

WELCOME VISITORS We're happy to have you visiting with us today and hope that you will come again. Please fill out a visitor's card and pass it to the right so that we'll have a record of your attendance.

IN SYMPATHY We express our sympathies to Evelyn Holland in the recent passing of her sister. Pray for Evelyn, her extended family and safe return.

CONGRATULATIONS We congratulate Jordan and Candace Smith on the birth of Colton Scott on November 26. Candace is the daughter of proud grandparents Don and Jolean Hatton. Happy great-grandparents are Bob & Sandi Hatton and Jerry & Judy Cain.

ENCOURAGING ELDERS

Ask yourself this question. How important are the elders to a local congregation? Hopefully, your answer is, "very important!" God sure thought it was! Consider **(Titus 1:4)** *"For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would appoint elders in every city as I directed you."* It was God's plan for His church to in each city to be shepherded by elders. Paul told Titus that it should be according to the instruction he was given. Since being a shepherd is important, it was necessary to choose men who met the God's qualifications **(I Tim.3, Titus 1)**.

Due to the fact that shepherding is such an important calling, there is a lot of pressure put on the elders to rule or manage well. Most elders are men who really do desire to do their best. We as members of the Lord's body must understand that although there is a high calling and code of conduct for elders, they are still human as we are.

We should expect our shepherds to not only meet the qualifications and continue in them, but we must be understanding so that we don't hold them to perfection...which no man can attain to.

The Bible is very clear that we must obey and submit to our leaders. We are also told to let them do their work with joy and not with grief. An elder or eldership that is covered in grief and discouragement will not shepherd well. As the scriptures say, *it would not be profitable for us.* **(Heb.13:17)** What is the congregation as a whole doing to encourage the shepherds? What are the members doing individually to give them the support they need? We need to be more aware of their task and make sure that we help them watch over our souls with joy. Make sure that at least a few times a year you personally let them know how much they are appreciated.

Encourage them to hold fast to the faithful word, encourage them to be diligent in their work among the congregation, and encourage them to press on. The things they elders do often affect eternity. Make the effort. You will see positive results.

HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE Due to the holidays being on Sunday here are our worship hours for December 25 and January 1.

We will only have Worship from 11am-12noon.
(There will be children's classes during worship).
There will be no A.M. classes and NO evening services on those Sundays.

CAROLING We will be Christmas Caroling at Orchard Villa Nursing Home on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 2:45pm. Please let Andrew know if you can attend.

FOUNTAIN SQUARE DINNER will be held Monday, December 12. Sign-up sheets for food help are on the foyer board. Food needs to be at the church building by 4:30 or at Fountain Square kitchen by 5:00. Our schedule will be doors open at 4:30, devotional at 5:15, dinner at 5:30, and singing at 6:00. We will also need help serving, singing, and cleanup. See Wanda Peace, Bev Zilka, or Judy Stroud with questions.

FRUIT BASKETS If you would like to donate money for the fruit baskets that we give out in December to the widows and widowers please see Stan or Georgiann Monhollen.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS With the holiday season the office hours will vary. I will be in the office on December 19 & 20 and the following week on December 27, 28 & 29. Bulletin information needs to be turned in early! ***Starting in **2017** Haley Gittus will be working as the office secretary.

DIRECTORIES New address directories are in the foyer, please look for your name at the top right hand corner.

NEW YEARS EVE The Ridgewood Church of Christ will be having their annual Midnight Watch on December 31 at 7:00 pm. Guest Speaker this year is Nate Wolfe. Flyer posted on the foyer bulletin board.

IN APPRECIATION John and I would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, visits and prayers offered on our behalf. John is still having mobility issues and I still have to complete radiation therapy, so we ask for continued prayers. Joyce Huntzinger

FAMILY HOUSE Donations of paper products can be put in the library for the Family House. This is a shelter that keeps families together.

FACEBOOK PAGE Echo Meadows now has two official Facebook pages which will represent our congregation going forward. The first is a public page. There is no need to join this page or post to it as it merely represents us to the public. It will list upcoming events and social activities (example: VBS, Clothing Giveaway, etc.). The second is a private page for prayer requests and the like. To join the private page, please contact Matt Zimmerman or Austin Rhoads.

- Jacquie Sloan—Lutheran Village at Wolfe Creek

Prayers for those with illnesses, recovering from surgery and going through rehabilitation.

PLEASE PRAY FOR John Huntzinger, Charles Hyndman Sr., Anna Copass, Ruth Watson, Tony Ramos, Kay Hammond, Alma Schultz, Mary Henry, Norma Gonzalez, Carmen Wright, Mike Borysiak, Robert Dickey, Larry Hollstein, Jasper Lucas, Bertha Wells, Jim & Neva Hall, Terry Howell, Alton Tripp, and Jack Reynolds.

PLEASE TURN OFF
CELL PHONES & PAGERS

READING Dec. 11, 1 Thess. 1-4; Dec. 12, 1 Thess. 5 & 2 Thess. 1-3; Dec. 13, 1 Timothy 1-4; Dec. 14, 1 Timothy 5-6; Dec. 15, 2 Timothy 1-4; Dec. 16, Titus 1-3 & Philemon; Dec. 17, Hebrews 1-5.

RECORDS DEC. 4, 2016			
9:00	86	BUS	1
10:00	211		
6:00	74		
Wed.	66		
Contribution		\$8,298.00	
Missions		14.00	
Total		\$8,312.00	
Weekly Budget		\$5,717.06	

SCHEDULE OF SERVICE	
Sun.	9:00 am Bible Study
	10:00 am Worship
	6:00 pm Worship
Wed.	7:00 pm Bible Study
Thurs.	11:30 am Bible Study