THE BEST GIFT EVER

Imagine your Christmas tree on December 26 sitting barren except for one beautifully wrapped, expertly adorned gift sitting all alone. In the rush of the feeding frenzy two nights ago it was nudged and bumped and ignored as hands snatched up every other gift within a two-mile radius. But sadly, this gift was left untouched and even more sadly, unopened.

Every gift under your tree represents love and honor and respect and thankfulness and generosity. For example, I love you, so I put special thought into what your wants and needs might be. I think about what will make you happy or make your life better. I then dig into my own resources and go out, with you in mind, and scour the countryside looking for just the right gift to bless you with. I make my purchase, take the treasure home, wrap it up in the prettiest way possible and then wait to see the joy my blessing gives you.

Now back to that neglected gift under the tree. God, in His grace, has offered to all of mankind a gift. He looked down, saw each of us, thought about our wants and needs, thought about what might make us happy or make our lives better, dug deeply into His vast resources and chose just the right gift for each of us. Then He wrapped that gift up in a beautiful package and sent it on to us. Romans 6:23 says, "the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Jesus is the gift God chose for you and for me. God bundled Him up in the form of a baby, wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

This gift is for everyone, but sadly, most ignore it. In most lives this gift remains unopened under the tree year after year. Like any gift you can't enjoy or appreciate or realize the benefits of this gift until you receive it and officially "open" it. Don't neglect your gift another day.

Pastor Mark

<u>December</u> Birthdays

Lexie Kurtz 1st Gary Addington, Jr. 2nd **Wester Fluke** 2nd 4th **Lauren Addington** Xenovia Adler 6th 7th **Dahmond Hand** 8th **Matt Krueger** 9th **Krixann Hand** 9th **Larry Cunningham** 9th **Tom Schrock** 11th Blake Havens 11th Natalie Jones 12th Carol Eveatt 14th Gerry Neugebauer 17th Angie Hoss

22nd Lindi Oquist 29th Buford Neugebauer 30th Jorge Medina

17th Delita Fleischacker

21st Chance Fraizier

Happy Birthday



The Promise Fullfilled

Matthew 1:21-23

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet, Isaiah: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' which means 'God with us'.

Matthew 1:21-23



November
Tithes & Offerings
up through Sunday,
Nov. 20th
\$13,514.93

Sunday Services Sunday School 9:15 am **Classes for** all ages! **Cafe Fellowship** 10:15 am Worship 10:30 am Kinder & **Children's Church** (Age 3 - 5th grade) **Nursery is available Youth Group** 6:30 pm Watch the **Worship Service Live Stream** on **Facebook** or YouTube @ LaJunta Nazarene Website lajuntanazarene.org

Christmas Calendar

<u>Dec. 4th</u> Children's Birthday Party For Jesus 9:15 am Other Class Fellowships 10:00 am

<u>Dec. 10th</u> Christmas Program Rehearsal & Lunch 10:00 am

<u>Dec. 11th</u>
"The Greatest Gift"
Presented by the children
10:30 am

<u>Dec. 11th</u>
Family Movie NightChristmas Edition
6:00 pm

<u>Dec. 18th</u> Parsonage Open House 4:00—7:00 pm

<u>Dec. 21st</u>
LJ Naz Kids Christmas Party;
Shopping and Wrapping Session
5:30—8:00 pm

<u>Dec. 24th</u> Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

<u>Dec. 25th</u> Christmas Day Service 10:00 am No Sunday School

<u>Jan. 1st</u> New Year's Day Service 10:00 am











"The Greatest Gift" Sunday, Dec. 11th 10:30 am Presented by the children

Christmas Program
Dress Rehearsal
& Lunch
Dec. 10th
10:00 am



Come and join us for a fun, family, Christmas movie. Free tickets will be given for popcorn, candy and a drink. Bring your lawn chairs.



