

From Pastor Jeff



Happy New Year! No, this greeting is not a month early. December 1st marks the beginning of Advent this year. The Christian year begins with the first Sunday in Advent. So, Happy New Year! Advent begins four Sundays before Christmas and goes until Christmas day. It is a season of preparation meant to help us make space in our lives for the miracle of Christmas, the coming of God in the person of Jesus. In fact, from the start, Advent was a time to prepare for the second coming of Christ as we meditate on his first coming, recalling his birth in the manger at Bethlehem, his ministry of teaching and miracles throughout Galilee and Jerusalem, and especially his death and Resurrection for our salvation. This year, to help me get into the spirit of Advent, I will be reading a chapter a day from the Gospel of Luke. There are 24 chapters in Luke's gospel and there are 24 days in Advent. Reading a chapter a day means I will get to live through Jesus's whole earthly life and ministry as I get ready for Christmas. What better way to start the new (Christian) year and focus on the reason for the season! Won't you join me in this journey through the gospel?



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24th
at
5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER EVENTS AT OUR CHURCH

DECORATING THE CHURCH

Sunday, December 1st

We will be decorating the church for the Advent/Christmas Season following our potluck lunch this Sunday, December 1st.



POTLUCK LUNCH

Sunday, December 1st



We will be sharing a potluck lunch fol-

lowing our 10:00 a.m. worship service. Our food theme is Christmas ham. Bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert to share. The church will be providing ham and rolls.

DEACON'S MINISTRY TO THE NEEDY

We will be celebrating our Lord's Supper during worship on Sunday, December 1st. Each Sun-

day we share in the meal our Lord has provided, we also assist our Deacons by bringing items for those in our community in need. The Deacons are collecting personal care items such as shampoo and toothpaste and household items such as paper towels and cleaning products. There is a basket in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you for helping.



DECEMBER SESSION MEETING

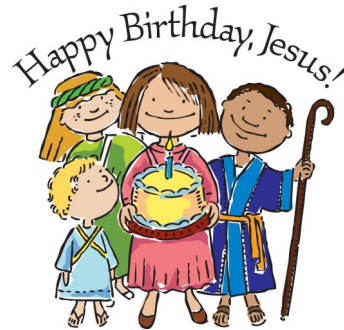
Wednesday, December 11th

Our Session will be gathering on Wednesday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m. for study and business.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

December 1st

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at our Sunday morning worship service on December 1st. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive this Sacrament, please contact Pastor Jeff at the church to arrange for home Communion.



VILLAGE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!" PARTY

Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m.

The Village Christian Preschool "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. starting with their Christmas play in the Sanctuary. A spaghetti dinner will follow in the Fireside Room. Please join us for a blessed look at the Christmas season through the eyes of our children. The children will sing some of the songs from the program on Sunday, December 15th during the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

Saturday, December 21st at 5:00 p.m.

Join us for a wonderful time of singing Christmas songs together. Cookies and hot chocolate following the sing-along in our Fireside Room. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Also, if you would like to take part in a Christmas cookie exchange, please bring a dozen cookies to share with our guests for the sing-along and a few dozen more to exchange.



THE VILLAGE CHURCH IS A PRAYING CHURCH!

Our Lord has placed on the hearts of the leaders of The Village to pray. As a church we provide opportunities during and after our worship services for prayer. We have a group of intercessory prayer folks who gather each Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. to pray for the needs and praises of our congregation and beyond. Please contact Pastor Jeff if you would like to join this special prayer group.



CHURCH SNOW CLOSURES

Cancelling worship is never anticipated for our Sunday morning services. It is our desire to hold our

worship services regardless of the weather. Some Sundays our services may be very, very small, but "where two or more are gathered..." In stormy icy weather, we encourage everyone to use good judgment in discerning whether to attend worship or not.



BIBLE STUDIES

Kings Beach Small Group - Second and Fourth Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The Kings Beach small group is at 6:30 p.m. at the Ackerman's home. This group is welcome to anyone. Contact Judy or Paul Ackerman for more information.

Incline Village Small Group - Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

The Incline Village small group meets Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. at different homes in Incline Village. Everyone is welcome to come. Contact Tim Gilbert for more info.

Men's Bible Study - Wednesdays at 6:30 a.m.

