

# The Lemoore Caller

140 Skaggs St.

Lemoore, CA 93245

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[lemoorechurchofchrist.org](http://lemoorechurchofchrist.org)

## Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study.....	9:30 a.m.
Sunday A.M. Worship.....	10:30 a.m.
Sunday P.M. Worship.....	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Classes/Devotional.....	7:00 p.m.

**Elders:** Craig Case, Vernon Garretson

## Can't Stop Now

The famous engineer and inventor, Robert Fulton, returned to America from Paris in 1805 to test his invention of the steamship. In 1807, he was ready to take the steamship *Claremont* on a trial run up the Hudson River between New York City and Albany. In the excited crowd watching the proceedings, there was a negative, pessimistic, doubtful old man. While preparations were made to start, the old man kept repeating, "They won't ever get her started." The steamship, however, was started, and began its trip up the river to the cheers of the crowd. The doubter was then heard to say, "They won't ever get her stopped." There are two kinds of doubters: the active, investigative doubters who are willing to study evidences before reaching a conclusion, and the lazy, prejudicial doubters who are unwilling to consider any possible evidences. Be a good doubter. Consider the reasons you should believe the Bible and be a member of the church you read about therein.

"Learn of me". Matthew 11:29



# Lemoore church of Christ

lemoorechurchofchrist.org

December 11, 2016

**Sunday:** 9:30 a.m. Bible Classes

10:30 a.m. Morning Worship

5:00 p.m. Evening Worship

**Wednesday:** 7:00 p.m. Bible Classes

**Members scheduled to serve for December:**

Communion Prep. & Greeters:

Wilma & Gary Cole

## **Men Leading Services for December 11th:**

CALL TO WORSHIP: ELDER: Vernon Garretson

SONG LEADER: Garth Radcliff

OPENING PRAYER: Lynn Atkinson

PRAYER LIST: Gary Cole

LORD'S TABLE: LEAD: Mark Lane

Taylor Radcliff, Herminio Gutierrez, Gary Curtis

SCRIPTURE READING: Frank Baldwin

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CLOSING PRAYER:

Gary Rice

ALTERNATES: Craig Standridge, Craig Case, Richard Bullough, Randy McCord.

P.M. SONG LEADER: Garth Radcliff

## **Men Scheduled to Serve Wednesday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>:**

SONGS: Gary Cole

SPEAKER: Craig Case

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRAYER: Gary Rice

## **Upcoming Events!**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>- Men's business Meeting**

**December 13<sup>th</sup>- Ladies Luncheon - Vineyard Inn**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>- Teen Gift Wrapping Day**

## **Men's Business Meeting-** Tomorrow, December 12<sup>th</sup>

at 6:00 p.m., all men are encouraged to attend the meeting. Men, your attendance is important, as important topics will be discussed. Dinner will be served.

**Wednesday Night Adult Class:** Please remember to submit any questions to the elders that you would like to add to the list for study on Wednesday nights, as we continue our "question and answer" style of class on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Ladies Luncheon.** The December Birthdays will be celebrated on Tuesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 a.m. The ladies will meet at The Vineyard Inn, in Lemoore for a delicious lunch and fellowship. Please let Linda Atkinson know if you would like to attend, as reservations are being made for an estimated number of people.

**Christmas Caroling Cancelled!!** It has been decided that cancelling the caroling trip would be best, based on impending bad weather and illnesses that have been going around.

## **Abdiel, Our Sponsored Child from City of Children:**

We plan to send a Christmas gift to Abdiel. Denise Dean will coordinate the purchase and sending of a gift and will collect money by December 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help sponsor this gift, please give your donation to Denise by Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. All the words of encouragement, and gifts that we send to Abdiel, and the prayers we pray for him are so appreciated and such a good example of God's love. Thank you

**Teens Offer Christmas Gift Wrapping:** This December 18<sup>th</sup>, our teenage members will be wrapping gifts after morning worship, at the home of Sarah and Denise Dean. If you would like to have gifts wrapped, please bring the gifts to church in the morning and they will be carefully transported to the Dean home, where they will be nicely wrapped and returned to the building in time for you to pick them up after evening worship. Lunch will also be provided for the teens, while they are busy wrapping. Thank you for your participation, your support is greatly appreciated.

## *Practice Jesus*

If we practiced Jesus every way,  
It'd be like Christmas every day;  
If we, like Him, were meek and mild  
And loved each woman, man and child,  
If we'd read our Bible, it'd remind us,  
So that every single day would find us  
More and more in sweet accord  
With our sweet Jesus-Master, Lord.

Then every day that we're alive  
Would be like December 25.



## Prayer List

The Family of Van Bass, as he passed away sometime during the night. Van had been ailing for some time and most recently had suffered a heart attack. He had been home, with family members caring for him. Van was a church of Christ member in Lemoore for many years. Doug Standridge, waiting for a kidney transplant. He has visited U.C. Davis Hospital for additional medical tests. All results turned out well.

Lucile Chamberlain has not been doing well, as she has been experiencing health issues this week.

Edna Rice was taken to the hospital for chest pain. 2 stents were placed and she is recovering well.

Glen Fraley, his heart is still doing well, after having a transplant, however, he had to endure surgery for a partial leg amputation. Glen is recovering well at home.

Shirley Garretson – not feeling well, dealing with joint pain.

Bill Butts, as he recovers from a sprained ankle.

Dorma Atkinson suffered a TIA and was taken to the hospital. She has returned home and will follow up with a specialist.

Gary Cole will have additional medical tests in anticipation of surgery.

Donna Lane will have minor leg surgery.

Richard Bullough – will follow up with doctors for more medical tests before scheduling kidney surgery.

Alana, Jack Otto's granddaughter – Please pray that she will make better choices in life.

Danette Curtis- recovering from hip replacement surgery.

Vicky Hatfield, friend of Caitlyn and Nick Harp, her cancer has been determined to be terminal. She was released from the hospital to go home. She is under the care of Hospice.

Kristen Hill Menezes, a friend of Emily Standridge, has been diagnosed with Stage 2 Breast Cancer. She has been receiving chemo therapy and is scheduled for a double mastectomy in February.

Johnny Goodson, Mark Lane's cousin has been diagnosed with COPD.

Emily Carpenter, a young student where Bree Radcliff attends school; cancer has returned. She is responding well to treatment and is improving.

Mike Souza - hip replacement surgery.

Alfredo Gonzalez, Rosa Gutierrez' father, has been moved to a rehab hospital, to recover and rehabilitate from the effects of West Nile Virus.

Emmitt Walker, Aguirre's great –grandson, who is only 3 months old, is battling Cystic Fibrosis. He has already had 6 surgeries and may require more during his treatment.

Marge Tassler, grandmother of Nick and Caitlyn Harp will be meeting with doctors soon regarding cancer treatment.

Merlin Welch, a neighbor of the Atkinsons, as he recovers from a stroke.

Casey Case, Jr., grandson of Clofas and Jeanne Case, going through treatment for Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and an additional blood disorder. He is responding well to treatment.

Lois Gable, a friend of the Lane family, has been diagnosed with cancer. Her health is declining greatly.

Beverly Rice, aunt of Donna Lane, has been diagnosed with liver cancer. She is not doing well.

Cold and Flu Season – many who struggle with the effects of these illnesses this time of year.

Holiday Travelers – this is a very busy time of year for traveling. Please pray for all those who may be driving, flying and any other type of travel, that they may have a safe journey.

Members of the Armed Forces: those on deployment and those closer to home. Please remember them all in your prayers, as we pray they are safe and we thank them for their service.

First Responders in all fields: Please keep those in mind who work diligently in keeping up with emergencies and providing medical care, fire protection and security from danger for all our citizens.

### Our Mission Work

\*Our Preachers in Nicaragua

\*Agape Village

\*Crossover Ministry

\*City of Children

\*Manuelito Children's Home

\*church of Christ in Branson, MO

\*church of Christ Disaster Relief Fund

*For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, Romans 1:9*



## The God of Second Chances

A reporter asked Winston Churchill what prepared him to risk political suicide by speaking out so strongly, so early against Adolph Hitler. Churchill said he thought it might have been the time he had to repeat a grade in elementary school. "You mean you failed a year in grade school?" the reporter asked incredulously. Churchill retorted, indignantly, "I never failed anything in my life. I was always given a second opportunity to get it right." Most of us need a "second opportunity to get it right." God is more than willing to give us that opportunity. He is rich in mercy, love, and grace (Ephesians 2:4). He especially delights in mercy: "Who is a God like unto thee that pardoned iniquity and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy" (Micah 7:18).

### A GOD WHO RUNS: A PLACE AT GOD'S TABLE

One of the all-time greatest stories ever told is that of a son who ran away from home with his pockets full of his father's hard-earned money. Predictably, he famously and foolishly spent it all. Read again Jesus' lovely story (Luke 15:11–20). Let's try to imagine how it might have happened in that Jewish family so long ago. Hungry, sad, and alone, the boy finally resolved to go back to his father's farm and see if he could get on as hired help. As he trudged mile after mile, he rehearsed what he would say and wondered what the reaction would be. Would his father refuse to see him? Would he send out a servant to tell him that he had made his bed and now he had to lie in it? As he rounded the last curve, he saw the home place far in the distance. With his heart in his throat and a knot in his stomach, he thought, here we go. His father was the first to spot him—his dim old eyes out-seeing far younger ones because they were sharpened by longing and love. He had glanced down that road a thousand times before. This time he did a double take. Is that a dot on the horizon? Who is coming to the farm? It looks like ... could it be? Yes! Then something unusual happened. Perhaps field hands leaned on hoe handles to watch. In the barn, a worker stopped with a hay bale halfway to its landing spot. Kitchen staff stepped on the porch to better see. The master was running. They had never seen that before. He had pulled up his long robe and taken off down the road toward town. Their eyes followed his path to see where he was going, and they saw in the distance a lone silhouette. As the father drew near, he threw his arms around the boy, kissing him—and you can almost see his wide smile as he sized up the young man. Then a cloud crossed his lined face as a closer examination noted the loose fit of the clothes, the rank smell of his body odor, and the new sadness around those once-innocent eyes. The father interrupted the boy's prepared speech about wanting a servant's job if one was available. The master barked commands to the servants as they neared the house: Get the boy something to eat! He needs new clothes! Get ready for the party we'll soon have. My son that was dead is alive.

Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son was given to show us that God gives second chances. To some extent, we have all worn that prodigal's clothes. We've all smelled of the pig pen and felt hunger gnaw at us as sin's feast turned into its inevitable famine (James 1:15). We can vividly recall the excitement of the trip to that distant sin-city, and many of us have lived long enough to long again for what we left behind. We've seen the disappointment in our Father's eyes over our bad decisions and foolish mistakes. We've come back with hat in hand. Others are wondering if the welcome mat is still out for them. No matter, we picture the Father saying, "Just come back. My love is unwavering." You could never be persona non grata here. Come home. There's plenty of bread on the table, plenty of love to go around. God just longs for the family to be complete again. He pines away waiting for us to make the first move (Revelation 3:20). When we do, He enthusiastically rushes to meet us well on our side of the halfway mark.