

Connecting all generations to Jesus

Chimes

December 2023

Light of the World ADVENT AT ROCKLAND **SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES**

9:00 and 10:30 services are identical and feature extended gathering music. Come early! And don't forget about our famous HOT COCOA BAR during Fellowship Time between services!

> **HOPE - November 26 PEACE - December 3** JOY - December 10

LOVE and the Christmas Cantata - December 17

NIGHT OF WORSHIP

December 10, 6:00-7:00, Dessert following

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

*NEW * December 23 at 7:00 December 24 at 3:00, 4:30 & 7:00

ALSO IN DECEMBER

NEW Rockland Kids Family Christmas Dinner December 3, 5:00-6:30

Advent by Candlelight Women's Event December 5, 6:00-8:00

NEW Student Ministry Progressive Dinner December 9, 4:30-8:00

Visit Rockland: Church/Events for details on these events and so much more! Be sure to subscribe to our Rockland emails to get weekly devotionals and updates.

Inside this Issue

Candlelight

Page 5

Community Bible Page 7

Pages 8 & 9

Church Mouse Page 11

Page 12

Loaves & Fishes

CC Rock House

Fellowship Ministry



Ladies Advent by Candlelight Service

"A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices"

Ladies' Advent by Candlelight Service will be held on Tuesday, December 5^{th,} from 6-8 pm. Join us for a special evening of fellowship and worship, where we will reflect upon the hope, peace, joy, and love of this extraordinary season.

Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and



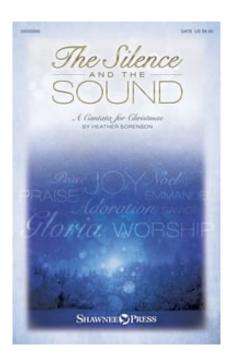
they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!

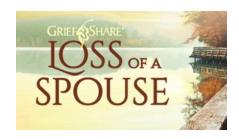
Music Ministry

Selections from Heather Sorenson's *The Silence and the Sound,* along with other music, will be used throughout Advent with different musicians each week.

On December 17th will be the Rockland Christmas Cantata.

Come experience a beautiful service of music, including favorite Christmas carols and performances by our Adult and Children's Choirs accompanied by a full orchestra. It will be a service or congregational worship you do not want to miss!





Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas?

Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years cannot be recreated?

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. Join us **Sunday, November 19, at 10:30 am in Room 108.** You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you will face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

What happens at a Surviving the Holidays seminar?

A Surviving the Holidays event lasts for about one hour. You will be welcomed by warm, caring people who understand what you are going through and who want to help. During the seminar, you will:

- 1. Watch a 40-minute video, filled with practical holiday survival tips and the real-life stories of people who have navigated the season after their loved one's death.
- 2. Hear other seminar attendees explain how they are dealing with the holidays.
- 3. Have the opportunity to share how grief is affecting you. (No pressure- this is optional. We want you to feel comfortable.)
- 4. Receive a personal copy of the *GriefShare* Holiday Survival Guide.

Register on Rockland.Church/Events

Rockland Testimonial

It is always fascinating to hear stories of how God has worked in someone's life to bring them to where they are today. Enjoy this testimony of God's goodness in the life of **Ruth Castillo Baker.**

I built my roots in the Midwest. As a young child, my family transplanted there from Texas, a single mother and seven siblings, to be close to family. My father died by suicide. I did not know him well. Years later, I learned that he was not a good man. Due to alcohol abuse, he made bad choices, and we were not safe around him.

I remember that my childhood was surrounded by neglect, abuse, and addiction in many forms. As a young child, I didn't know anything else. I heard about God through Bible stories and even attended church on occasion with my aunt, but I didn't know who He was. To my small awareness, I viewed it as a fictional character in a storybook. At the age of eight, my aunt asked me if I wanted to accept Jesus in my heart. I didn't really understand what that meant, but I agreed to it. All I recall after that is her words to me that, "I can talk to him anytime." I feel like I held on to those words dearly throughout my life.

