

Every December, in neighborhoods all across our community, we begin to see a glow. People on ladders, crawling on rooftops laying strings of lights. Trees begin to twinkle with color. Entire houses seem to sparkle in the night. And what do people plan to do?

They will pile into cars, bundle up in coats, and drive slowly through the streets just to look at the lights. There is something in us that is drawn to brightness, beauty, and wonder—especially now in the darker months of the year.

I was thinking, you know, just as Christmas lights pull people out of their homes to see something bright, Jesus—the *Light of the World*—draws people toward Himself. *When Christ and His love shines, darkness loses its grip. Hope breaks through. Hearts soften. Lives turn.* People seek what they cannot fully explain but deeply need.

But here is a powerful truth: Jesus shines today through His people—His church—*you and me*, right here at Western Hills. We do not *produce* the light; we *reflect* it. Our worship, our unity, our kindness, our patience, our joy, and our compassion are like lights on a hillside saying, “Come and see what God is doing here.”

When visitors walk through our doors, most of them are not looking for perfection. They are looking for light. They are looking for warmth, welcome, peace, and direction. They are hoping to see something real, something hopeful, something worth stopping to look at—just like a home glowing on a dark December night.

So as the world drives slowly through neighborhoods admiring Christmas lights, let’s remember:

- We are the lights Jesus has placed in this community.
- We are the windows through which people can see His love.
- We are the invitation that leads them to the true Light.

May our church family shine brightly—not just in December, but in every season—so that all who wander in darkness might be drawn to the One who gives life, hope, and everlasting light.

---Les Keele



Have you ever wanted to have a “one on one” conversation with God?

Our question should not be “is God \_\_\_\_\_” it should be “are we \_\_\_\_\_?”

**I. Important facts about God speaking to us:**

- A. We need to be sure we have heard God’s \_\_\_\_\_ before we worry about what He hasn’t \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. His \_\_\_\_\_ know His \_\_\_\_\_. John 10.1-5
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ God speaks may not be what we were \_\_\_\_\_. I Kings 19.11-13
- D. If we are not obedient to his voice, He \_\_\_\_\_ us! John 9.31; Proverbs 15.29; 2 Chronicles 7.14

**II. God Speaks to us through:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ . Ezekiel 2.1-10; Genesis 17; 1 Samuel 3.10-14; Deuteronomy 5.4; 1 Kings 19.9-18; Matthew 3.17; John 12.28-30
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Luke 1.26-38; Matthew 28.1-7; Luke 1.8-23
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 28.12; Acts 9.10-12; Matthew 1.18-25
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Romans 15.18-19; John 20.30-31; John 3.2
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Proverbs 3.5-6; 16.9, 33; Jeremiah 33.3; Isaiah 46.9-11; Ephesians 1.11; Psalm 40.5
- \_\_\_\_\_ . John 6.63; 2 Timothy 3.16; Jeremiah 15.16; Hebrews 4.12
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Acts 2; James 5.19-20; 1 Kings 12.1-15; Galatians 2.11-14; Acts 18.24-28
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Psalm 19.1; Romans 1.20; Job 12.7-9; Acts 14.17; Psalm 8.3-4
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Romans 2.15; 1 Timothy 1.19; 2 Corinthians 1.12; John 8.9; 1 John 3.20; Matthew 5.23-24

**III. How to recognize God’s voice**

- Take time to \_\_\_\_\_ . Psalm 46.10
- Set the \_\_\_\_\_ . Matthew 6.33; 1 John 2.15-17; Hebrews 12.1-2
- Come into \_\_\_\_\_ . Psalm 145.18; Jeremiah 33.3, 11-16; James 4.8
- Make it your \_\_\_\_\_ . Daniel 6.10; 1 Timothy 4.7-8; Proverbs 22.6; Hebrews 10.25-26
- Ask for \_\_\_\_\_ . James 1.5-6; Proverbs 3.5-6; 2.1-6

**Final Thought:** Matthew 7.24-27 “Everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ these words of mine and \_\_\_\_\_ them will be like a wise man . . .

# CONNECTION

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Good morning church family! It happens every December; stores fill with people searching for the *perfect* Christmas gifts. We compare prices, hunt for sales, wrap presents, and *hope* the person opening them will feel remembered and loved. There is joy in giving, and thoughtful gifts can certainly bless others.

But Scripture calls us to recognize a deeper kind of giving—gifts no store can provide and no budget can limit. While we shop for what can be bought and wrapped, God invites us to prepare gifts that touch the heart and last long after Christmas morning.



- **Grace** — A gift wrapped in patience, offered instead of irritation, and given freely because God has given it to us first.
- **Forgiveness** — A gift that tears down walls, loosens old hurts, and restores peace in relationships.
- **Presence** — Not the kind that comes in a box, but the kind that sits, listens, remembers, and chooses to be there.
- **Encouragement** — Words that lift the tired and weary, calm the anxious, and speak life into someone who feels overlooked or forgotten.
- **Service** — Quiet acts of love that reflect the heart of Christ, who came “*not to be served, but to serve.*”

These are the gifts that do not fade, do not break, and not require returns.

This Christmas season, as we wrap presents with paper, ribbon and tape, let us also wrap our lives in the character of Christ. Shopping carts may fill our hands, but the Holy Spirit fills our hearts with gifts far more valuable—gifts that are meant to be given away generously.

When all the paper is thrown away and the decorations come down, the gifts that will still be remembered are the ones that looked most like Jesus. May we be a family of God who gives what truly matters.

-Les Keele

## SHEPERDS

Greg Ball Russ	214-801-7375
Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
*Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton <small>*Shepherd of the month</small>	817-441-0000

## MINISTERS

Gary Williams: Pulpit Minister	662-321-3208
Les Keele: Associate Minister	817-808-0566
James Bowie: Youth Minister	817-944-4492

## THAI-LAOTIAN MINISTERS

Jeffery Lertboonpadong	206-819-9109
John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132

## DEACONS

Jonathan Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	972-310-1143
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Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

## MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

**Welcome** - Layton Garner  
**Song Leader** - Jonathan Bartee  
**Song** - I'll Live In Glory  
**Song** - Heavenly Sunlight  
**Song** - On Zion's Glorious Summit  
**Opening Prayer** - David Birdow  
**Scripture** - John 10:1-5  
**Song** - Because He Lives!  
**Lord's Supper** - Rob Donahue  
**Prayer for Contribution** - Rob Donahue  
**Song** - Lord, Speak To Me  
**God Speaks!** - Les Keele  
**Song** - Kneel At The Cross  
**Announcements** - Les Keele  
**Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal** - Ross Tomlinson

Our Code for Tithe.ly  
**Giving**



OR Code for  
**Attendance**



**Attended Nursery:** After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday, December 15**  
Isaiah 10-13; Revelation 6

**Thursday, December 18**  
Isaiah 22-24; Revelation 9

**Tuesday, December 16**  
Isaiah 14-16; Revelation 7; Psalm 23

**Friday, December 19**  
Isaiah 25-28; Revelation 10

**Wednesday, December 17**  
Isaiah 17-21; Revelation 8

**Saturday, December 20**  
Isaiah 29-31; Revelation 11

**Sunday, December 21**  
Isaiah 32-35; Revelation 12

### Last Week

<b>Bible Class</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Worship</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$ 22,169.89</b>
<b>Thai - Lao</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>\$ 14,216.88</b>
<b>Worship PM</b>	<b>63</b>		

### Times of Assemblies

<b>Bible Class:</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday Morning Worship:</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday Evening Worship:</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
<b>Wednesday Evening:</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>