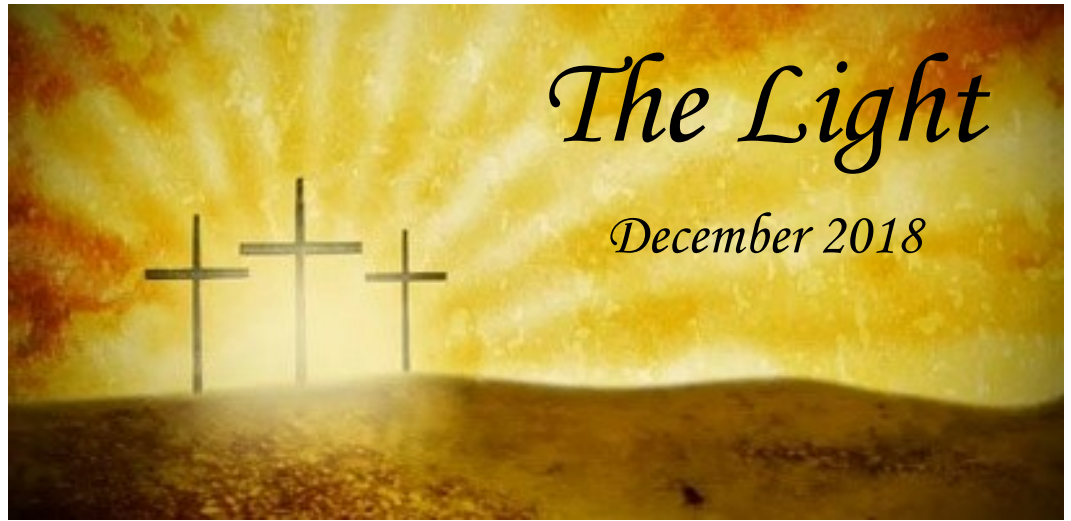


The Light

December 2018



EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
5515 WEST BROADWAY
PEARLAND, TX 77581
281-485-7833
281-485-5040 (FAX)
WWW.SHININGTHELIGHT.ORG

Pastor Jon Salminen
(Senior Pastor)

Pastor Nathan Misch
(Associate Pastor)

Pastor David Johnson
(Pastor of Music Ministries)

Light Fest

AT EPIPHANY

Saturday, December 8
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

*An evening of food, music, children's activities,
living nativity and **LIGHTS!***

Who can you invite to Light Fest? It is a great opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with our community at Christmas. Many adult and youth volunteers are needed to set up and serve at Light Fest. More information and register to help at www.ShiningTheLight.org.



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER

Did you know that Epiphany is starting an International Friendship Center (IFC)* in January? That we will be offering ESL classes on Monday nights and Tuesday mornings? Are you wondering how you can help the start of an IFC? The most important and powerful assistance you can offer is to pray for the start of this ministry.

In December, please join us in prayer over these areas:

- * Thank God for the opportunity to minister to the nations right in our church building.
- * Pray that we would be connected to those in need of ESL classes.
- * Pray for courage and boldness in the face of awkwardness and fear for the teachers, the hosts and the students.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for what you are doing in Epiphany and in Pearland. Please work in us to build friendships and through us to share the Gospel. Amen.

Thank you for joining with us in prayer over the IFC!
The IFC Prayer Leaders,
Donna Elwanger and Kimmie Misch

* An International Friendship Center (IFC) is an outreach to the larger Pearland community which seeks to build relationships with international peoples with the hope of making them feel more at home and prepared for life in the U.S. The larger, and most important goal, is to share the Gospel as the opportunity arises.



CARNEGIE HALL 2018

After months of hard work the Carnegie Choir is all dressed up and ready to go.

They traveled to New York City to sing at Carnegie Hall on Friday, November 23.



HAVE AN EXTRAORDINARY CHRISTMAS!

It was an ordinary sleepy night. The sheep were huddled together for the evening. The shepherds were doing what shepherds do in the middle of the night while the sheep were sleeping the night away and then boom! An explosion, a bright light and the ordinary became extraordinary. In the midst of the routine life of these shepherds from Bethlehem the glory of the Lord was revealed and it changed the shepherd's lives.

