

LJ Faithnews

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF LA JUNTA FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

FEBRUARY 2017

The Pastor's Heart

By Gordon Smith

Let us play charades for a moment. You draw the name of a famous person like Oprah Winfrey, Kim Kardashian, Mark Zuckerberg, Steve Jobs, Justin Bieber, Bono, Donald Trump, or some other famous figure, and you must "act out," without using any words, a description of who they are. What sort of actions would you use to best describe them? Now, let's say you draw another name. What sort of actions would you use to best describe Jesus?

Our family played charades the other day, and we "acted out" various things that Jesus did: like healing a blind man, enduring the cross, and forgiving the adulterous woman. We enjoyed it immensely, and learned something very important in the process. We understood the meaning of "the Word became flesh and has dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:14). God put "action" to his Word.

Yet, following Jesus is more than a game of charades, for God is not looking for actors, but for followers who will do as Jesus did. When Jesus challenges us to "Go, and do likewise," (Luke 8:21, 10:37) or "you will do greater things," (John 14:12) and "abide in me and I in you," (John 15) it is the reality that Christ has no body now on earth but ours. He has no hands or feet but ours. Yours are the eyes through which to look out with compassionate eyes upon our world. Yours are the feet that bring good news to those around you. Ours are the loving arms with which we wrap around those who hurt. Ours are the hands by which we lift others up! For God dwells within you!

If people drew your name and were asked to "act out," without using words, a description of who you are, would it reflect the "actions" that God lives within you? This is more than a game. Go, and love as God has loved you.

Calendar

- Feb 5th
Superbowl (Grab your subs after church)
- Feb 14th
Valentine's Day
- Feb 20th
President's Day
- Mar 1st
Dinner With Jesus
Communion Service



Alternative Ash Wednesday

Dinner with Jesus Communion Service

Wednesday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m.

On Valentine's Day we often go out for dinner to celebrate our love for one another. Consider for a moment that we are the Bride of Christ, and in a unique way, "Dinner with Jesus" is a communion service that is designed to set the ambiance for an intimate encounter with our Lord and Savior! "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters... eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare" (Isaiah 55:1-2). Jesus declared, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'" (Matt. 4:4). We will be feasting on nothing more than the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ who is "the Word made flesh." (John 1:14)

Childcare will be provided

OJC Venezuelan Students

Due to political and economic upheaval in their home country, there are four OJC students from Venezuela that are in need of assistance to continue their studies at Otero Junior College. Enclosed is a brochure with more information if you would like to help. Also, one of these students will be here on Sunday, Feb. 5th to answer any questions you might have.

Chime Choir

Chime Choir practice will be starting back up on Saturday, Feb. 4th at 3:00pm. They will be practicing for an Ash Wednesday performance. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Schmucker.

Café

If you would be willing to help with snacks between Sunday School and church, please let Denise know. She's making a list of people she can contact. We are in need of volunteers if we want to continue with the café ministry. Thank you!



Women's Ministries

The knitting and crocheting group is still meeting on the second Friday of each month to make prayer shawls and other gifts for Missions. This month's meeting is on Friday, February 10th from 1:00 - 2:30pm at Carol Eveatt's home. If you have any questions, please contact Carol at 384-8458.

Basketball

Basketball is back! Every Tuesday at 7pm, Pastor Isaac will be here ready to take you on! He doesn't think anyone can play up to his standard....so please, please come and show him how it's done!



Starting Wednesday, March 1st we will begin a journey together as a congregation from *Ashes to Fire*. The total *Ashes to Fire* experience encompasses our entire congregation from children, to youth, and to adult as we engage in the same passages of Scripture in proclamation, education and faith formation. It is an intentional journey with Jesus from Ash Wednesday through Holy Week and Easter and on to Pentecost Sunday.

Central to the *Ashes to Fire* experience is a devotional guide that is a combination of Scripture reading, prayer, that helps to enhance our communal worship, small-group Bible study, and personal formation. This is a way for us as a congregation to interact together corporately, in our family, and in our personal lives to bring about revival in our everyday encounters. Details regarding these devotionals will follow in the weeks ahead. We would love for each of you to participate as an individual and within your family.

You can order your *Ashes to Fire* devotional thru the church. Just let us know!



Youth Concert Trip

Pastor Isaac is planning a youth trip to The Rock & Worship Roadshow. The concert is presented by Compassion International and includes Steven Curtis Chapman, Francesca Battistelli, Rend Collective & more! If you are interested in going, please let Pastor Isaac know by February 19. Also, he is looking for adult sponsors that would be willing to go as well. The concert is on Sunday, March 5 at the World Arena in Colorado Springs. The van will be leaving at 2pm. The cost of a ticket is \$10 and the kids will also need money to eat. **This is a school night and it will be approximately midnight when they return to the church.

Main Event

Main Event is March 17-19 in Greeley. The deadline for registration and payment is February 26. The cost is \$50 per person. If your child is interested in going, please let Pastor Isaac know. The kids need to be communicating with him on what events that are interested in participating in. Main Event is always a great time!! If anyone has questions about this trip, please let Pastor Isaac know. He can fill you in on what an awesome time our kids always have!

Youth Group

Every Sunday evening, there is youth group at 6pm at the church. Come and join Pastor Isaac for a devotion, snacks, and games.

Youth Community Night

Youth Community Night is every Wednesday and meets at 7pm here at the church! Invite your friends and come join us!

College Age Small Group

The College Age Small Group meets every Thursday at 5:30pm at Pastor Isaac's house. Come and join the fun!

Youth Group Snacks Needed

There's a new list on the foyer table where you can sign up to bring snacks for the youth group. They meet on Sunday nights here at the church at 6pm. Examples of snack items are popcorn, chips, cookies, brownies, etc.. There is a sign up sheet at the information desk if you would like to help! Thank you so much!

La Junta First Church
Of The Nazarene
1111 W. 10th Street
La Junta, CO 81050
719/384-4723

lajuntanazarene@lajuntanazarene.org
www.lajuntanazarene.org



H. Gordon Smith III, Senior Pastor
pastorgordonsmith@gmail.com
719/469-0569

Isaac Gilmore, Associate Pastor
pastorisaacgilmore@gmail.com
231/675-0173

Gary Addington, Minister of Visitation
gbaddington@hotmail.com
719/469-0503

Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-2:00pm

Happy Birthday!

February 2017

2	Reece Addington	13	Jan Blair
3	Taylor Sullivan	14	Riley Gronemeyer
6	Stephanie Smith	19	Holly Lewis
	Torrey Davis	22	Sharon Jones
	Andrew Gossman		Darrell Hoss
8	Marci Schmucker	23	Randy Havens
9	Yoshi Arenas		David Hare
	Levi Jones	24	Patty Russell
	Wyatt Hoepfner		Shayla Thomas
10	Lisa Gossman-Steeves	25	Florence Reese
11	Nathan Eveatt		Jan Bryant
12	Crystal Clanton	27	Katie Bickel
	Maddox Estrada		

