

THE ECHOES

DECEMBER 2021

Stealing Christmas

7'0"

6'6"

6'0"

5'6"

5'0"

4'6"

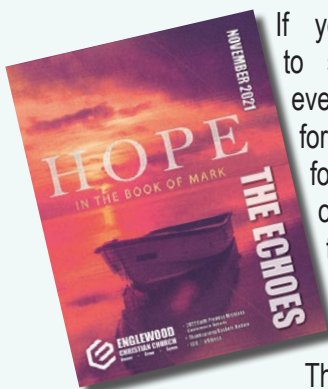


**ENGLEWOOD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
Honor • Grow • Serve

- Christmas Eve Services
- Lip Sync Battle
- ECC @ a Glance

So many times, we let other things interfere with our ability to enjoy and celebrate the Christmas season signifying the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This month, our ECC staff have selected various aspects of life that tend to hinder us or become obstacles to this opportunity. You might even say they “steal” Christmas from us. We hope you are able to avoid these hurdles and not let anything steal your Christmas this year. Merry Christmas!!

DEADLINES



If you would like to submit articles, events or activities for consideration for the next issue of *The Echoes*, the deadline is **Friday, December 10.**

The deadline for submitting information for the weekly e-newsletter is each **Wednesday at 5:00 pm.**

Please email all submissions to angelah@eccjax.com with any coordinating artwork or graphics.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
8:30am - 5:00pm

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School
9:00am

Worship Service/Children's Programming
10:30am

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

6:00pm Dinner

6:30pm Prayer Gathering

7:00pm Programming for all ages

Connect with Us Online!

www.eccjax.com



www.facebook.com/eccjax/



@ECCJAX

GET OUR APP!



Google Play



WORSHIP
Every Sunday
@ 10:30am

Scan the QR code to check in on Sunday mornings – get the bulletin, prayer list, online giving and connection card all in one place!



Contributions November 14, 2021

General Fund

Week 24 Budget..... \$251,976.00

Week 24 Totals..... \$217,783.88

Faith Promise

Week 37 Budget..... \$159,336.80

Week 37 Giving..... \$176,576.00

ECC Statistics

| Morning Worship | Sunday School | Wednesday Night |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|

Sunday, October 31

| | | |
|-----|----|----|
| 145 | 94 | 67 |
|-----|----|----|

Sunday, November 7

| | | |
|-----|----|----|
| 128 | 86 | 68 |
|-----|----|----|

Sunday, November 14

| | | |
|-----|----|----|
| 154 | 99 | 70 |
|-----|----|----|

Totals include estimated
online attendance

ECC Church Staff

Pete Ramsey, Senior Minister

Josh Colvin, Student Minister

Karissa Mead, Worship
Ministry Director

Serena Maerkl, Children's Director

Angela Hastings, Office Manager

Kim Owens, Publications Director

Mary Worth, Bookkeeper

Sherrie Boger, TLC Director

Weekly Choir Schedule

Wee Praise

Wednesday @ 7:00pm in 314

JWK

Wednesday @ 6:00pm in 301

Vocal Explosion

Wednesday @ 5:45pm in 208

Adult Worship Choir

Sunday @ 11:30am in 209

* No rehearsals after 12/12

THE ECHOES DECEMBER 2021

CALENDAR DECEMBER 2021

Quilting/Sewing Group
Wednesdays at 1:00pm

Friday, December 3
Parents' Night Out

Saturday, December 4
**ESM – Middle School
Shopping Trip**

Sunday, December 5
**Prime Timers' Christmas
Luncheon**

Tuesday, December 7/
Saturday, December 11
CWF Circle Meetings

Wednesday, December 8
ESM – Christmas Party

Friday, December 10
**e-city Kids – Christmas
Service Project**
**Young Adults' Christmas
Party**

Sunday, December 12
Choir Programs

Tuesday, December 14
CWF Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 15
Lip Sync Battle

Saturday, December 18
Men's Breakfast

Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve Service

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Safeguard Your Peace this Christmas



by Pete Ramsey, Senior Minister

It is much easier to steal the invisible and intangible instead of the physical and tangible items. Let me explain. We've got all sorts of methods designed to protect our property, our possessions and our loved ones. There are ways to contact local authorities or law enforcement in seconds to call for help. There are technological devices designed to catalog and document every second of every day of all the things you own – cameras, GPS trackers, audio recorders and more. But when it comes to the invisible, it's much harder. Part of that is because of the fact it is invisible – duh, you can't protect what you can't see! But another part of that is because we don't even notice it.

