

# L.I.F.E. CHRONICLES

**News & updates from our church for our community**

## The True Meaning of Christmas

*Isaiah 9:6-7 NIV*

*For to us, a child is born, to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace, there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.*

Christmas truly is one of the most wonderful times of the year. For many people, it's a joyous time of celebration, family traditions, and sharing gifts. However, sometimes we get lost in the season and forget the reason we celebrate it, to begin with.

The true meaning of Christmas for Christians is the celebration of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. God sent God's only son to be born on this earth, and to die a painful death on the cross to be the atonement for all our sins. Without Jesus, we would be eternally separated from God. Jesus is the ultimate sacrifice.

This is why we celebrate Christmas, not because of Santa Claus, decorations, or earthly gifts, but because of the greatest gift of all which is Jesus. Jesus is the reason for the season!

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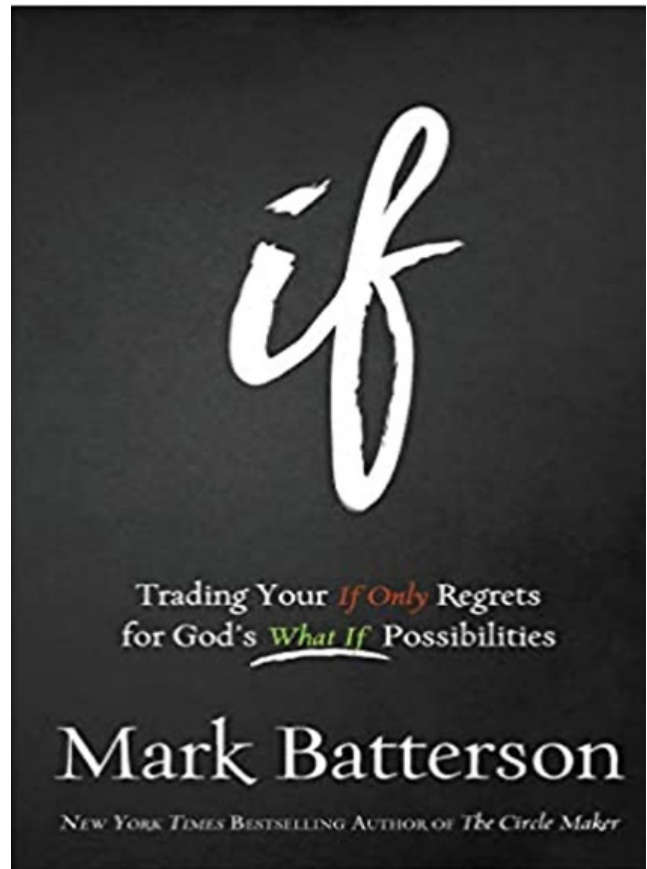


# "TOOLS TO HELP YOU LIVE IN FAITH EVERYDAY"

## **L.I.F.E. STUDY**

"FOR I RECKON THAT THE  
SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT  
TIME ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE  
COMPARED WITH THE GLORY  
WHICH SHALL BE REVEALED  
IN US." ROMANS 8:18 KJV

Suffering doesn't devalue our lives. It adds value in the form of invaluable lessons. As Christ-followers, we assess suffering through the eyes of eternity. And whatever God says, is how we reckon. Sometimes suffering is the catalyst that causes us to ask "what if." *What if we simplified our lives by downsizing our lives?*



## NLCC SCHEDULE



**ZOOM MEETING ID:**  
**804-928-1376**  
**CONFERENCE NUMBER:**  
**804-256-2515**

**WORSHIP**  
SUNDAYS - 8AM  
**LIFE PRAYER**  
WEDNESDAYS - 7PM  
**YOUTH PRAYER**  
WEDNESDAYS - 8PM  
**LIFE STUDY**  
2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS- 7PM

# L.I.F.E. CALENDAR



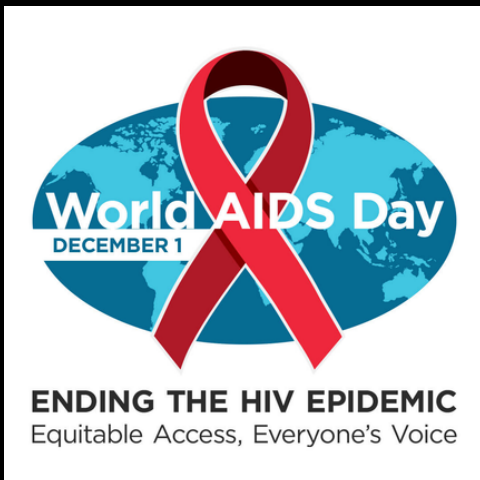
- 12/1 - 25 Days of Christmas Begins
- 12/2 - NLCC Church Meeting
- 12/4 - Diaconate Meeting
- 12/5 - Holy Communion
- 12/18 - LIFE Praise Dance Rehearsal
- 12/21- First Day of Winter
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve
- 12/25 - Christmas Day
- 12/25 - Jesus Offering
- 12/26 - Kwanzaa Begins
- 12/31 - New Years's Eve
- 12/31- NLCC Watch Night Service

