

DECEMBER 2017

# ARC MAGAZINE

**God Is With Us**  
*C. John Steer | P4*

**O Come Let Us Adore Him**  
*Jamie Robinson | P10*

**Celebrating Advent**  
*Alan Shoumaker | P14*



**AUTUMN RIDGE CHURCH**

SAT. 5:30PM | SUN. 9:00AM & 10:30AM | [AUTUMNRIDGECHURCH.ORG](http://AUTUMNRIDGECHURCH.ORG)

Our purpose is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who love God and serve people.



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## MINISTRY CONTACTS

- Senior Pastor** | C. John Steer
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- Life Groups & Serving** | Paul McDonald
- Care & Enrichment** | Karen Foster, Dan Farm
- Missions** | Woody Roland
- Administration** | George Beech
- Generosity** | Bob Stanhope

For a complete listing of our leadership team, please visit the church website at:  
[AutumnRidgeChurch.org/leadership](http://AutumnRidgeChurch.org/leadership)

You may contact our staff via email at:  
[Lastname.Firstname@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Lastname.Firstname@AutumnRidgeChurch.org)

## ELDER BOARD

- Mark Foley – Chair
- Jim Baber
- Harold Burden
- Phil Fischer
- John Folkerts
- Chris Grenz
- Jay Maier
- Steve Merry
- Robert Magambo
- Tom Pankratz
- Bob Stanhope
- Mark Topazian

You may contact the Elders via email at:  
[Elders@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Elders@AutumnRidgeChurch.org)

## OUR MISSION, VISION, AND CENTRAL MINISTRY FOCUS:

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who love God and serve people. We do this through our Vision to equip Autumn Ridgers, in the power of the Spirit, to be disciples where they live, work, and play, and to share our hope in Jesus. Our Ministry Focus is to equip followers of Jesus to understand their identity in Christ, discover their God-given gifts, and exercise them in love to build up Christ's kingdom.

### ON THE COVER:

A scene from last year's The Joy of Christmas concert

# Rooted to Invite

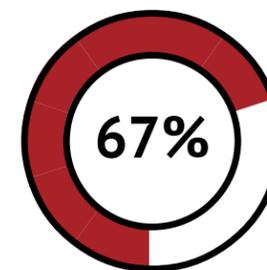
Paul McDonald

That empty seat next to you in church is worth \$12,727.

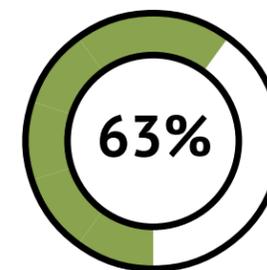
It's a matter of simple math, given the current value of the church campus and the number of seats in our sanctuary.

In that seat, a person can participate in wholehearted worship of God. In that seat, a person has the high privilege of hearing the Word of God. In that seat, a person who has been running from God their whole life can hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit can convict their heart, and they can turn to God and be saved....that empty seat next to you in church is actually PRICELESS.

Can I invite you to a partnership to fill that PRICELESS empty seat this holiday season? It's as simple as inviting a friend. Friendly churches are great, but going to church with a friend is even better. Better because there is a better-than-even chance they will say "yes." A recent Lifeways poll says that:



67% of Americans say a personal invitation from a family member would be very or somewhat effective in getting them to visit a church.



63% of Americans say a personal invitation from a friend or neighbor would be very or somewhat effective in getting them to visit a church

The local church of Jesus Christ at Autumn Ridge has so much to offer a lost world. We live in a culture that is more connected than any previous generation, yet we are lonelier than ever before. Social media may allow us to keep track of others, but true connection, true community is increasingly rare. Invite a friend to the fellowship...you have nothing to lose, but your friend may have everything to gain.

This season at Autumn Ridge, we have many special events that are ready made for invitations. Look in your bulletin in the weeks to come for special invitations you can share.



# God Is With Us

C. John Steer

**“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel,” which means “God with us.” (Matthew 1:23)**

Immanuel is one of the great names given to Jesus at his birth. It means God is with us. But what does that signify for us this Christmas?

**Immanuel means that God is with us in our suffering.**

From the moment Jesus begins his public ministry, he identifies with suffering people.

