

# KOINONIA

W I N T E R 2 0 1 8



*Koinonia* is a Greek word whose primary meaning is “fellowship or sharing in common.” It means that we are in agreement with one another, united in a common purpose, and serving alongside each other. It is the ideal state of fellowship, community and family that should exist within a body of believers. It is this ideal state, this koinonia, that we hope to encourage through this publication. Our hope is that it would be far more than just a fancy listing of events, but that people would get a greater sense of who we are as a church, that they would see our heart, not just our hands and feet.

*This magazine is a collaboration of a large group of people of all ages and ranges of talents and abilities. If you are interested in becoming a part of this Media Arts Team, please contact Michael Hickman, or Adam Nash, or email [koinonia@dnbc.org](mailto:koinonia@dnbc.org). We would love to have you join us!*

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For more issues of koinonia, scan the code or visit [dnbc.org/koinonia](http://dnbc.org/koinonia)



# UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7th	Children's Christmas Camp
December 9th	Children's Choir Program
December 16th	The Hope of Christmas
December 23rd	No Evening Activities
December 24th	Christmas Eve Service
December 26th	No Evening Activities
January 2nd	No Evening Activities
January 16th	Youth Experiential Night
January 25th	Lego Night
February 8-9th	Melodrama
February 15-16th	Melodrama

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A big thank you to all of the people that make Koinonia possible:

Mike DuBerry  
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Tanner Shelton  
Andrew Clark

Amber Nash  
Cari Young  
Cami Young  
Michael Hickman



## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

What a blessing it is to serve here at DNBC, but why? Why is it such a blessing to serve here? I could give you a number of reasons, far too many to list in such a brief article. So I will choose one of my favorite reasons "UNITY." There is such a unified spirit here at DNBC. I find it a place to worship and serve where we are all in unity and one accord. I believe we are earnestly living out:

*Ephesians 4:3*

*Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*


What a joy it is to my heart, and the heart of our staff, when everyone in the church family are all focused on the same goals and aspirations. We are a church that continues to reach out to our community and those around us. While I am writing this very article, in just the last few days, we have had a Women's Retreat, Men's Fellowship, Children's Community Outreach, and a Senior Adult Banquet. In the coming weeks we will have three more community outreaches, sponsor over thirty Thanksgiving meals for families in our community, a Men's Breakfast, and to be honest, just too much to write about in this brief article. However, all are talked about through this edition of our Koinonia magazine.

None of these things could take place without us being a church that is focused on sharing the Gospel Love of Jesus Christ. This is why our church is truly a church of Ministry, Missions, and Movers. I look forward to all that is still ahead. DNBC, our best days are yet to come! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!!!!

Your servant,  
Brad

*PS: Thank you to all who were so generous to the staff during staff appreciation month. Your constant love and support are a real encouragement to our staff.*

# WORSHIP IS MY LIFE



You probably just thought to yourself: “Of course Ira can say that since that is his job: Worship Pastor.” But it is also your job. Let me explain why I think worship is my life, and why it should be yours as well.

At the age of twelve I asked Jesus Christ to come into my life and soul, and in doing so, I died to my old self. Colossians 3:3–4 says, “Your old self has died, and your new life is kept with Christ in God. Yes, Christ is now your life, and when He comes again, you will share in His glory.” (ERV) My old self was ruled and controlled by what I wanted. My new self was supposed to be controlled by what God wanted. But, of course, since I am a sinner, every day I find myself doing what I want, without regard to what Christ might want. In Romans 7:15 the Apostle Paul

ponders the same concern: “For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.” (NASB)

So, how do I work on that problem of “my wants” over what God wants? When I asked Him to be my Lord and Savior I buried my old way of life to live a new way. Romans 6:4 says, “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (NIV) So, we can take that analogy of being buried and raised “to newness of life” to help us get through each day. We must continually, each and every moment, die to the old way and live in the new way. The only way to be successful in this venture is to live in a continual state of worship.

What then, exactly, is worship? Delesslyn A. Kennebrew wrote an article in *Christianity Today*, and I think she gets to the point: “True worship is defined by the priority we place on who God is in our lives and where God is on our list of priorities. True worship is a matter of the heart expressed through a lifestyle of holiness. Thus, if your lifestyle does not express the beauty of holiness through an extravagant or exaggerated love for God, and you do not live in extreme or excessive submission to God, then I invite you to make worship a non-negotiable priority in your life.”

