

The Good News

from the
Roanoke Seventh-day Adventist Church
December 2025



Savior

Prior to 1985, Coca-Cola had been losing market shares to Pepsi-Cola. So they went to the lab and concocted something they thought was going to have a superior taste to their competitor. To begin with, sales of the new

Coke was good, but over a short period of time they began to tank. People just weren't happy with the new product. Talk show hosts and comedians began to ridicule the new Coke. Fans would boo when new Coke was advertised at sporting events. Protests even emerged in some parts of the country.

Less than three months after the introduction of new Coke, it was announced that old Coke was coming back. Interestingly, Peter Jennings interrupted ABC's nightly news to let viewers know. The simple fact of the matter was that the withdrawal of old Coke and the introduction of new Coke was a monumental, categorical failure. They tried and they got it wrong.

There are millions of ways we can fail. However, we can get over burning the rice or making a late payment on a bill, but spiritual failures are the ones that really eat at us. What do you do at the end of the day when you realize you have failed spiritually, or you might think that you are a failure spiritually?

The good news for us is that God has a remedy for our spiritual failings, and that remedy came wrapped up in a small, delicate package 2,000 years ago. A baby would be born, destined to change the course of history, destined to change lives!

"And [you] shall call His name Jesus." (Luke 1:31). The name means, "Jehovah is salvation." In the original Hebrew, it's Yehoshua, or Joshua. When the average Jew living back then heard that name, it brought a promising image to their minds. Joshua was the captain who led Israel to victory in the promised land. It was no small feat for this military leader to bravely face the forces of despotic kings and pagan nations, but he was able to subdue and displace them through the miracle working power of Jehovah.

However, Jesus hadn't come to overthrow the reigning government. He had arrived to save His people from their sins. Wrapped up in this infant of the inn stables, God offers the most powerful present He could have given to a planet that is reeling in failure.

Jesus, the Captain of our salvation, came to lead us to the heavenly Canaan, to conquer and overcome the armies of sin in our lives, to subdue and displace greed, avarice, pride, and anger.

So, what are you going to do about your spiritual failings? Thomas Edison said, "Many of life's failures are people who do not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." It might be like that spiritually for some of us. We want to throw in the towel, but we might just be on the verge of a spiritual breakthrough, and the lights are about to come on.

This Christmas season be reminded that if you've failed spiritually, Jesus is filled with compassion, forgiveness, and grace. And remember, He can also keep you from falling. Won't you trust Him and keep trusting Him?



Shoots and Roots

"Diabetes Decoded"

The next gathering of Shoots and Roots will be Thursday evening, December 4, at 6:00.

This is an opportunity designed to educate and equip our church family and community for a healthier lifestyle as well as to present an opportunity to create friendships with one another and members of our community.

There will be tastings of whole food plant based foods that are not only healthy but delicious. Cooking demos along with the recipes are made available so you can make them for your family and friends.

Susan Cowdrick, Type 2 Warrior, will present a short lecture on "Diabetes Decoded." She will present tips on how, through some simple lifestyle changes including a more healthful diet, more movement and exercise and sufficient rest, Type 2 diabetes may be reversed or improved. Great news!

You are invited to come and bring a friend to this free event!

HAVE YOU PRAYED TODAY?



A happy blessed birthday
to each of you!
Our prayer is that this year
brings you even closer
to His plans, fills your heart
with His joy!

December

- 2 Anjeli King Wuergler
- 5 Dorenda Dodge
- 6 Jim Akers
- 6 David Pendleton
- 6 Janie Taylor
- 7 Deb Dovidio
- 8 Hannah Doudiken
- 8 Fawn Kesselring
- 16 Addy McLennan
- 20 Stephen Dixon
- 20 Ernesto Epalanga
- 20 Ron Ihrig
- 20 Sarah Payne
- 22 Ryan Long
- 22 Myla Lundy
- 25 Bastien Celestin
- 27 Nathaniel Muncy
- 29 Megan Booth
- 30 Kate McLennan

Mid-Week Spiritual Refreshment!

You are invited to join us via Zoom for Online Prayer Meeting. We will gather to pray on Wednesdays at 6:30 AM and 7:30 PM through December 17.

