

December 2015



Fellowship News

*From Pastor Dustin:*

I love Christmas. I absolutely love it. It's such a special time of year with so many amazing things going on. There are parties and get-togethers, food and gifts, friends and family, music and celebration. We decorate, we feast, we share love and joy and laughter. Strangers will wish you a "Merry Christmas!" or a "Happy Holidays!" Wherever you look, Christmas surrounds you, and even amongst all of the shopping and sales and parking and headaches, there is a sense of joy and hope.

All of that is great. But there is one thing that stands head and shoulders above it all. One thing that truly matters, even with all of the things that occupy our attention in this season. THE one thing that this is all really about - I love Christmas because of what we are celebrating - the birth of Jesus. The Incarnation. The Word made flesh. The infinite, eternal, all knowing God being born as a human baby. The fulfillment of a promise millennia in the making. It is incredible. It is incomprehensible. It is awesome.

The Christmas story is so familiar, and yet every time I read it I am struck again with how crazy it is, and how incredible this God must be to take such a leap for us. And it starts way before the gospels...it goes right back

to Genesis! From the moment sin entered the world, God made a promise. He told Adam and Eve about this One who would come to fix it. Right at the beginning of it all, when everything went horribly wrong, God promised HOPE. And then, thousands of years later, with his people having struggled and suffered and waited and hoped and doubted, God comes through.

What a gift. What an act of love and sacrifice. We cannot even begin to imagine what it meant for Jesus to step out of heaven and become one of His creations - to set aside His heavenly glory and place Himself in the arms and care of a teenage girl. Every time I think about it I get goose bumps. How could God love us this much?

And so, is there any other way for us to respond than with celebration? With lights and laughter and joy and songs, with gifts and sharing and love and community? The world can say whatever it wants about this season, and call it whatever name makes them comfortable, but the reality is we have a holiday across this country because Jesus was born. And that is awesome.

So celebrate! Buy gifts and spend time with your loved ones. Reach out to your neighbours and share the love and joy of the season with them. Party and sing and feast and laugh...hope is real, and the Messiah has come!

prepare for His coming...



GOD

came

HERE

celebrate together...



## Wedding and Baby Showers



One of the greatest joys we have as a church family is to celebrate important and exciting life events together. What a blessing it has been to see so many new marriages and babies being born over the last couple of years! It is such a treat to honor, support and care for one another as God brings these blessings into our lives and our church.

However, as God has drawn more and more families and individuals into our fellowship, it has become increasingly difficult to honor all of these wonderful events in a way that is meaningful and equal, and so we have to look at ways to continue to do that well.

Beginning in January 2016, we are going to shift from the church hosting showers for babies and engagements, as there are simply too many to do well, and instead will honor our couples and families during the service by presenting a gift and covering them in prayer together. Change isn't always easy, but we want to do our very best to make sure that every couple feels equally honored and supported, and so we must move forward in this direction.

There have been a number of showers planned through this fall, and we appreciate you making them a priority. Thank you all so much for your wonderful and generous support, and we hope (and know) that you will continue to make our young couples and families feel so cared for and loved.

### YOU ARE INVITED TO A WEDDING SHOWER

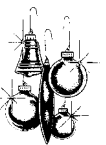
Sunday, December 6 at 2pm for **Rebekah Gulley**

Come celebrate with her as she and Wes plan for their upcoming wedding & new life together.

*They are registered at The Bay*



## SISTERlife (Women's Ministry) announcements:



All ladies are invited to participate in our annual **Christmas Ornament & Baking Exchange**. It will be held at 25 Apache Crescent, Leduc, **Dec. 4 at 7 pm**. Bring an inexpensive (\$5 & under) wrapped ornament to exchange. The baking is to be in 1 dozen packages. Bring as many dozen as you would like to exchange plus some for sampling.

This year we are also supporting the NABC Women's Ministry Christmas Project "Chicks-4-Orphans". We are encouraging everyone to bring \$4 for this project.

Come for a great night of FUN & a time of getting to know each other! Bring a friend!!

### COMING IN THE NEW YEAR

**Sunday, January 10th** - Potluck and Movie "The War Room"

Everyone is invited to participate after church for a potluck lunch. Bring your favorite dish. The movie & popcorn will begin at 1:30pm. (2 hrs. in length).

SISTERlife will be offering a **5 session bible study on prayer** beginning **January 14th**. Details about sign up will be on the HUB, FACEBOOK PAGE, and in the January Newsletter.

**FREED-UP FINANCIAL LIVING COURSE** for men and women coming in the New Year. More details will be provided as they become known.

*LADIES ... We now have a SISTERlife Group page on FACEBOOK. Be sure to connect with us on our group. Keep up to date with any of the activities that SISTERlife will be doing.*

SISTERlife...