Whether it is one person suffering from demon possession or ten lepers suffering from sickness or thousands of people suffering from hunger, Jesus is there.

So it is for us today. In our times of greatest suffering, our faith permits us to say, “God is with us.” We do not face trouble on our own. The eternal Son, who is both fully God



“Nativity” by Anthony Van Dyck

and fully man is with us in our pain. I like to read Psalm 46 to suffering people because it contains this wonderful battle cry: “The Lord Almighty is with us!” Not the Lord weak or powerless, but the Lord Almighty.

**Immanuel means that God is with us in our sorrows.**

Jesus is well-qualified for this job because he is “a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering.” Jesus understands sorrow. He told his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.” That’s why Jeremiah can call Jesus “My Comforter in sorrow.”

Perhaps this Christmas isn’t very merry for you because you are mourning. You are sad. Death has interrupted your Christmas party. But please understand this – Jesus is also there. He is with you in your sorrows.

**Immanuel means that God is with us in our failures.**

In the gospel, there is a woman who had a moral failure; she committed adultery. Back in the first century adultery was punished by death by stoning.

As she is about to die, Jesus steps in. He saves her life, but more significantly, he saves her soul. He informed her, “I do not condemn you.” Then he instructed her: “Go now, and leave your life of sin.”

That compassion is why moral failures flock to Jesus. We feel better when we are with him. It is not that Jesus condones our behavior. He doesn’t. But we know he understands and can help. Jesus didn’t fail himself because he is the perfect man, but he took our failures upon himself, and that’s why he understands the pain that one poor decision can cause to us and others.

**Immanuel means that God is with us in our family.**

Jesus could have appeared on earth as a full-grown human being, but he didn’t. He chose to be born into a family. He did this to help us enjoy family life. Everywhere Jesus goes, he makes a difference to families.

One day Jesus was on a journey and he saw a coffin being carried for burial. In it was a young boy. His mother was beside herself with grief. Her little family had been broken. Jesus raised her son, and restored them to each other.

Are you struggling with family life? Then ask Jesus to come and live with your family, and be at the center of your home. What a difference it makes to have Jesus living with us! Athanasius, the Bishop of Alexandria in the fourth century, described the

impact of Immanuel when he said, “Jesus became what we are that he might make us what he is.”

**Immanuel means that God is with us in our future.**

Perhaps your future doesn’t look very encouraging. You are not sure what the New Year will bring. Draw strength from Jesus’ promise, “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Jesus’ ultimate purpose in coming to earth as Immanuel is to ensure that he will be with us forever. Right now he is preparing a place for us where we can spend eternity in his presence. He promises his disciples, “I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” When John Wesley was dying, his friends gathered around him. His last words to them were, “Best of all, God is with us.”

Perhaps you will be busy writing Christmas cards this week. Can I suggest you make one more? Write a card to yourself with the name “Immanuel” inside.

When you get up in the morning, read it. “Immanuel.” Jesus is with you today. When you face trouble of any kind – “Immanuel.” Jesus is with you now.

The truth of that name will keep you steady and strong, not just at Christmas but throughout the year. “Immanuel” - God is with you.



## November & December Senior Saints Birthdays

We provide this list of dear people who are no longer able to physically participate in the daily life of Autumn Ridge Church. Would you consider sending a note or card to these individuals to let them know, even though they are no longer present on campus, they are not forgotten?

**Don Chadbourn | November 3**  
1717 3rd Ave SW  
Rochester, MN 55902

**Barbara Domaille | November 4**  
2932 Salem Point Drive SW  
Rochester, MN 55902

**Margie Frantz | December 4**  
211 2nd St NW #4-411  
Rochester, MN 55901

**Mary Lake | December 4**  
700 2nd Ave NW #132  
Rochester, MN 55901



In June and July, Pastor Oumar spoke at the hospital on many different subjects. He speaks to the patients and their families on the porch of the hospital and to the staff in the gazebo. Well over 600 patients and families heard him speak, and over 500 of them requested prayer.

One who heard the teachings is a teacher of the Koran, and has had many long conversations with Pastor Oumar about Jesus and the truth of the Gospel. Please keep this man, MB, in your prayers. He would like to follow Jesus publicly. Becoming a Christian in Guinea is not an easy thing.

