



# **LA JUNTA NAZARENE**

**December, 2023**

## **A Child-Like State Of Mind**

**Ever wonder why Christmas isn't as bright or fun or wonderful as it was when you were young?**

**I remember when everything was different in December. Back then, Christmas decorations came out of the closet to adorn the living room and kitchen. "Once a year" goodies would begin to be produced. Mom used to make Divinity and place it on wax paper to cool out on the back porch on top of the washing machine and dryer. There were always two kinds, with, and the proper way, without nuts, for her children who hated nuts.**

**Everything about that time was wonderful when I was young. Then as I grew older things changed and Christmas became about two days off work and some new blue jeans. Then I got married and had children and once again things were aglow in December. As my children grew up things changed once more and Christmas became about extra work and extra expense and extra anxiety and extra activity.**

**So, what happened? I believe it is all about our state of mind. I believe there is something very godly about a child-like state of mind. Not being trapped in childhood, never maturing into adulthood, but the simple ability to hope and trust and laugh and play and anticipate and love.**

**Sometimes the failures and hurts we experience along life's road make a child-like state of mind difficult to achieve. We grow reserved and less trusting and Christmas loses its wonder.**

**A child-like state of mind was so important to Jesus that He said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."**

**I believe that to get into heaven we must hope and trust and laugh and play and anticipate and love. And I believe that to fully enjoy Christmas we must hope and trust and laugh and play and anticipate and love.**

**Seek those qualities this season, pursue a child-like state of mind, and I know Christmas will glow a little brighter this year, no matter how old you might be.**

**Pastor Mark**

## **December Birthdays**

**1st Lexie Kurtz**  
**2nd Gary Addington Jr.**  
**2nd Wester Fluke**  
**4th Lauren Addington**  
**6th Xenovia Adler**  
**7th Dahmond Hand**  
**8th Matt Krueger**  
**9th Krixann Hand**  
**9th Larry Cunningham**  
**9th Tom Schrock**  
**11th James Price**  
**11th Natalie Jones**  
**12th Carol Eveatt**  
**14th Gerry Neugebauer**  
**17th Angie Hoss**  
**21st Chance Frazier**  
**22nd Lindi Oquist**  
**29th Buford Neugebauer**

## **Jesus is Born!**



### Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is  
born, Unto us a Son  
is given;

And the government  
will be upon His  
shoulder.

And His name will  
be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.



### **November**

### Tithes & Offerings

**As of 11/19/23**  
**\$16,136.00**

If you are watching the  
services online and  
would like to give tithes  
and offerings, you may:

- Come by the office
- Mail It
- Give online
- Use this QR code



**Thank You!**

## **Sunday Services**

**Sunday School**

**9:15 am**

**Classes for  
all ages!**

**Cafe Fellowship**

**10:15 am**

**Worship**

**10:30 am**

**Children's Church  
(Age 4 - 5th grade)**

**Nursery is available**

**Youth Group**

**6:30 pm**

**Watch the  
Worship Service  
Live Stream**

**on  
Facebook**

**or  
YouTube**

**@ Lajunta Nazarene**

**Website  
www.**

**lajuntanazarene.org**

# Christmas Calendar

Nov. 27th

Christmas Program Rehearsal  
and Lunch  
12:00 noon

Dec. 2nd

Christmas Program  
Dress Rehearsal & Lunch  
10:00 am

Dec. 3rd

Christmas Program  
10:30am

Dec. 10th

Children's Birthday  
Party For Jesus  
9:15 am

Dec. 10th

Family Movie Night  
Christmas Edition  
6:00 pm

Dec. 17th

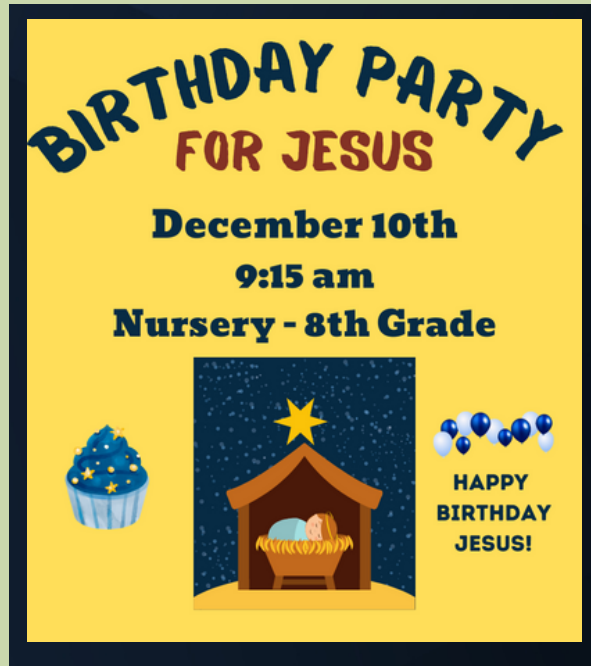
LJ Naz Kids Christmas Party;  
Shopping & Wrapping Session  
12:00 - 3:00 pm

Dec. 24th

Christmas Eve Service  
10:00 am  
No Sunday School

Dec. 31st

New Year's Eve Service  
10:00 am  
No Sunday School



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# **Children's Christmas Program**

Sunday, Dec. 3rd  
10:30 am

Cookies & Cocoa following the service  
Family Life Center



## **Practices**

- Sundays at 10:30 am
- Sunday, November 26th @ noon  
Rehearsal & Lunch
- Saturday, Dec. 2nd @ 10:00am  
Dress Rehearsal & Lunch

# **Family Movie Night Christmas Edition**



Sunday, Dec. 10th  
6:00 pm



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.



# **LJ Naz Kids Christmas Party & Shopping and Wrapping Session**

Sunday, December 17th  
12:00 - 3:00 pm  
Kind - 8th grade

RSVP & Pick up a shopping list with  
instructions from Miss Denise



## **Katie's Holiday Cheese Ball**

- 16 oz cream cheese, softened**
- 1 Jar pimento cheese spread**
- 1 1/2 cups sharp grated cheddar cheese**
- 1 tsp. garlic powder**
- 1 tsp. onion powder**
- 2 TBS. of lemon juice**
- 2 TBS. mayonnaise**
- 2 cups of pecans, chopped finely**
- 1 TBS fresh parsley, chopped**

**Chop the pecans and parsley  
and set aside.**

**Combine the rest of the  
ingredients until smooth.**

**Place cheese in the fridge to firm  
Mix the pecans & parsley and  
place on a plate.**

**Roll the cheese in and shape with  
your hand.**

**Serve with Crackers**