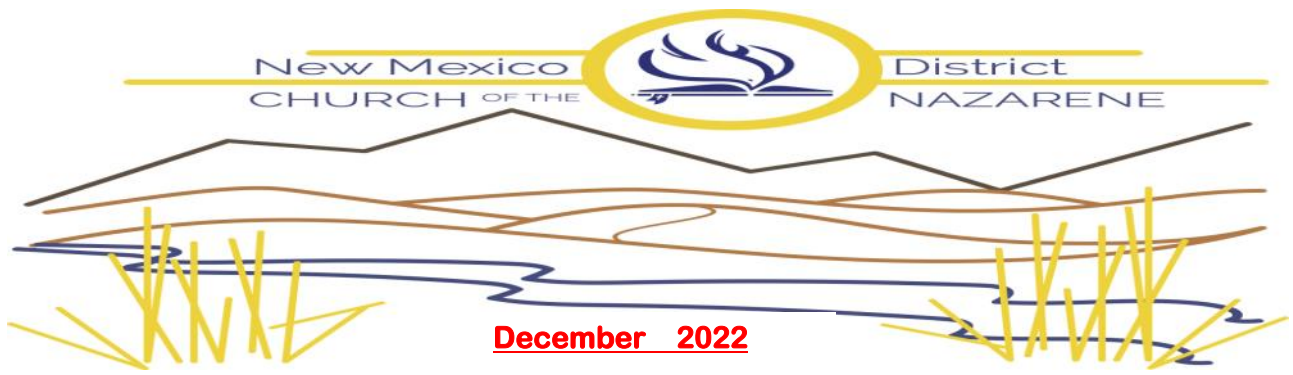




Dr. Lawrence Lacher
District Superintendent



December 2022

Working

I listened to a program recently about a system called Open AI. It discussed the way in which computer artificial intelligence is beginning to become a real thing. You can actually ask computers to write papers for you or to respond to complicated multi-faceted questions that you might have by just talking to the audio interface.

I am reminded of the first Star Trek series when Captain Kirk would speak into the air the word, “computer” and hear the word, “working” in response. Then he would proceed to ask the computer to calculate a difficult problem to be solved and the computer would respond in seconds with its analysis. The future is here.

Yet, there is nothing artificial about the intelligence that spun the worlds into existence in the first place. In fact, the first thing that scripture declares about God is that He was working in the beginning according to a plan. Later, when Abraham began to assign names to the God that he was encountering in his journeys, he assigned names based on what he saw God doing in the world. What made the God of Abraham unique among the gods of the world was that he was the God that actually worked in the world. Later, when Moses asked God to name himself, God called himself, I Am that I Am, or, more appropriately, “I Am what I Do.”

Jesus said of God, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I too am working” (John 5:17 NIV). In fact, if you listened closely, when you call out to God in prayer, you would hear the response, “working,” or “I’m already working on that for you.”

The story of Christmas is the story of a God who is working to let all Heaven break out on earth. I particularly like John’s version of the Christmas story, which I will put here in the NLT version:

In the beginning the Word already existed.

The Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

² He existed in the beginning with God.

³ God created everything through him,
and nothing was created except through him.

⁴ The Word gave life to everything that was created,
and his life brought light to everyone.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never extinguish it.

¹⁰ He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him. ¹¹ He came to his own people, and even they rejected him. ¹² But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³ They are reborn—not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.

¹⁴ So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

It is in and through Jesus that God was working in creation, that God was working in Bethlehem, and that God is working in the world today. Jesus is the means through which God expresses His will and purposes on earth, accomplishing His purposes among humanity.

Christmas, then, is when God provides the interface between the needs of people and the capacities of their Creator. The access point is the God-man, Jesus, who came to provide the uplink between our need and God’s provision. Our future is now; if we have faith to believe it. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” **He is working for you.**

NM District
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Lisa and I pray our pastors, their families and congregations have a Blessed and Joyous Christmas time and that they enter into the New Year on the path God is revealing to each one.

