

Oakley Campus | Week at a Glance | 12/17-12/23

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
(7-8th grades, 9-12th grades)

Tuesdays, Celebrate Recovery: 6 PM, Oakley Campus

NO Wednesdays, Kids (K-4th) and Preteen (5th-6th) Adventure
6:15-8 PM

NO Wednesdays, THE RIDGE (MS and HS): 6:15-8 PM
(7-8th grades, 9-12th 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

12/20-1/1: Office Closed

12/20, 27 & 1/3: No K-12th Gr. Wednesday Programs

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

12/24 & 12/31: No Sunday 7-12th 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

1/16: Boomers, Black Bear Diner, 11:30am at
restaurant

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

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

1/22: Mommy Meet-up, 9-11:30am, Gym

*2/3: Men's Breakfast, 8-9:45am

*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



CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT . . .
Outcasts Being Invited In
December 17, 2023

1. **Matthew's gospel is unique because he starts with the _____.**

Matthew 1:1-2 - A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: ² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, . . .

2. **Matthew was writing specifically to a _____ audience and he is about to make the case that Jesus is in fact the Son of God, that he is the Messiah.**

3. **Matthew seems to emphasize the people that you would _____ if you were writing a genealogy of the Son of God.**

Matthew 1:3-7 - Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, ⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

4. **Why all the distraction?**

Matthew spent three years with Jesus. Matthew stood next to an empty tomb. Matthew saw Jesus die on a cross. Matthew heard Jesus teach. Matthew knew that all these shady characters with all their sin and all their embarrassing stories were the point of the story he was about to tell. He knew that sin was the issue and that Christmas, the birth of Jesus, addresses that issue.

5. Jesus didn't just come for sinners. Jesus came from sinners, and that was alright, because that was the _____ of Him coming to earth.

6. Matthew knew he was from the _____ kind of background.

Matthew 9:1-2 - Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. ² Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "**Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.**"

7. The religious leaders, teachers of the law, scribes, and Pharisees who followed Jesus around everywhere were trying to figure out if he was who he _____ to be.

Matthew 9:3-9 - At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" ⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? ⁵ Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ⁶ But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." ⁷ And the man got up and went home. ⁸ When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men. ⁹ As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at **the tax collector's booth. . .**

8. There were two categories they would talk about: The _____ gatherers and the _____.

9. The picture of righteousness and holiness, God in the flesh, makes eye contact with Matthew, who is collecting taxes from other Jewish people.

Matthew 9:9-10 - As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "**Follow me,**" he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples.

Matthew 9:11-12 - When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" ¹² On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.

Matthew 9:13 - But go and learn what this means: **'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'** For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

10. If we could ask Jesus, “ _____ did you come? He would say, “I have not come to call the righteous or good people, I have come to call sinners.”

11. Matthew understood better than any other of the gospel writers that the story of Jesus and the story of Christmas is a story about God drawing _____ to those who had _____ away.

12. After watching Jesus for three years, Matthew discovered that from now on, he, a tax gatherer, a sinner, a man who had failed in every way and broken every law had the opportunity to approach God. This was not on the basis of what he had done, but on the basis of what Jesus had _____ for him.

Luke 2:12 - Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Wi-Fi password: lrccquest

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

Questions? Call 925-625-9500