

December 15, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PASTORAL OBSERVATIONS

1. Membership Assessments: As we approach the end of the calendar year, this is a friendly reminder that Lomax's approved budget is in part based upon members paying their assessments. If possible, members are asked to pay their General Claims assessment of \$265.00 per member and Quarterly Conference assessment of \$85.00 per member prior to December 31, 2024. Please contact Sis. Ruthy Brown if you have any questions or concerns.

2. Lomax Family Christmas Fellowship: WEAR YOUR UGLY SWEATER or HOLIDAY BEST! Lomax's Lay Council invites you to join us this Sunday, December 15, 2024, as we gather for a "**Lomax Family Christmas Fellowship**" after worship service. Celebrating the end of the year ~ light repast ~ exchange Holiday Cards ~ and participate in the Re-gifting Swap. LIVE - LAUGH - LOVE. Please see the attached flyer.

3. Thank You from the Lomax Church Food Pantry Ministry: Kudos!! To the Lay Council for their spirit and support of kicking off the "Re-stock the Food Pantry Holiday Food Drive." Praise God for the vision and spirit to act. Words cannot express how much the donations mean to the Food Pantry. With your generosity, we can support "some of the food needs" of those less fortunate within our community. The Word says feeding the hungry is an act of love and a fundamental measure of our lives (Matthew 25:35).

Thank you, 'Lomax family', for being an important part of our ministry and helping to create positive change within our community. We are humbled by your generosity and thankful for your commitment to the Food Pantry ministry.

4. Sunday School: Sunday School is held via Zoom each Sunday. Presently, on 1st and 3rd Sundays, you may also participate in Sunday School in-person from the Boardroom. Sunday School begins at 9:30 am. Following is Zoom participation information:

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89311232668>

Meeting ID: 893 1123 2668

Dial-In Information: 301-715-8592 or 1-646-931-3860

Meeting ID: 893 1123 2268

5. Sunday Worship: Please join us this Sunday at 11 am. Of course, you are encouraged to invite someone to worship with us this Sunday. Sunday's bulletin and the Advent Reading are attached. Virtual worship may be accessed as follows: Lomax's Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/lomaxamezionchurch/> or website using the Lomax Live tab at <https://www.lomaxchurchva.com/lomax-live/>.

6. Intercessory Prayer: Intercessory Prayer takes place each Tuesday at 6:30 am. Here is the Zoom information to participate this week:

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86028580752>

Meeting ID: 860 2858 0752

Dial-In Information: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 860 2858 0752

7. 2024 Advent Study: Advent Study will continue Wednesday, December 18, 2024. We are using "On the Way to Bethlehem." The Advent Study handout and Zoom information will be sent separately during the week.

8. Life Members Council: Please join the Life Members Council in providing Christmas gift bags for those in need of assistance within the Arlington community. We are collecting bags for both men and women. Please use a red ribbon on the handle of the bag you prepare to identify it's for a woman or green for a man.

We request that the gift bag contain toiletries/personal hygiene items, hats, scarves and or gloves, etc. A list identifying recommended items can be found in the church foyer. The completed bags can be placed in a designated box in the church vestibule. Please provide your donation no later than December 20, 2024.

For additional information please contact Carolyn Blackmon, 703-924-0839, Marie Gee, or Wilma Newby. Thanks in advance for your support of this effort. -The Women Home and Overseas Missionary Society's Life Members Council

9. Lay Council Information:

The Holiday Food Drive Committee thanks all those who have already contributed goods or gift cards to the Food Pantry this holiday season. Clubs and Boards are encouraged to continue to fight food insecurity through ongoing contributions to the food pantry ministry. *[Jesus said] "If you give even a cup of cold water to one of the least of my followers, you will surely be rewarded." ~ Matthew 10:42*

Stay tuned for more information on Spiritual Emphasis Week 2025, and Lay Council meetings and activities in the new year. Best regards, Sister Byrd

10. Health Unit: Tips on prioritizing Mental Health during the holidays are provided in the attached flyer.

11. December 2024 S.H.A.R.E.: S.H.A.R.E. orders and payments must be submitted by Saturday, December 14, 2024. To order, please send an email to lomaxfoodpantry@gmail.com or leave a voice message on the food pantry phone line 703-979-8408. Distribution day is Saturday, December 21, 2024, from 11:15 am to 12:30 pm.

12. Outreach Ministry: As the Christmas season begins and you are wondering how to donate toys/games to less fortunate children, Please consider supporting our neighborhood school. Drew Elementary School is seeking support from Lomax AME Zion Church of gifting children with a toy/game for the Christmas holiday. Please see the attached flyer which will show their wishlist for the different games. It also shows how many were requested and how many that have been ordered or obtained. You can make selections from the wishlist and place and order. Your donation can be shipped directly to the school. All donations must be received by December 15th with disbursement on Dec 17th. Thank you for your generosity. Sis Lavonne - Outreach coordinator

13. Arlington's Annual Tribute to Martin Luther King: Join Arlington County as our community honors the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the 2025 MLK Tribute event. This year's production, *Dreams, Faith, and Justice in Action* showcases local talent in the form of dance, music, and storytelling while also highlighting local organizations that live out the importance of Dr. King's work right here in Arlington. A flyer is attached.

[Learn more and RSVP here: https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/MLK-Tribute](https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Departments/Parks-Recreation/MLK-Tribute)

Event Details:

Sunday, January 19, 2025 - 5:30 p.m. -6:00 p.m.

Wakefield High School Auditorium
1325 S Dinwiddie St, Arlington, VA 22206

14. Floral Ministry:

- Christmas Poinsettias – Thank you to everyone who purchased poinsettias this year! The list of dedications is attached.
- The Floral Ministry would like to invite you to take part in beautifying the altar by purchasing floral arrangements for your loved ones each Sunday throughout the conference year. Upon receipt of your request, Sis. Andrea Peterbark will contact you to go over the details. The cost for two floral arrangements is \$75.00. The payment options are either Givelify or check. Please indicate "Altar Flowers" when submitting payment. All orders must be submitted by Wednesday. Your name and who they are in honor/memory of will be placed in the bulletin and the church announcements. You may contact Sis. Andrea with questions. Thank you for your support. Sis. Andrea Peterbark, Floral Ministry Chair

To Submit Orders: Email: peteyva@aol.com and lomaxamezchurch@gmail.com;

Phone: 703-568-8511; Mail: Submit the attached order form to Lomax Church