

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

December 21, 2025

Prince of Peace

On December 25, 1994, the Associated Press—dateline London—reported an amazing story that took place during World War I. One hundred and ten years earlier, on the first Christmas Day, British and German troops put down their guns and celebrated peacefully together in the no-man's-land between the trenches. For a brief moment, the war came to a halt.

In some places, festivities began when German troops lit candles on small Christmas trees along their parapets so the British sentries a few hundred yards away could see them. Elsewhere, the British acted first, starting bonfires and setting off rockets. Pvt. Oswald Tilley of the London Rifle Brigade wrote to his parents, "Just you think that while you were eating your turkey, etc., I was out talking and shaking hands with the very men I had been trying to kill a few hours before!! It was astounding."

Both armies had received many comforts from home and felt unusually generous and well-disposed toward their enemies during that first winter of the war—before the brutal battles of attrition that began in 1915 and would eventually claim 10 million lives.

All along the line that Christmas Day, soldiers discovered that their enemies were much like themselves. Many began to question why they were trying to kill one another. The generals were shocked. High Command diaries describe their fear that if such camaraderie spread, it could undermine the troops' will to fight. Yet the soldiers in khaki and gray sang carols to each other, exchanged gifts of tobacco, jam, sausage, chocolate, and liquor, traded names and addresses, and even played soccer between the shell holes and the barbed wire. They even paid mutual trench visits. British television producer Malcolm Brown and researcher Shirley Seaton, in their 1984 book *Christmas Truce*, call this moment "the most famous truce in military history."

*"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace..."*

—Isaiah 9:6-7

Christ would later say to His disciples:

*"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you;
Not as the world gives do I give to you.*

Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful."

—John 14:26-28

Left to himself, man creates divisiveness, hatred, death, and destruction. Only Christ is our peace. Our only hope for peace—whether in our homes, our schools, our communities, or the world—is Christ, and Christ alone.



UPCOMING Events



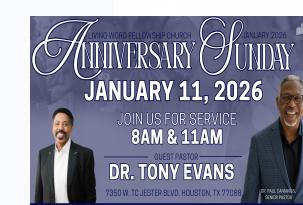
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Join us on Christmas Eve, Wednesday December 24th at 6:00PM for our annual Christmas Eve Service in Main Sanctuary. Performances by LWFC Kidz and a special presentation by LWFC Drama Ministry titled "Christmas Cookies" a original play written and directed by Melita Washington. For more information, please contact the church admin offices.



DECEMBER CONNECTION SUNDAYS

Fellowship every Sunday in December! Each Sunday participate in a theme and be picture ready at church. All month long we will be accepting decorated Christmas Reefs to display in the main foyer! **Contact Keron Brown at Keron.Brown@lwfellowshipchurch.org for more information.**



Anniversary Sunday

Join us Sunday, Jan. 11th as we celebrate 32 years of God's Faithfulness. Dr. Tony Evans will bless us at 8am and 11am services.



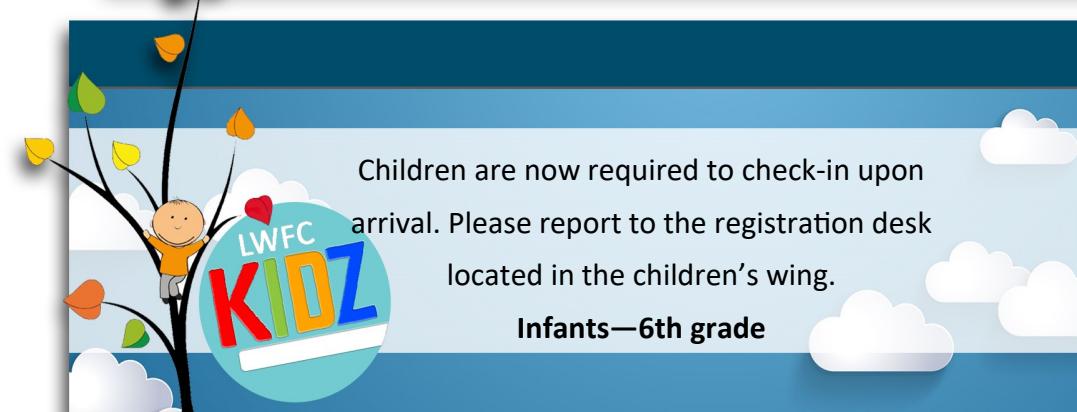
FREE COLON CANCER SCREENING

Until December 31st, call and schedule your free colon screening test pick-up with participating neighborhood clinics. For more information please call or email (713)704-2968 or cancerscreeningevent@memorialhermann.org Monday-Friday 9am-4pm.



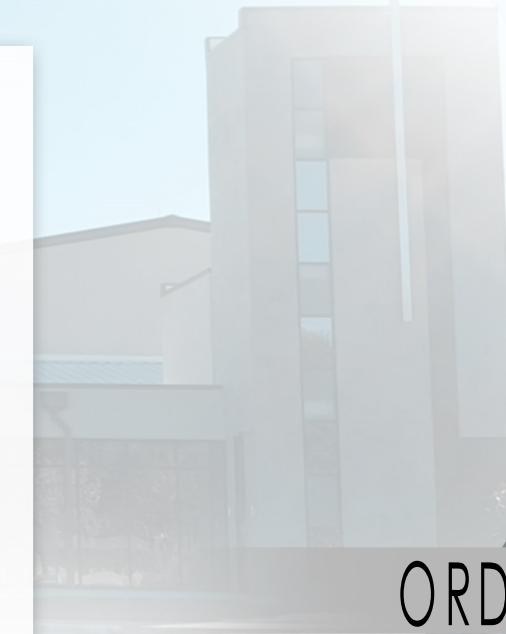
ABC WORD ACADEMY PRESCHOOL FALL SPECIAL

The Texas Rising Star 4-Star Accredited ABC Word Academy is having a Fall Pres-School Special starting now with a \$60 Registration Fee, discounts are available for siblings and LWFC members. For more information, call (281)-445-9673.



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade



LIVING WORD
FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Song

Communion

Praise & Worship

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Word of God

"His Favor"
Luke 1:46-50

Dr. Paul Cannings, Ph.D.

Sermon notes available online at lwfellowshipchurch.org
Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song



MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL
2:3:4 & TUESDAY NIGHTS
SUNDAY 6:30 PM

His Favor
Luke 1:46-50

Dr. Paul Cannings, D. Phil

- A. Experiencing God (vs. 46-47)**
- B. Blessed! (vs. 49-50)**

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