

## Kid's Christmas Program—12/18 11 AM

This year we will have a mixture of performances, stories and a special "Christmas interview." There are opportunities for children and youth to participate in-person or from home by sending in videos. The program will be during the church service on the 18th. Those wishing to participate should sign-up by emailing Stephanie Jones at the following address: [Stephaniejones@hotmail.com](mailto:Stephaniejones@hotmail.com)

## SAC Lunch Saturday After Church December 4



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ORANGE COAST



Newsletter

December, 2021



## Good News... The Gift of Grace...

By Pastor Ken Studer

Every parent knows the frustration of buying Christmas gifts that sit unused while the empty boxes the gifts came in become a source of real joy for their kids.

I've experienced the same phenomenon with my cat. While I love the toy filled with catnip that I bought for him, he would rather play with the plastic wrapping or box the toy came in.

In other words, gifts are often not used. In fact, one survey revealed that 25% of gifts are never used. Many unused gifts are regifted or given to charity. Gift cards are a popular choice for many but about 15% of them are never used. The value of the unused gift cards is estimated to be \$15 billion.

Every year billions of dollars of winning lottery tickets are never claimed. While not exactly a gift, because you paid for the ticket, it still demonstrates that people often don't claim what they were given.

At Christmas we are reminded that God has

given each of us the gift of God's Son. What a shame that everyone doesn't claim the gift of the baby Jesus.

The Christmas story is about gifting. The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. More than any other holiday, Christmas is about giving gifts.

The Greek word for "grace" is the same word used for "gift" (*charis*). Usually, we think of this gift as being "free" and coming to us without any strings attached, much like a little child receives a Christmas gift and is expected to give nothing in return.

The Christmas song indicates that Santa Claus is checking into who has been "naughty or nice." This is not so with God. God has given grace to everyone.

Indeed, it is sad that so many do not accept the gift of grace. For many it is like an unused gift card. The Good News is that grace is given to all and it's free.

## OCC Christmas Concert

Our Christmas concert this year will be presented by the La Sierra University Choir and Chamber Orchestra. Under the direction of OCC member, Dr. Dean Anderson, the concert will begin at 11 AM. The free concert will be during the worship service at Orange Coast Church, 77 Post, Irvine.



**December 11**

**11 AM**

## Pancake Breakfast



There will be no Feast of Breads this year because of COVID. In its place, on December 11, we will have a pancake breakfast beginning at 9:30 AM in the HUB. There will be no Sabbath School classes on the 11th.

## December Worship Schedule

**12-04 The Rescue of All Rescues**

**12-11 OCC Annual Christmas Concert**

**12-18 OCC Kids' Christmas Program**

**12-25 OCC Christmas Celebration**

## December Birthdays

Levi A. De Souza	December 02	Liz Kryger	December 17
Claudia Selmi	December 02	Gracelyn Reece	December 17
Wynter Pepper	December 03	Myrna Esposito	December 18
John Carrillo	December 04	Carissa Thompson	December 18
Edwin Dompas	December 05	Olivia Hernandez	December 19
Carlos Ramos	December 06	Benji N. Ortiz	December 19
Kelsi Weathers	December 06	Christian Caputo	December 21
Lanie Miller	December 07	Sheena Chappell	December 21
Gerry Rosario	December 07	Keaton Currie	December 23
Brian Case	December 09	Collette Currie	December 23
Lucas Lee	December 09	Cliff Merkel	December 23
Joshua Chung	December 10	Beverly Purvis	December 24
Michelle Lee	December 10	YuAn Chang	December 25
Bonnie Lee	December 10	Rhonda Cort	December 25
Vanessa Cheng	December 11	Kirkham Hake	December 25
Sheeva Lotfian	December 12	Bryan Suarez	December 25
Kristi Allen	December 13	Yelena Nielson	December 26
Isabelle Howard	December 13	Delwyn Pickering	December 26
Eleanor Klein	December 13	Greg Walters	December 26
Linda Suarez	December 13	Patrick Clark	December 27
Cason Collins	December 14	Pete Frey	December 27
Ched Nwagwn	December 14	BichDu Do	December 28
Brad Blackburn	December 15	AJ Kon	December 29
Juliette Ramirez	December 15	Miguel Lagos	December 29
Nicholas Sims	December 15	Nikta Reynolds	December 29
Melinh Do	December 17	Kimia Fahimi	December 31