I was a young mom and wife struggling to find purpose in my choices. I always felt like there was something missing. I would pray to God, not really understanding how that worked. After a divorce, I spent many years living in my emptiness and anger, a deep depression and bitterness set in for the many reasons that my mind told me I should feel that way because of abuse. I lived in a desperate mindset for acceptance and belonging. I was always trying to find my purpose and walk the narrow path, but I was easily distracted by worldly things and lost my way again. Grasping for anything but God only left me hopeless and confused.

I found myself lost and alone raising two children, trying to just survive in an uncertain world. I was desperately praying to know God better and for a way out of the madness I was enduring. Then along came faith-based missionaries knocking on my door. When we're lost, I believe God allows people to cross our paths for a reason. It was what I needed at that time. It gave me hope that I could learn about God. I began a new pathway to building a foundation I never knew I had access to. I loved being accepted and having a sense of fulfillment. I met my husband Robin there and had two more children. After dedicating a couple of decades to this organization, I noticed that my heart was still yearning for something more. I began searching for a true personal relationship with God and his Son, Jesus Christ. A few years into this search, I realized I had to look within myself first for true forgiveness. True healing doesn't start until you're ready to accept forgiveness, and then God will heal your broken heart. The realization of how Jesus sacrificed His life for me as a sinner changed me forever.

The journey was long, but this year, I surrendered all to my Lord God. I am no longer the driver of my spiritual vessel. He is my refuge—my first and my last. Firsthand witness to His redeeming love and mercy now lives in my soul. I have released the bondage to my past trauma, and I am transformed with a new freedom and inner peace, knowing that Jesus is walking with me. I had a second chance with a new meaning and purpose to God's will for my life. Then, He led me here to Rockland Community Church. On my first visit, all my senses told me that this was the place for me. I felt welcomed and loved by those who crossed my path that day. I didn't doubt that this is where I would find Jesus. On my next visit, I invited my husband to join me. Only through God's grace and mercy, He has restored our marriage. I could not live my life without His guidance. I've been so blessed to be involved with believers who love Jesus. Robin and I now call Rockland Church and beautiful Colorado our home forever.

Ruth Castillo Baker

Rockland Talks

Four Perennial Worldview Questions

The Disciple Ministry hosted another Rockland Talks, the fifth in our series, featuring Dr Douglas Groothuis, who provided a Christian apologetics response to four critical questions of the ages. We had another great evening with people attending from inside and outside Rockland.

Dr. Douglas Groothuis, head of the Masters Apologetics program at Denver Seminary and author of 19 books, gave prepared comments for about 45 minutes, followed by an extended Q&A. He systemically and thoroughly covered the ultimate questions of our origin, morality, meaning, and destiny.



- Origin Doug provided the evidence and logic, based upon modern scientific discoveries of the twentieth century, that reinforced and supported the inspired writings found in Genesis, leading us to conclude that atheism, polytheism, and pantheism are false doctrines. He further discussed how the Bible comports with the state of humanity and nature of man across the millennium and the need for a Savior from our wretchedness.
- 2. Morality Doug quickly dispensed of moral relativism and made the case for absolute, transcendent truths of right and wrong that have been imprinted on man's heart.
- 3. Meaning Doug discussed how one's purpose in life is based upon one's worldview. Meaning the answer to questions #1 and #2, derive the responses to questions #3 and #4. A Christian seeks to glorify God and build His Kingdom by loving God and loving your neighbor.
- 4. Destiny If atheism (no God), then extinction, and if pantheism (pre-existing universe), then reincarnation. For the Christian, you have been saved from death by Grace and may spend eternal life with God.

It is hard to do justice to Doug's densely packed content on the subject matter, which he has spent the better part of his life thinking about, studying, speaking with clarity and authority, and cogently writing. To that end, we should have a YouTube recap of this Rockland Talks available shortly and will make sure you will be notified when it is ready for viewing.