Let us move forward, together, as we discover how to make worship a “non-negotiable” priority in our lives. Every thought, action, and motivation needs to take place in light of our desire to worship God.

Your fellow traveler on the journey,  
Ira Pinkston

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Please put these dates on your calendar and start inviting your friends and neighbors to our special Christmas Programs.

- Children’s Choirs Christmas Program: Sunday, December 9, 6:30 PM
- The Hope of Christmas Musical by the Celebration Choir and Orchestra: Sunday, December 16, 8:30 AM and 11 AM
- Christmas Eve Service: December 24, 5 PM





One More Time...at least...

Each year that goes by, I reevaluate the on-going projects that fall under my supervision. Decisions have to be made such as: Shall we do this project again? What worked...or didn't work last year? How can we improve on last year? You may be surprised to learn this is done with the Melodrama. Why would I even consider stopping the Melodrama? It has "Sold Out" four nights consistently, plus a fifth night as an alternative showing.

NOW before you jump to any conclusions let me state clearly: The Melodrama WILL take place in February, 2019. But the truth of the matter is, this will be our 16th year of an event that was simply going to be an opportunity for a different type of Valentine's Day back in 2004. Many of our cast members and support staff (cooks & dishwashers) have been there from the very start and we are all 16 years older. It takes a toll on our bodies. But it is a "Labor of Love." We love to do it, but it is labor. The shows have been successful beyond my wildest dreams. I'm honored to have a part in it.

With that being said: This year's show will be a Western theme. It is a parody on the "Gunsmoke" television series that ran for 20 seasons, making it the longest running western in TV history.

The dates of the Melodrama Dinner Show, *GUNSCHMUCK*, will be February 8, 9, 15, and 16. Ticket price will remain \$17.50 each, which includes a meal and the show. Free childcare will be offered to ticket holders on Friday, Feb. 15th (advance reservations required).

During the month of December we offer Gift Certificates for those who want to buy their melodrama tickets early to get the best seats available. You only have to know the Quantity of tickets you need to purchase. Then on December 26, 27, and 31 you come to the church office to choose your seats before they go on sale to the general public Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

It is a blessing to serve at Del Norte Baptist.  
Kevin Warner



## Children's Ministry Update

What a fun-filled and exciting Fall this has been in the Children's Ministry. We began a new tradition by the grade school children meeting together, during Sunday School, for the fifth Sunday. The first one I used my scuba diving equipment to explain to the children the plan of salvation. Just as a diver's life is dependent on his equipment we are dependent on God's love for us and His greatest gift, Jesus. For the second fifth Sunday I used visuals to tell some of the "gross and grimy" Bible stories. I want children to realize that the Bible is real, and its stories are funnier, scarier, and more exciting than anything they can see on TV or at the movies.

We have a wonderful group of volunteers at Governor Bent Elementary School. Twenty two tutors and two library helpers volunteer weekly. At Trunk or Treat, we had 65 cars, tons of candy, and lots of kids and parents. We were able to talk to people in our community that may never darken the doors of our church. But we showed them Christ's love by smiling, talking, laughing, and just being us.

On November 16th we had the opportunity to partner with Governor Bent. Jonathan Saiz, the principal, asked us to help serve Thanksgiving Dinner to the children and parents. We also handed out Thanksgiving Dinners to 30 families.

On Saturday, December 1st, we were blessed to be the hands and feet of Jesus with our annual Sole-2-Soul. Last year, we gave away over 500 pairs of shoes. What a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season!

Christmas Camp is Friday, December 7th, 6-9 PM. This is for babies through 6th grade. We will have dinner, crafts, games, a birthday cake for Jesus and the Christmas story. Invite children to this action packed night where they can meet new friends, have lots of fun, and hear the real story of Christmas.

The Children's Choirs have their Christmas program on Sunday, December 9th at 6:30. The choirs have doubled in size this year and sound fantastic.

Our Second Annual Lego night will be January 25th at 6:30. This year we are going to add a little competition to the Lego building. Come show off your building skills.

