

# THE *Celebration!* CONNECTION!!

DECEMBER  
2025



Poinsettias  
November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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## From the Pastor...

*"Sometimes I get a little razzed by my colleagues (and others) about my rather lengthy newsletter articles. So, for my December missive, I give to you your Christmas present!!"*

*Pastor Fogle*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!**

**From the celebration staff and church council**

Pastor Fogle

Breanne Ruiz

Donna Stempien

Mary Valenti

Brian Goodykoontz

Office Manager

Music Director

Treasurer

Sexton

### **Council Members:**

Dennis Bramigk

Tina Reid

Jane Alder

Steve Prinz

Greg Tapper

Chris Wommer

President

Secretary

# REMINDERS, NOTICES, AND COMMENTS!!



Need stocking stuffers or  
a unique gift? Our Crafty  
Connectors have you  
covered!  
See page 6!

Merry  
Christmas



PRAYER LIST IS NOW  
RENEWED  
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF  
YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD  
SOMEONE!

Christmas Eve  
Worship  
7:00PM

The women's Bible study will  
meet on Wednesday, December  
10th (the second Wednesday.  
NOT the third Wednesday) at  
1:00 pm.

**PASTOR OUT  
OF OFFICE  
DEC 26TH -  
JAN 2ND**

# UPCOMING

## Christmas Eve

### 7:00PM Worship

Christmas Eve worship is at 7:00pm this year, come celebrate the wonder with us!

## Deck the Halls

Church Decorating Day is Saturday, **December 6th** at 10:00am! Help us fill the church with festive beauty, bright lights, and joyful spirit as we prepare for the holidays. After we finish, stay and enjoy lunch together!"

## Blood Drive

Our Blood Drive is coming up on **December 12th** at 9:00am! Roll up a sleeve, share a little love, and make a life-changing difference for someone in need. Your generosity truly matters.

## Office Closed

- **December 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>**
- **Pastor Off Dec 26<sup>th</sup> - Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>**

## Family Christmas Dinner

Save the date! Our church's Family Christmas Dinner will be held on **December 13th**. Join us for a warm, joyful evening of food, fellowship, and holiday celebration



# Tis the Season to Show Our Compassion and Love

AS WE ENTER THIS HOLY SEASON OF ADVENT AND PREPARE TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR, WE ARE REMINDED OF THE BLESSINGS WE HAVE RECEIVED AND THE CALL TO SHARE THOSE BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS.

## ANGEL TREE

Once again, our church family will be sponsoring five families through our Angel Tree ministry. Each tag on the tree represents a gift that will bring joy and hope to someone in need this Christmas.

We invite you to take a tag or two, write your name on the corresponding list, and replace your tag with an angel ornament as a symbol of your act of love.

Please return your wrapped gifts to the church by December 14th.

## THE WARMING TREE

Our Warming Tree is also standing ready to receive your gifts of warmth — hats, gloves, and scarves for those in need facing the cold winter months. Adult-sized items will be given to our Veterans, as a heartfelt way to thank them for their service and sacrifice. The children sizes will be donated elsewhere.

Please bring in your donations by December 21st.

Together, let us share the light and love of Christ with others this season. Thank you for your generosity, kindness, and faithful service to those in need.



# The Manger on the Mantle

*Presented by Celebration Sunday School*

This Christmas season, our hearts are filled with joy as the children of our Sunday School prepare a special gift for the whole church family. On **December 21 st** during worship, we will present a puppet show pageant titled "The Manger on the Mantle" that will give our congregation's youngest members their chance to share the timeless story of Christ's birth—reminding us all that the greatest gift came not wrapped in ribbons, but lying in a manger. As they bring the nativity to life, this is another important opportunity for our youth to perform in front of an audience. This strengthens their confidence and gives them the chance to profess their faith out loud to a welcoming Church family. It reinforces our commitment to our youth as important members of our congregation and their contribution to our ministry. Through their ministry, may we be inspired anew by humility of the Savior's arrival and the joy of seeing Christmas through the eyes of a child.



**DEC 21<sup>st</sup>**

December  
Sunday School Theme:  
Birth Of Christ



Spare Change!!!



The kids in Sunday School are once again asking for your "loose pocket change" to support Heifer International. This program's mission is to end hunger and poverty by supporting, training and empowering the world's farmers and ranchers, creating lasting change from the ground up. The money will go to provide livestock to help transform communities and help the greatest number of families move toward self-reliance.

Please toss your loose pocket change in our jars located around the gathering space during coffee hour through the end of December. Will you provide some "Change for Chickens" or maybe some "Pennies for Pigs" , perhaps some "Cash for Cows", or "Cents for Seeds" we will take whatever you have and combine it for Heifer International.