Christ, Coffee, and Cinnamon Rolls, ministry for men, meets on Wednesday mornings at 6:30 a.m. in our Church's Fireside Room. All men are invited for prayer, Bible study, coffee and breakfast rolls.

Adult Bible Study - Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Join Pastor Jeff for a study based on his sermon series. This is a great opportunity for learning more about God's Word and to fellowship together.

Women's Bible Study - Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Women's Bible study is at Cornerstone Community Church. The study is on the book of Daniel and meets Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m. All women of our church are invited to join them.

INVITE A FRIEND AND BE A FRIEND

This is the challenge for each of us as we enter into Advent and Christmas. Our worship services during the Christmas season are wonderful times to invite friends to worship. The Church is having a fun Sing-Along on Saturday, December 21st at 5:00 p.m. There are our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th.

People are more open to this kind of invitation during Christmas and Easter than any other time of the year. Think about who you might ask to come with you and then ask them. This is the "Invite a Friend" part of the challenge, but the "Be a Friend" part is to treat everyone who comes through the doors of our church as a friend. Think of them and treat them as if they were that special person you invited.



CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION



There are a great number of organizations in the North Lake Tahoe area that are working together to help those struggling in these economic times. The Village Church is glad to do its part through the Deacon's Food Closet Ministry.

After church on Sunday, December 12th, We will be setting up the Church's Fireside Room for food box packing including making the boxes. On Wednesday, December 15th, at 5:00 p.m. we will be packing food boxes. The distribution will be on Saturday, December 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the church and we can use help hosting applicants and loading items into cars. Volunteers - please be at the church at 9:15 a.m. The Deacons thought it would be fun to wear Christmas attire, hat, sweater, jingle bells, etc. We'll have some tunes! Also, if anyone speaks Spanish and wants to act as an interpreter, please let Jim Dykstra know.

Thank you to all of our volunteers for the outstanding help throughout the year!

SAMARITAN'S PURSE 2020 TEXAS MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITY

The Village Church is organizing a 2020 mission trip with Samaritan's Purse. The tentative date is April 26-May 2, 2020 in Rockport, Texas. For more information about this mission trip's rebuild site, go to <https://www.spvolunteer.org/project-response/151> . John Stroud is the 2020 Samaritan's Purse mission trip team leader. For questions He can be contacted at john.stroud13@gmail.com.



Each year we look forward to the beauty the poinsettia plants bring to our sanctuary during the Christmas season. If you would like to purchase a plant and dedicate it in celebration of a special occasion or in memory of a loved one, please fill out the form below. Your celebration or memorial will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. You may take your plant home after the last Christmas Eve Service.



The cost of each plant is \$10.00. Please make your check payable to the church. Deliver the form and your check to the church or mail to:

**The Village Church
736 McCourry Blvd.
Incline Village, NV 89451
(775) 831-0784**

***The deadline for all orders is
Sunday, December 1st***

Poinsettia Order Form

Name _____

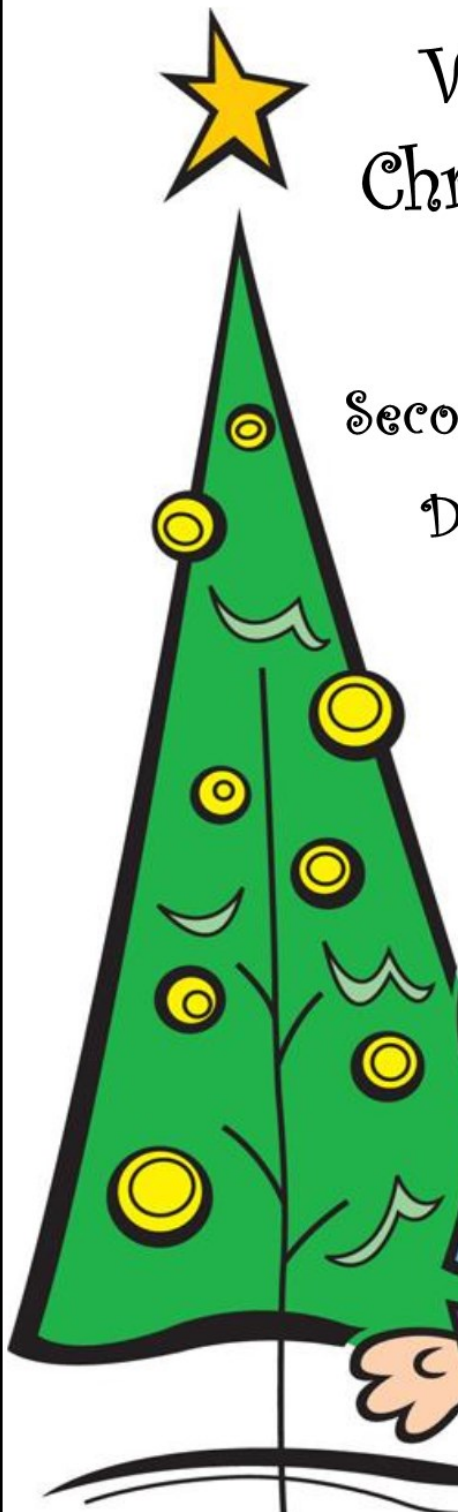
Phone Number _____

No. of Plants _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

In Celebration of _____

In Memory of _____



Village Christian Preschool's
Christmas Play, Dinner, & Crafts

December 11th at 6:00 pm

Second performance of the Christmas Play

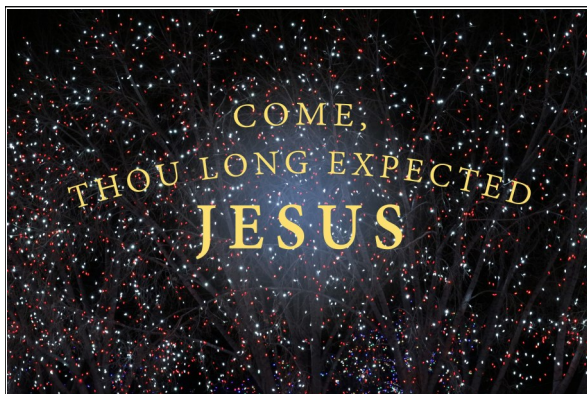
December 15th during 10AM service

Join us for a wonderful
celebration of the birth of Jesus.



Village Christian Preschool

736 McCourry Blvd., Incline Village, NV
775-831-1184 www.villagepreschoolnv.org



ADVENT IS COMING!

Beginning Sunday, December 1st

What is Advent? The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. Advent is a time of expectation and hope. The word “Advent” means “arrival” or “coming.” During the season of Advent we stop and take a moment each day in December to remember why Jesus came at Christmas and the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas.

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis, they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. The Advent Wreath and Candles: The Advent wreath is made from evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God’s unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus’ sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent faith, hope, love, and joy. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

YOUTH NEWS

Merry Christmas! When you think of Christmas, you probably think about an event – an event that is (hopefully) filled with gifts, food, family and fun. But what happens when that event isn’t as joyful or peaceful as we wish it were? And is the “event” even what Christmas is about anyway? This month the Upper Room Group will be doing a four week series looking at what this season is truly about. It’s about getting ready to receive God’s gift of Jesus, sharing that gift with others, rejoicing in the surprising gifts God gives us and taking time to enjoy God’s presence. The youth will hopefully experience all of those things in our church and its ministries, as well as through the series we are studying.

The youth will again be helping with the food box ministry by packing boxes and also visiting folks in Reno on Sunday afternoons to give out warm sleeping bags and other items that will help them. Also, we will continue to meet at Starbucks for a Bible study from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If you would like to help with any of our youth programs or our homeless outreach by purchasing sleeping bags, sleeping pads, or socks, or even by coming along with us, I would encourage you to do so. Find me any Sunday for more details, and thank you!

Upper Room Group meets Wednesdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Youth Room.

Bible study meets at Starbucks from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Special ops outreach leaves the church at 12:00 p.m. and returns by 3:00 p.m. on Sundays.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: YOUTHCOMPASS



YouthCompass seeks to address the unique needs of mobile international High School and Middle School students by providing caring adult role models who assist them in navigating life. YouthCompass was founded in London in 2001 by expatriates from business, government and non-profit sectors spanning multiple continents. They recognized the unique needs of Third Culture Kids and wanted to help meet that need. There are currently about 650 English-speaking international schools and the intent of YouthCompass is to connect with students in each of the schools.