Enthusiastically Serving With You,  
Lillian Moon, Children's Minister





## Student Ministry Update

The student ministry is in the middle of a series called “Who Are You?” In this study we are looking into the importance of finding our identity in Jesus. To be an adolescent is to be given the task of finding one’s own identity. Our students are being told every day from our culture, the schools, and even sometimes their families that they are to find their identity in their accomplishments, their future jobs, or in their families. Not that there is anything wrong with being well accomplished, having a family, or enjoying your career, but these things are not suitable for someone to define who they are. The only thing that is consistent in our life... is God. When we build our lives on the foundation that is faith in God we are defining who we are with the only thing that does not change, accepts us as we are, and will never leave nor forsake us.

Our next series is going to be called “Mission Impossible” in which we are going to be taking a look at people that were called by God to do the impossible. Our culture (and even many in the church) tells our students that we can do anything that we set our minds

to, but unfortunately that is simply not true. Looking at Matthew 19:26 we see what scripture actually says, “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible’.” Scripture testifies that our God calls people to be a part of things that are above and beyond their capabilities, but there is a subtle yet pivotal difference between the secular wisdom and scripture.

Secular wisdom tells us that there is no limit to what you can do. Sadly, this is commonly taught to children, discussed in youth groups, and even spouted from the pulpit. Our faith, by contrast, proclaims that we have very clear limitations, that we can do nothing perfectly right. However, we are loved and empowered by God anyway. The true difference between the secular wisdom and Christian knowledge is that as the secular world stands up and proclaims, “Look at what I’ve done!” The Christian knows that all we could do on our own is mess-up, so he proclaims, “All praise is to God! For anything good done is by Him, from Him, and through Him.”

A Christian must be humble in everything, because more so than anyone else a Christian should know just how limited he or she is. However, this does not lead us into hopelessness, because we know that through God’s limitlessness and our frail willingness, the world can be changed. The Mission Impossible series will kick off with our Experiential (EXP) Night on January 16th.

The student ministry will also be helping out with the Melodrama during the middle of February. We are also looking at attending a few events through the Baptist Convention of New Mexico to both have a good time and teach the students a little bit more about the connection that we share as brothers and sisters in Christ.

## An Update From Roy

My wife and I are so blessed to be a part of this body of believers. I pray that the Lord keeps adding to the church continuously and keeps working through it; that this church keeps growing in love, unity and strength. As for the Hispanic Ministry we’re still looking for opportunities to reach the Spanish speaking communities and looking forward to all the wonderful plans God has in store for us.

To God be the Glory!  
Your Servant,  
Roy Rosales



The background of the top section of the page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of numerous wooden alphabet blocks. The blocks are light-colored wood and feature various letters and numbers in a darker wood tone. They are scattered and overlapping, creating a textured, educational feel.

MINISTRY IN FOCUS

# ESL CLASS

**DNBC** has hosted an English as a Second Language (ESL) ministry for a few years now. Lillian Moon originally came to Carmen Verbeck with the idea, and Carmen quickly became the coordinator. The idea was to invite adults and parents from Governor Bent, Del Norte High School and Cleveland Middle School, and if they brought their kids, the children and teens would go to the appropriate evening activities for their age. The ministry meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 in room 205B.

The class focuses on both speaking and writing English, but does emphasize speaking more. They start with the alphabet and build the language from that foundation. English is Carmen's second language, so she knows what it is like to have to learn it. In fact, she says that has helped her as a teacher, because she is now able to teach the way she learned. She pointed out that there are some things that she knows as a native Spanish speaker to help others who are learning English. For example, she tells students that in Spanish when you speak your tongue is down in your mouth, but in English when you speak, your tongue does not stay in one place. She also helps build their confidence to be able to speak loudly by telling them to imagine they are angry, rather than speaking quietly due to their nerves. This is what Carmen did, and it helped her. Little tips like these not only help the students learn English, but show them they are not alone on this journey of learning a new language.