We started Rockland Talks with the premise that we wanted to help Christians deepen their biblical worldview and help us all "See the World the Way God Sees it." Rockland Talks represents the intersection of politics, culture, and faith. As Christians, we recognize that everything from ideology to culture to values is based on one's view of God. The proverbial "fork in the road" where Americans parted ways can be fundamentally and finally traced back to one's view of God. What a society thinks about God matters, as do their corresponding culture of ideas. That is your worldview. Given this context, we host two events per year to bring insight and commentary from Christian speakers, writers, and thinkers.

Rockland Talks is part of our Discipleship Ministry and fits within our overall purpose to:

- 1. Go and make disciples of Jesus Christ (Matt 28).
- 2. Help equip and mature the saints (Eph 4:12) to advance and defend the faith with your families, in your communities, and in the public square.

Our next Rockland Talks is scheduled for Thursday evening, **April 18, 2024**, featuring author, professor, and speaker Dr Greg Jesson, PhD, who will cover the topic of the Problem of Evil: If God is Good, Why Does Evil Exist?

Prayer Shawl Ministry

December is a month of waiting but also joy and gratitude. The Prayer Shawl Ministry could not be more thankful for all the amazing shawls that have been created this year. As of this writing, 65 shawls have been created, prayed over, labeled, wrapped, and distributed for friends, relatives, and community members in need of comfort. And that is just this year!

Our Christmas Celebration will be held on Monday, December 11, from Noon until 2:00. If you are considering joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team in 2024, come join us for lunch and learn more about who we are and what we do. We would love to meet you and welcome you. All skill levels are welcome. We have both knitters and crocheters who would love to share their skills with you.

Psalm 112 v5: Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely

Thank you to the person who donated three boxes of yarn that were left in the church office. Please know that your donation is greatly appreciated.



Our goal is to inform, inspire, and connect the people to our community of Rockland Church.

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Family Pastor: Aaron Stevens

Did You Know?

Chimes Archives are now online at Rockland.Church/Resources or under the Ministries Tab.

Deputy Hugs

About the Program

Studies have shown that no single object calms a troubled child as quickly as a teddy bear. "Deputy Hugs" bears work with the Victim Services Unit, comforting frightened young victims of crisis or crime.

The program, which began in 1991, works as follows: for a donation of \$20, you can adopt "Deputy Hugs" for yourself or your child. At the same time, your donation will bring "Deputy Hugs" into the life of a child in need.

Deputies carry the bears in their patrol cars and give them to troubled children whenever appropriate.



Donations

Our "Adopt-a-Bear for a Child's Sake" program takes community participation to be successful. Thank you for your support.

Donations are accepted through 'Deposit a Gift' by visiting the Deputy Hugs website.

Or can be received via mail: Adopt-a-Bear Attn: Deputy "HUGS" c/o Jefferson County Sheriff's Office 200 Jefferson County Parkway Golden, CO. 80401

Evergreen/Golden Community Bible Sunday

After Christmas, Community Bible Study will continue "Transforming lives through the Word of God" with our study of *Ruth,* and *1 and 2 Samuel*.



CBS goes verse by verse with (1) at-home study questions; (2) in-depth teaching with cultural and historical references/background and clarifications for confusing or controversial points; (3) small-group discussions and review at-home-study answers; (4) a commentary for each lesson written by scholars trained in theology; and (5) a caring community.

We meet in person at Rockland on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:40 am. This includes our NextGen Ministry, which is dedicated to helping raise up the next generation. We have other meeting times and sites/options available.

No matter where you are in your familiarity with the Bible, CBS will deepen your knowledge and love for this life-changing book. You will be surprised at the insights and applications God has in store for you.

The next semester begins on January 11th. For more information or to register, go to https://evergreengolden.cbsclass.org/.