May God lead you,
The Holy Spirit give you Peace
And allow Jesus to fill your mind, soul and heart all the days to come.

Dr, Larry and Lisa

Merry Christmas from my family to yours!
May God fill you with joy this holiday season and throughout the New Year!

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.
2 Peter 1:2-3
Joyfully,
Nicole Young President



The New Mexico NDI Council would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Advent season is my favorite time of the year. I love looking at the lights, watching Christmas movies, and for some odd reason listening to old vinyl records. I also love the opportunity this season provides for us to be reminded of the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love with have in and through Jesus Christ. I pray that you and your family take time this season to rest in the Lord and to be filled by Hm One of my favorite verses for this season comes from Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Hbly Spirit."

Pastor Ryan Nelson—Chairman
New Mexico NDI Council

Greetings from your NYI Council!

We are SO excited for our time together in January at Winter Retreat!
We hope that you will plan to join us. Contact us with any questions.

Blessings during this season,
Jordin—President
New Mexico NYI Council





Winter Retreat 2023! January 13-15

Your youth leaders of our churches have received all the forms needed to register for our Winter Retreat! Wade Elftman has put this awesome weekend together for our district Youth! If you do not have access to the registration forms please contact Wade or Jordin. Forms must be mailed to Pastor Wade by Jan. 6, 2023.

[https://www.nmnaz.com/?subpages/NYI/2023 Winter Retreat.shtml](https://www.nmnaz.com/?subpages/NYI/2023%20Winter%20Retreat.shtml)

Here is the district web page for all the forms you need.



Up Coming Important Dates for the New Mexico District

December

W&W Trip to Africa **Dec 28—Jan 10, 2023**

January

Winter Retreat NYI **Jan. 13—15, 2023**

March

Women's Retreat **Mar 24-26**

April

Man Camp **Apr 20-22**

Gallup First Church of the Nazarene:
 Thanks James Landry from Sandia Church of the Nazarene. James came today with 50 boxes filled with kids stuff for Christmas. Gallup community n the Reservation kids will have a great Christmas.
 Thanks to All out there that has given to make this a wonderful Christmas



Portales CON

All adults are invited to the annual Christmas party this Saturday, December 10, at 6:00pm. It'll be a great evening of



Roswell 1st

Gingerbread House competition!! We had a BLAST decorating our houses!



Hope Springs Community CON

Join us 7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 7th at the Worship Center for a Christmas party.

Heights First CON

Join us this Sunday for our kids and youth musical. Lots of fun!!! See you there!!!



AZTEC CON

The greatest gift is JESUS!



HFCN

Join us tomorrow at 6pm for a Christmas party. Bring a savory or sweet finger food to share. All welcome as we continue our Christmas festivities.



Angus CON

Breakfast served each Sunday Morning. The Master's Table on Tuesdays



Mexican Fiesta Luncheon
 December 11, 2022 following Service
 Enchiladas and rice provided
 Please provide dessert or if desired you can provide a side.



Lovington Police Department

Many thanks to Lovington Wildcat Andrew Tiner, who helped lead this year's light parade. Andrew is in 11th grade and we all had fun! Andrew's dad is our Pastor Chris Tiner at Lovington CON! Congratulations

Andrew!



Roswell 1st CON



Las Cruces Church of the Nazarene-

Christmas supper served by our teens.



Portales Church of the Nazarene



Family Movie Night this Friday Dec 16 at 6:30pm at **Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 210 Mountain View Rd.** Movie title: "Christmas....Present". Snacks: Cheese burger, chips and soda. Snacktime is 6:15pm.



"Light of the World" Join us for this very special service. Doors open at 4:30 this Saturday the 24th
26:16 Church of the Nazarene

La Vista Church of the Nazarene: We sang Christmas Carols to our friends at BeeHive today ❤️ An amazing opportunity to bring some Christmas joy to their day!

So much more has been done over this Advent season in our churches!!