# Women of the ELCA

## Practicing Advent imagination

The season of Advent invites us into a time dreaming, waiting, watching, and anticipating. Every year, during these weeks, we prepare once again to experience the joy and hope that comes from Jesus' birth into this world. We also anticipate that great someday when all will be made right in the world, when God's dream for humanity and all creation will be realized. Despite the commercial rush to Christmas, Advent creates a space for us to slow down and to ponder God's hopes for the world and aligning our lives with this vision.



The women's Bible study will meet on Wednesday, December 10th (the second Wednesday. NOT the third Wednesday) at 1:00 pm.



### Need Gift Ideas?

At the Christmas dinner and during the Advent season, we will be selling crafts made and donated by members of the congregation.

## Cookie Ministry and General Meeting

The Women of the ELCA will again be having a general meeting and cookie exchange on Wednesday, December 18, from 1:00 -3:00 pm.

Tins of cookies are packed for members of our congregation who cannot always attend worship. Please bring three dozen cookies; a dozen to be packed, a dozen to share, and a dozen for refreshments that afternoon. A short general meeting will include the election of a president and secretary, each will serve a two-year term. We will also determine what organizations we want to support with a donation.

## FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER DECEMBER 13

APPETIZERS AT 5.00PM  
DINNER AT 6:00 PM

MEAL PREPARED BY CIRO TRONCOSO  
ENTERTAINMENT BY SILVER STRINGS

There is a signup poster in the welcoming area. Please let us know if you plan to attend (there is no charge) and if you can bring an appetizer or dessert. We also welcome donations of baked goods to be sold at the dinner and Sunday morning.





# DAYS FOR GIRLS ONGOING COLLECTION

The Women of the ELCA continue with their ongoing support for Days For Girls. They are collecting supplies for feminine hygiene kits that go to girls in developing countries.

They are in need of:

- 100% cotton flannel and quilting fabric
- 100% cotton washcloths
- Underwear (briefs), colors, if possible

## Crafty Connections

Join us for Crafty Connections-a time of fellowship and creativity! We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month **December 8th** at 7pm and again Wednesday, **December 31st** at 10:00am. Bring along whatever craft project you're currently working on- we'd love to see your creations, share ideas, and enjoy one another's company.




# HELP FEED THE HUNGRY



As part of our ongoing commitment to caring for neighbors in need, we continue to collect non-perishable food for the First United Methodist Food Pantry. We are asking everyone to bring in at least one non-perishable food item to donate. Think of items like canned vegetables and fruit, pasta, rice, peanut butter, cereal, soups, canned proteins like tuna and chicken, and other shelf-stable goods. Every can, box, and jar add up to a powerful expression of love and compassion.

You can drop off your donations in the designated bins across from the office anytime. **December 14th** is the next Bring One Sunday. Let's come together as a congregation to bless others with the gift of food. Your small act of generosity can make a big difference in someone's life. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your checks out to "First United Methodist food pantry." If you have questions, contact Greg or Gloria Tapper 734-427-1142.

## BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY



ON SUNDAY, **DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**, WE INVITE YOU TO BRING A FRIEND, COWORKER, NEIGHBOR—ANYONE—TO CHURCH WITH YOU. IT'S A SIMPLE WAY TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE AND THE JOY OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY. SOMETIMES, ALL IT TAKES IS AN INVITATION. LET'S OPEN OUR HEARTS AND OUR DOORS—SOMEONE MAY BE WAITING TO BE ASKED.



# Live Streaming **WORSHIP SERVICES**

You can sponsor a Sunday livestream service in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special occasion, or simply to support the ministry, for only \$15. Your sponsorship helps us reach shut-ins, those who are ill, traveling, or anyone who cannot attend in person. Each sponsorship will be acknowledged in the bulletin and the newsletters. Sign up on the church Communication Board or contact the office.

December 7th      Steve and Andrea Kolhoff

December 14th      Charlene Tennant

December 21st      Charlene Tennant

December 24th      Breanne Ruiz

December 28th      Charlene Tennant



## **ALTAR FLOWERS**



Would you like to sponsor a vase on the altar?

For \$25, you can dedicate a vase in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a special occasion, or simply to honor someone meaningful in your life. Your sponsorship helps beautify our worship space and adds a personal touch to our services. Sign up on the Communication Board or call the office.