To be more specific, I'm talking about the invisible quality of peace. Now, I'm not talking about world peace, or peace across the aisles of Congress, but something much more precious – your own personal peace. Peace is defined as “a state of tranquility or quiet,” or “freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions,” or “harmony in personal relations.” If we're being honest, thinking of that definition and your own life at the same time kinda makes you want to chuckle, doesn't it?

How ironic that at the time of year when we come together to celebrate the birth of the “Prince of Peace,” we struggle the most to maintain any sense of peace in our own hearts, minds, calendars, lives, waistlines, bank accounts and more.

How did we get to a place in life where the season set aside to celebrate the one who brought us life-long eternal peace turned into a season of chaos, anxiety and worry? I've got a likely answer. Someone stole it. Yep. Someone stole your peace right out from under you. You may not have noticed it. You may not have even missed it, but it's gone. The invisible, intangible quality of peace has been stolen from your life.

But should we really be surprised? I mean, isn't that what the thief comes to do? John 10:10 confirms this when the apostle tells us, “*The thief comes to STEAL, kill and destroy...*” That's what he's been doing since the beginning of time. He stole peace in the Garden when he deceived Adam and Eve. He

stole peace from Israel when he tricked them into worshipping the idols of the foreign lands. He stole peace from David when he got him to look at Bathsheba. He tried to steal peace from the whole world when he convinced King Herod to kill all the little ones in Bethlehem shortly after the arrival of the “newborn King.” And he even tried to steal the “Prince of Peace” from us, too. He got people to lie about Him; he whispered in the ears of the selfish crowd, “Crucify, crucify!” He even puffed up Peter's heart and mind only to watch him fall face first when he disowned Jesus. And ultimately, the thief thought for sure he had sealed the deal when he tricked the Romans to give in to the pressure from the Jewish leaders to hang the Prince of Peace from a tree and steal His life from Him.

But the Father had other plans. Plans of His own that would bring about an eternal peace. A peace so secure that even the prince of darkness, the original thief, couldn't even lay a finger on it. This plan began years before the cross with a lowly and humble beginning in an animal feeding trough. There is where the plans of God for eternal peace began to finally take shape – the invisible became visible; the intangible became tangible; the immortal became mortal, so that we might have peace.

During the Christmas season, I am calling on you to remember the Prince of Peace. Remember the source of peace. Remember the reason you are rejoicing this time of year. Find a way to make some time to quietly – and peacefully – reflect on the Christmas story, the birth of the Prince of Peace. Maybe that's by reading the account of His birth from Matthew and Luke. Or maybe, like me, it's by setting aside time to listen to some beautiful Christmas music like “Behold, the Lamb of God.” Or maybe it's by gathering around a table and sharing stories from Christmas years gone by and suddenly your heart is full. Full of laughter. Full of family. Full of memories. Full of peace.

Safeguard your peace this year. Don't let the thief steal it. Remember, the Prince of Peace has come, and He has come “to give you life, life to the full.” Merry Christmas!



Comparison – The Thief of Joy

by Angela Hastings, Office Manager

I recently found myself scrolling through Facebook, looking at posts and pictures of friends and loved ones. Since I've lived all over the world, it's often the easiest way to keep up with people. On this particular day, I came across a series of family photos a friend posted. They were so cute, all dressed in their matching outfits, all smiling, all perfectly photoshopped. Before I knew it, I caught myself sighing, frowning and saying aloud, "You're never gonna have that *insert friend's name* life."

Comparison. I've heard it called the thief of joy. I'd have to say I agree. When I find myself looking at the lives of my friends and comparing my life to theirs, it usually doesn't end up pretty.

I think comparison can also be a thief during Christmas. Here are a few potential examples.

- Awww, look at their family Christmas card photo. We'll be lucky to even get a plain card out in the mail, let alone a photo card. *The joy of sending love and well wishes to friends and loved ones becomes a disappointment and an obligation...or a cuteness competition.*
- The Joneses got their kids the newest gaming device. Should we get one, too? We don't want our kiddo to be the only one who didn't get one. *The joy of giving gifts to your loved ones and sharing the meaning of Christmas with your children becomes a mad scramble all over town to keep up with others.*
- My brother and his family always go overboard on gifts. We should be sure to get them something really nice this year. *The joy of family becomes a stress and financial burden and an attempt to keep up appearances.*
- The Smiths always win the neighborhood Christmas decorating contest. This is our year! *The joy of shining the light of Christmas becomes a race for recognition.*

Are any of these familiar to you? How have you let comparison creep in to steal from the real meaning and celebration of Christmas? How can we keep comparison from stealing Christmas this year? Here are a few reminders and ideas to consider.

