



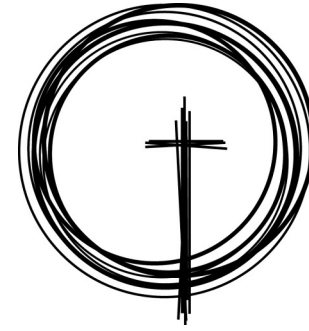
ZECHARIAH

Luke 1:5-25
Pastor Tom Dierenfeld
December 1, 2024

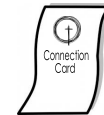
1. Even _____ need _____.

2. Sometimes we need to be _____ instead of _____.

3. God often _____ the ones we _____.



WELCOME TO **LifeSpring** Covenant Church



We are so glad you've chosen to visit LifeSpring today! Feel free to reach out to our Pastor of Connections & Formation for more info about our church. Elyse Aguirre: elysea@lifespringchurch.org

If you're new, whether in person or online, please fill out a Connection Card at the Welcome Center or fill it out online (www.lifespringchurch.org/im-new) to let us know you're here! This just gives us a chance to say hi and welcome you here.



If you would like to give an offering today to support the ministries of the church, there are offering boxes in the lobby and back of the sanctuary. You can also scan the QR code and give online or go to our website and click GIVE. Venmo is another option: @LifeSpringCovChurch Thank you!



We invite you to check in your kids in the Children's Ministry area at the south end of the building. Check in before service. Nursery age kids can be dropped off anytime; elementary age kids will join us in service for music and will be dismissed before the sermon to head to crew252.

**Stay
In
Touch** www.LifeSpringChurch.org
(970) 667-4730
office@LifeSpringChurch.org
 @LifeSpringChurch

BABIES, KIDS, STUDENTS

Sundays: Nursery & Children's Programming

Please check in your kids before service at the south end. Drop off to nursery anytime; grades K-5 will begin with us in service then be dismissed before the sermon.

Wednesdays: Youth Night!

Dec 4th students grades 6-8 are invited to the last regular Fusion of the year, 6:30 to 8pm. Students grades 9-12 to the last regular Pulse, 7 to 9pm.

Dec 11th we'll have our Combo Christmas Party! Meet at Centerra skating rink, 6-8pm.

Find the youth calendar on the website (www.LifeSpringChurch.org) under Ministries > Students to see what's coming up! For text updates, text @lifespri to 81010.

ADULT GROWTH CLASS

The God Who Draws Near: Living the Tension of Advent

December 8-22 | First Hour 8:45-9:45am (*childcare provided*) | in crew252 | facilitated by Brian Wright

Advent is a season of waiting to celebrate Christ's birth and longing for his return. During this season we navigate conflicting themes of darkness, hope, judgment and love. Join us as we reflect on what it means to be an "Advent people" who live in the tension of the "already and the not-yet" of the Christian story, while embracing the God of Advent who draws near to us in Jesus.

MOMENT FOR MISSIONS

Casa Hogar Los Angelitos is a unique children's home in Manzanillo, Mexico, dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing environment for children from infancy and up. LifeSpring has been partnering with Nancy Nystrom and her fellow staff for the past 20+ years. Most of their children come from very difficult circumstances, but by God's grace and the efforts of the Casa Hogar staff, their past does not determine their future. Over 1,000 children have been rescued and nurtured at Casa Hogar.

After a trying year of physical threats and serious illness, Nancy requests prayer for continued strength, resilience, courage and vision. Pray also for additional staff with a heart for this ministry.

Christmas Offering

This year our Christmas offering is for hope & education in Loveland & the Philippines. Locally we will be supporting Teaching Tree Early Childhood Learning Center, and abroad we are giving to a new preschool Phyllis Oblander is helping kickstart. Both organizations are striving to serve families in need: locally scholarships are in high demand to afford childcare, and overseas they hope to grow this preschool to serve more ages in a severely underresourced area.

To give to this year's Christmas offering, mark your cash/ check Christmas Offering, or there is a specified fund online: lifespringchurch.org/giving

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 12 | Neighborhood Christmas Party

We get to host a Christmas party to celebrate with the families on the Neighborhood Giving Tree! There are so many ways you can still help: help set up, make chili, run an activity or game, and more. Join us for a special night to bless our neighbors. Find volunteer info in the Connecting Center or online: lifespringchurch.org/Christmas

December 6 | Kids Night In

Parents, we have another Kids Night In coming up December 6, 5:30-8:00. The kids will enjoy dinner, games, and a movie while you get some time to go on a date night, relax, or maybe Christmas shop?? RSVP to Melissa, melissas@lifespringchurch.org

December 8 | Family Photos

Brenda Rundback and David Priest are generously offering to take Christmas pictures for you again this year! They will be set up in the Connecting Center next Sunday, December 8.

