

WELCOME



If you are a first time visitor please fill out one of our **Information Cards** available at the Information Center or in the Sanctuary. We want to thank you for joining us today as we celebrate God's grace and goodness together. Please be sure to introduce yourself to us and thanks again for coming.

TODAY:

From Sunday, Nov. 30-Dec. 24, we will be celebrating **"Immanuel... God with us."** (Matt. 1: 23b) We rejoice in the purifying **HOPE** and enduring **PEACE** we have in Christ the Saviour. Today our focus is His strengthening **JOY**.

Advent means "Coming" or "Arrival" The emphasis for us as believers is the true meaning of Christmas; Christ's birth and God being with us. It is also a focus on His Second-Advent. We live in anticipation of His glorious appearing. ***"I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*** (Rev. 1: 8)

Wed. night Prayer Meeting Dec.17, at 7:00 PM. (Fellowship, Worship, the Word, and Prayer make a BIG difference!)

Thursday, Dec. 18, Worship Team Practice, 7:30 PM

YOUTH SKATING at Glen Abbey Community Centre, Sat. Dec. 20, 2-3:30 PM. (Check e-mails for details or see Pastor Marco)

YOUTH WINTER GAMES, Sat. Dec. 27, 2 PM. (Check e-mails for details or see Pastor Marco)



JUST FOR KIDS

Our children join us for worship in the main Sanctuary until they are called to the altar area for prayer. They will then attend Sunday School and will be supervised by our capable workers. Their special Bible lesson will conclude at the same time as the adult service.

Nursery is also supervised and available when the children are dismissed from the sanctuary.

Parents please note that your child needs to be signed-in and signed-out every Sunday.

MANNA



The Advent account embraces many themes that revolve around the obvious pivotal point, the arrival of God in the flesh; the "incarnation". One such theme is **"waiting"**. I think of the patience of the Prophets who foretold Christ's coming. We are also reminded of the 400 years of silent waiting between the Old and New Testaments; Simeon and Anna waiting patiently all their lives to actually see the promised child. Joseph and Mary waited nine months after hearing the powerful Words of the messenger and then Mary spent her life waiting, enduring, and considering the extraordinary and unique life of her child. The wise men from the East postponed their lives as they followed the heavenly signs to Christ. One of the messages we hear from the Christmas story is to be long-suffering. Hope involves waiting and waiting necessitates patience and patience produces character. What does it mean to be patient? Pastor Timothy Keller wrote "Patience is love for the long-haul; it is bearing up under difficult circumstances, without giving up or giving in to bitterness. It means working when gratification is delayed. It means taking what life offers-even if it means suffering –without lashing out." "Lord help us to be patient with others as you have been patient with us!"

COMING:



New Window Blinds for the church have been ordered in our ongoing commitment to improve God's house. If you would like to contribute, above your regular tithes and offerings towards the cost of the new blinds and the new paint please indicate that on an offering envelope. Thank you!

****English/German Christmas Carol-Sing, Friday Dec. 19, 7:00 PM @ ROCC****

*****Special Christmas Eve Service, Wed. Dec. 24, 7:00-8:00 PM*****

The new **Alarm Codes** have been programed into the church alarm system. If you currently have an active-code please see Patricia for your new-code.