

Our Service Today

How can we be sure that God is for us? How do you resolve this issue in your own life when you are passing through a time of trouble and suffering? Take a few minutes and think about this as you prepare your heart for worship. God assures us that he is for us, but at times he seems far away. As you listen to the message today, jot down thoughts that might help you keep on track, particularly this First Sunday of Advent as we prepare for his coming. And think about these questions: What gives you meaning? What gives you a sense of purpose? What in your life has brought you closest to God? As God draws near to you, use this time to draw near to Him.

Here at West Side we believe everyone has a next step, so as you worship today, consider the following as potential next steps for you:

This week, let's remember:

- **That God is for us, even during times of testing and difficulty.**
- **To be like Mary and submit to Him in trust, faith, and hope.**
- **To keep talking to God during suffering, and thinking about how God can use this to deepen our relationship with Him and give us a sense of purpose.**
- **To support local families in need through our Christmas Outreach by donating gifts for boys and girls, money for gifts, misc. household items, or items for Family Fun Night baskets.**

These next steps are also the same as the next steps on the connection card so that you can take a copy home with you.

We would like to thank the families that participated in The Lighting of the Advent Candle.

8:15 service - Ann Campbell and John Campbell

9:45 service - Kyle Bailey & Kim Miller

Advent Sermon Series Begins TODAY: "Christmas Gifts - Five Gifts God Wants To Give You This Christmas"

Christmas is America's favorite holiday! As one well-known song puts it, "it is the most wonderful time of the year!" For followers of Jesus, it is especially significant. It is one of the few times where faith and cultural traditions blend together with harmony and joy. Whether your family enjoys singing Christmas carols, trimming trees, shopping for gifts, or gathering for a Candle Light Service on Christmas Eve, these are some of the many ways we can share the joy of the holiday with Christians and non-Christians alike.

At the same time, it can be a hectic time of the year. From the pressure on parents trying to make ends meet and still have gifts for kids to the busyness of trying to pack as much as we can into these few weeks, it seems easy to lose the sense of the holiness of the holiday. In the four Sundays leading up to Advent, we are going to slow down and pay attention to the fact that the good news of Christmas is that it is about gifts, but primarily it is about what God wants to give us.

If you are feeling worn out, tired, or overwhelmed, take time to let God's Word redirect you to the real purpose of Christmas. If you are looking for something deeper, richer, and more lasting than anything you can buy, listen to the good news that a Savior has been born for you!

Dec. 3 - The Gift of Assurance: Forever God is For Us
Dec. 10 - The Gift of His Presence: Forever God is With Us
Dec. 17 - The Gift of His Power: Who Can Stand Against Us?
Dec. 24 - The Gift of His Glory: More than Conquerors
Christmas Eve Services (4:00, 5:30, 7:00 pm) - The Greatest Gift of Christmas



Prayers This Week

West Siders :: John and Harriet Lipp

West Side Ministry :: Session

Mali Children :: Oumou and Minata

Local Church :: St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Kennewick

Additional Concerns :: Robert & Margaret Storms, Harvey Huisingh, Roger Johnson, Carrie Ward, Lil Leggett, Margaret Storms, The Family of Carolina Bullard, The Family of Patricia Muñoz

In Military Service :: Guam-Jared Hoey; North Carolina-Mike Parkman; South Carolina-Adam Hardy; California- Sam & Charina Erhart, Devin Glade; Washington-Matt Serene

This week we are praying for Todd and Karla Poulter with Wycliffe Global Alliance. They recently wrote: "On arrival in Penang two weeks ago, I took a taxi from the airport to Scott's (Todd and Karla's son) school. The driver, a middle-aged Malay (Muslim) man, mentioned that his wife Amral was unwell. They were going to a traditional Malay healer because the doctor in the government clinic couldn't figure out what was wrong. Sensing his desperation, I asked if I could pray for Amral in the name of Isa al Masih (Jesus the Messiah). He readily agreed, and was obviously very grateful. I wish there was a way to find out how God answered that prayer."

Note: If you are admitted into the hospital, the Deacons would like to call on you. Please list "Presbyterian" on the admittance form and notify the Church Office (946.4656).

For private prayers throughout the week, contact the Prayer Chain: Go to www.westside1.org and click the Prayer Request button (upper right-hand corner); or call Danni DeYoung (509.546.3959), the Church Office (509.946.4656), or Ann Forsythe (509.371.9630). To be included in Additional Concerns or In Military Service, contact the Church Office (946.4656).

