

**Pastor's Message**

**"Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."
 (Isaiah 43:2)**

Jesus was brought to church on the *eighth* day of his life to be named and blessed with God’s covenant of circumcision. Using the traditional date of December 25th to celebrate his birthday, *eight* days from then is the date of January 1st. On that day, he was given the name “Jesus” (which means Savior) just as Joseph was instructed to… and the rest is history.

Literally, the rest is HIStory.  “His” story has been intertwined with “your” story. At least, he wants it to be. It is up to each one of us to determine how much we want Jesus to be a part of our daily lives in 2020. To help us, I will be starting a sermon series on the “Teachings of Jesus”. Plan to come worship each Sunday and grow in your faith. I will begin in January, looking at Jesus’ teachings on stewardship and materialism. Jesus wants us free from being in bondage to anything.

May the Lord bless you in 2020, and may your family and friends know his blessings all throughout the year as we seek to “Be Jesus to others” and allow him to “Be Jesus to us.”

          God Bless you and your family with a Happy and Blessed New Year

 Pastor Dave

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| **Annual Voters' Meeting** |
| The Annual Voters' Meeting is scheduled for January 26th. More details will be coming in the weekly announcements. |

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| **"PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM"****Please contact the church office if you would like to become a part of our prayer ministry team. You will receive a weekly email including the prayers submitted on Sundays as well as those submitted on our website. You will be committing to prayer for these needs.** |

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**Giving Statements****2019 Giving Statements will be emailed to you by January 15, 2020. Please be sure that we have your correct email address on file. Requests for printed statements may be sent to Becky Brewer at**finance@wordoflifeaz.org**.** |

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| **Children's Ministry at "Word"** |

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| ***"Train a child in the way they should go, and when they are old they will not depart from it". (Proverbs 2:6)*****Sunday School continuesfrom 9:45 to 10:45am.****Ages 3-12 years are welcome to attend.*****Regular Sunday School Classes will resume on******January 12th.*****Questions? Please contact Mikayla McIntosh and/or Ericca Dunn at****623/544-4608.** |

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| Image result for hiking clipart

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| **Preschool News at "Word"****Family Hike & Picnic Event:****Saturday, January 25th, 10:00AM-12:00PM**You are invited to join us for a beautiful morning at the White Tank Mountain Regional Park. We have reserved Ramada 4-F for everyone to meet.  Bring plenty of water and a picnic lunch. Good walking shoes and/or hiking gear is recommended. You can walk the easy Black Rock Trail or hike up the Waterfall Trail. Enjoy God's beautiful creation and then let the kids play at the playground. ALL WELCOME!**Questions: Ericca at****director@wolschool.org****or****623/544-4608.** |

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| **Congregational Breakfast** |
| January 5th will be the "all church breakfast". Everyone is welcome to attend between the two Worship Services or after the Late Worship. Come and enjoy good food and great fellowship. Free will offering. |

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| **Men's Group Meeting****The Men's Group regular monthly meeting will be on January 15th at 5:30pm.** |
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**CHOICES PREGNANCY CENTERS OF GREATER PHOENIX****Sunday, January 26th, is the start of our Baby Bottle Drive to support Choices Pregnancy Centers. The centers are Christ-centered and dedicated to offering life affirming alternatives to women and families.****Take a baby bottle home, fill the bottle with your spare change, and return the bottle by Sunday, February 16th. Your change really will make a difference!****If you have questions, please contact Alma Stewart, 623/476-2441 or**sunnycalal@aol.com |

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| Our Annual Ladies Christmas Tea was a huge success. We had 120 Ladies sign up and had to set up more tables for all the food! It was a night of great fellowship and wonderful music, games, etc.The altar was filled with many gifts for the Choices Pregnancy Center.Thanks to all who participated by decorating the beautiful tables, bringing all the wonderful food, the baby gifts, and all the helpers who made it so special! Thank you to Pastor Dave and his helpers for setting/taking down all the tables and chairs! Thank you to Ericca for all the organizing!**Questions: Ericca at**[**wolschool.org**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hqg204_HH6CiQgi4QyEupDZW64LU2EFl5SAas66ss1M4Wra9dyheedByJjAQ_2PQ6an_kXjQXqvUBQg0FX1VqeVNxNtgTVyg3SdCdb2QPmai7DZPIt0-7oPv40m18Lq3OrZXvvP7yIA=&c=9_RKJzOm17lRd67VMFwmZpGXsGasym9eiMF8daFqqJTXopS-n0HZtA==&ch=wvb2ZTruDazWZGvRhV16EebTXuicbxE3lbDSYkSg4w6DIPioozo9Mw==)**(623/544-4608)****Lynne at****wolchurch@wordoflifeaz.org****(623/544-3000)** |