Several others have also come to speak with Pastor Oumar about Jesus and have stated their understanding of the truth and their willingness to follow

Jesus. He has asked for our fervent prayers on behalf of those who are hearing Gospel truth for the first time and who live in a culture that is very challenging for those who leave the majority religion.

The church in Mamou also launched an evangelistic program this summer, with 18 people going house to house handing out Gospel tracts. Continue to pray for Christian workers in the Muslim world and for the converts, that they would know the power and faithfulness of Jesus Christ in their lives.

There are some important new initiatives at CEH. The first is the Fresh Dew Christian School, now operating as a subgroup, "Guinea Education Partners," under the umbrella of Olmsted Outreach. This

is a parallel ministry of the hospital, serving the local children and their families, bringing the truth of the Gospel to those who have never heard. In the past year, they served 260 students.

Secondly, the hospital is forming an outreach to the community in the form of public health services. The goal is to serve the surrounding community with a holistic and preventive primary care program for all ages and walks of life, focused on disease prevention and treatment. They intend to start with a needs assessment for the local villages and then begin to build relationships with the villagers. For more details on this program, or to inquire about serving at CEH, email

[Missions@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:Missions@AutumnRidgeChurch.org)

# Treasures in Heaven

Pat Wester



addiction, and poor relationships that eventually led them to Christ and the realization they needed Him as their Lord and Savior.

We have had a significant number of people attending our church and being baptized over the past 18 months with similar testimonies. What you may not realize is they were able to attend because we have a shuttle service to pick people up who do not have transportation. We currently have over 30 people a week using this service; that is 3200 one way trips a year!

Stories like this remind us what your faithful giving allows us to do. However, as we finish out this year, we find ourselves facing a shortfall that is greater than past years. Consider these facts:

## Jesus said,

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”(Matthew 6: 19-21)

Many people are confused, believing this verse to be only about money, but it is much broader than that. It’s about investing in things God cares about: lost people, growing in faith, bringing justice to those who are treated unjustly, and helping others who need someone to walk beside them.

Recently, we heard a testimony from a person whose life had gone into a tailspin. There were difficult circumstances,

- Historically our offerings in the month of December comprise 15% - 17% of our budget.
- Because our largest giving comes in December, it always appears we are behind.
- It is difficult to predict what people will give in December.
- Our most recent financial statement shows us about 6% behind (approximately \$270,000) in our giving of offerings towards our budget.
- Though we expect to be behind, based on historical markers, this is at least 2% farther behind (\$90,000) than in past years.

Would you take some time to prayerfully consider your giving patterns and see if you could help through increasing your regular giving to Autumn Ridge Church? We gratefully depend on you to support these vital ministries.

# Company's Coming!

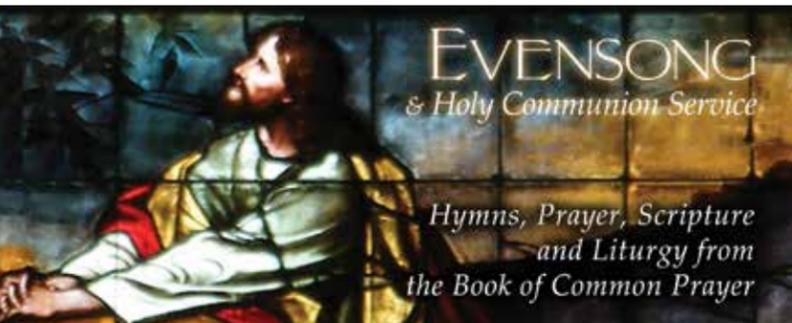
Peg McDonald



When we are expecting company in our homes we do everything we can to provide the best for our guests. Likewise, we have this privilege in our church home, too. We want our guests to know that we were expecting them. Here at ARC, hospitality means putting our guests first.

We can do that by reserving the guest parking spots for our first-time visitors. We greet and interact with our guests in the halls, introduce them to the Connection Center, or as we usher them to the best seat in the house, acknowledge and accommodate our guests, even as they sit next to you in the pew.

