## Oakley Campus | Week at a Glance | 12/3-12/9

**Sunday Service Times**: 8:40, 9:50, and 11:00 AM or online at laurelridge.online.church

Sundays, Nursery/Preschool: 8:40, 9:50, and 11:00 AM

Sundays, Kids (K-6th) Services: 8:40, 9:50, and 11:00 AM Streaming online at 9:50 AM: "Ridge Kids" on YouTube

THE RIDGE Community Group: 9:50 and 11am (7-8<sup>th</sup> grades, 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Tuesdays, Celebrate Recovery: 6 PM, Oakley Campus

Wednesdays, Kids (K-4th) and Preteen (5th-6th) Adventure 6:15-8 PM

Wednesdays, THE RIDGE (MS and HS): 6:15-8 PM (7-8<sup>th</sup> grades, 9-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Thursdays, Prayer Team: 5:30 PM, Conference Room

\*\*For all Nursery-12th Grade programs, contact brandon@laurelridgechurch.org

### Bethel Island Campus | Week at a Glance

Sunday Service Times: 11:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study: 7 PM, Fellowship Hall

For other opportunities and Community Group info, visit laurelridgechurch.org
\*Register at laurelridgechurch.org/register

#### Oakley Campus Planner

12/11: Mommy Meet up, 9am, Gym

12/10: Coat Drive Last Day, Lobby

12/12: Boomer's Christmas Celebration, 11:30am

12/20-1/1: Office Closed

12/20, 27 & 1/3: No K-12<sup>TH</sup> Gr. Wednesday Programs

12/24: Christmas Eve Services, 8:40am, 9:50am, 11am & 1:30pm

12/24 & 12/31: No Sunday 7-12<sup>th</sup> Gr Community Groups

12/31: New Year's Eve Service 8:40am, 9:50am & 11am

1/7, 14, 21, 28: Base Camp, 9:30am, Rm 301

\*1/7: Sign Up for Community Groups

\*1/21: Secret Sister's Lunch, 1pm, Gym

\*1/21-3/24/2024: Winter Community Groups

\*2/4: Next Steps Begin, 9:30am, Room 301

2/4: Kids Camp and Centrifuge Camp Deposit Due

2/4/2024: Children Baptism Class 12:10pm, Room 301

2/18/2024: Baptism Sunday, 11am

\*2/23-25/2024: Winter Camp, Gr 7-12, Deposit Due 1/24

\*3/22-25/2024: Mission Trip. Gr 7-12

\*6/23-28/2024: Summer Camp, Gr 2-6

\*7/8-13/2024: Summer Camp, Gr 7-12

Laurel Ridge Church: Seek God. Build Community. Unleash Compassion.



# CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT... GOD's Activity and Care December 3, 2023

1. There was a small number of Jewish people whoevery single day for the arrival of a Messiah.
2 this is relevant for us:
At some point in our Christian experience, God is so quiet and God is so inactive. There are times in our lives when we will look around and say, "Why am I doing this? Why am I attending? Why am I serving? Why am I giving? Why am I believing? Why am I obeying? Why in the world am I continuing day after day after day to live my life as if there is something bigger than me? Is this more of a superstition than something I really believe?"
<i>Luke 1:5-6</i> - In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. <sup>6</sup> Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly.
3. For years, God had done nothing for the nation of Israel.  And yet, these two would get up every day and live their lives as if Christmas is coming.
Luke 1:7- But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.
4. Their entire faithfulness to God was based on a made to Abraham two thousand years earlier.
Genesis 12:2-3- "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
5. The reason Luke begins with this story is because this was the beginning of something brand
that would ultimately result in the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.

#### 6. The reason why this is important to us:

There are moments, there are seasons of our lives and our relationships when we wonder, "Is God active, is God listening, does God care?" On Christmas, the answer is	
Luke 1:8-13 - Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, 9 he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. 10 And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside. 11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard	
7. What if	
just whispered to you, " <i>I've heard your prayer</i> ." That would be enough, wouldn't it?	
Luke 1:13-16 Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John.  14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.  16 Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God.	
8. Why would John the Baptist have to bring them back? Because God done anything for Israel in over 400 years.	
Luke 1:17-20 - And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." <sup>18</sup> Zechariah asked the angel, "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years." <sup>19</sup> The angel answered, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. <sup>20</sup> And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time."	
9. There was an appointed time. God had notpaying attention.	

Even though God had been quiet, he had not been inactive, he hadn't lost interest. "At their proper time."

*Luke 1:21-27* - Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. <sup>22</sup> When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup> When his time of service was completed, he returned home. <sup>24</sup> After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant and for five months remained in seclusion. <sup>25</sup> "The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." <sup>26</sup> In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

10. This is	problem.
just go do something else? Do we git nothing to life but what we see arout	eve or do we stop believing? Do we serve or do we we or do we just spend and know that there is and us? Do we stay engaged? Do we stay in that erybody is doing? Do we participate in that shady ur integrity?
11. In every generation, there is a of Christ followers that decide wheth that God seems to be quiet.	er or not they will remain faithful in spite of the fact
12	to the world of Zechariah and Elizabeth.
13. The challenge is: Will you be part	of that faith?
14. Christmas is a reminder that ever when it seems that he is still, it's not	n when God is silent, God is not necessarily still. And that he is uninterested.
15. God is the God who	
his promises and Christmas is a remi	INGER OT HIS TAITNTUINESS.

# Wi-Fi password: Irccguest Five Easy Ways to Give:

1. In Person: Place your offering in an offering box at either exit.

2. Our App: Search for "Laurel Ridge Community Church" on iOS and Android.

3. Online: laurelridgechurch.org/give

4. Bill Pay: Setup LRCC on your bank's Bill Pay.

5. Mail a check to the church: 2459 Laurel Road, Oakley, CA 94561

Ouestions? Call 925-625-9500