December 15 | The Journey Information Meeting

God continually invites us into a deeper relationship with himself and that journey deeper always results in us engaging in the world in a more loving and just way. One way LifeSpring creates space for you to go deeper is through our Spiritual Formation process, The Journey. The Journey will run from 1/27-5/19 on Mondays from 6:30-8pm. For more information and to receive an application, join us for an information meeting on December 15th from 11:30-12pm in the Commons. If you are interested but unable to attend the meeting, contact Pastor Elyse at elysea@lifespringchurch.org

LIFE TOGETHER

Christmas Gift Nominations

Each year the Helping Hand Ministry provides gift cards for families in need. LifeSpringers may nominate someone from church or a friend. Find nomination forms at the Welcome Center; they are due by December 15th. We'll let you know when gift cards are ready and you'll deliver it.

LifeSpring Games Group

Our game-loving LifeSpringers (and guests!) continue to meet monthly to share quality time and great snacks over board games. We're shifting the schedule this month to meet on December 21st. Come for some or all of the time, 2pm-6pm in the Connecting Center! Child care is available for \$10 per kiddo, please RSVP early for our sitters. Contact: Luke Heidbrink, 949-943-4378

Sign up for the next Mending the Soul

Mending the Soul is a class for women who have experienced trauma, neglect, or abuse. The next class starts soon. For those interested in Mending the Soul, applications are available now: email vpaulbryant@gmail.com. Applications are due Monday, December 9th.

Neighborhood Giving Tree

Thank you so much for donating and shopping for all the gifts on the Neighborhood Giving Tree! Gifts are due back today, unwrapped. One of the volunteer sign up needs is for gift wrappers! Once we make sure that every child's gifts are labeled, we'll wrap everything up with a bow on top.

Showing up in the everyday

As we head into this Advent season, full of anticipation and hope and joy and promise, we are invited to show up in our community with hope and joy and promise.

Just as the angels popped up in peoples' everyday lives, so we can do as well! Many of you already volunteer in so many ways here at church, and we are so thankful. These places where we can bless others in our community aren't a mandate or meant to guilt you into action; they are opportunities if you're looking for additional ways to lean



1. Salvation Army Bell Ringers

Volunteer bell ringers are more than an icon of the Christmas season; they're the difference between an empty kettle and one that raises the funds that sustain the help The Salvation Army provides all year long. When you volunteer to stand at a kettle, you're not just ringing a bell... you're changing lives. Kettles are located throughout the community so you can find a location that's convenient for you: tinyurl.com/LLBELLKS

2. Homeward Alliance

We need a couple volunteers to pick up and serve a special holiday meal for our guests on Christmas Day! Volunteers will pick up premade lunches from Loveland's Community Kitchen and then deliver the meals to the Murphy Center. Email Kinszia@HomewardAlliance.org

3. City of Loveland Snow Squad

Volunteers help residents who are on a fixed income and physically unable to shovel their sidewalks due to disability and/or age. The city of Loveland staff matches volunteers with residents who live nearby. Volunteers commit to shoveling their sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall of 2 or more inches. To learn more, contact Brianne Totman at 970-962-2464 or brianne.totman@cityofloveland.org.

4. Friends on Wheels (Meals on Wheels)

Understanding the critical impact of social connections on well-being, Meals on Wheels of Loveland and Berthoud is addressing loneliness and isolation among our homebound and aging neighbors with the new Friends on Wheels Program. This initiative pairs volunteers with clients for weekly in-home visits, fostering deeper connections and friendships beyond meal deliveries. Volunteers spend quality time with clients, engaging in activities like chatting over coffee, listening to music, and playing games. These interactions enhance physical, mental, and emotional health, providing a sense of purpose and community. Learn more by contacting Support Coordinator, Diane Cohn (diane@lovelandmealsonwheels.org) or visit www.lovelandmealsonwheels.org/friends-on-wheels-client-visitor

5. Serve 6.8 Adopt a Family

Did you know it takes over 40,000 toys, 40,000 food items, 3,500 \$50 gift cards, and 2,500 \$20 gift cards to serve families in need through Adopt-A-Family this Thanksgiving and Christmas? Visit serve68.org/aafserve/ for more info; here's how you can get involved:

Become a Giving Tree Volunteer: Each of the 600 Giving Trees needs a dedicated volunteer to deliver gifts to the Toy Room.

Serve in the Toy Room: Thanksgiving food is arriving, and Toy Packing is underway. Join us to sort toys and stock Resource Centers with food and clothing. (evening shifts available)

Find a Giving Tree Near You: Even if you can't serve quite yet, watch for Giving Trees to pop up in the community over the coming weeks. Take a tag, and thank local businesses and churches for their dedication to serving families this holiday.

6. House of Neighborly Service

Volunteers are needed throughout December to help with the House of Neighborly Service Christmas Program. These opportunities include helping pack food for clients, and helping in the Christmas Store where parents get to shop and pick out Christmas gifts for their children! Volunteers can register here: tinyurl.com/LLHNSVX