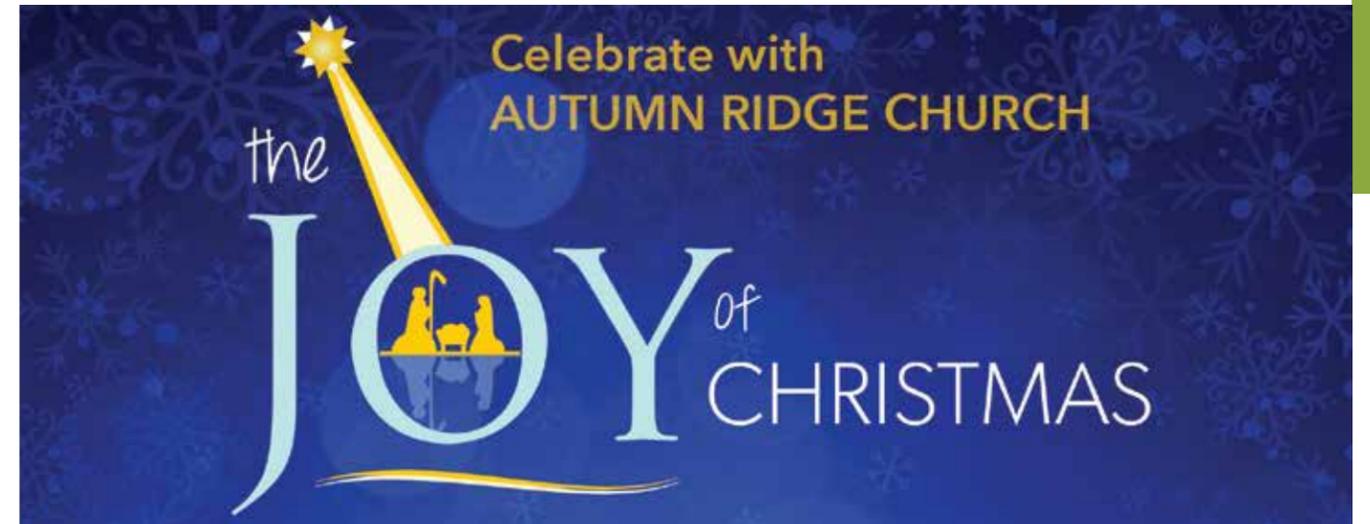
As they walk through our doors, we want to intentionally create an atmosphere where they immediately feel part of our community, part of our family. Above all, at the end of the day, we want them to have absolutely experienced the unconditional peace and LOVE of Jesus through us! May God richly bless your efforts to reach His people for Him for His glory.



## CHRISTMAS EVENSONG AND MINCE PIES Sunday, December 17, 6:00pm, Timothy Chapel

John and Gretchen Steer invite you to join them for a service of carols, prayers, scripture readings, and liturgy.

Following Evensong we will enjoy hot cider and mince pies in the Common Grounds.



## The Autumn Ridge Choir & Orchestra Presents:

### The Joy of Christmas | December 9th & 10th

Alan Shoumaker

Christmas is a great time to invite family, friends, and co-workers to worship at Autumn Ridge Church. THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS concert will be an inspiring presentation of the real reason for the season of Christmas. At a time when hope can be hard to find, we want to share the message of Jesus' birth when "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus was God's gift to us – His plan to rescue us from sin and death. This is Good News!

As we share the true meaning of Christmas, our celebration will include music for all generations... such as John Rutter's "Candlelight Carol" and Donald Fraser's "This Christmastide," made famous by the renowned St. Olaf's Choir. The congregation

will also enjoy singing along to a spectacular medley of Christmas Carols. To add a special touch to this year's presentation, we will feature a middle school ensemble and a children's nativity during a medley of lively spirituals. Each aspect of the program is meant to call us all to a season of reflection and celebration of God's gift to us – Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

It is the desire of the Autumn Ridge Choir and Worship Ministry to present a program that will truly honor God as we prepare for Christmas. It is a celebration for our church family and a gift we offer to our community. We pray those who attend the program will be encouraged to seek a relationship with Jesus Christ - to

know Him as Savior and Lord. And for those who have that relationship – that they would have renewed joy this Christmas season and a new resolve to share the Good News with the world around them.

Join us for THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS, Saturday, December 9th and Sunday, December 10th. We are anticipating capacity crowds. Make plans now to invite friends, family, and neighbors to this year's concert. What a fantastic opportunity to share Christmas with them! Admission is free.