Carmen considers the ministry a blessing to her. She always wanted to be a missionary, but she thought it meant going away somewhere to the mission field. She now realizes, though, that God has brought the mission field to her through the ESL ministry. Also, Pablita Vigil has been teaching with the ministry since the beginning and has been a huge blessing to both Carmen and the ministry itself. However, with all ministries there are difficulties as well as blessings. The main difficulty associated with the ESL ministry is the lack of volunteers to teach. This is such a problem that Carmen has had to assume both a teaching role as well as the coordinator role for the time being. She said they could especially use volunteers with teaching experience, as well as native English speakers.

For the future of this ministry, Roy and Carmen see it growing. They would like for it to take up two or three rooms and have multiple levels (beginner, intermediate, and advanced possibly). They would also love to have a trainer for their teacher volunteers to help them with strategies and methods for teaching a second language.

When asked what people could do to help, the first thing Carmen mentioned was prayer. Please pray for this ministry, that they would receive the volunteers needed, as well as for the people that are attending. If you would like to volunteer for the ESL ministry or if you know someone who might like to attend (they are always accepting new students), you can call the church office, and they will get you in contact with Carmen or Roy.

# DEVOTIONS

## *For the Christmas Season*

*Submitted by our Deacons*

### ROY CRAWFORD

The time when we celebrate Christmas – the birth of Christ – is a time to celebrate a new beginning. Jeremiah 31:31 says, “Look, the days are coming” – this is the Lord’s declaration – ‘when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.’ That new covenant came in the form of Jesus Christ – God’s only son – who gave his life for us, so that through our repentance and faith in him, we may receive eternal life with him in heaven.

Childbirth is the beginning of a new life. When we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior we begin our new spiritual life. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 Paul says, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has passed away, and see, the new has come.” Our profession of faith is our new beginning.

It is comforting to know that Jesus loved us enough to leave the riches of Heaven to come to Earth, conceived in Mary by the Holy Spirit, to live a sinless life, so that he could be the perfect sacrifice to pay the penalty for our sins. Salvation is his gift to us. We think of Christmas as a time of giving, and the greatest gift ever given was Christ’s giving of himself for us. You’ve heard it is more blessed to give than to receive, but we are tremendously blessed to have received God’s greatest gift to us. Merry Christmas!

### RUSTY SHAFFER

*The Story of Christmas by Paul Harvey*

“Then they struck him on the head with a reed, and spat on Him, and bowing the knee, they worshipped Him. And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put his own clothes on Him, and led him out to crucify him.”

Mark 15:19-20

Christmas is one of the most joyous Christian holidays, a time to remember the birth of Christ our Savior. It is a time to share our blessings with one another and to be surrounded by the people we love. It is a time for giving, and a time for forgiving. Most importantly, it is a reminder of how much God loves us.

As Christians we love to tell the Nativity story, but we forget that shortly after His birth, Christ needed to flee from Herod’s army. We tell about His wisdom, His love, and His healing, but we forget about His suffering. We forget the price He paid, for our sins. We forget the lengths to which God went to show us His love.

God knew what would happen to His Son, and yet God lowered Himself in Christ, feeling physical pain and suffering. God lowered Himself and let mere humans beat Him and mock Him. The God who has all the power of the Universe humbled Himself to be lower than the angels and to die at our sinful, hateful hands. God knew this would happen ahead of time, and yet He loved us so much that He sent His Son to suffer a painful death, so that we could spend eternity with Him. That is the story of Christmas.



## RICHARD NUNEZ

### Candle Light At Christmas

The candle light at Christmas is filled with beauty and poise. The flickering silhouette dances ever so gracefully and softly, unselfishly giving itself freely to all on a quiet and still night. As you begin to sense the peacefulness of Jesus' perfect love embracing you, it's hard to imagine a love freely given, something so perfect it could only flow from Heaven. The Son of Man who gives Himself freely, illuminates our soul and warms our hearts. This Christmas season as you walk in the Savior's perfect love, share this flowing love from Heaven. Allow others to feel a perfect kind of love that has no boundaries and bears all things. May you have a blessed Christmas season.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Galatians 2:20

