



## ***Preserving Christian Homes December 2024***



<http://www.livingwordupc.org/>

## ***Tis The Season***



While our young family members believe time doesn't pass fast enough, those of us over fifty feel Father Time needs to pump his brakes. This year seems to have flown by faster than previous years. Summer didn't last long enough and the Fall was about two weeks long before we had our first snowfall. Ready or not we are right in the middle of what is called the Holiday Season. As you read this letter, Thanksgiving is still a fresh memory and there are still decisions to be made with the leftover food. Thanksgiving is something we should acknowledge every day. Now we are at a time of the year that means more than serving a specialized meal. We are approaching the day we celebrate the physical birth of our Lord Jesus. Now let's not be naive. For many it is all about sharing wrapped gifts and blowing up their budgets by out doing the next person. It is a fact that spending during this time of year dictates whether several Retail Stores are profitable or not and that is a long-standing business model. There are a lot of holiday decorations displayed. I specifically said holiday because many of the decorations we see have totally nothing to do with the true meaning of Christmas. My Bible doesn't speak to a big guy with a beard behind a flying sleigh pulled by reindeer. The Christmas story is a profound narrative cherished by believers worldwide, a tale of love, faith, and commitment that resonates deeply with those who seek the true meaning of the Christmas season. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God in the flesh, Jesus, came into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, Wise Men, and Angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The Prophets were told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child. Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn. There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." A few years ago a man sat on his back porch with his head in his hands. His wife came out to tell him dinner was ready but when she saw him she hesitated. Larry was always smiling and in great spirits but over the past few weeks he frequently sat by himself and looked depressed. She sat down next to him and asked him what is wrong even though she had asked several times previously and he always denied anything being wrong. This time was different. He told his wife that after paying bills he had no money left to buy her anything for Christmas. They had only been married for a few months and it is understandable for two young people starting out a new life, in a new place to struggle financially a bit. He grew up in an environment where love at Christmas time was measured by the number and value of the gifts under the tree. She gave him a hug and told him none of that mattered because the true gift of love wasn't under a tree but in a manger. He gave a fake smile and they went inside to have dinner. Over the next few days Larry's mood seemed to get worse. He was irritable and apologetic about everything. When they got up Christmas morning Larry apologized again. They went into the kitchen to make breakfast. It took a few minutes but Larry finally noticed a box on the counter wrapped in gold paper. It was Amy's Christmas gift to Larry. He unwrapped the box and inside was a package of Hershey's kisses and a book. Inside the book were a bunch of coupons which say "I LOVE YOU". Larry likes to portray himself as a macho man but this morning the emotion overtook him and the tears were flowing freely. His wife hugged him and said the ultimate gift was presented to mankind that morning in Bethlehem. However, if you need a reminder, first open your Bible then find me to redeem one of the coupons in the box.



## December Anniversaries



**Living Word Church wishes all of our Couples a very  
*Happy Anniversary***



### ***A Christmas Prayer***

*Father, help us not just to look for blessings during the Christmas season, but to go out of our way to bless others. Remind us to pray for friends and loved ones every time we pray for ourselves. Teach us to invest in relationships by sharing Your love and grace with others. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that you sent to us on that first Christmas. That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray.*

**Amen**



10TH ANNUAL  
WILD GAME COOKOUT  
"Lumber Jack" Edition

**FRIDAY 13, DECEMBER**  
**6:30PM**

**FUN  
GAMES**

**FOOD &  
DRINKS**

**DOOR  
PRIZES**



**LIVING WORD CHURCH**  
1901 17TH ST  
RIO RANCHO, NM 87144



[www.livingwordupc.org](http://www.livingwordupc.org)



JOIN US!



LWC Ladies

# CHRISTMAS *party*

Thursday@6:30 p.m. | **12** | December  
2024

1901 17th Ave NE. Rio  
Rancho, NM 87144

Cost is \$15.00 per Lady 16 and Up

\$10.00 for Little Ladies 8-15

Free for Mini Ladies 7 and Under

Optional Gift Exchange \$20 and under

**All Ladies are Invited!**

*Please register at [www.livingwordupc.org](http://www.livingwordupc.org) or see Sis  
Marquart or Sis Mendoza*

[www.livingwordupc.org](http://www.livingwordupc.org)

# DECEMBER

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday School and Worship@1030	2 Life Support- Celebrate Recovery@7	3 Pastor's Prayer@10 Praise Team Practice@7	4 Midweek Matters@7	5 Grief Share@7	6 Rio Rancho Christmas Parade Outreach <i>Prayer for those who can't participate @7</i>	7
8 Sunday School and Worship@1030	9 Life Support- Celebrate Recovery@7	10 Pastor's Prayer@10	11 Midweek Matters@7	12 LWC Ladies Christmas Banquet@6:30	13 Max Men's Wild Game Cookout@6:30	14 Youth Christmas Party@3
15 LWC Kids Christmas Play@10:30	16 Life Support- Celebrate Recovery@7	17 Pastor's Prayer@10 Hyphen Christmas Party@7pm	18 Midweek Matters@7	19 Grief Share@7	Prayer and Praise@7	21
22 Sunday School and Worship@1030	23 Life Support- Celebrate Recovery@7	24 Christmas Eve Service@6:00	25 Christmas Day-No Service	26 Grief Share @7	27	28
29 Revival Sunday with Bro Zirpoli@10:30	30 Life Support- Celebrate Recovery@7	31 Pastor's Prayer@10	1 Midweek Matters@7 Bro Zirpoli			