Don't miss THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS at Autumn Ridge Church this December!

# ① Come Let Us Adore Him

Jamie Robinson

We all get used to things. It seems to be part of our human nature that as time passes, things that were once unfamiliar and exciting slowly become familiar and mundane. Experiences that were once new to us become less wonderful and more routine as we get used to them.

This is true in every area of life. I

have been living in Rochester for just over six months, and already many things that felt so new and different compared to my life in England are now starting to feel a little more routine and normal.

The initial wonder and excitement of

exploring a new city, the challenge of driving on the right (wrong) side of the road, and the discovery of different foods in the grocery store are all a little less exciting than they were when I first arrived. This is not necessarily a bad thing – it means that I can get on with everyday life without spending twice as much time on every task as is actually needed. Being lost in awe and wonder can be a good thing to experience, but not when you're trying to find the milk at Hy-Vee.

As the festive season approaches once again, the temptation of familiarity is close at hand. It's easy to think we've grasped all there is to know about the birth of our Savior. We know the story inside out – the shepherds, the angels, and the wise men. We've grown accustomed to the traditions – the gifts, the food, and the carols. Perhaps some of us have even grown tired of

*“We’ve grown up accustomed to the traditions - the gifts, the food, and the carols.”*

the season and dread the thought of another Christmas approaching.

However, our familiarity with the wonder of God-becoming-man isn't limited to just a few weeks in December. We're prone to it all year 'round. Our human nature is constantly tempted to wander away from the amazing truth that God himself became one of us, in order to fully identify with our pains and our struggles, and to live and die in our place. The beauty of the Gospel is so

easily lost during our everyday life, as the pressures of living take over. Our fascination for new and exciting things leads us to pursue all manner of worldly pleasures.

You may not have given too much thought to why you come to church each week to worship with others.

Hebrews 10:24-25 instructs us, “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Could it be one of the primary reasons God commands us to meet together regularly is because we become familiar with things so quickly, and we need constant reminding of our need for Him and His goodness to us?

Our weekly worship brings us back to the heart of the Gospel. As we sing songs and hymns, pray prayers of intercession, confess our sins, take communion, sit under the authority of God's Word, and give of our time and money, we remind ourselves of the Gospel story. We become aware once again of our need of a Savior and how we have received God's grace



and mercy. We get a fresh glimpse of Christ and the great cost He paid in becoming fully human and dying on the cross for us. Our adoration moves away from things of this world back to the Creator of the world.

This is why we need to meet together regularly. And the “together” part is important. Our faith is not an individual faith but a shared faith. We don't worship in a vacuum but with others. Even before the fall, God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone...” (Genesis 2:18). We were created for fellowship with God and with others. The Gospel is the good news of God bringing people

from every nation, tongue, and tribe together to behold His glory. We catch a glimpse of this in Revelation 7:9; “After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”

God's glory is beautifully displayed each week at Autumn Ridge, as people from all walks of life come together to rehearse and re-tell the Gospel Story. Our weekly gatherings are vitally important, as we get to take part in something that will have eternal

value. If you've lost some of the awe and wonder of Jesus Christ – our Savior, our friend, our redeemer – then there's no better place to be than amongst others singing His praise, hearing of His goodness and mercy, and being spurred on toward love and good deeds. Let yourself be reminded this Christmas of the wonder of the Gospel. So, come let us adore Him this Christmas and every day of the year that follows.

# Out of the Box Children's Christmas Musical

April Rowe



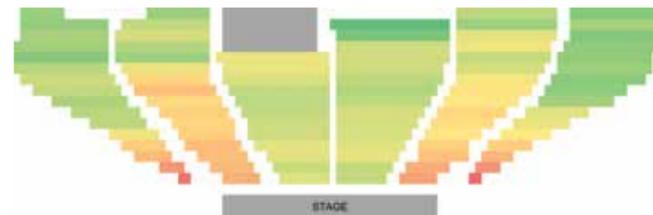
Every year at Christmas time, many wonderful events are planned – school concerts, community events, holiday dinners, and church gatherings. Each December, our Children's Ministry presents a musical with over 100 children who sing and dramatize the story of the events of Jesus' birth – retelling the story of Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Angels and the Wise Men. This year's drama, *Out of the Box*, has been written and directed by our very own ARC member, Cindy Wiest, and the Elementary Children's Choir Director is Kate Robinson. Every year, many visitors attend the children's musical and hear the Good News of Jesus! Children have a way of capturing the hearts of adults, and Christmas outreach is a great time to invite family, friends, teachers, neighbors, colleagues, and coaches. The Children's Christmas Musical is on Saturday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 17 at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. All three services will be identical, and Pastor John Steer will be giving a message on Christmas hope.