To these terrified shepherds, an angel of the Lord brought "good news of great joy that was meant for all people." That "good news", of course, was the birth of the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ, our Savior. For over two thousand years the good news has transformed the ordinary into the extraordinary. This "good news" has changed the eternity of all who come to know Jesus as their Savior. It brings life from death, joy from sorrow, hope from despair, and delivers from sin, death and the power of the Devil. No wonder it is called "good news"! In fact, it is the very best news and it continues to change lives today.

Sadly, we often miss out on the joy of this good news because we lose focus. Our lives become filled with so many other things this time of year that we become overwhelmed, frustrated, exhausted and burned out. I invite you to slow down this Christmas season (No, I'm not kidding!) and take time to spend time with Jesus. Wednesday Advent services at 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. are great midweek spiritual "pick-me-ups". Of course, being in the Lord's House on Sunday is the best way to start the week.

Whether you are new to our church family, have been around since the beginning or may have slipped into the unhealthy habit of not worshipping the Lord, this good news of great joy is meant for you. Join us as we focus on the "good news of great joy" so that in our ordinary routines, in our ordinary lives, the love of God might work the extraordinary.

In Christ's Love,



Pastor Jon





SHARE THE WARMTH

For the past two years, the Connect Ministry has collected new or gently-used blankets or coats for the homeless. We are continuing with this tradition to share the love of Jesus with those who are less fortunate.

Beginning December 2, we will have a collection box in the main building narthex to collect gently-used blankets and coats for the homeless. The items will be delivered to the Star of Hope the week of January 7. The Star of Hope will then distribute the items to the homeless. **Please place your donations in the box in the narthex no later than Sunday, January 6!** Thank you!



But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us ...

2 Corinthians 7:6 (ESV)

ADVENT

A SEASON OF EXPECTATION



JOIN US!

Midweek Advent Services
Wednesdays @ 4:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary
December 5
December 12
December 19

FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Family Life Center
5:15 - 6:15 p.m.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE TIMES

CHRISTMAS EVE (MONDAY, DECEMBER 24)

3:00 p.m. (in the sanctuary) with bells and the youth choir
5:00 p.m. (in the AFLC) our contemporary Christmas service
7:00 p.m. (in the sanctuary) with adult choir and brass ensemble
9:00 p.m. (in the sanctuary) with instruments and Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY (TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25)

10:00 a.m. (in the sanctuary) with Holy Communion



THE CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE

...and that means it's time for baking and enjoying those wonderful Christmas cookies.

Epiphany's LWML will hold the annual cookie sale in the narthex beginning December 19 from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m. (after the 4:30 p.m. Advent Service) and again from 7:45 - 8:45 p.m. (after the 7:00 p.m. Advent Service). The sale will continue Thursday and Friday, December 20 and 21 from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. during the Mother's Day Out hours.

Decorated cans and/or bags will be sold for \$5 and \$10 and filled with the cookies of your choice. Once again, we are asking for help with the baking and donation of cookies to help make our sale a success. All funds raised will be donated to a mission project. Thank you again for your continued support.

Questions should be directed to Linda Easto in the church office or LWML President, Tammy Earley at jdntammy@sbcglobal.net.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS AVAILABLE!