Ephesians 5:2

## JODY CLARK

I truly love celebrating our Christian holidays and Christmas is one of the top celebrations for me. One reason I so enjoy this season so much is it gives us opportunities to remember what God has truly done for us. In Joshua 4, the scripture explains the importance of using these times to remind not only ourselves but also our children of God's rich history in dealing with mankind. As Israel left the wilderness and entered the Promised Land they set up a memorial of 12 rocks symbolizing the 12 tribes of Israel and Joshua commands the people that when they pass by and are asked by their children what those rocks mean to tell them of how God brought them to their great land. It is a great blessing to review how God already had a plan in place to deliver us from sin in Genesis and then seeing how He fulfilled those promises through Abraham, David, and the coming of the Immanuel - God with Us - himself. I pray that as we journey through the next few weeks and we pass various reminders of all that God has done we too like Joshua can take time to recount all that God has done for us.

## TERRY BERRY

### Mary Did You Know

*"Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you"*

This has to be one of the most powerful Christmas songs ever written. Can you fathom the overwhelming feeling of responsibility and joy that Mary felt? Mary, was believed to have been in her teens and a virgin. Many believe that she was chosen because of her willingness to follow the LORD without question.

Luke 1:38

*"Then Mary said, 'Behold the maid servant of the LORD! Let it be to me according to your word,' and the angel departed from her."*

Mary said yes to the LORD without hesitation. The question is, WILL YOU?

This is my favorite song played at Christmas.  
Wishing you a very 'Mary' Christmas.

# THE *Hope* OF CHRISTMAS

Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior  
with a special presentation by our Celebration  
Choir and Orchestra

DECEMBER 16th  
8:30am & 11:00am





# Christmas - It's All About Jesus

By Marilyn Little

It is okay to believe in Santa Claus,  
But don't forget to donate to a good cause.  
Decorate with trees, ornaments and bells,  
But respond to the ringing of church bells.  
It's all about Jesus.

Enjoy going to parties with your friends,  
But if there's a problem, do make amends.  
Have some hot chocolate by the fireplace  
While thinking about God's love and grace.  
It's all about Jesus.

Watch the Christmas lights dance on the snow.  
More beautiful in the Christ Child's glow.  
Show the needy you care  
By not forgetting to share.  
It's all about Jesus.

Enjoy the laughter and mirth,  
But don't forget the Savior's birth.  
Praise God's plan to save the souls of men.  
That is why Jesus came to us - amen.  
It's all about Jesus.



TERM OF THE ISSUE:

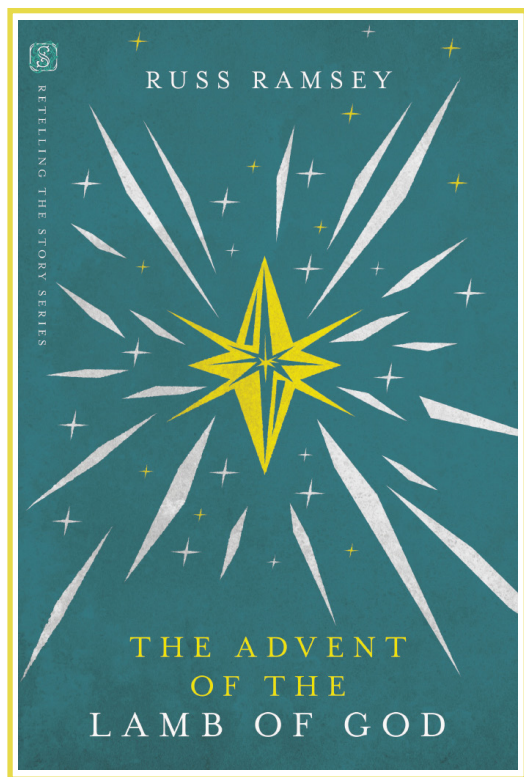
## Hypostatic Union

hy·po·stat·ic \ ,hī-pə-'sta-tik \

un·ion \ 'yün-yən \

1. The combination of divine and human natures in the single person of Christ.

God assumed human nature in the form of Jesus Christ, yet did not give up His divinity. At the same time, Jesus did merely appear as human, but *was* human. The union of both divine and human natures did result in a diminution of either, but rather each nature was fully preserved. Jesus was both fully human and fully God.