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| Fry's Community Rewards |

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| Thank you to everyone who has gone online and donated a portion of their Fry's purchases to Word of Life. If you would like to sign up for this, there are instructions on the Information area of the church or we have sheets in the office. |

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| **Wheelchair and Walkers****Still Available!** |
| We currently have one walker and a wheelchair available if anyone could use them. Please let Becky or Lynne know in the Church Office. Phone 623/544-3000 or wolchurch@wordoflifeaz.org |

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| **Sewing Group at "Word"** |
| **The Quilting/Sewing group meets Wed. mornings at 8:30am.****(Please call Jeannie to be sure they are meeting.)****The sewing group completed 62 beautiful blankets for each of the Sunshine Children at their Christmas Party. The Children were so excited to pick out their favorite and take it with them! Many of them immediately wrapped themselves with the blankets! Special Thanks for all the hard work!****We will continue collecting pillowcases, and we will be working on layettes for the Choices Center.****We always need flannel in 1 1/4 inch pieces.****We need size 12 and 14 girls panties for the feminine kits we will be sending out 150 of these this year.****Jeannie****Questions: Contact Jeannie at 623/696-5432 or****jimjean258@gmail.com** |

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**Senior Opportunities****January "Restaurant of the Month" is Sunday, January 26th, 6pm at Indigo Grille in Sun City Festival, 26577 W. Desert Vista Blvd., Buckeye 85396 (928/252-6445).****Please let Joan know if you can attend or need to carpool.****Questions: Joan Ball at**jmball45@gmail.com**or call 612/483-0278.** |

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| **Griefshare Support Group** |
| **The regular "Grief Care Group" will meet on Wednesday mornings at Crown of Life. They meet from 9:30-11:30am. You are welcome to attend each week, or just come when you can.*****Their regular schedule will resume on Jan.8th-April 1st.*****Questions: Contact Christine at 623/218-6793 or**[**www.griefshare.org**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001hqg204_HH6CiQgi4QyEupDZW64LU2EFl5SAas66ss1M4Wra9dyheeYnmcVQK62NDX-Y5mRlYkTsDIkTa4ODwIzjOLPZtpQtdNL_ieCWvSmWNe459yfx-wfUTcFEMAYPyCvzM5tm-y8yNndF6rhAX8Q==&c=9_RKJzOm17lRd67VMFwmZpGXsGasym9eiMF8daFqqJTXopS-n0HZtA==&ch=wvb2ZTruDazWZGvRhV16EebTXuicbxE3lbDSYkSg4w6DIPioozo9Mw==)**She encourages participants to call or register for the group.** |

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| **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS****Carol Desensi--01/01****Steve Kubasak--01/01****Logan White--01/01****Emily Giddens--01/03****Sandy Sherwood--01/05****Paul Guetter--01/06****Holland Wayne--01/07****Lina Shah--01/08****Shelby Bensinger--01/08****Jeff Hungerford--01/09****Shanna Olson--01/10****Wayne Riddle--01/11****Robert Downes--01/12****Ethan Weefar--01/13****(Gregory) Cieszynski--01/14****Nancy Newman--01/14****Allen Marsh--01/17****Sharon Taylor--01/17****Gary Johnson--01/18****Kevin Weiss--01/19****Jackie Yancy--01/21****Anne Conro--01/22****Paul Thompson--01/23****Deanna Daum--01/23****Skyler Morrison--01/23****Grady White--01/23****(Tim) Beyle--01/24****Julie Ulrich--01/24****Jennifer Wright--01/24****Alex Herrera/Maldonado--01/25****Diane Stratman--01/27****Walt Novak--01/28****Jane Marsh--01/28****Tom Behnke--0/29** |

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| **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES****Allen & Jane Marsh--01/02****Larry & Cathy Borgelt--01/04****Thomas & Lori Dombrovski--01/16****﻿****Kathie & (John) Lopata--01/31** |

**Word of Life Lutheran Church**Address: 17525 W Bell Road, Surprise, AZ 85374Tel: 623-544-3000Preschool: 623-544-4608r08PPEmail: wolchurch@wordoflifeaz.org |