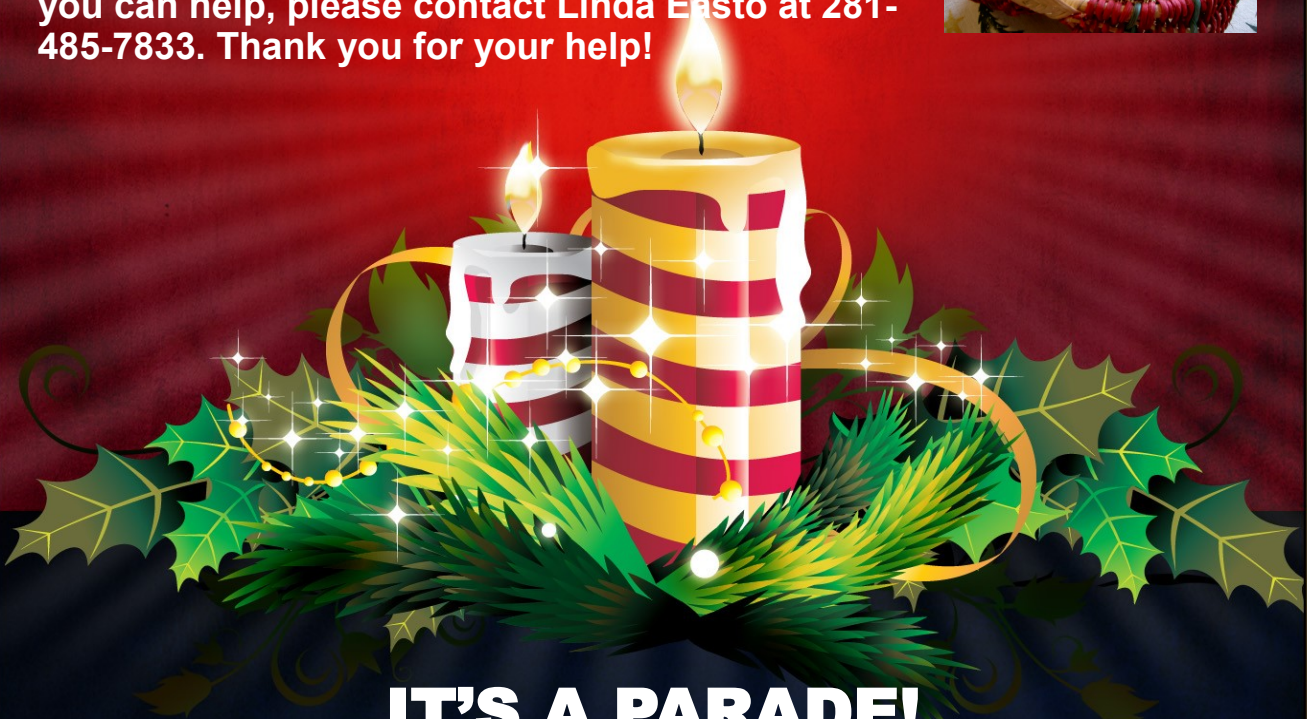
"The Coming King" is the theme for this year's Advent devotionals from Lutheran Hour Ministries. They begin on the First Sunday in Advent, December 2 and continue through Epiphany, January 6. Pick up a copy at either of the Welcome Centers.

Devotionals are also available on our website at:
www.ShiningTheLight.org.



HOMEMADE COOKIES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Homemade cookies are needed for the Christmas Eve services. Please label them for "Christmas Eve" and bring them to either kitchen. Cookies are needed by Friday, December 21 or before! Volunteers are also needed to serve cookies. If you can help, please contact Linda Easto at 281-485-7833. Thank you for your help!



IT'S A PARADE!

Pearland Hometown Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 1, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Join us for the Pearland Hometown Christmas Parade! It's the 37th year for the family-favorite, lighted Christmas Parade. Come join us and the city of Pearland as we celebrate 125 years of Pearland! The parade will take place on Broadway: it starts at Old Alvin Road and ends at Pearland Parkway.

A couple of other pieces of information:

Spectators may park in the shopping centers along the parade route at no cost.

For the health and safety of our guests, we ask that you please do not bring your pets to this event. (Service dogs, in harness, are permitted.) Food and drinks are allowed. Smoking and alcohol are prohibited.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS NOW!

Once again you will be given the chance to help adorn our altar with poinsettias this Christmas Season. Flowers will be placed on the altar on Christmas Eve and remain through Epiphany.

The following will be available: 26 - 6 inch pots of red poinsettias for \$8.50 each, 14 - 6 inch pots of pure white poinsettias for \$8.50 each, 6 - 8 inch pure white poinsettias for \$20.00 each, 6 red hanging baskets for \$28.00 each, 6 red mini poinsettia topiary trees for \$26.00 each and 2 - 5 foot red poinsettia trees for \$43.00 each. The last day to sign up will be Wednesday, December 19. Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board across from the main building kitchen. Checks should be made payable to Mary Lou Medack and placed in the adjacent envelope. No cash please!

THE HOUSTON LUTHERAN CHORALE

The Houston Lutheran Choral invites you to join in celebrating the glory of our Lord's birth in song. The 2018 Christmas concert, "Unto Us A Child Is Born", focuses on the announcement of the birth of Jesus Christ, God's Son, the Messiah. Our Christmas concerts will proclaim God's redeeming message through music featuring the first part of Handel's "Messiah", traditional and contemporary carols, as well as, beautiful orchestral selections.

