

Week of: October 24, 2022 A publication of Great Plains AMBUCS Lawton, OK

Edited by Monte Brown greatplainsambucs@gmail.com

THIS WEEK

The October 24, 2022 club meeting was called to order by Jenny Clement-Shaw. Larry Kindt led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.





Mike Neff & Xavier Abraham

Mike Neff and Xavier Abraham from First Baptist Church Lawton were the guest speakers. They are two of the driving forces behind the upcoming 41st annual Living Christmas Tree performances at FBC Lawton. The "tree" is nearly 40 feet tall and features about 100 choir members, a full orchestra and a drama cast.

Neff estimates 36,000 people have attended the performances over the last decade and between 250 to 280 have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior at the events. This will be Neff's 11th year to be involved with the Living Christmas Tree. Early on, he worked to make the performances more family friendly by offering free child care. FBC Lawton collects non-perishable food items from those who attend. Neff said they have collected thousands of canned goods over the years, which were then donated to the Salvation Army, Lawton Food Bank and M28 Ministries.

Abraham and his wife both have musical and drama backgrounds and he said this year's Living Christmas Tree performances will include new forays into both. They have chosen a title of "Savior for All." Abraham said it's the story of Mary retelling the story of her life. Four actors will

WEEKEND RAMP BUILD



Great Plains AMBUCS volunteers installed a large ramp for the Brooks family on Friday and Saturday in Randlett. Photo by Kelly Harris.

play the role of Mary through different times in her life. 20 other cast members will play parts in the story through song. Abraham is a fan of sight and sound performances that capture the attention of the audiences from the first moment to the last.

One song from the performance that is near and dear to Abraham's heart is a duet between a father-daughter. He said the lyrics tell the listener that they don't have to be perfect to be loved. "God made you special the way you are, created you and hearing a dad telling a daughter that just puts a tug on my heart," said Abraham.

There will be four presentations of the Living Christmas Tree this year: Friday, December 9 at 7 p.m., Saturday, December 10 at 6.p.m., Sunday December 11 at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Sunday morning performance is a new addition for 2022 and will also be broadcast on KSWO-TV as part of the regular worship service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The social committee has chosen a date of December 10 for our chapter's Christmas party. It will begin at 6 p.m. in Dr. Rose Lepien's basement. There will be a Dirty Santa gift exchange with a \$20 price point. Paul Warmuskerken will emcee the guaranteed shenanigans to follow. The clothing theme for the party will be pajamas. Family members, including children, are invited to attend.
- Zachary Miller has submitted his application to become an associate member of our chapter after successfully drawing the joker last week to win the 50/50 pot for his dad. Zach is Dr. Jimmy's second new member recruited for the year.

GUESTS

Mitchell Hill Sponsored by David Denham

50/50

Xavier Abraham drew the Five of Clubs.

The pot stood at \$41

NEWSLETTER

Paul Warmuskerken had the winning ticket and his copy of AMBUNK.