## LFC Kids Newsletter:

### MOMS & TOTS

Join us in the fellowship hall on **Wednesdays, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**. This is a weekly play group for moms, dads, caregivers, etc. Coffee is always on for the adults. This has been a wonderful chance for people to get to know each other and visit while the children play. This is a free weekly event.

**On Dec. 2, we will be decorating cookies.** You are welcome to bring sprinkles, etc. to share, if you like.

For more info, contact Adrienne Braithwaite at [litldods@shaw.ca](mailto:litldods@shaw.ca).

### LFC KIDS

The following Children's Programs for ages 0 - Grade 4 run **every Sunday Morning:**

**Nursery** – For children ages **0 to 18 months**.

**Toddler Room** – Children ages **18 months to 36 months**.

**PreK/K** – This is a special Worship Time designed for **ages 3 through Kindergarten**. They meet together in the Fellowship Hall for a time of play, Bible teaching, singing, and FUN!

**Elementary** – This is a Worship Time for students in **Grades 1-4**. They meet in the Youth Room for a time of Bible Teaching, Small Group activities, prayer, and FUN!

*\*\*When a month has 5 Sundays, the kids in Grades 1-4 stay in the Adult Worship Service to give them the opportunity to stay with their families and participate in the communion service.*

### JUJUBES

Jujubes is a pre-Youth Group for students in **Grades 5 & 6**. They meet at the church every other Wednesday night from 6:45-8:15. This is a fun chance to learn about Christ and grow in a relationship with Him, participate in service events, and of course enjoy some fabulous game nights!! Let's not forget the snacks! Any questions about Jujubes can be directed to Darrell Ohlmann at [darrellohlmann@yahoo.ca](mailto:darrellohlmann@yahoo.ca) or by text/calling: 780-970-8245.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This year we will enjoy a children's choir as they present some Christmas songs as part of our church service on **December 13**. Grades 1-6 kids are welcome to meet in the youth room on Sunday mornings for practices. Dress rehearsal will be Saturday, Dec. 12 from 10:30-11:30am & a snack will be provided!

For more information, contact Olivia Milne by email at [olivia.genevieve@gmail.com](mailto:olivia.genevieve@gmail.com) or by text/calling at 403-969-2134.

*Any questions concerning LFC Kids Ministries can be directed to Joanne Gulley at [joanne@leducfellowship.ca](mailto:joanne@leducfellowship.ca) or by text/calling: 780-441-1671.*



### Youth!

Come hang out with us every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30pm.

*For the most current news and info, join our Facebook group LFC Youth, and follow us on twitter @LFCYouth*



**Wednesday, Dec 9  
1:00-4:00pm**

We meet every month to do some White Cross work cutting and rolling bandages to send to missions. *Everyone is welcome!*

white cross

ministry updates...

### Christmas Events:

**December 13** - Kids Choir during the morning service. Dress rehearsal from 10:30-11:30am on the 12th.

#### **December 24:**

**5:00pm Potluck Christmas Dinner.** No family around to celebrate with on Christmas Eve? Enjoy a wonderful meal with some of your church family! Turkey, stuffing & gravy will be provided. Please bring additional food to share. For more details, contact Laura Piercey.

**6:30PM Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service**

## Re-Imagine Update



As you can see, when you drive by our building, the north addition is well underway! We are very excited to be moving forward with this phase of our building project!

The grade beam is complete and we look forward to the floor being poured in early December.

From time to time we are blessed by donations of one kind of material or another. We would like to acknowledge Frank's Sandblasting in Nisku for their donation of fill material that will prep for pouring the floor.

Also, thank you to those who were able to donate plywood!

grow together...

We are so grateful for your continued support - financial and prayer - of this project.

Please continue to pray for:

- God's continued grace, wisdom and direction,
- Favor with the engineers,
- Safety for every worker on site,
- Weather that will allow the floor to be poured and cured properly!

God Bless & Thank you,  
Warren Bender, Building Chairman



### Contact us:

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Phone: 780.986.9299 office@leducfellowship.ca

[www.leducfellowship.ca](http://www.leducfellowship.ca)

### LFC Staff:

*Pastor:* Rev. Dennis Gulley (On Sabbatical)  
*Associate Pastor:* Dustin Strauss  
*Children's Ministry:* Joanne Gulley  
*Administrative Assistant:* Penny Carleton

dennis@leducfellowship.ca  
dustin@leducfellowship.ca  
joanne@leducfellowship.ca  
penny@leducfellowship.ca

### Office hours:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 9:00am - 4:00pm  
Tuesday: 9:00 am - 12:00pm.  
Thursdays & Holidays the office is closed.