Remember, no one has a perfect life. This one seems simple enough, but it's important. Behind every perfect Christmas card photo is a combination of a moody teenager, a toddler with the terrible-twos, a workaholic parent, a stressed-out mom and so on. None of your friends and family have a

perfect life. Their Christmas card may look perfect, but chances are, they see fifteen flaws where you see flawlessness.

Remember, be grateful for the life you have. Going back to my social media story – it is true. I'm never going to have a life like that friend. Actually, I'm probably not going to have a life just like any of my friends. And neither are you. But I have a good life, and I have a lot to be thankful for. And so do you. Is it too easy just to say, "Count your blessings"? Perhaps, but I do tend to have a better mindset about life when I focus on the positive and consider all the reasons I can be grateful. When you find yourself comparing your Christmas to others', remember what you have to be thankful for.

Remember, do it for the right reasons. Check your motives. Why do you want to send that perfect Christmas card? Why are you going in debt to give gifts? Why are you participating in all the contests, parties, and holiday hullabaloo? Are you trying to prove something? Are you trying to please others? Or are you motivated by love?

Most importantly, remember the true meaning of Christmas. When you find yourself getting caught in the comparison trap this Christmas, find a way to get back to the true meaning of Christmas. Here's a few ideas you might try:

- Read one chapter from the gospel of Luke each day beginning on December 1. There are twenty-four chapters, so you'll finish on Christmas Eve.
- Find a devotional on the Bible app or at the bookstore that focuses on Christmas.
- Decorate a Jesse Tree or use an Advent Calendar to remind you each day about the coming of Christ (a Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1, and the ornaments added and scriptures read each day tell God's story of faithfulness from Creation through the Birth of Christ).

This Christmas, don't let comparison creep in to steal your joy. As Christ-followers and those who walk by the Spirit, consider the following: "...We will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives..." (Galatians 5:26 MSG). Remember to be grateful, to check your motives, and to focus on the true meaning of Christmas. And when those "perfect" Christmas card photos start rolling in, keep it all in proper perspective – no one has a perfect life – and find something more interesting to do than compare your life to others.

Distracted by Disagreements



by **Serena Maerkl, Children's Director**

Have you ever had a conversation with someone which you later regretted? One where you might have shared a little too much, got overemotional, or just downright put your foot in your mouth? I know I have. In fact, this probably happens to me at least once a week. Ironically, the part of me that is painfully shy when it comes to talking to people, likes to overcompensate by encouraging my mouth to move faster than my brain can keep up. Recently I was talking to some friends, and I found myself sharing a personal opinion I had about a parenting issue. It involved social media and how triggering it can be for parents of kids who may struggle at school. I love how easily Facebook keeps me connected with friends and family, but for a moment, I lost myself in the comparison game. The hurt I felt about not measuring up to these perfect families led me to speak in a way which could have hurt someone else. Proverbs 29:20 says this, *"Do you see someone who speaks in haste? There is more hope for a fool than for them."* And boy was I foolish. I immediately regretted how I handled that conversation. My feelings about the issue weren't wrong, but how I let it control me was. At the end of the day, how another parent chooses to celebrate their child's successes doesn't devalue my children's worth, nor does it change my experience in parenting them.

This same lesson is easily applied to how we as Christians celebrate Christmas. I'm sure you've seen the articles, the tweets, and the rally cries for boycotts over what some may refer to as the "war on Christmas." The offenses range from minor things like the color of a to-go cup to more major crimes of consumerism. This year it's the media frenzy around supply chain issues and recommendations from the powers that be about the risks involved in gathering with your family for dinner. You don't have to go far to hear an anecdote about someone trying to change how we celebrate Christmas or reduce its significance as a religious holiday. It's easy to get caught up in

all this because we love Jesus, and we really want everyone else to love Him too. Christmas is the day we celebrate that gift from God. If this day is so significant to Christians, why shouldn't we go out of our way to defend it?

