

★ THE **CHRISTMAS** PLEDGE

1. To remember those people who truly need my gifts.
2. To express my love for family and friends in more direct ways than presents.
3. To rededicate myself to the spiritual growth of my family.
4. To examine my holiday activities in light of the true meaning of Christmas.
5. To initiate an act of peacemaking within my circle of family and friends.

★ From "Unplug the Christmas Machine"
Jo Robinson & Jeanne Coppock Staeheli ★

★ ★ **ADVENT** ★ ★

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. **John 3:16***



HOW TO START 2026 RIGHT

1. Choose to release all your hurts and glory from the past year.
2. Choose to deny yourself and carry your cross.
3. Choose to focus your eyes on Jesus.

With Jesus, we're forever safe. Forever accepted.
Forever held. Completely loved
and always invited in.

Lysa Terkuerst



The Gifts of Christmas

Dec 07 » Experience Hope
 Dec 14 » Experience Love
 Dec 21 » Experience Joy
 Dec 28 » Experience Peace

Prayer REQUESTS

► SALVATION

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Miner III | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom M. | <input type="checkbox"/> Ryan K. | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandy W. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gearen Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Stein Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Tyler M. | <input type="checkbox"/> Dave. O |

► HEALTH ISSUES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandy W. » Cancer | <input type="checkbox"/> Junior » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merle » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Silvia J. » Health / Faith Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carlos V. » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Becky H. » Cancer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angie & Family » Life Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Betty L. » Life Transitions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lucille S. » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Peggy K. » Pain Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Augustin A. » Sobriety | <input type="checkbox"/> April P. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walter Miner III. » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Kyle » Salvation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zach D. » Sobriety | <input type="checkbox"/> Nathan K. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paitn » Return to God | <input type="checkbox"/> Lucinda M. » Parkinson's |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meztti » Return to God | <input type="checkbox"/> Shirley P. » COPD worsening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ivy » Healing | <input type="checkbox"/> David A. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hector S. » Healing | <input type="checkbox"/> Karen P. » Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vanessa » Health Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> B. De Leon » Cancer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jacob M. » Emotional Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Erin » C-section effects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noelle G. » Health Issues | |



METRICS THAT MATTER - 12/07/25

Attendance ► 25 Giving ► \$2,360 Guests ► 0
 Volunteers ► 14 Decisions for Christ ► 0

SCAN QR CODE TO DONATE ▼



The Gifts of Christmas

Experience Love



John 3:16 – For **God** so **loved** the world that **He** **gave** His one and **only Son**, that **whoever believes** in Him shall **not perish** but have **eternal life**.

Hebrew words for LOVE



Ahava - an intense emotional bond, a strong connection. The most common word for love: both a romantic love as well as loving a thing - pizza.

Hesed - steadfast love, mercy, lovingkindness, and goodness. Loyal; covenant love.



*Lovingkindness bridges the two words together combining the definitions.

*Theologian John Oswalt describes hesed as, "...a completely undeserved kindness and generosity."



Rachamim - commonly translated to compassion; caring, devoted type of love.

*Jewish scholars describe rachamim as a perfect, infinite love, like the one between a parent and a child. It shares the same root word with the Hebrew word for womb - rechem.



Dod - (tricky translation) can mean uncle, however in the Bible, the word appears just as frequently in a romantic context, usually translated into "beloved". (Song of Solomon).



Bonus Greek Words for Love

Eros - the romantic, passionate love; describes the unity between a husband and a wife.

Phileo - friendly affectionate, and considerate.



Storge - familial love, natural kind that points to a special bond. "Love one another."

Agape - highest form of love. Unconditional, self-sacrificial, patient, kind, and it never fails. (used in 1 Corinthians 13) The kind of love God has for His Son Jesus and the love He has for us!

Consider How Love (All Encompassing) Came to Us

- In prophesy - **Isaiah 53**
- In a Manger - **Luke 2**
- In His Death and Resurrection - **Romans 5:8-9**
- In our Salvation - **2 Thessalonians 2:13**
- In our Redemption - **Isaiah 63:9**
- In our Forgiveness - **Isaiah 38:17**
- In Our Obedience - **1 John 2:5**
- In Our Love for Others - **1 John 3:17**

Our Relationship to This Love...



- It's Everlasting - **Jeremiah 31:3**
- We must be Directed Into it - **2 Thessalonians 3:5**
- We Must Keep Ourselves in it - **Jude 21**
- Nothing Can Separate us From it - **Romans 8:35 - 39**

The Expressions of This Love...

- Fruits of the Spirit - **Galatians 5:22**
- Linked with Faith and Hope - **1 Corinthians 13:13**
- Self-Sacrifice - **John 15:13**
- Involves Concern for the Weak - **Romans 14:1, 13-16**
- Caring for the Needy - **2 Corinthians 8:7-8**
- No Fear in Such Love - **1 John 4:18**



Romans 8:38-39



For I am convinced [and continue to be convinced – beyond any doubt] that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present and threatening, no things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the [unlimited] love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.