## December Health Observances

World AIDS Day (12/1)

Special Education Day (12/2)

National Influenza Vaccination Week (Dec.5-11)



World AIDS Day was founded in 1988 as the first-ever global health day. It is an opportunity for people to unite in the effort to raise awareness, fight stigma, celebrate progress, and—most importantly—help end the HIV epidemic.

# December Birthdays

- 12/2 Bertha Wilson
- 12/5- Aliesha Pierce
- 12/15 Georgette Clay
- 12/20 Tiffany Nash
- 12/20 Deacon Everett Green
- 12/22 Carolyn Eley
- 12/30 Tonya Johnson



## KWANZAA



Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration held in the United States that honors African heritage in African-American culture. Kwanzaa is observed from December 26th to January 1st, and culminates in gift-giving and a big feast. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase *matunda ya kwanza* which means first fruits, or harvest, in Swahili. Celebrations often include singing and dancing, storytelling, poetry reading, African drumming, and feasting. Dr. Karenga, Kwanzaa's founder, created seven guiding principles to be discussed during the week of Kwanzaa. The seven principles represent seven values of African culture that help build and reinforce community among African-Americans. Each day a different principle is discussed, and each day a candle is lit on the *kinara* (candleholder). On the first night, the center black candle is lit, and the principle of *umoja*, or unity is discussed. On the final day of Kwanzaa, families enjoy an African feast, called *karamu*.

# YOUTH L.I.F.E.

Jermaul "Jay" Kelly, Jr. was recognized in the country courier newspaper on November 24, 2021. Jermaul was one of the students recognized that earned the highest Lexile Gains during the month of October in achieving a score of 3000. The Lexile Gains program is used to support reading growth. Jermaul was the only 5th grader recognized for this achievement. Jermaul also earned the honor roll. Congratulations Jermaul Kelly, Jr.! Your NLCC Family is so proud of you.



## Attention Youth, Parents, & Grandparents...

**We would like to highlight our youth. Please keep us informed on the spectacular things going on in their life!**

## L.I.F.E. PRAYER



We realize that the holiday season can be a depressing time for many. We pray that God blesses and strengthens all who are battling depression, loneliness, unworthiness, and hopelessness. We pray that God strengthens their hearts and minds, and remind us to encourage one another when the stresses of life start to overwhelm us. Lord give those that suffer with these stresses the courage and the strength to trust you, as they rise up each new day and fight against the stresses which seem to weigh them down. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

# RECIPES FOR L.I.F.E.

## HOMEMADE SUGAR COOKIES

(MAKES 24-36 COOKIES)

PREP TIME 30 MINUTES - BAKE TIME 7 TO 10 MINUTES - CHILL TIME 20 TO 30 MINUTES

### INGREDIENTS

1 CUP OF SUGAR  
3/4 CUP OF BUTTER SOFTENED  
1 EGG  
2 AND 1/4 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR  
1 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER  
1/4 TEASPOON SALT  
1 TEASPOON VANILLA EXTRACT  
2 CUPS POWDERED SUGAR  
2 TABLESPOONS KARO LITE CORN SYRUP  
1/2 TEASPOON ALMOND EXTRACT  
2 TO 3 TABLESPOONS MILK  
FOOD COLORING (OPTIONAL)



### DIRECTIONS

1. Cream Sugar And Butter With Electric Mixer, Add Egg. Beat In Flour, Baking Powder, Salt And Vanilla. Form Into 2 Balls. Cover And Chill 20 To 30 Minutes.
2. Roll 1 Portion Of Dough To 1/4 Inch Thickness On Lightly Floured Surface. Cut With Cookie Cutters And Place On Ungreased Cookie Sheets. Repeat With Remaining Dough.
3. Bake In Preheated 350 Degree F Oven 7 To 8 Minutes Or Until Edges Are Golden. Cool 1 To 2 Minutes On Baking Sheet And Then Transfer To Cooling Rack. Ice And Decorate As Desired.
4. Combine Powdered Sugar, Corn Syrup, Armond Extract And Enough Milk For Desired Spreading Consistency. Tent With Food Color, If Desired.