We are focusing on the Lord's Prayer, line by line, with insights from the book *"Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing."*

Below are the Zoom links:

[Morning Sessions](#)
[Evening Sessions](#)

Links will also be emailed on Tuesday evenings.

*"And you will seek Me
and find Me when you search
for Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:13*

Church Board News & Notes

The members of the Roanoke SDA Church Board met on November 10 to discuss the plans, mission and vision of our church. Following are some of the highlights from the meeting:

- > Evangelism Cycle of 12 months
- > Storage sheds to be cleaned out
- > Students to distribute books for Christmas in Bonsack area
- > Our school to meet High Reliability Schools requirements
- > Looking for volunteers to march in Vinton Christmas Parade on December 4
- > Christmas Party for foster families on December 15 at 5:30
- > Outreach resource materials relocated to Pastor's Office
- > Kitchen refrigerator to undergo repairs in November while research is done for other options
- > 2026 Church Budget Proposal to be submitted to church in January

The next church board meeting is planned for Monday evening, December 8. Please pray for our church board members as they make decisions and plans for our church.

Kid's Christmas Party Monday, December 15 @ 5:30



There will a lot going on at the church on Monday evening, December 15!

Children's Ministries is inviting ten local foster families and the children they care for to come to the church for a Christmas Party!

Children in our church family will be invited to attend a portion of the evening to get to know some new friends and to enjoy some time together. The children will be celebrating together the Christmas season with joy, laughter, gifts and spiritual lessons!

See Jennifer Dodge if you would like to help with the program.





ROSC
REVIVE YOUR LIFE

About:

Our country is plagued by chronic illness. Leading research now shows that with simple lifestyle changes one can actually **prevent, halt, and even reverse** many of these disease processes. This includes **hypertension, heart disease, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity, depression, and more.** Your genes do NOT have to be your destiny. Come learn how you can change your future in this upcoming 6-week series, ROSC - Revive Your Life.

Presenter:

Dr. Ryan McLennan is dual certified in emergency medicine and lifestyle medicine. For the past decade he has spent much of his time working in the emergency department. One of the greatest moments an ER doctor can have is obtaining ROSC in a patient. So what is ROSC? It means return of spontaneous circulation, which is reviving someone without a heartbeat. It's literally giving someone a second chance at life. But do we have to wait until it gets this severe to revive one's life? This is the question that has led Dr. McLennan to pursue combining his work in the emergency department with lifestyle medicine.

Info:

Every Thursday, Jan 22, 2026 - Feb 26, 2026
6 - 8 pm
Dinner provided with cooking demonstrations
Optional weight, BMI, blood pressure, & heart rate checks

CONTACT US:
4120 Challenger Ave. NE Roanoke, VA 24012
mclennanmd@gmail.com - 509-951-8573

Register:

Register online at:
roscreviveyourlife.com
Cost: \$70/person or \$120/couple
Earlybird \$60/person or \$100/couple (before Jan 1, 2026)

*Scholarships available (call for assistance)
*100% Money back guarantee (If not satisfied after attending 75% of meetings)

Kids in the Kitchen childcare available. Contact us to register your child.

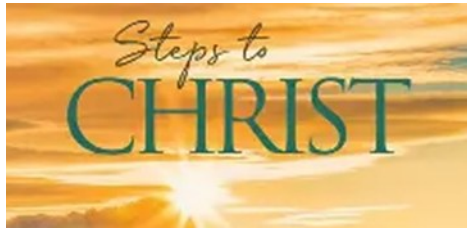


Wow! Over a Thousand!

That's right! Approximately 1,100 *Steps to Christ* have been distributed around our community over the last few months!

We are going to continue sharing these books and shoot for another 1,000 to be distributed. The emphasis, however, will be somewhat different. We will be focusing on personal projects.

In the coming weeks Harry Janetzko, Leader of Literature Ministry, will explain this new effort at church. So tune in and listen carefully to learn how we will reach the next 1,000 individuals and families with the gospel message!



Youth Ministry Outreach Roanoke Rescue Mission

The smiling group of people pictured to the right are some of our local missionaries that went on a recent outreach excursion to the Roanoke Rescue Mission.

They had an enjoyable time working and serving together! Not only did they serve a hot meal to the guests of the Mission, but they had brought their instruments with them and they serenaded those in attendance. What a great time they all had! Let's go again soon!



"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth." John 14:16, 17

Unleashed!

Let's gather once again for **10 Days of Prayer** as we enter into a New Year! We will gather via ZOOM for ten days beginning Wednesday, January 7, at 6:30 AM and at 7:30 PM for prayer. We will continue every day until January 16.

Please join us as we pray for God's guidance and deliverance and that He will unleash the power of the Holy Spirit in our church and in our lives! Zoom links will be emailed so be sure you are on the list. See Carol Doudiken, Prayer Coordinator, to confirm.





Field Trips Provide a Fun Learning Experience

The students and staff of the Roanoke Adventist Christian School were recently visited by firefighters and police officers from the Roanoke County Fire Department and the Roanoke County Police Department.

The students enjoyed the “up close and personal” experience of learning more about the various forms of equipment used by the men and women in both departments. They were reminded that firefighters and police officers have jobs that provide for the safety and protection of people in their community although sometimes their jobs can be dangerous.



After the visit, the students went to the fire department and police department to say “thank you” for their visit. The students gifted both departments with cookies and First Responder Bibles. The students also sang a “thank you” song” which was enjoyed by everyone.

A highlight of the experience for Hope Cadio was the opportunity to get in the driver’s seat of the big fire engine while wearing a firefighter’s helmet!

Wonder where the students will go next? We’ll be waiting for more pictures!





Vinton Christmas Parade

Thursday, December 4

We will meet at the designated parade location (Jennifer Dodge will have this info) at 5:30 on parade day.

We will be handing out "Steps to Christ" and info cards about our church and our school to the spectators.

You are invited to join us as for this fun evening of outreach to our community! It's usually pretty cold at the parade, so don't forget your mittens!



Christmas with the Residents!

Sabbath, December 13

@ 2:00

Join us on the second Sabbath in December as we visit the residents of North Roanoke Assisted Living! We are excited about this opportunity to share the love of Jesus and would be thrilled to have you come along, too!

If you would like to share your musical talent, please put a bug in Judy Hodgkin's or Carol Doudiken's ear! We would love it and so would the residents!

Together, we will sing, tell stories, pray and hand out festive gift bags!

If you'd like to donate toward the purchase of the gifts, please see Judy or Carol.

You are warmly invited to come along and spend an hour sharing the love of Jesus. You are sure to be a blessing—and to receive one in return!



Hartland College Choir

You are invited to come hear some lovely music in our church on Sabbath, January 31, starting at 2:00 as students of Harland College present a musical program.

Please make plans now to join us for a afternoon filled with joyful, worshipful music!



Special Delivery

If you plan on sharing seasonal good wishes with members of the church family, you might consider using the mailboxes in the hall near the sanctuary door.

The boxes are numbered and a list is nearby so you can look up an individual or a family and find out what number their box is, then just slip your card or message in the box.

If you are looking for someone and don't find their name, or if you are looking for your own and don't find your name, please let Carol Doudiken know right away so she can fix up a box for you.

Christmas Word Search

I	W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L	I	O	F	C
O	B	M	B	Q	S	K	P	E	G	Y	Y	D	B
K	N	I	H	P	R	I	N	C	E	G	I	Z	C
P	U	G	M	R	W	G	G	C	H	I	L	D	Y
J	O	H	G	P	K	N	A	M	E	Z	C	L	P
T	A	T	K	I	E	Q	Q	S	A	W	P	B	F
D	R	Y	Y	V	V	A	R	E	D	V	B	U	C
B	W	Y	Y	S	Y	E	C	L	H	O	A	U	V
V	R	U	S	J	S	F	N	E	D	X	X	E	J
V	Q	K	R	E	X	U	C	J	U	M	T	Z	Q
A	J	Q	Q	S	B	O	R	N	H	P	G	C	K
F	T	L	F	U	H	B	K	U	K	S	O	N	J
H	Q	B	U	S	B	S	T	E	U	P	G	V	R
F	A	T	H	E	R	N	W	X	P	L	Y	S	I

WORD LIST

BORN
CHILD
JESUS
FATHER
GIVEN
MIGHTY
NAME
SON
WONDERFUL
PRINCE
PEACE

Roanoke SDA Church

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Scan Here
for more info
about our
church!

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