The YouthCompass leaders walk with students, entering their world and loving them unconditionally – modeling respect, trust and friendship. These values reflect their commitment to Jesus Christ. A leader becomes a true friend in the midst of cultural transition, coming alongside those that are often challenged with the difficult questions of adolescence in a cross-cultural and mobile environment.

YouthCompass is committed to challenging international teens to give of themselves to those less fortunate. Through their annual *PROJECT COMPASSION*, students have the chance to give something of themselves to people who may never be able to repay them. Project Compassion is

a week-long service project which gives international students an opportunity to serve those living in difficult conditions. In 2019, students from around the world boarded buses in central Europe for Romania. These youth brought water to three homes, fenced a community garden and helped renovate a youth camp.

Tim Gilbert has volunteered for YouthCompass mission trips for the past eleven years to help with Project Compassion, often with others from our church. In Romania, Project Compassion brought thirty Third Culture kids to the project in 2019. Of these, about half were unchurched. Tim was one of the construction site leaders that brought running water to two houses for three families. A pastor speaks to the kids every evening. During the week, staff and volunteers have incredible conversations with students and the depth of community built during that week is amazing. Year after year, they see transformed lives, and students are anxious to return and bring their friends. Tim has seen some YouthCompass kids returning as young leaders on later trips.

Tim is planning to go on a short-term mission trip with Project Compassion again April 10-18, 2020. Several of our Village Church youth are planning to join him and others from are church are encouraged to go and serve as well. As in the past, it promises to be a very rewarding experience.

Our church mission budget provides support for the YouthCompass organization and also helps fund our congregation members' participation in Project Compassion. Individuals can also donate through The Village Church to help provide funds for this trip.





CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX MINISTRY



THE VILLAGE CHURCH CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX MINISTRY week of December 15th

There are various ways to volunteer with our Christmas food box ministry.

- **Sunday, December 15th at 11:30am** Setting up the Church's Fireside Room for food box packing including making the boxes.
- **Wednesday, December 18th at 5:00pm** Food box packing in the Fireside Room.
- **Saturday, December 21st from 10:00am to 12:00pm** Distribution of the food boxes in the Fireside room at the Village Church.

Your help would be appreciated for any or all of these days.

Please contact the Church with any questions 775-831-0784.

736 McCourry Blvd. Incline Village, NV

www.TheVillageChurchNV.org

Christmas Sing-Along

Saturday, December 21st

At 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

FREE Admission

Join us for a fun time of singing Christmas songs.

**Cookies and hot chocolate
following the sing-along in our Fireside Room.**

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

The Village Church

736 McCourry Blvd., Incline Village, NV

775-831-0784

www.TheVillageChurchNV.org

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Children love Christmas! They love the gifts, lights, trees, and treats. Sadly, many children in our world today have no idea that Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birth. There are many children who have never heard the nativity story, or they may not understand or have been told the significance of who Jesus really is. He is the Savior who came as a baby to take away the sin of the world so we can be with God forever.



In Sunday school this December, we will be learning about the incarnation of Christ from a lesson series called "Jesus: God who came to Earth". The series covers the Christmas story and significant events from Jesus' life to emphasize truths about the incarnation. In a culture that prefers to portray Jesus as merely a cute baby in a manger, it is important to clarify the truth that Jesus' virgin conception and birth in Bethlehem isn't the beginning of the Son of God. It is the mysterious and miraculous moment when the eternal Son entered physically into our world and became one of us.

The children's sermon in the sanctuary this month will focus on the Advent theme that week (Faith, Hope, Love, Joy) and then the candles will be lit before children are dismissed to Sunday School. Once they're upstairs, we will be diving a little deeper into what Advent is and what the candles and liturgy means.

As we go through the all too familiar traditions of the holiday season, please remember that the little children in your life and



community need to be told the true meaning of the season. As you pause to reflect, wonder, and give praise and gratitude to God for the saving love of Jesus Christ this Advent season, please also take a moment to consider how you would explain all of that to a child – simply and meaningfully, and then pray for opportunities to share the love of Christ this season in both words and deeds to a child of any age.

Blessings in Christ!

Darlene Nilsson, Director of Children's Ministries



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

This year, our Church and Preschool packed 199 boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. The boxes were delivered to Reno on Monday November 18th. From there, the boxes are packed in shipping boxes for distribution all over the globe. Thank you and blessings to all who participated!



