowns The Lamb upon His throne Hark how the heavenly anthem drowns All music but its own Awake my soul and sing God sent His Son for me Now hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity

Tag

Awake my soul and sing God sent His Son for me Now hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity

Ending

Crown Him crown Him crown Him with many crowns Crown Him crown Him crown Him with many crowns

Chris Tomlin, Colby Taylor, Daniel Carson, DK Kim, Matt Redman CCLI Song #7179675

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP! New Life Church December 10, 2023

Unwrapping The Gift Of Light!

Four Ways God's Light Shines On Our Dark Places At Christmas!

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." *Matthew 2:1-2, NKJV*

⁸Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. *Luke 2:8-10, NKJV*

The Darker The Night!

- When we face the dark days of Disappointments!
- When we face the dark days of Distress!
- When we face the dark days of Doubt!
- When we face the dark days of Depression!

The Brighter The Light!

- God encourages us when we are Disappointed!
 - ³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. *2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV*
- God strengthens us when we are Distressed!
 - ♦ ¹³ I can do all this through him who gives me strength. *Philippians 4:13, NIV*
- God guides us when we are Doubtful!
 - ³ ¹² When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12, NIV
- God offers hope and healing when we are Depressed!
 - ¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13, NIV*

NLC's 2023 Verse

But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; *1 Peter 2:9, NKJV*