- Our battle is against Satan, not unbelievers. Ephesians 6:10-18 tells us to put on the full armor in order to fight evil. We're asked to pray for the Lord's people, not fight with them. Direct all that energy into loving people instead.
- Nothing can stop you from worshipping God. This includes a Christ-centered Christmas. Lions didn't stop Daniel, a crazy hot furnace didn't stop Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and the cross didn't defeat Jesus. Romans 8:31 says, *"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"*
- You can't control what other people do, no matter how badly you may want to! Christmas doesn't mean the same thing to the unbeliever. It just doesn't. In the famous words of Elsa from Frozen, "LET.IT.GO." No amount of arguing will change this fact. However, we do have control over the power of our own influence. You have to be willing to ask yourself the hard questions. Are you passing out the gift of God's love or are you handing out sentencing?

We all know John 3:16, *"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."* Christmas is a time for celebration. Don't let outside influences distract you from that. Salvation is the gift, and Christmas is the party. You can send out the invite, but don't let their no-show ruin your faith. Leave all the negativity at the door, because Jesus is the VIP. So in these next few weeks leading up to Christmas, don't let other people distract you from what truly matters. Be mindful that what you say can have unintended consequences, and let your actions speak louder than your words.



How Busy Are You?

by Josh Colvin, Student Minister

As many of you know, I come from a broken family. My parents divorced when I was seven, so my brother and I would spend time between both my parents. It was determined we would stay with my mom most of the time and go see my dad on Wednesdays and every other weekend. It was like this until, if I remember correctly, I was able to drive. Holidays were different though. As far as I can remember, my brother and I would spend Christmas with both of my parents. We would generally wake up Christmas Day with my mom, open presents, eat breakfast, get ready, then head to meet my dad. With my dad we would go to his aunt's house for lunch and spend a couple hours there. We would then meet my mom and head to my grandparents' house for family dinner and presents. Afterwards, we would leave, go home, and go to bed. All of this happened in just one day. We would also do a lot more and go to more places during the rest of Christmas break.

As a kid and an extravert, I was excited to go to so many different places, see all the people, and eat as much food as I did. You could say my holiday seasons were extremely busy as a child. As adults I think it's safe to assume, we are just as busy, if not busier, than we were as kids. As kids we would go with the flow, do what our parents told us to do and go wherever they would drive us. As adults we do the driving and make the plans for the holiday season. Sometimes it feels like there aren't enough hours in a day to get all the things accomplished we had set out to do before Christmas. And on Christmas Day, our kids wake us up before the sun comes up because of all their excitement and it's the start of a busy day. We wake up, open presents, eat breakfast, get ready, and head out to our parent's, in-law's, grandparent's, and/or friend's house all in one day. This specific season and day is busy, busy, busy.

What does your Christmas Day look like? Are you running around trying to see everyone and fit everything in your day? As a kid it was like I was trying to get the quantity in instead of the quality. I would see everyone, but not to the extent I would like. There was just enough time to say hello, eat, and then say goodbye. Still today, sometimes it feels like this. I'm not saying I don't enjoy spending time with my family and seeing everyone, but if I'm not careful, it could turn into more of a chore than anything else. Celebrating Christmas should not turn into a chore for us. When it gets like this, the busyness of the quantity steals away the quality of Christmas. And it steals the real reason we celebrate the Christmas season, and that is the birth of Jesus and the impact He has on our faith. Without His birth, there would be no reason to celebrate.

Look at Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is a prime example of what it looked like to focus on the right things when life got busy. Luke 2:19 says, *"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."* She had just given birth to Jesus and had all these people visit after He was born. Her life was busier than ever before, but she didn't let it keep her from seeing what was important, and that was the birth of her Son and what that meant.

This Christmas season don't let the quantity, or list of things needed to be done, steal from the quality of what Christmas is really all about. It's definitely not bad or wrong to be busy, but we have to hone in and focus on Jesus in the midst of all the busyness. We all love Christmas and the spirit that comes along with it, so set aside intentional time to be in the Word and don't let busyness steal the Christmas spirit.

Steal Christmas BACK!



by Karissa Mead, Worship Ministry Director

Christmas can bring out the best and the worst in us. We're mentally occupied by a multitude of things, for example, being financially wise while acquiring the right gifts, being mindful of time with family or wrapping up work before vacation. We can get emotionally occupied, too. We are excited and eagerly anticipating seeing family members we haven't seen in a while. We dread family gatherings because of broken relationships. Many of us greatly anticipate Christmas, and we *want* so many things: the right gifts, the right timing, the right people, the right traditions. If we're not careful, we can get greedy about this stuff. And I'm not just talking about the "stuff." We can get greedy about all of it if we're not careful.