1st Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017 8:15 & 9:45 am

615 Wright Avenue
Richland, WA 99352
509.946.4656

www.westside1.org

Welcome to West Side Church

Welcome! We're glad you're joining with us for worship today! We believe that God loves us and calls us into life marked by love for Him and love for one another. It is our hope that you will be drawn towards knowing His love given to us in Jesus Christ. We also hope that you will experience His love through our church family. If there is anything we can do to help facilitate your worship of God, please ask.

Blessing in Christ, *The Family of West Side Church*

Information for Parents:

- Worship Activity Bags for children are available in each narthex.
- Child care is available for children (infants through age 5) at each worship service in the Infant/Toddler Room (WSN).
- Cry rooms are available at the rear of the sanctuary at West Side South and in the foyer at West Side North.

What's Happening Today

Contemporary Services :: 8:15 & 9:45 am, West Side South (WSS)

Traditional Service :: 11:15 am, West Side North (WSN)

Sunday Morning Discipleship: 9:45-11:00 am

CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Ages 2-K - WSN
"Rainbow Kids"**
2's-3's - Rainbow Rm
PreK-K - Sunshine Rm

**Kids Gr. 1-5
"Promised Land"**
WSN
Holy Word Studios

**Youth
MS-Gr. 6-8
HS-Gr. 9-12**
WSS Basement

ADULTS

**Women of the Word:
"The Broken Way"**
WSN Room 2-4 (Library)

**Bible Study:
Judges & Ruth**
WSS Room 306 (Upper Rm)

**GAP: Get Acquainted Place
Experience Christian Community**
WSS Room 302

Christmas Card Exchange: Christmas Mailbox Open Now!

This wonderful West Side tradition is a way to help local West Side members send their greetings to regular church attendees and for Sarah Circle to raise money for missions and our Marcus Whitman Tutoring Program.

Here's how it works:

- Place your cards addressed with the name of your West Side friends into the mailboxes in either narthex (be sure to sort them alphabetically).
- Place your "postage," a suggested donation of 10¢ per card, into the decorated box. That's a savings of over 30¢ per card!
- Check the mailbox regularly to see if "you've got mail!"



Church Calendar: December 4 - 9, 2017

Monday

- 6:15 pm Boy Scouts Court of Honor Ceremony, WSN Sanctuary/Narthex/HW
- 6:30 pm Softening Hearts-Women's Life Group, Betty Malone's house

Tuesday

- 7:00 am Marcus Whitman Elementary Tutoring, WSS Narthex/Room 306
- 9:00 am Church Staff Meeting, WSN Church Office
- 6:00 pm The Alpha Course & Dinner, WSN Sanctuary/Narthex/Rms 2-4,7,11,47
- 6:00 pm Session Budget Planning Meeting, WSN Room 15-17
- 6:30 pm ESL/Citizenship Classes, WSS-all rooms

Wednesday

- 8:30 am Breakfast & Bible Study with a Pastor, WSN Koinonia Café/Sanctuary
- 10:15 am Moms in Prayer Group, WSN Room 2-4 (Library)
- 1:00 pm Knitters Group, WSN Koinonia Café

Thursday

- 7:00 am Marcus Whitman Elementary Tutoring, WSS Narthex/Room 306
- 9:00 am Parent Connection Playgroup, WSN Narthex
- 9:00 am Women's Morning Glory Bible Study, WSN Room 2-4 (Library)
- 6:30 pm Alpha Prison Ministry, Coyote Ridge Corrections Center (Connell)
- 6:30 pm MS (gr 6-8) Life Group, the Baldwin's house (2300 Davison Ave-Richland)
- 7:00 pm Worship Team Rehearsal, WSS Sanctuary
- 7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal, WSN Sanctuary

Friday

- 6:30 pm Narcotics Anonymous-Step Monsters Group, WSN Room 15-17
- 7:00 pm BEGINS-Boy Scout Lock-In, WSS Basement

Saturday

- 7:00 am ENDS-Boy Scout Lock-In, WSS Basement
- 7:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study, WSN Koinonia Café
- 8:00 am Worship Team Rehearsal, WSS Sanctuary

WSN = West Side North, 615 Wright Ave

WSS = West Side South, 603 Wright Ave

Christmas Offering - The Funkas

This year our Christmas offering will go to Andrew & Amy Funka, West Side-supported missionaries in the Czech Republic ("Czechia") with Alongside Ministries International. Hopefully you had a chance to meet this energetic and faith-filled couple when they visited us last month.