Youth Ministry





Rockland Student Ministries recently completed our 6-week Fireside series. This was a great time of food, fellowship, learning, and fun. Each night, we had dinner provided by members of our church family. We also had a time of worship, played games, and grew in our relationships with each other and in our faith. Each night, we explored how we need to find our identity in Jesus Christ. We focused on learning to see ourselves the way that Jesus does and not the way the world sees us. We finished up each night by breaking into age-appropriate small groups. This time gave us an opportunity to dive deeper and learn how to apply the lessons we had learned.

Fireside was a great experience for both students and leaders alike. Over the next couple of months, we will engage in events and service projects that will allow us to keep this momentum going. We will be serving both within our church and in our neighboring communities as well. After the beginning of the new year, we launch the next session of Fireside. This series will run for six weeks and will kick off on January 14th, 2024. We look forward to continuing these impactful sessions with the youth of Rockland and our community.





We also have the Rockland Kids Family Christmas Dinner coming up.

Kids, fifth grade and under, and their families are invited to the Rockland Kids Family Christmas Dinner in Fellowship Hall, on Sunday, December 3, from 5-6:30 pm.

It will be like Christmas morning, as we enjoy our favorite breakfast food in our Christmas jammies or festive attire. Come for fellowship, crafts, and Christmas cookie decorating.

Blessings, Pastor Aaron



Christmas on Colfax

It's the most wonderful time of the year, Rockland! The Christmas season is upon us, and that means that Mean Street Ministry is holding its annual Christmas on Colfax on December 18 and 19. Join us as we sing carols, serve hot cocoa, hand out gifts to families, and spread the love of Jesus on the east and west sides of Colfax. We will meet at 750 Potomac Street in Aurora at 6 pm on Monday evening, December 18, and at 1380 Ammons Street in Lakewood at 6 pm on Tuesday evening, December 19.



We hope you will join us for this fun and meaningful discipleship opportunity! Call Todd Graber or Lori Stup at (303) 232-2500 for additional information.

First Annual Rockland Student Ministries Ugly Christmas Sweater & Progressive Dinner Tour Extravaganza

The first annual Rockland Student Ministry Ugly Christmas Sweater Progressive Dinner Tour Extravaganza will take place on **Saturday, December 9**. We'll meet at the church at 4:30, load our Christmas sleighs, and head out. Our first stop will be for appetizers. The second will be for soup and salad. And at the third stop, we will enjoy our delicious main course. The final stop will be for dessert and a "white elephant" gift exchange. At each stop, our host will share favorite holiday recipes or traditions with the group. Students are encouraged to dress up in the "worst" Christmas attire, and prizes will be awarded for the "best" outfit.



Stephen Ministry

What is a Stephen Minister?

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, loss, divorce/separation, job woes, chronic or terminal illness.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for caring for people by listening and showing compassion to people during a time of need. Since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than thirteen thousand congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.

One recent referral was a happily-married man with a loving wife, two adorable toddlers, with another baby on the way. He was in the middle of searching for a steady job with good benefits. He was simply overwhelmed with stress and the demands of a hectic life.

Reach out to Pastor Paul, Chris Elmgreen, or any of our Stephen Ministers for more information. We are here to serve! Our current team includes: Jim Ament, John Burghardt, Holly Davidson, Sue Engle, Tami Grieve, Wenda Messer, Chris O'Dell, Bob Stockham, Dr. Elaine Swope, Carole Urbas, Bob Vanourek, and Kim Wolniak.

Historic Rockland Church and Cemetery

24225 Rockland Road-Golden-----An Adventure Awaits



Christmas Musical Program

Saturday, December 16 at 4 PM

Colorado Christian University-Peak Harmony Vocal Ensemble Vocal and Organ Holiday Music – Presentations and Sing-Along

The Rockland Historic Church will be in full 1879 holiday décor

All are Welcome First come-First Seated-Capacity of 100

Come see our improvements—A new restroom, fit for a bride. We have water and heat for the first time, new outdoor stairways, and a restored picket fence.



We are grateful to all who contributed their hard-earned money and provided expertise in design, fundraising and materials.



Overheard by The Church Mouse



Trading Up

The church mouse was hiding in the basement of Rockland when he heard Pastor Aaron, the youth leader, announce, "Tonight we are playing a game called Bigger and Better. It is a kind of scavenger hunt where you start with something small, perhaps a quarter, and trade up for something bigger or better."

I scurried along with a couple of kids from door to door. Knock, knock. "Hello, we're from the church, and we're playing Bigger and Better. We'd like to trade this quarter for something better." The kids came away with a silver dollar and ran to the next house, where they traded the silver dollar for a small pumpkin. "Wow! That is bigger all right," thought the church mouse.

One boy carried the pumpkin while the other pressed the Ring doorbell of an impressive house on the corner. "Hello, we're from the church, and we're playing Bigger and Better." We'd like to trade this pumpkin for something better." From the Ring speaker came the reply, "I'm not interested." The church mouse felt discouraged, but he trudged on with the boys.

Soon, they reached a log cabin home nestled in the trees. Knock, knock. "We're from Rockland, and we're playing a game called Bigger and Better. We'd like to trade this pumpkin for something better." A spry gentleman returned with a pair of elk antlers his wife never liked over the fireplace. Was I ever impressed! The boys were, too!

At the next home, they traded the antlers to a hunter for a brand-new Cabbage Patch Doll still in the box. Then they arrived at a widow's home sorely in need of repair. Knock, knock. "Hello, we're from the church, and we're playing Bigger and Better. We'd like to trade this doll for something better. She smiled kindly and caressed the doll, then left to find her purse and handed the boys two twenty-dollar bills!

The sun was setting over the snow-covered mountains as the kids returned to Rockland in time for snacks. Each boy had a twenty-dollar bill tucked in his pocket. They were already dreaming of what \$40 might buy. The church mouse returned to his hole in the corner after snatching a few cookie crumbs along the way.

When Sunday arrived, Pastor Paul announced, "It is time to fill shoeboxes for children around the world." The church mouse recalled, "I like a good shoebox; it makes a cozy mouse house when filled with tissue paper." The boys were listening as Pastor Paul told the story about a powerful ruler who had a lot of money. He was a good guy, very religious. Jesus told this guy to sell all he had and follow Him. But the rich young ruler was not willing to trade up.

Do you know what the boys did with that \$40? They filled two shoe boxes with squishy balls, jump ropes, magic markers, mittens, flashlights, coloring books, puzzles, and small teddy bears. Like the boys, Jesus stands at the door and knocks. He wants us to give up the stuff we deem so highly important and trade it up for something better. Are you willing to trade it up for Him?











The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

It's the most wonderful time of the year, Rockland! The Christmas season is upon us, and that means that Mean Street Ministry is holding its annual Christmas on Colfax on December 18 and 19. Join us as we sing carols, serve hot cocoa, hand out gifts to families, and spread the love of Jesus on the east and west sides of Colfax. We will be meeting at 750 Potomac Street in Aurora at 6 pm on Monday evening, December 18, and at 1380 Ammons Street in Lakewood at 6 pm on Tuesday evening, December 19. We hope you will join us for this fun and meaningful discipleship opportunity! Call Todd Graber or Lori Stup at (303) 232-2500 for additional information.







Chestnuts Roasting on a... Charcoal Grill

Every year Loaves & Fishes roasts chestnuts at the Georgetown Christmas Market. Come and check us out on December 2nd-3rd and 9th-10th. We are asking for a \$5 donation for a bag of hot roasted chestnuts. They are mighty tasty and are a great hand warmer.

Merry Christmas to everyone!

For Christmas, Loaves and Fishes gives out Christmas boxes with everything a household needs to prepare a wonderful holiday meal. Safeway is also a huge supporter of ours during Christmas by giving us \$50 gift cards to hand out to our shoppers.

Here is a good idea of what a Christmas box for a family of four contains.

Item	Cost
Ham/Turkey	\$15
Stuffing	\$0.95
Gravy Mix	\$0.15
Potato Flakes	\$1.25
Green Beans x2	\$1.03
Cream of Mushroom Soup	\$0.54
Fried Onions	\$1.00
Cranberries	\$1.21
Bisquick	\$0.75
Total	\$21.88

Loaves & Fishes are serving twice the number of households this year than we were this same time last year. What does this mean? It means we are anticipating feeding 150 families this year for the holidays. With that in mind we have set a goal to raise \$3,300 dollars this year to pay for all of the holiday boxes.

Here are the ways you can help us out with achieving this goal. Online- https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/donate or scan

Mail- PO Box 967, Idaho Springs, CO 80452

Or we accept in-person donations.

Wednesday 10 am-3 pm Thursday 10 am-4 pm Friday 11 am-6 pm



Want to volunteer but have an unpredictable schedule?

I send an email to all of the volunteers every week with that week's schedule, and I almost always have empty slots that can be filled. If you would like to help us out, contact us.

Website: https://www.loavesandfishesco.net/contact-us

Email: loavesandfishescc@gmail.com

Phone: (303)567-4450





At the end of September, we had an arborist come over and inspect a tree next to the building. The reason for this was that we had a sizable dead limb hanging on the tree, threatening to fall onto the building. After getting a few different arborists to check it out, the consensus was that the tree needed to come down. After a bit of searching, the Colorado Tree Specialists offered to take down the tree at no cost. I would like to give a huge thank you to the Colorado Tree Specialists for their generous donation.



Thank You for all your support to Loaves & Fishes,







Featuring our partnership with Grace Mountain Ranch, an equine-assisted therapy program, and the impact we have witnessed.

"When students first arrive at the ranch, they are often very timid or very active. It's amazing to see how quickly they bond with the horses, and we start to see confidence building almost immediately. Students are not only learning about horses here, but they are learning a lot about life and about how much Jesus loves them. Each week, we have the privilege of seeing Christ work in their lives through what they are learning in the arena. We have seen youth memorize the Word, choose to get baptized, pray with one another, and help each other through

difficult times all through this program at the ranch. It's an honor to be able to serve them with our horses and see Jesus drawing them closer to Himself each week." ~Amanda Bocik

The Rock House youth group has joined with a local church in their Wednesday night youth program. There is strength in numbers as we gather and unite our youth communities. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them."

The mentoring program has doubled in attendance, with 30 students, half being returning mentees. We are very grateful to our volunteer mentors, twelve from Rockland Church and others from neighboring churches and the





local community. We are blessed to have amazing, dedicated people who love the Lord and are willing to walk side by side with their mentee, sharing the love of Jesus throughout the school year. Recently the mentors and mentees celebrated their commitment to one another by signing an expectations agreement showing their responsibility to the program. We are looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving Feast and Christmas activities!

We welcome back Deborah Bautista as our Mentor Coordinator, and her husband Darren, who is joining our staff as a much-

needed Mentoring Assistant. We are pleased to have the opportunity to watch great things happen here with the Lord's guidance and under their direction as they seek His will in enhancing the Rock House principles of respect, gratitude, accountability, and integrity.



If you are interested in knowing more about any of our programs, feel free to contact Director Cheryl Holmberg, at Director@ClearCreekRockHouse.org.



With Gratitude,
Ruth Baker

Clear Creek Rock House Media Specialist & Volunteer Coordinator



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17 S. Mt. Vernon Country Club Road Golden CO, 80401

DATED MATERIALS – PLEASE RUSH

Christmas Eve Services

NEW December 23rd 7:00 December 24th 3:00, 4:30 and 7:00

Current resident or:



Welcome Home.

ROCKLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sunday Services: 9:00am & 10:30am www.Rockland.Church