I've been reading through Colossians the last few days, and the timing is almost scary. Colossians was written to people who were tempted to pursue "more" than Jesus. They were being encouraged by others that Jesus wasn't enough: they needed philosophy, magic, non-messianic Judaism, and so on. As a result of the study, I've been asking myself, have I been moving on to something "more" than just Jesus? Now obviously, things like magic and issues about Jesus being introduced to Judaism are not concerns immediately present in the lives of American Christians. But I think many other things – as a result of our greed – begin to take precedence over Jesus... things our culture celebrates as good things. I think our culture has tempted us greatly with the question, "Jesus is a great start, but don't you want something more?" I don't know about you, but as Christmas gets closer, the weight of this question gets heavier as Christmas becomes about everything else *except* Jesus. I think Colossians has some good lessons for those of us living in a culture that divides our attention in such ways.

Remember

One of the first things Paul does in Colossians is remind the church of their faith and love. Where does their faith and love come from? *"The hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you"* (Col. 1:5). The worst thing we can do for ourselves and our families is forget the reason

we're celebrating Christmas. The whole point of the holiday is to celebrate the birth of Christ. For my own family, that meant reading through the Christmas story from every account, praying with thanksgiving to God for sending Jesus to us, and a celebratory communion with homemade hot chocolate. Then we opened gifts. This kept us focused away from our need and greed over our presents and on the greatest gift we could ever receive.

Keep Christ First

Beyond remembering Jesus, in Colossians Paul puts great emphasis on putting Christ first. He says Christ is *"before all things, and in him all things hold together"* (Col. 1:20). The reality is our lives cannot hold together without Christ. We are terribly broken people without Him. And especially in December, Satan has a foothold over each and every one of us to put other things first. Don't let him win that fight.

Do Good Work

Paul sees in the Colossian church how the gospel is *"bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world"* (Col. 1:6). He also says a prayer over them that they'd live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way. Those ways are: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened to have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father. The reason? *"Because he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins"* (Col. 1:13-14). We have a rescuer that has brought us redemption. That redemption started with a baby and a manger. When we go to celebrate that, let's make sure we are giving joyful thanks, seasoned with endurance and patience. Let's make sure we know the Jesus we're celebrating and be intentional with how we celebrate. Remember, pursuing "more" than Jesus will absolutely steal your Christmas. Say no to greed this season and say YES to a Christmas which overflows with the story of Jesus and His redemptive work in your life.

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

In less than 90 days, the 2022 Faith Promise Missions Conference will be here! The Missions Ministry Team would like to share some of the information and details we have in place for this great weekend.

Sunday, January 23, 2022 – Kickoff Weekend

Kingdom Partner Guests: Mike Schrage, Good News Productions International & Ryan Wolfe, Ability Ministry
International Luncheon immediately following the morning services

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Kingdom Partner Guests: Vivek Lall, Mid-India Christian Mission & TBD

Saturday, January 29, 2022

9:00am – Lifeline Christian Mission Meal Packing Event

Sunday, January 30, 2022 – Commitment Sunday

Kingdom Partner Guests: Bob Gailey, Christian Campus Fellowship @ UF & Joel Augustus, Lifeline Christian Mission/Omoa Children's Home



Isaiah 55:6-13

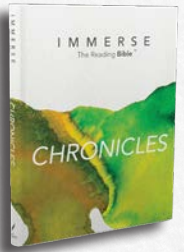
I M M E R S E

The Bible Reading Experience™

The month of December brings us to the conclusion of our time in *Immerse: Chronicles*. It also ends our fall semester in the Immerse Bible Reading program. We finish up these last two weeks in the books of Esther and Daniel. As a reminder, we will take a break through the holidays and Faith Promise and resume in late January 2022.

PRE-ORDER IMMERSE: POETS

Beginning December 5, you can pre-order the next book in our Immerse Bible Reading program, *Immerse: Poets*. This book will take us through the wisdom books (Job-Ecclesiastes) and Lamentations as we continue on our journey of reading through the Bible. Cost for printed books is \$10. If you choose to use a different method (audio or e-book version) or purchase the book on your own, please register with us so we can have an accurate count of how many are reading through this with us. Deadline to order books through ECC is Sunday, January 9. We begin our next series on Monday, January 31, 2022.

