

LWCC

December 2021 Newsletter | *Langley, B.C.*

Mark Your Calendar

December 11, 2021
Christmas Party hosted by
HCG

December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve service with
Willoughby Church at 6pm.

December 31, 2021
New Years Eve service with
Willoughby Church at 6pm.

November Ministry Recap!

Men's and Women's Ministry

Men's Ministry

We had our first Men's Ministry Tennis Tournament and the men had a blast connecting with one another while trying to win first place in the tournament! Contact Joel M. to be part of the Men's ministry so you won't miss out on the next event!

Women's Ministry

The women tapped into their creative side during the "Creative Connections" event where they created ornaments and Christmas cards!



Ministry Spotlight!

Home Care Group Ministry

LWCC would like to introduce you to our HCG lead team, Don Soriano

1. What is your official title at church

Elder and Caregroup Ministry Lead

2. What do you like to do in your free time?

Gardening, reading.

3. What is your favourite food?

Pinakbet with Bagnet (Mixed tropical vegetables steamed in fish sauce)

4. What is your favourite color?

Gray – if that is considered a color.

5. What is your favourite bible verse and why?

Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Why?

I believe that after God gave you a new life and make your heart start beating for Him, He will also transform you by revealing himself and his character and that will have a lot to do through our thinking and intellect.

Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 4:8 are always a great reminder of that truth.

6. What challenge do you have in your ministry

Life in Canada is so busy and demanding, and meeting weekly in caregroup could be an extra burden to some and could be considered as low priority, and so missing the many blessings of and from it.

7. What would you like to see in your ministry

In my Christian life, I've experienced the many blessings of being part of a Home Care Group, or Cell Group or Small group, and that is why I am always a believer and strong advocate of home caregroup ministry. Our best model, is our Lord Jesus Christ and his 12 disciples.

Overtime, our family lived and moved to different places and Home caregroup becomes a vital support system in our lives and have developed close friendships along the way.

In home caregroup, we have experienced the love of God through others and in the process, the opportunity, and the blessings to know, love and serve God more.

I would love to see everyone in LWCC to be an active part/member of one and experience the many blessings.

In fact, if there are ministries in the church that everyone can be actively part of, home caregroup is one of them. In other words, there is a place for everyone in the home care group. That's what I want to see in LWCC.



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Pastor's Corner

Was It a Mistake?
By Pastor Brad

In the rush of last-minute Christmas shopping, a woman bought a box of fifty identical greeting cards. Without bothering to read the verse, she hastily signed and addressed all but one of them. Several days after they had been mailed, she came across the one card that hadn't been sent, and she looked at the message.

She was horrified to read: "this card is just to say . . . a little gift is on the way."

The woman now had a major problem on her hands. She had made an expensive mistake, one that she would deeply regret. Do you ever think that God might have made a mistake with his Christmas message and the promise of a gift to every man, woman and child in the world?

The gift is promised throughout the Old Testament. For example, in Isaiah 49.13-15 we read: "Shout for joy, O heavens; rejoice, O earth; burst into song, O mountains! For the Lord comforts his people and will have compassion on his afflicted ones. But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me.' Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!"

The book of Isaiah is addressed to people who are living in sin. Life is not good. Judgment is coming upon them. But God declares he will not forget them. Out of love and compassion he is going to send a gift, a Savior, a redeemer, his son Jesus. Oh, but at what cost? At what pain? At what sacrifice? If you read Isaiah 52.13 – 53.12 and other Bible passages you will see that the gift God will send will be beaten, tortured, bloodied, nailed to a cross, and discarded. One can't help but wonder if God made a mistake in sending Jesus to people who would kill him.

Did God make a mistake? No! In God's mind his action was unavoidable. He loved us so much he couldn't help it, and he never regretted sending the gift. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes on him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3.16).

Even though people would ignore, abuse, and destroy his gift, he couldn't help sending it. He loved us so much he couldn't leave us in sin and affliction. The wonderful message of this Christmas season is that God loves us and has given us the gift that he promised – Jesus! And through Jesus we can receive the forgiveness of sins, experience fellowship with God, and live forever. This Christmas season is not some warm, fuzzy cultural event. Jesus is not just some sweet ideology. Jesus can be known personally and intimately.

Over the coming weeks what are you going to do with the gifts under your Christmas tree? Will you just leave them there? Will you inspect the wrapping? Will you check out the quality of the paper and the bows? Will you shake the boxes a little and guess their contents? And then on December 26 will you put the wrapped boxes away until next Christmas? I very much doubt this is what you will do. On Christmas Eve or Christmas Day you are going to rip off the lovely paper, tear open the boxes, and get to know the contents personally and intimately.

Over the coming weeks, why not take some extra time getting to know the greatest gift of all? Spend some time getting to know Jesus a little more personally and intimately. Jesus prayed for his followers, saying "Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them" (John 17.25-26). Jesus wants us to know him and his Father more personally and intimately.

God's gift was not a mistake. May your heart overflow with gratitude this Christmas season and may you take time to enjoy even deeper intimacy with the best gift of all, Jesus, whose birth we celebrate this season.