There are three concert venues this year from which you may select.

Friday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Timothy Lutheran
14225 Hargrave Rd., Houston

Saturday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Memorial Lutheran
5810 3rd St., Katy

Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran
800 Houston Ave., Houston

Tickets are not required. We encourage you to bring your family and friends to begin the 2018 Christmas season in joyous song.



Giving Tree

Epiphany's Giving Tree

Return your **wrapped** gift by December 9. Please mark the age and gender of intended recipient.

Circle One: Boy Girl

Check Age Range:

____ Under 2 ____ 8-10

____ 2-4 ____ 11-13

____ 5-7 ____ 14-18

Brief description of gift: _____

- Pick up a tag from the one of the Giving Trees OR print one from www.ShiningTheLight.org. Please see sample tag above.
- Purchase a new toy or gift card (between \$15 and \$20). Mark the age and gender of the intended recipient on your tag.
- Wrap gift and attach the tag – no bows please!
- Return the wrapped gift to the Giving Tree by Sunday, December 9. Gifts may also be dropped off at Light Fest on Saturday, December 8.
- Pray for the recipient of the gift - that they may know JESUS, the greatest gift.

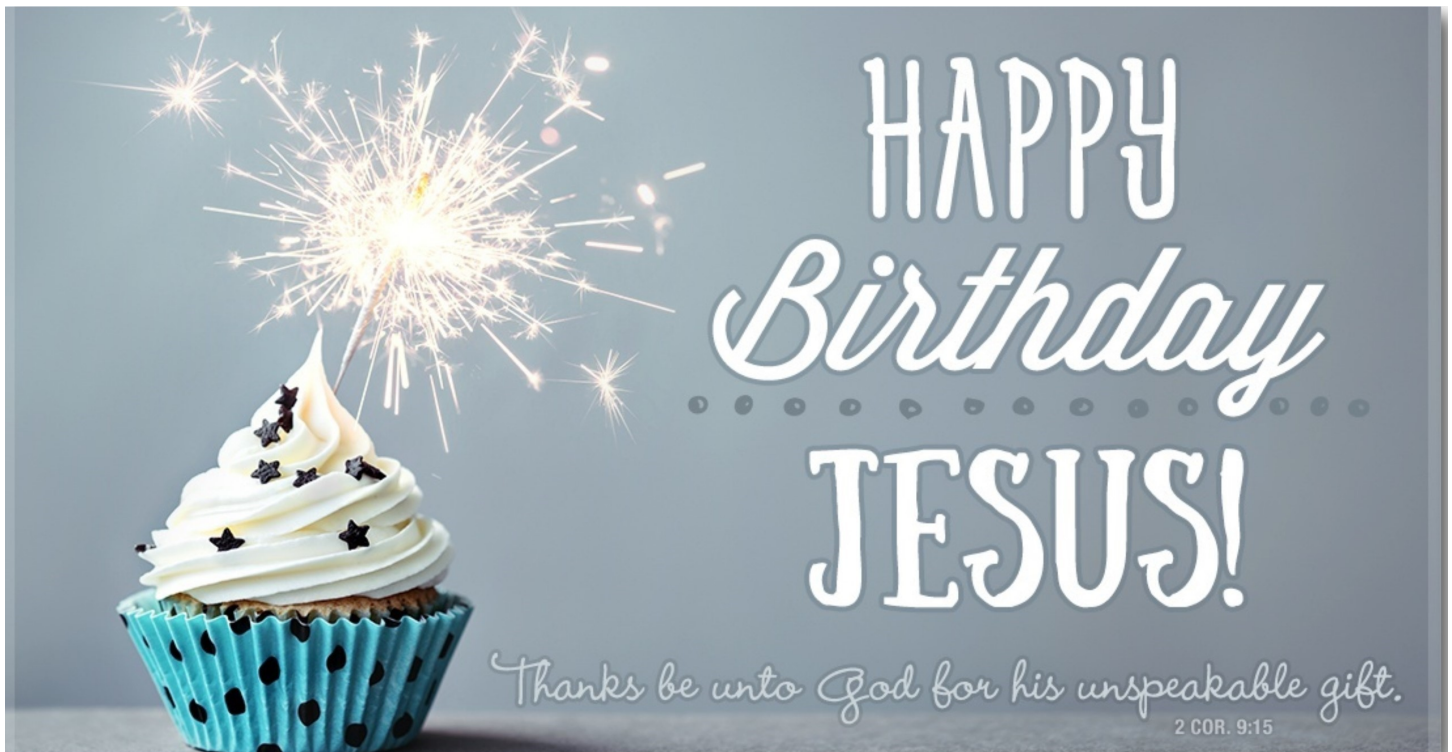
Share the joy of Christmas with a child! This year we are partnering with LINC Houston to bring Christmas gifts to children in Houston and impact them with the love of Jesus. The Giving Trees are set up in both buildings. Gifts may be purchased for any age boy or girl. Here's how you can help:



CROSSOGEN

Gym || Sunday, December 2 || 9:15 a.m.

All generations will join together for Sunday School and learn all about Advent. Plus make an advent wreath for your family!



Preschool - 3rd Grade Sunday School Christmas Party
December 9 at 9:15 a.m. || Room 101

pancakes and pajamas

**5TH - 12TH GRADE CHRISTMAS PARTY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14
6:00 TO 8:30 PM**

**OPTIONAL MOVIE: BRING A BLANKET AND STAY UNTIL
10:30 PM TO WATCH THE POLAR EXPRESS.**

**FOOD, GAMES AND OUR SKETCHY PRESENT
SCRAMBLES! PRIZES FOR BEST PJS! BRING A FRIEND!**



Grieving?

Know someone who is?



When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our ***Surviving the Holidays*** seminar helps participants discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- What to do about traditions
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to find hope for the future

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Please join us for this encouraging seminar.

Thursday, December 13, 2018
(One day only!)
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Sanctuary



www.griefshare.org/holidays

Please let us know you'll be attending so we have enough Survival Guides for everyone! Contact Cindy at 281-485-7833 or cindy@epiphanypearland.org.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Year End Contributions:

Donors must deliver or mail (and postmark) checks on or by December 31, 2018 in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2018. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2019 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2018, even if the check is backdated to 2018 or was actually written in 2018.

Deducting church contributions:

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2018 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

BILL PAY

Have you ever gotten to church and realized that you forgot to write your check for offering and your checkbook is at home? No need to worry again even while on vacation! Set up Epiphany through Bill Pay at your bank! Just call Debbie in the church office (281-485-7833) to get your account number for Bill Pay to place on your check. Then complete the Bill Pay set up with Epiphany as a "bill". This can be done on-line or by phone to your bank. What better way to manage your stewardship pledge!

ONLINE GIVING

We have partnered with Vanco in order to offer Online Giving. There are two ways you can participate in this:

1. Go to www.ShiningTheLight.org and click on the green "Online Giving" button. You will be redirected to another page where you can set up a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift. **(If you already use bill pay, just continue to do that.)**
2. Download the Give+ App for Android or iPhone. Search for Epiphany Lutheran Church by name or zip code (77581) and then click on Epiphany then follow the instructions to give from your phone.

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES - THERE WILL BE CHANGES

We are going to be reassigning some envelope numbers in 2019 in order to fill in the gaps that have occurred from members transferring and those who are using bill pay. If you never used your 2018 envelopes, call Debbie in the church office at 281-485-7833 by Friday, December 14 so she can assign you a contribution record number that you can write on your loose check. This will help us assess how many envelope sets we will need for 2020 and reduce waste.

LOOK FOR YOUR 2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES IN YOUR MAILBOX LATER THIS MONTH!

1. Please do not use these until January 2019.
2. If you like giving your check without using the envelope, just return the box and we will assign you a new offering number for 2019.
3. Please put your envelope number or assigned offering number on your check.
4. When using your envelope, please write the amount on the envelope.
5. Your counters thank you.



BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Brad Piel
 12/01 Lorene Bennett
 12/01 Lane Garner
 12/03 Pat Doerre
 12/03 Gary Doerre
 12/03 Jacob Raess
 12/03 Jennifer Barrera
 12/04 Tammie Allen
 12/04 Renee Hernandez
 12/05 Ryan Grych
 12/05 Gwen Gentry
 12/05 Evangeline Curless
 12/05 Elizabeth Kiihne
 12/06 Gregg Lynch
 12/06 Dawn Lester
 12/06 Luke Gonzales
 12/07 Mike Cloeter
 12/07 Gwen Ayres
 12/07 Rev. Vijay Gurralla
 12/09 Krystle Gutierrez
 12/09 Vernon Smith
 12/10 Terry Schomberg
 12/10 Erik Andersen
 12/11 Gail Kramer
 12/11 Karen Werres
 12/11 Elizabeth Stewart
 12/12 Ainsley Garza
 12/13 Aubrey Birkelbach
 12/13 Dottie Reimer
 12/13 Camron Otto
 12/13 Harrison Garrett
 12/14 Brad Hollis
 12/14 Michelle Gilbertson
 12/14 Luke Davis
 12/14 Karsten Quinton
 12/15 Reid Fichera
 12/15 Julie Allen
 12/15 Jaclyn Carothers
 12/16 Brittny Dombrosky
 12/16 Kindra Heinrich
 12/17 Cordelia Degner
 12/18 Waddell Heinrich
 12/18 Pastor Jon Salminen
 12/19 Rosa Kelley
 12/19 Sandra Chancellor
 12/20 Isaac Garza
 12/20 Evelyn Rohne
 12/20 Mason Barrera
 12/21 Denise Hager
 12/22 Jacob Curless
 12/22 Lynn Tharp
 12/24 Sophia Heer
 12/25 Kate Johnson Lausch
 12/26 Peyton Miller
 12/26 Donna Fay Reeh
 12/26 Craig Carothers

12/26 Cayden Birkelbach
 12/27 Kristopher Zapalac
 12/27 David Williamson
 12/27 Mary Wood
 12/27 Christopher Stewart
 12/27 Jonathan Stewart
 12/28 Virginia Keniston
 12/28 Christian Dick
 12/28 Debbie Dawson
 12/29 Thomas Holt
 12/29 Chris Moore
 12/29 Emily McDonald
 12/30 John Hartman
 12/31 Jodi Harris
 12/31 Kelly Tharp
 12/31 Debbie Dick
 12/31 Mike McDonald



ANNIVERSARIES

12/05 Matthew & Hanna Long
 12/07 David & Glenda Latlip
 12/10 Ronnie & Donna Fay Reeh
 12/10 Johnnie & Fran Walther
 12/13 Brian & Leslie Krause
 12/13 John & Pat Succop
 12/16 Michael & Vicki Jardon
 12/17 Dave & Kim Brackney
 12/17 Gregg & Chris Kiihne
 12/18 Jack & Katy Ostermaier
 12/19 Larry & Karen Helton
 12/19 Jeff & Pam West
 12/23 Larry & Sherry Cornelius
 12/27 Waddell & Marlene Heinrich
 12/29 Kevin & Gwen Ayres
 12/29 Eric & Miriam Helton
 12/29 Ken & Gloria Mills
 12/30 Rick & Lyn Wolff



NEW MEMBERS

Britney Campbell and sons,
 Colten and Cliff
 Keila Crews and daughters,
 Mikayla and Mikensie
 CJ, Jr. & Sonya DuBois and
 children, Kimberly and
 Benjamin
 Barbara Ellis
 Betty Gasaway
 Gary & Adana Mutchler

Cole and Trinity Snider
 Jim & Linda Tschoepe
 Susan Whitehead
 Randy & Chris Wuensche and
 daughters, Catie and
 Haylee



Like us on Facebook



www.ShiningTheLight.org

Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:00 am - Traditional Worship Service-sanctuary
9:15 am - Sunday School & Adult Bible Class
10:30 am - Blended Worship Service-sanctuary
10:30 am - *The Light* Worship Service-AFLC

*WOR: Worship
COM: Worship with Communion
SS: Sunday School
ABC: Adult Bible Class



Sunday

JANUARY

NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES DUE
DECEMBER 10!