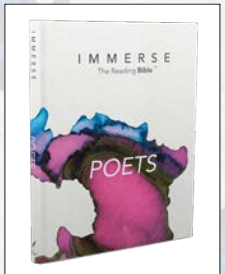


IMMERSE: CHRONICLES
WEEK 7 (11/29)
Esther, Daniel

Day 31 pp. 143-148
Day 32 pp. 148-151
Day 33 pp. 151-155
Day 34 pp. 157-158
Day 35 pp. 159-163

WEEK 8 (12/6)
Daniel

Day 36 pp. 163-164
Day 37 pp. 165-167
Day 38 pp. 168-171
Day 39 pp. 171-177
Day 40 pp. 177-181



Christmas Eve Services



ECC Christmas Candlelight Services
Friday, December 24 at 6:00pm and 7:30pm

Both services are general seating and open to all who wish to attend.

Child care offered for children two and under during the 6:00pm service only.

Each year, ECC has a **Christmas Card Fund** with the purpose of celebrating the holiday season with our church family as well as raising funds for projects on our physical campus. This year, our goal is to continue to set aside funds for two specific projects: **Restroom**

Upgrades and Lobby Improvements. Here's how you can help: Instead of sending out Christmas cards to everyone you know from ECC, you can send one to the office or submit one digitally (see the e-newsletter). The money you saved by not buying as many cards or postage is then contributed to this Christmas card fund as you include a check with the card you mail or making an online donation through the Christmas Card Fund Event.





Saturday, December 18th at 9:00am • Fellowship Hall
Please register online to attend



CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECT

Friday, December 10, from 6:00-8:30 p.m. in Room 301

Special Christmas celebration and preparation for

SECRET SANTA GIFT GIVING

Pre-Registration required



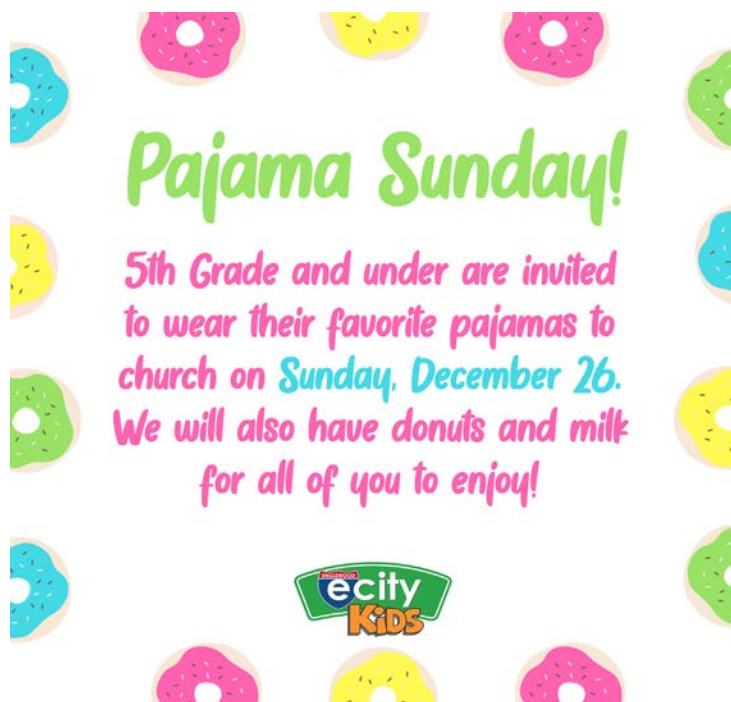
HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Friday, December 24 – Office Closed @ noon
Christmas Eve

Monday, December 27 – Office Closed
(Christmas Day Observed)

Tuesday-Thursday, December 28-30 –
Limited office hours – 9:00am-3:00pm

Friday, December 31 – Office Closed
(New Year's Day Observed)



Pajama Sunday!

5th Grade and under are invited
to wear their favorite pajamas to
church on Sunday, December 26.
We will also have donuts and milk
for all of you to enjoy!



Parents' Night Out

Friday, December 3rd
6:00-9:00pm

Preschool-5th Grade
ECC Warehouse



Calling all parents of kids in preschool – 5th grade (children must be fully potty-trained). Do you need to do some Christmas shopping without little ones running around? Then make sure you take advantage of our Parents Night Out. Bring your kids to **The Warehouse** on **Friday, December 3rd from 6:00pm-9:00pm**. High School students will be there to hang out with your kids while you enjoy some quiet shopping. The cost is free, but be sure to sign up by Wednesday, December 1st!



MIDDLE SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Saturday, December 4th
11:00am-2:00pm

Meet at ECC, then
we're heading to
Avenues Mall

Attention all Middle Schoolers who would like an opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for your family! We will be meeting at ECC, then going to The Avenues Mall on **Saturday, December 4th from 11:00am-2:00pm** to get your shopping done. Bring money for the gifts you want to buy and if you want lunch at the mall. Please sign up online and see Josh with any questions.

UGLY SWEATER PARTY

And White Elephant Gift Exchange



ECC Young Adults, join us for the jolliest of all Christmas parties! Dress in your ugliest Christmas sweater because there is a prize for the best. Bring a white elephant gift (\$10 limit please), and meet at the Meads on Friday, December 10th at 6:30pm. Sign up online!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON & WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 - AFTER SERVICE
IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
BRING FRUIT OR A DESSERT
AND A FUN OR SILLY GIFT
SIGN UP ONLINE OR
WITH THE ARNOLDS



Choir Presentations in December:

Adult Choir - December 12th @10:30 am
(during service)

Youth Choirs - December 12th @ 6:00 pm
(this includes Wee Praise, JWK and Vocal Explosion)

Choir REHEARSAL dates in December:

Adult Choir: Dress Rehearsal on Thursday, December 9th at 6:00 pm in the Worship Center

JWK: Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, December 11th at 2:00 pm in the Worship Center with a Christmas party to follow.

Vocal Explosion: Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, December 11th at 9:00am in the Worship Center



We often do the Christmas story a disservice due to its familiarity. More times than not, we romanticize the events of the Nativity as we put them on postcards, in children's plays, and sing about them in cute Christmas carols. But living through the events of the Christmas story would have at times felt dreadful.

A teenage girl with her future ahead of her was rocked by scandal—even though she didn't do anything wrong. A newlywed couple was uprooted from their home, their family, and their support system during the most inconvenient time of their lives. A king who was already losing his power to a Roman occupation discovered a new king was born who would be an even greater threat to his authority.

It seems every life touched by the events of Christmas experienced inconvenience and hardship. Yet, through those inconveniences, the greatest opportunities presented themselves. Opportunities for peace in the midst of chaos, for powerful influence, and ultimately for the salvation of all humanity.

Join us on Sundays in December as we talk about the Options and Opportunities we have at Christmas to give God the glory.

The Annual Christmas Lip Sync Battle is back! Join us **Wednesday, December 15th at 7:00pm in the Worship Center.** If you would like to perform, sign up with your favorite Christmas song by Wednesday, December 8th.

We have spots for 15 performances.

4TH Annual Christmas





Prime Timers at Let Freedom Sing Performance



The ECC Men's Ministry cooked, served and cleaned up for the ladies of CWF at their Thanksgiving Dinner

Over 1000 people came to our Fall Festival this year!!!

Thank You

Thank you so much for hosting a blood drive with LifeSouth in October at Englewood Christian Church. We registered 11 people and collected 6 donations to save up to 18 lives in our local hospitals. We appreciate you all for your help and support to help us save lives in our hospitals.

Dear Englewood Family,

Thank you so much for the cards, meals, and prayers following the death of my father, Thomas Woodrow Kee. He always enjoyed attending the Ambassadors' Class when he was able. He especially appreciated the cards that he received from the class. He was with us for over 101 years, but was ready for the next stage in his life. Again, thank you.

Sherry Dotson and Family

ECC VISION

WORSHIP
LIFESTYLE

CONSISTENT
DISCIPLESHIP

LOCAL
SERVICE

HONORING ONE GOD

GROWING ONE FAITH

SERVING ONE WORLD

SACRIFICIAL
STEWARDSHIP

PERSONAL
EVANGELISM

GLOBAL
SUPPORT

**ENGLEWOOD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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(See panel to left)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



December 2021

Dear **SANTA**, we can explain...

Serving alongside the fantastic members of Englewood Christian Church is no "trouble" for our mischievous ministry staff. We enjoy the blessings year round of a wonderful partnership in the gospel with you. During this time of celebration, we would like to wish you and all your families a very Merry Christmas!

