

# SIERRA VISTA Community Church

"Where neighbors become friends and friends become family!"

DECEMBER 24, 2023

## OUR CORE VALUES:

(Matthew 22:36-40 & Matthew 28:19-20)

### WORSHIP:

"Love God with all your heart..."

### MINISTRY:

"Love your neighbor as yourself."

### EVANGELISM:

"Go...make disciples/followers..."

### DISCIPLESHIP:

"...teach them...all things..."

### COMMUNITY/FELLOWSHIP:

"Baptize them..."

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

"Loving God, loving others and reaching the world for Christ!"

## OUR VISION STATEMENT:

Sierra Vista Community Church exists to help people know, love, and serve God; bonding them into Christian community, equipping them to grow and to minister to those in need; all for the purpose of glorifying Him!

## DONATIONS:

### GIVING

**In-person:** Offering envelopes are in the seatbacks & collection baskets are as you exit

**Online:** give.svccfamily.org

**Mail:** 514 North Telshor Blvd.  
Las Cruces, NM 88011

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

**Phone number** - (575) 526-9535

**Email:** office@svccfamily.org

### Deacon/Staff on Call

Henry Young – (575) 496-1637

## STREAMING:

www.svccfamily.org or  
youtube.com/@svccfamily

# The Gift of Love



## First Time Guest

**CONNECT & RESPONSE CARD** - First time guest? Make a decision today? Need prayer or just want to connect with us? The CONNECT & RESPONSE Card (located in the seatback in front of you) is an effective and immediate way to communicate with us! Please take a moment to legibly complete one and then give it to an Usher or place it in the Offering Basket at the end of the service today or if watching online, please email [the\\_office@svccfamily.org](mailto:the_office@svccfamily.org) with your information or decision.

**CHILDCARE** is provided and encouraged for all young children (birth - 3yrs). Because our Worship Services are recorded, it is requested you check-in and drop off your child in the Nursery or Toddler's classroom BEFORE the service begins. Please wait to pick up your child until AFTER the service has been dismissed to help minimize any distractions and avoid upsetting the other children thinking it's time to go.

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP AND CLASSES** - All children (5 yrs.- 5th grade) are to attend the worship / singing portion of our service with their parent(s), then be dismissed to their class with their teachers waiting in the hallway to walk with them to class. Parents are still required to pre-register their child(s) **before** the Worship Service begins whether or not they will be attending class or remaining in the service.

**FAMILY ROOM** - Located in the children's hall, just inside the Northwest entrance, this room is provided for parents of young children who may be ill, nursing, or new to SVCC who'd like to remain with their child and still be able to enjoy the service via live streaming in the room.

**RESTROOMS** are located just outside the Worship Center next to the drinking fountains. We also have a **Family Restroom** next to the bulletin board in the Children's Hall that has a changing table and is designated specifically for adults assisting their child or disabled family.

**ESPAÑOL** - Tenemos disponible interpretación en español durante el servicio. Favor de notificar a un ujier para asistirle con un audifono. (Spanish Translation is available during our Worship Service. Please ask an Usher for a Spanish Bulletin and a compact receiver to use.)

## Sunday Activities:

**PRE-SERVICE PRAYER TIME (9:00 am - 9:30 am)** - The Worship Center is open and available at 9:00-9:30 am for anyone wanting to have prayer before the service or join others in praying for today's service.

**FELLOWSHIP CONNECTION (9:15 am)** - Stop by the kitchen counter and have a complimentary cup of coffee and donut to enjoy in the gathering area or out on the patio.

**EQUIPPING TIME (9:00 am) - NO CLASS: Dec. 24 & 31** - This Adult Bible Study meets in the Multipurpose Room and covers various topics designed to teach you God's Word and help you in your spiritual growth. On January 7 we start a **NEW STUDY** on various biblical prophecies beginning in the book of Genesis.

## Announcements:

**YOUR KINDNESS IS APPRECIATED** - On behalf of our homeless community, thank you for your kindness in donating all the winter wear. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

**OFFICE CLOSURES** - Due to the New Year holiday, the church office will be **CLOSED** from Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION UPDATES NEEDED FOR 2023 GIVING STATEMENTS

- If ANY of your personal information (including marital status, phone, address, email, etc.) has changed within this past year, please LEGIBLY record your new information on a CONNECT CARD (located in seat pocket in front of you) or email it to [office@svccfamily.org](mailto:office@svccfamily.org) with the new information. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us keep accurate records for mailing your upcoming Giving/Tithing Statements.

**“THE GIFT OF LOVE”**  
**(The Wonder of Christmas - Advent, Part 4)**  
December 24, 2023 - Christmas Eve

*Notes*

<sup>1</sup> At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register.

<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

<sup>3</sup> And everyone went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.) <sup>6</sup> While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So, she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

<sup>8</sup> That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep.

<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. <sup>10</sup> The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today your Savior was born in David’s town. He is Christ, the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.” <sup>13</sup> Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: <sup>14</sup> “Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.” <sup>15</sup> Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other,

“Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about.” <sup>16</sup> So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. <sup>17</sup> And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. <sup>18</sup> Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them. <sup>20</sup> Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.” (Luke 2:1-20) [ICB]

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

**Two Ways We Can Personally Experience God’s Love:**

- **God \_\_\_\_\_ His love through the \_\_\_\_\_.**

“... <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior ...” (Titus 3:5-6)

- **God \_\_\_\_\_ His love through the \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> For one will scarcely die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person one would even die - <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” (Romans 5:6-9)

\*All Bible references are from the ESV unless otherwise noted.