# Too loud? Too quiet?

Evan Bonde

Autumn Ridge serves a congregation with a wide range of musical tastes and preferences. Because of our diverse congregation, we offer 2 different worship experiences. Even within a particular service, there are a wide variety of preferences -- volume being one of the most controversial. Too loud? Too quiet? Just right? At any given volume level, there are going to be those who think it is too high, too low, or right where it should be.

We strive to find a volume that is appropriate for the majority, knowing that for some, it will inevitably be either too loud or too quiet. So what can you do if the service is louder or quieter than you prefer? Due to the incredibly complex nature of sound, the volume level throughout the sanctuary varies depending on where you are seated. Generally, areas closer and in line with the speakers are louder, while areas farther away and off axis from the speakers are quieter. This chart can be a handy tool to find a seat, based upon your own volume preferences, with red being louder seating and green being quieter seating. We strive to make our worship experience one that can be appreciated and enjoyed by all who come here to encounter the God who deserves our praise and adoration.



# Serving Behind the Scenes

Evan Bonde

Throughout the year, thousands of people gather here at Autumn Ridge to connect with God through worship songs, scripture, prayer, and teaching from the Word. Each week, the worship team and preaching pastor design and rehearse various elements that become a worship service.

Now imagine you show up for the service, and the room is silent and dark. You see the silhouette of someone on stage and think you hear them speaking but aren't entirely

sure. Something is missing. You look around and notice the tech booth is empty. In this case, it may seem the role of the tech and production crew is to simply turn on lights and microphones.

However, the reality is that each weekend, the tech team serves a much higher purpose. The production team takes the elements prepared by the worship team and pastor and packages them to create an environment where people can

connect with God. This allows our gifted pastors and musicians to engage with the congregation and share the message of the Gospel. Each week, a dedicated team of 6-8 volunteers help share this message of hope. We are always looking for more people to be part of our team. No experience is necessary, and we will provide all the required training. If you would like to be a part of the production crew at ARC, please contact Evan Bonde at [TechArts@AutumnRidgeChurch.org](mailto:TechArts@AutumnRidgeChurch.org).

# Celebrating Advent: The Great Exchange at Angola

Alan Shoumaker



Once in a while, an opportunity comes along that just feels right! That was not the case when I was asked to teach a course entitled “Worship Perspectives” to a group of inmates incarcerated at Angola State Penitentiary, once known as ‘America’s bloodiest prison.’ The Worship Perspectives class I was asked to teach was being offered by New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS), where I served as an Adjunct Professor. The Angola extension of NOBTS was located within this maximum-security prison, and the class would be made up of 100 plus violent offenders, 85% of whom will die inside Angola.

Interestingly, this Worship Perspectives course coincided with the timing of the project portion of one of my doctoral classes at the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies. Since I had already completed the on-campus “intensive,” I needed to conduct a project relative to The Christian Year. In need of a focus group for my project, I presented my prospectus on teaching prison inmates the benefits of celebrating the Christian Year to my professor, Dr. Dan Sharp, and he approved the idea. Thus my journey into Advent at Angola began.

As I considered how Christians have marked time throughout history, it occurred to me that long-term prison inmates might be in a good place to embrace the positive benefits of celebrating the Christian Year, the term commonly used for the yearly celebration of time in worship, which celebrates the redemptive work of Jesus including his birth, his death, and resurrection. The journey into Advent with my brothers behind bars proved to be transformative, especially for me, as I immersed myself in researching and teaching of the hope that was born through the coming of the Messiah.

