



*A Season of Hope, Light, and Celebration, Christ Is With Us*

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given and the government will be on his shoulders and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6*

Dear Maranatha Family,

As we enter this beautiful month of December, our hearts turn again to the miracle of Christ's birth, the moment when God stepped into history in humility, wrapped not in royalty, but in simplicity. Christmas teaches us that God is not distant. He is Emmanuel, God with us. This season invites us not only to celebrate a holiday, but to worship a Savior. It is a time to pause, reflect, pray, and allow the wonder of His love to settle deeply into our hearts.

We begin this month together on Sunday, December 7 at 11 AM with our unified service. What a gift it is to worship as one family in Christ. After the service, we will enjoy a warm time of coffee fellowship together, connecting with one another and celebrating the joy of the season.

Our ladies will have their annual Christmas gathering on Friday, December 5 at 7 PM, and this year's theme is JOY. The evening will include a catered dinner, a dessert table, games, a craft, and a devotional designed to encourage and uplift. The cost is \$15, and guests may attend for \$5. Child care will be available in our CE/office building for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade, and sign-ups are available both in the foyer and online. May the joy of the Lord be our strength.

Later in the month, we will gather for our Arabic Christmas Celebration Service on Friday, December 19 at 7 PM. This special night will be a beautiful time of worship and celebration in Arabic as we honor the birth of our Savior.

One of the most cherished moments of the year will be our Unified Christmas Candlelight Communion Service on Tuesday, December 23 at 7 PM. With reverence and gratitude, we will remember the Light of the World who came to redeem us.

Then, as we come to the close of the year, we will gather once more for our Unified New Year's Eve Communion Service on Wednesday, December 31 at 7 PM. This final service of the year is always a meaningful time as we thank God for His faithfulness, lay the past before Him, and step into a new year with renewed hope and expectation.

This Sunday will be the final Sunday to participate in Angel Tree giving. Many children will be blessed because of your generosity. We also want to express heartfelt thanks for your kindness throughout this season, for the coats and winter items given to People Loving People ministry, for your donations to Gideons International that place Bibles into hands and hearts, and for your faithful support of the Evergreen Park Food Pantry. Your giving is more than provision it is ministry, compassion, and the heart of Jesus made visible.

Please note that the MEGA Ministry will take a break for the holiday season. Our last meeting for the year will be on Tuesday, December 9th. After that, the groups will not meet on December 16, 23, 30, and January 6. We will resume on Tuesday, January 13, 2026. However, the youth will still gather for their annual Christmas party on December 16th.

The church office will be closed from December 22 to December 26, as well as on January 1st. Additionally, there will be no African Fellowship gathering in December or January.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, my prayer is that the peace of God will fill your homes, your families, and every area of your life. May this season be more than tradition, may it be a fresh encounter with the Savior who came for us, laid His life down for us, and rose again so that we may have life.

Thank you for being a faithful and wonderful part of this church family. I am deeply grateful for each of you and look forward with expectation to all that the Lord will continue to do among us in the coming year.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14

With love, joy, and blessings in this Christmas season,

Pastor Nader Kavar  
Senior Pastor, Maranatha International Church

P.S. Please see the December church calendar for other events and activities.