December 7th : Vase 1 - Available for Sponsorship

Vase 2 - Available for Sponsorship

December 14<sup>th</sup> : Vase 1 - Charlene Tennant- In Memory of Jim Tennant

Vase 2 - Hartsell family- Georgia's Birthday

December 21<sup>st</sup> : Vase 1 - The Lair Family

Vase 2 - The Reed Family- In Memory of Joe Grasley

December 28<sup>th</sup> : Vase 1 - Tim and Debby Hoepner- For Teddy Troncoso's Birthday

Vase 2 - Available for Sponsorship





## THIS MONTH'S ROTATING MEMBER PRAYERS:

### December Anniversaries!

**1<sup>st</sup>** Bill and Patty Erwin

**23<sup>rd</sup>** Jon and Karen Call

### **December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Steven Prinz

Luan Purcell

Marian Pye

Nicholas Reed

### **December 14<sup>th</sup>**

Rick and Jodi Reed

Victoria Reed

Dan and Kristina Reid

Lauren Reid

### **December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Katherine Reid

Sandra Reidenbaugh

Mark Roffi

Marge Ross

### **December 28<sup>th</sup>**

Anne Runkle

David Runstrom

Robert Scott

Gladys Seeger

### *December Birthdays!*

**1<sup>st</sup>** Linda Bierbaum

**2<sup>nd</sup>** David Holt

**4<sup>th</sup>** Katie Frank

**8<sup>th</sup>** Madeline Crile

**9<sup>th</sup>** Arne Wommer

**12<sup>th</sup>** Lois Zilka

**14<sup>th</sup>** Mark Roffi

**15<sup>th</sup>** Georgia Hartsell

**18<sup>th</sup>** Rowan Hardy

**21<sup>st</sup>** Karin Klein

**24<sup>th</sup>** Pat Villemure

**25<sup>th</sup>** John Busquaert

**27<sup>th</sup>** Terry Tarr

**27<sup>th</sup>** Maureen Switzer

**30<sup>th</sup>** Irene Shreeve

**31<sup>st</sup>** Josh Livingston





# December Daily Devotionals

Monday, December 1st  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Isaiah 4:2-6  
Acts 1:12-17, 21-26

Tuesday, December 2nd  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Isaiah 30:19-26  
Acts 13:16-25

Wednesday, December 3rd  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Isaiah 40:1-11  
John 1:19-28

Thursday, December 4th  
Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

Friday, December 5th  
Psalm 21  
Isaiah 24:1-16a  
1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Saturday, December 6th  
Psalm 21  
Isaiah 41:14-20  
Romans 15:14-21

**Sunday, December 7th**  
**Psalm 21**  
**Genesis 15:1-18**  
**Matthew 12:33-37**

Monday, December 8th  
Psalm 146:5-10  
Ruth 1:6-18  
2 Peter 3:1-10

Tuesday, December 9th  
Psalm 146:5-10  
Ruth 4:13-17  
2 Peter 3:11-18

Wednesday, December 10th  
Psalm 146:5-10  
1 Samuel 2:1-8  
Luke 3:1-18

Thursday, December 11th  
Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

Friday, December 12th  
Psalm 42  
Isaiah 29:17-24  
Acts 5:12-16

Saturday, December 13th  
Psalm 42  
Ezekiel 47:1-12  
Jude 17-25

**Sunday, December 14th**  
**Psalm 42**  
**Zechariah 8:1-17**  
**Matthew 8:14-17, 28-34**

Monday, December 15th  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
2 Samuel 7:1-17  
Galatians 3:23-29

Tuesday, December 16th  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
2 Samuel 7:18-22  
Galatians 4:1-7

Wednesday, December 17th  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
2 Samuel 7:23-29  
John 3:31-36

Thursday, December 18th  
Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

Friday, December 19th  
1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Genesis 17:15-22  
Galatians 4:8-20

Saturday, December 20th  
1 Samuel 2:1-10  
Genesis 21:1-21  
Galatians 4:21—5:1

**Sunday, December 21st**  
**1 Samuel 2:1-10**  
**Genesis 37:2-11**  
**Matthew 1:1-17**

Monday, December 22nd  
Luke 1:46b-55  
Isaiah 33:17-22  
Revelation 22:6-7, 18-20

Tuesday, December 23rd  
Luke 1:46b-55  
2 Samuel 7:18, 23-29  
Galatians 3:6-14

Wednesday, December 24th  
Nativity of Our Lord I  
Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Thursday, December 25th  
Nativity of Our Lord II  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20

Thursday, December 25th  
Nativity of Our Lord III  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98  
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]  
John 1:1-14