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS



THANK YOU TO ALL!

Thank you to all who made our Thrift Shop's Christmas Open House a huge success! We had over \$5,500 in sales and a wonderful community outreach. Many helped by baking, sorting, unpacking, helping shopper AND shopping!

2020 WOMEN'S RETREAT SEPTEMBER 18th - 20th



SPEAKER - ANDREA COLI

Do you ever feel like your relationship with God has become routine? Or like you've settled into the status quo and you wonder of this is as good as it gets? Or maybe you just don't know what the next step in your faith should be. This retreat will be all about how God has MORE for you. We have a God who is always able to surprise us with the depth of who He is but so often we miss out on experiencing all that He has for us. During the retreat, we'll talk about some specific areas of our lives where God is ready and willing to be the MORE that we are looking for.



Reserve a spot at our **North Lake Tahoe Women's Retreat** in 2020 for a friend or loved for Christmas. Here is the early registration form:

Lake Tahoe Christian Women's Retreat Early Registration September 18-20, 2020

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Church _____

Roommate (if any) _____

I prefer*:

- Cabin close to Tallac Center
- Room in Tallac Center
- Any Cabin or Room is fine with me
- No Stairs
- ADA Room Needed

2020 is my first Lake Tahoe Christian Women's Retreat

\$50 Deposit (nonrefundable, but transferable or can go to scholarship fund)

\$180 approximate total fee for next year (\$50 non refundable, but transferable or can go to scholarship fund)

\$5 Vegan \$5 Vegetarian

I would like to donate to the **Jenny Kerry Scholarship Fund** so others may attend.
Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to:

*The Village Church Women's Ministry
736 McCourry Blvd. Incline Village, NV 89451*

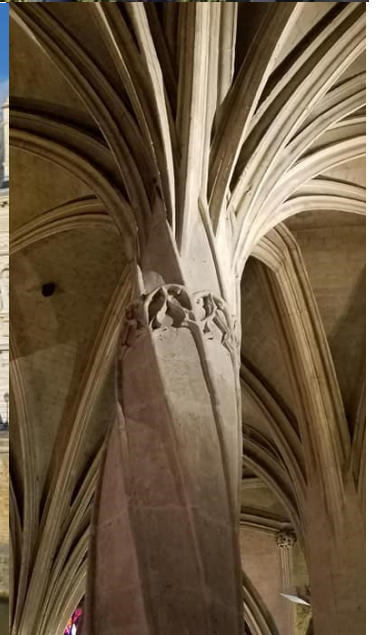
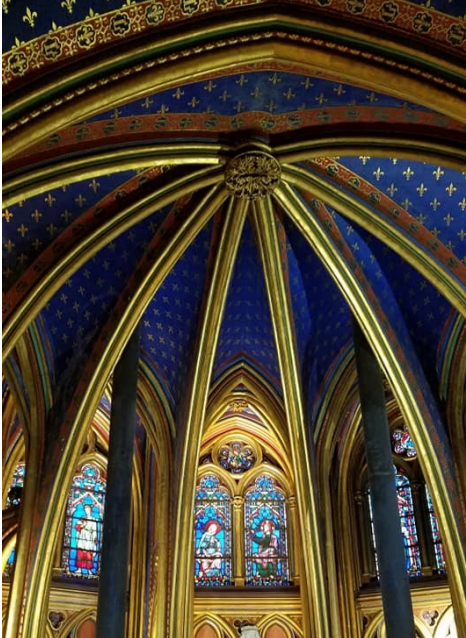
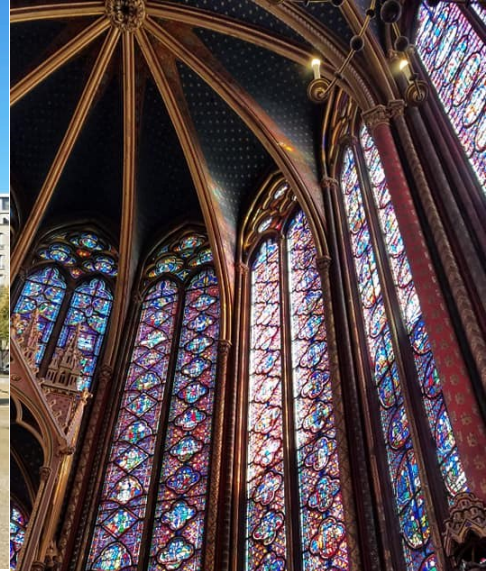
***Attempts will be made to honor preferences but not guaranteed**