## BOOK REVIEW

# THE ADVENT OF THE LAMB OF GOD

*By Amber Nash*

I recently finished reading *The Advent of the Lamb of God* by Russ Ramsey as my devotional. It is one of three books in the *Retelling the Story Series*. This particular one is intended to be read during the Advent season (the twenty-five days leading up to Christmas). There are twenty-five chapters, which means you read a chapter a day, and since each chapter is only about four pages it works out perfectly as a devotional. I was able to read it each morning in no more than ten minutes. The series seeks to do exactly what it says, retell the story of Jesus in novel format.

Most of you are probably familiar with the concept of Advent, but it might be more of the consumer concept that involves a calendar that has a gift hidden inside for each day. They make a variety of these involving everything from candy, to toys, to Harry Potter socks (I might be partial to the latter of these). However, this was not at all what Advent was intended to be. Advent is a season of the Christian calendar that is meant to focus on the waiting and preparation for celebrating the birth of Jesus. Essentially, the goal is to help us prepare for Christmas in a manner that keeps us focused on the real purpose and meaning

of the holiday, rather than getting lost in all the commercialism that so easily distracts us. The word literally means, “the arrival”, meaning a time of preparing to celebrate the arrival of the Son of God, the Messiah, King Jesus.

The *Advent of the Lamb of God* tells the story of scripture up to the point of Jesus. The goal of this book was to retell scripture with an emphasis on the need for and then the arrival of Christ. The thing that was most powerful for me in reading this is how interconnected everything in scripture became for me as I read this. I knew all the stories I was reading, but I had never read them in this format, in this order, that allowed them to flow so fluidly from one to the other.

Additionally, Russ is a wordsmith, and his writing was able to bring parts of scripture to life for me as I had never experienced before. For example, when he was talking about Israel’s love for God he says, “In their creativity and in their learning, in their working and in their resting, in their building up and in their tearing down, they were to love him. They were to love as whole people, in all their weakness and in all their strength. On their best days and on their worst, in the darkest hours of their loneliest nights and at the tables of their most abundant feasts, they were to love him.” Wow! That is just a small excerpt from an entire section that absolutely took my breath away! It challenged me to love God. Above all else, in the good and the bad – to love God, in joy and sorrow – to love God, in my coming and my going – to love God, to love God...always.

The book is divided into two parts: “Awaiting the Messiah” and “The Savior has Come”. While it does not necessarily go in order it covers the span of scripture from Genesis 3 to Jesus’ baptism, which we know signified the beginning of His ministry. One of the things that I liked most about this book was that at the beginning of each chapter, under the title, Russ referred the reader to the scripture that he was paraphrasing and focusing on for that chapter. This aided me in using this as a devotional. I would read the chapter, then turn to the scripture and read it in light of the perspective and language that Russ used.

There are a few things that I think are important to clarify with a book such as this (and Russ addresses most of these in the introduction of the book). This is not scripture, nor is it a substitute for the Bible. Russ admits to engaging “in some speculation” in the book by imagining how certain conversation happened or how specific people felt or what they thought in various situations. This is why I would consider it a devotional book only. Russ states that his goal for the book, “is that it will deepen your understanding of the wonder and glory of the story of the Bible,” and that is exactly what it did for me.





## MISSIONS

*Joining God where He is at work*

We follow the command given to us by our Lord, Jesus Christ, to go out into the world and make disciples of all nations through our support of missionaries serving around the globe, participation in short-term mission trips, and carrying the Gospel of salvation into our local community.

*And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)*

## MINISTRY

*Serving others*

We believe that serving those around us is a core virtue of any believer in Christ, and therefore strive to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of our neighbors both within and outside the church.

*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. - James 1:27 (ESV)*

## MOVERS

*Impacting God's Kingdom and His people*

We understand the calling of the Lord on this earth does not end until we are with Him in heaven, therefore we strive to remain active citizens of God's Kingdom throughout our lives; laying the foundation for the next generation of believers as we look forward to the hope we find in Jesus Christ.

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. - Hebrews 12:1-2 (ESV)*



# DEL NORTE

Del Norte Baptist Church  
5800 Montgomery Blvd. NE,  
Albuquerque, NM

**Sunday Worship Service Times**

Traditional Service: 8:30 am  
Contemporary Service: 11:00am  
Spanish Service: 11:00am

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