The Christian Year begins with Advent. The word “Advent” comes from the Latin “Adventus” which means “arrival” or “coming.” For Christians, the Advent season focuses on the “coming” of Christ. It begins with the fourth Sunday before Christmas, always the Sunday nearest November 30, and continues through Christmas Eve. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation during which Christians are challenged to “repent and be ready for the second coming of Christ.” Robert Webber appeals to Christians to “allow an eager longing for the coming of the Messiah to be birthed in your heart” at Advent, which provides an opportunity to emphasize both advents of Christ through “Readiness for the coming of Christ at the end of history and at Bethlehem.”

Advent spirituality involves celebrating both advents of Jesus Christ. The first was when the only begotten Son of God entered time and was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem. The second advent of Jesus is the blessed hope of believers, when Christ will come again. Christians are encouraged to watch and wait for the Lord’s return, where He will come as judge at the end of time. At Autumn Ridge Church, we will celebrate the Advent Season, beginning Sunday, December 3rd. There are many customs and traditions that are used to celebrate Advent. One of my favorite traditions is that of the Advent Wreath.

The custom of lighting an Advent Wreath dates back to sixteenth-

century Germany at the time of Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther. The Advent wreath, made of evergreen, forms a continuous circle symbolizing the eternal nature of God. The four candles on the wreath represent the virtues of Christ: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Traditions related to the candles vary from one church to another, as some churches prefer to use four purple candles, representing each week of Advent, and a large white candle in the center of the wreath, the Christ Candle. The Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Eve signifying the end of the Advent Season.

So why observe a season of Advent? Is it merely another Christmas tradition to keep up with? I discovered in teaching inmates about Advent there is great meaning to be found in using this season to prepare for a true celebration of the birth of Christ. No one is in a better position to understand this than prisoners behind bars. They struggle to find PEACE, JOY, LOVE, and especially HOPE. But the Good News of Christ has no boundaries. The Light can reach even the darkest of places. Are you walking in light in your life right now, or do you find yourself in a dark place this season? No matter the circumstances of your life, Jesus offers you love, hope, joy, and peace that can only be found in him. I hope you will choose to embrace this time of Advent, and experience for the first time, or maybe all over again, the true Joy of Christmas!

This Advent Season presents an opportunity for individuals and families to share in meaningful anticipation of Christmas, through Scripture and prayer, and the tradition of the Advent wreath. I encourage you to observe Advent in your home as you look forward together to the celebration of the Lord Jesus at Christmastime. The schedule for our Advent Season is as follows:

**Sunday, December 3** – Prophecy Candle – a reminder of Isaiah’s announcement of the birth of Jesus and the HOPE of the coming Messiah.

**Sunday, December 10** – Bethlehem Candle – represents God’s gift of LOVE, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

**Sunday, December 17** – Shepherds Candle – JOY as the good news of Jesus’ birth was experienced by the Shepherds.

**Sunday, December 24** – Angels Candle – reminds us of the PEACE of Christ as announced by the Angels.

**Christmas Eve** – the Christ Candle – the coming of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. With the lighting of this candle, the Advent Season comes to an end and the wait is over. Christ is born!

# CHRISTMAS

@ AUTUMN RIDGE CHURCH

## A MISFIT CHRISTMAS

**Nov 30**

7:00pm - 8:30pm  
Tickets: \$8/person  
*A family evening with  
Theater for the Thirsty  
PLUS  
Dessert after the show*

## CHRISTOS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

**Dec 2**

10:00am - 5:00pm



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

**Dec 23**

5:30pm Contemporary Service

**Dec 24**

9:00am Traditional Service  
10:30am Contemporary Service  
3:00pm Family Service  
10:00pm Candlelight Service

## THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

**Dec 9, 5:30pm**

**Dec 10, 9:00 & 10:30am**

*Dr. Alan Shoumaker directs  
the choir and orchestra in a  
Christmas celebration*

## OUT OF THE BOX

**Dec 16, 5:30pm**

**Dec 17, 9:00 & 10:30am**

*The children present a short  
musical during the music  
portion of the  
worship services*

*Details and childcare  
information at  
[AutumnRidgeChurch.org/  
christmas](http://AutumnRidgeChurch.org/christmas)*

## NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND

**Dec 30, 5:30pm**

**Dec 31, 9:00 & 10:30am**

**Dec 31, 6:00pm**

New Year's Eve Service