VILLAGE CHRISTIAN THANKSGIVING PRESCHOOL PHOTOS



*O give thanks
unto the LORD;
for he is good.*
PSALM 136:1, KJV

PASTOR JEFF'S PHOTO PAGE





12/3 Harry Farrell	12/15 Roland Schumann
12/4 Bill Leonard	12/20 Cindy Liggett
12/11 Vickie Twichell	12/21 Bob Williamson
12/12 Steve Merritt	12/21 Ann Sura
12/13 Ed Windham	12/25 Don Ferrell
12/14 Marji Hansen	12/26 Rob Robins
12/15 Jim Amende	12/29 Jim Dykstra

Did we forget your birthday? Please let us know. Call the Church Office at 775-831-0784.

CHURCH OFFICE AND PRESCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS FOR CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS
 This is a reminder that the church office and will be closed December 24th and 1st. The Preschool will be closed December 24th through January 1st.

JANUARY TRIALOGUE DEADLINE
Wednesday, December 15th
 Please send your articles to apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org



OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
 Year To Date Through

November 24th, 2019:

<u>Needed</u>	\$406,691
<u>Given</u>	\$444,696
<u>Difference</u>	+\$37,965

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Church needs your help - particularly in December. There are many ways to get involved with the church. We are seeking volunteers to do the children's message, help with the counting, be a worship assistant, greeter, or prayer warrior. If you are interested in volunteering with any of these areas, send an email to apayne@thevillagechurchnv.org.

HOSPITALITY TEAMS

- December 1st: Team 5
- December 8th: Team 6
- December 15th: Team 7
- December 22nd: Team 1
- December 29th: Team 2



We have seven hospitality teams that provide the tasty treats for Sunday fellowship. Each team is "up" only once every seven weeks. With the ebb and flow of our church's attendees, often people are out of town when it's time to bring a treat. We can always use more people interested in serving on one of these teams. If you are interested in helping out on one of our cookie teams, please let the church office know.



COOKIE EXCHANGE SING-ALONG NIGHT DECEMBER 21ST

On the night of our Sing-Along, on Saturday, December 21st, Women's Ministries is hosting a cookie exchange. Bring one dozen cookies to share with other that evening. Bring as many cookies as you want to exchange. Wrap the cookies in clear plastic, one dozen to a packet or on plates. Label with the type of cookie and your name. You can include the recipe if you desire. Take home equal amounts of cookies that you brought. This is a great way to get an assortment of cookies without doing all the baking.

The Village Church

736 McCourry Blvd.

Incline Village, NV 89451

Telephone: 775.831.0784

Fax: 775.831.0798

Village Christian Preschool:

Telephone: 775.831.1184

Email: PastorJeff@TheVillageChurchNV.org

Website: www.TheVillageChurchNV.org

A joyful place to grow



Church Leadership

Paul Ackerman - Deacon

Alfredo Amezaga - Elder

Doug Baker - Deacon

Lynn Bandaruk - Deacon

Ted Bandaruk - Elder

Pastor Tony Conragan, CLP - AV & Youth Pastor

Jim Dykstra - Deacon

Jon Fay - Choir Director

Don Ferrell - Elder

Linda Florentine - Elder

Betsy Garfinkle - Deacon

Tim Gilbert - Elder & Custodian

Patti Hanczarek - Preschool Staff

Keith Hansen - Elder

Tasia Irons - Preschool Staff

Cindy Liggett - Preschool Director

Miriella Melara - Deacon

Marilyn Merritt - Deacon

Darlene Nilsson - Elder

Rev. Jeff Ogden - Pastor

Vicki Ogden - Deacon

Annie Payne - Office Manager

Sabra Presler - Preschool Staff

Linda Robins - Thrift Shop Manager

Ann Schofield - Clerk of Session, Elder

Jason Stanton - Accompanist

Lynne Swingley Donat - Deacon

Vickie Twichell - Thrift Shop Manager

Paul Twichell - Elder

Debby Wiens - Pianist

Michele Young - Women's Ministries

Moderator



December

2019