Czechia is officially atheistic, the language is difficult to learn, and youth Christians there are mocked. West Side has sent teams there the past two summers to help teach English at an ESL camp and share the gospel with Czechia's youth.

We are hoping to raise \$3,260 to help the Funkas grow their ministry in two important ways: 1. Through intensive Czech language classes to help them with this difficult language and boost their effectiveness with their ministry, and 2. Expanding ESL Camp ministry to a "Restricted Access" country as their ESL camps are a highlight of the year for many Christian youth and this would allow them to expand the program. [see December newsletter for more details]

If you would like to make a donation, please make your check payable to "West Side Church" with "Christmas Offering" on the memo line or use a Christmas Offering envelope on Sunday morning. Any amount raised above \$3,260 will benefit other ministry projects for the Funkas.



Events in the Life of the Church

Additional information available on the Information Boards in either narthex or at www.westside1.org.

Women's Ministry. Knitters Group Wed., Dec. 6, 1:00 pm, WSN Koinonia Café.

Everyone is invited to bring their projects to work on and enjoy fellowship. Sarah Circle salad potluck lunch and cookie exchange Wed., Dec. 13, 11:30 am, WSN Narthex. Bring your favorite salad to share and 3 dozen cookies (remember - no nuts). We'll exchange 2 dozen of the cookies with others and donate 1 dozen of each to the Youth. Come get in the spirit of the season with "Christmas Music with Chimes." We'll also be dividing up sections of Jodi Detrick's book, "The Jesus-Hearted Woman" for our February meeting. Bring a friend! Need childcare? Call Carol (217.508.3073). In case of inclement weather, we follow the Richland School District closings.

Senior Adult Ministry. P2P-Person to Person lunch Mon., Dec. 11, 12:00 pm, WSN Narthex. Join us for a homemade lunch and lots of fellowship and laughs.

Men's Ministry. Sarah Squares, spouses of Sarah Circle ladies, lunch Wed., Dec. 13, 11:30 am, Sterlings Restaurant (2500 Queensgate Dr.-Richland).

Finance Committee. Financial data: Jan. 1, 2017 Beginning Balance \$28,610; 2017 Year to Date Income \$868,266; 2017 Year to Date Expenses \$897,171; Ending Balance Oct. 31, 2017 -\$295.



Parent Connection Playgroup - Dec. 7

Are you a parent or grandparent of a young infant or child? Are you looking for a relaxing place to connect and be encouraged? Join us Thurs., Dec. 7, 9:00-10:30 am, WSN Narthex. We will have toys and activities for children, and coffee and tea for parents. Bring a nut-free snack for your child/ren if you are able. All are welcome!

Experience an Evening of Christmas Worship

Come experience an evening of worship blending traditional Christmas carols with contemporary songs of praise celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This will be an amazing night together. You won't want to miss it! Bring your friends and family.

Sun., Dec. 10, 6:00-7:30 pm, WS South Sanctuary



Women's Craft Days - Dec. 15-16

Do you have a craft project you started and are reluctant to finish? Come to Craft Days in WSS Room 306: Fri., Dec. 15, 5:00-9:00 pm and Sat., Dec. 16, 9:00 am-9:00 pm. Come finish those last-minute Christmas projects! Bring your presents to wrap - maybe others will help you! This is your opportunity to work on your projects while enjoying fellowship with other women. Want to learn to sew? We will help you. Crafters of ALL ages and abilities are welcome. Questions or for more information, contact Debbie Mellinger (509.375.1389).

Ministry Staff

Rev. Ralph Kieneker :: Lead Pastor
Patrick Grover :: Associate Pastor/Director-Children & Family Ministries
Rev. Shari Grover :: Associate Director-Children & Family Ministries
Ben Downey :: Director-Youth & Family Ministries
Rev. Karel Coppock :: Alpha Outreach, Prison, Service and Missions Ministries
John Lipp :: Lay Pastor Emeritus of Care
Patrick Smith :: Director-Worship & Music Ministries
Brenda Welsch :: Director-Adult Choir

Church Office Hours :: Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm