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Jesus' teaching that joy is an outgrowth of our love for one another and that our love for one another is, itself, an outgrowth of our love for him. A lack of joy, then, could be a symptom of a lack of love for others, indicating to a need for more of God's love in us. Here's what Jesus said:

Remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. (John 15:9–12)

In other words, we are commanded to love each other, and when we keep this command, we remain in Jesus' love. There, in his love, his joy is in us, making our joy complete.

How's your joy? Take a moment, during this season, to revel in God's presence, and ask him to fill you with love that overflows out of you and into a world where his true, unconditional love is sorely needed.

Merry Christmas!

The new year is in sight! We want to finish 2023 strong! When you pray, please remember:

- our upcoming week and month of prayer,
- many families struggling with housing and heat, and
- God's plan and provision for the upcoming year.



Sharing the Good News at our Night in Bethlehem outreach

# We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying about, please let us know.

Thanks so much to those who keep in touch! It's so encouraging to hear from you!

=	PO Box 15191 Philadelphia, PA 19130
۲	17th & Tioga Streets (3501 N 17th Street) Philadelphia, PA 19140
2	Church/Academy Office: (215) 226–1000
	Welcome@ResLife.AG

\* Important: If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

## Did you know?

In the year 336, a calendar published by the Roman church established December 25<sup>th</sup> for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Although there is evidence that Christians celebrated Christ's birth in earlier years, there is no earlier record of a date for those celebrations. The Bible does not give the date of Jesus' birth, but the presence of shepherds in the fields with their flocks suggests that he was more likely born in the spring.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:13,14)

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"No Cross,
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We bought a jingle bell collar for our dog to wear during the Christmas season. The collar is a big hit with the people we pass on the sidewalk during her walks; at least once a day, someone stops to greet her with share a smile and a comment. One woman even stopped her car and rolled down her window to wish her a merry Christmas!

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