Monday

3 Announcements Due!

9:30am-Ladies' Bible Study-203
10:00-11:30am-Bible Markers-207
7:00pm-*The Light* Worship Team
-AFLC

Tuesday

4 9-2 MDO

4:00pm-Bible Study-202
7:00pm-Board of Elders-202

Wednesday

5 9-2 MDO

4:30pm-Advent Service
5:15-6:15pm-Advent Meal
7:00pm-Advent Service
7:45pm-Choir/Praise Team

Thursday

6 9-2 MDO

1:00pm-GriefShare
-sanctuary
6:30-8:30pm-Homework
Hangout-204
7:00pm-Handbells
-sanctuary

Friday

7 9-2 MDO

5:30am-Men's Bible
Study Group
-MB kitchen
5:00-7:30pm-*The
Light Fest Set Up*
AFLC

Saturday

1

9:00am-Altar Guild
Christmas Decorating-
sanctuary
6:00pm-Pearland
Christmas Parade

8

7:30am-Men's Bible
Breakfast-203
9:15am-Elders'
Meeting-203
The Light Fest
6:00-9:00 p.m.
AFLC

Sunday

JANUARY

NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES DUE
DECEMBER 10!

Monday

10 Announcements Due!

9:30am-Ladies' Bible Study-203
9:30am-Goodtimers-104
7:00pm-*The Light* Worship Team
-AFLC

Tuesday

11 9-2 MDO

4:00pm-Bible Study-202

Wednesday

12 9-2 MDO

4:30pm-Advent Service
5:15-6:15pm-Advent Meal
7:00pm-Advent Service
7:45pm-Choir/Praise Team

Thursday

13 9-2 MDO

1:00pm-GriefShare
Surviving The Holidays-
sanctuary
6:30-8:30pm-Homework
Hangout-204
7:00pm-Handbells
-sanctuary

Friday

14 9-2 MDO

6:00-8:30pm-*Pancakes & Pajamas*
(5-12 grades)-AFLC
9:30-10:30am-*Children's Christmas
Program Rehearsal-*
AFLC

Saturday

15

9:00am-LWML
Christmas Party &
Baking-AFLC Kitchen
& 104
9:30-10:30am-*Children's Christmas
Program Rehearsal-*
AFLC

22

21 9-11:30 MDO
(Early Release!)
5:30am-Men's Bible
Study Group
-MB kitchen
9:00am-Noon
LWML Cookie Sale

Sunday

JANUARY

NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES DUE
DECEMBER 10!

Monday

17 Announcements Due!

9:00am-Quilting-202
9:30am-Ladies' Bible Study-203
10:00-11:30am-Bible Markers-207
7:00pm-*The Light* Worship Team
-AFLC

Tuesday

18 9-2 MDO

4:00pm-Bible Study-202

Wednesday

19 9-2 MDO

4:30pm-Advent Service
5:15-6:15pm-Advent Meal
5:30-6:15pm-LWML
Cookie Sale
7:00pm-Advent Service
7:45-8:45pm-LWML
Cookie Sale
7:45pm-Choir/Praise Team

Thursday

20 9-11:30 MDO

(Early Release!)
9:00am-Noon
LWML Cookie Sale
6:30-8:30pm-Homework
Hangout-204
7:00pm-Handbells
-sanctuary

Friday

21 9-11:30 MDO

(Early Release!)
5:30am-Men's Bible
Study Group
-MB kitchen
9:00am-Noon
LWML Cookie Sale

Saturday

29

28 NO MDO!
27 NO MDO!
No Bell Choir!

Sunday

JANUARY

NEWSLETTER
ARTICLES DUE
DECEMBER 10!

Monday

24 Announcements Due!

Christmas Eve Worship Services
3:00pm-sanctuary
5:00pm-AFLC (contemporary)
7:00-sanctuary
9:00pm-sanctuary
with communion

Tuesday

25 NO MDO!

Holiday-
Church Office Closed!
10:00am-Christmas Day
Worship Service
with communion
-sanctuary

Wednesday

26 NO MDO!

Holiday-
Church Office Closed!

Thursday

27 NO MDO!

No Bell Choir!

Friday

28 NO MDO!

29

Saturday

31

Announcements Due!
Both Services in the Sanctuary)
No Sunday School or Adult Bible Classes!
2:00-4:00pm-Basketball-gym
No Youth Nights!
Only 2 services!



IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS!

Nativity Hymns and Songs for All Generations

Sunday, December 16
10:30 a.m.
AFLC

From Heaven Above—A Children's Christmas Pageant
&
What Sweeter Music—A Christmas Cantata
(as premiered in Carnegie Hall, Thanksgiving 2018)