Friday, December 26th  
Psalm 148  
Wisdom 4:7-15  
Acts 7:59—8:8

Saturday, December 27th  
Psalm 148  
Proverbs 8:22-31  
1 John 5:1-12

**Sunday, December 28th**  
**Psalm 148**  
**Isaiah 49:13-23**  
**Matthew 18:1-14**


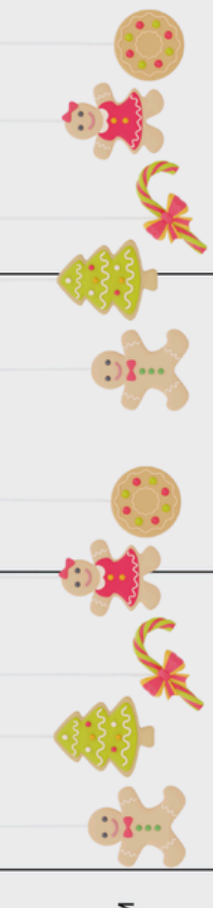
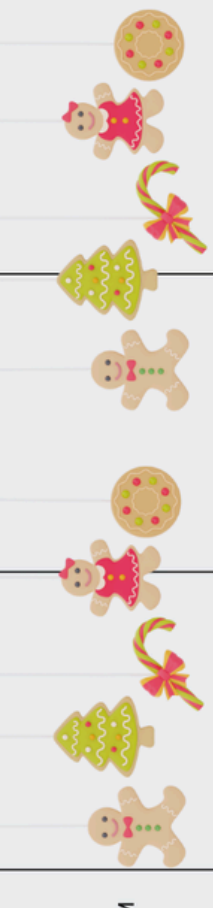
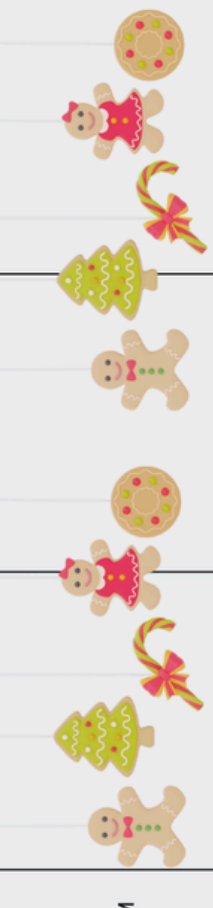
Monday, December 29th  
Psalm 20  
Jeremiah 31:15-22  
Luke 19:41-44

Tuesday, December 30th  
Psalm 20  
Isaiah 26:1-9  
2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Wednesday, December 31st  
Psalm 20  
1 Kings 3:5-14  
John 8:12-19



# DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<div></div> <div>15:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS</div>	<div>15:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS</div>	<div>26:45PM SCOUTS</div>	<div>36:45PM CUB SCOUTS 7:00PM ADULT FORUM (ZOOM)</div>	<div>49:30AM QUILTERS 6:00PM BELL CHIOR 7:00PM VOCAL CHIOR CHIOR PARTY</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Scout Overnight</div>	<div>68:30AM MEN'S MINISTRY 9:00AM CHURCH DECORATION</div>
<div>710AM WORSHIP 11:10AM KIDS ZONE 11:15AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR</div>	<div>810:00AM W/ELCA MEETING 5:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS</div>	<div>96:45PM SCOUTS 12:00PM COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</div>	<div>101:00PM WOMANS BIBLE 6:45PM CUB SCOUTS 7:00PM ADULT FORUM (ZOOM)</div>	<div>119:30AM QUILTERS 6:00PM BELL CHIOR 7:00PM VOCAL CHIOR</div>	<div>129:00AM BLOOD DRIVE</div>	<div>134:00PM HSOJ 10:30AM FINANCE TEAM MEETING FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER 5:00PM</div>
<div>14BRING ONE SUNDAY 10AM WORSHIP 11:10AM KIDS ZONE 11:15AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR</div>	<div>155:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS</div>	<div>166:45PM SCOUTS 6:30PM COUNCIL</div>	<div>171:00PM COOKIE MINISTRY W/ELCA GENERAL MEETING 6:00PM BELL CHIOR 6:45PM CUB SCOUTS 7:00PM VOCAL CHIOR 7:00PM ADULT FORUM (ZOOM)</div>	<div>189:30AM QUILTERS</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>208:30AM MEN'S MINISTRY 1:00PM GATHERING SPACE RENTED</div>
<div>21BRING A FRIEND 10AM WORSHIP THE MANGER ON THE MANTLE PUPPET SHOW 11:10AM KIDS ZONE 11:15AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR 11:30AM BELL CHIOR 12:00PM VOCAL CHIOR</div>	<div>225:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS</div>	<div>236:45PM SCOUTS</div>	<div>24CHRISTMAS EVE 3:00PM HSOJ 7:00PM WORSHIP</div>	<div>25CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>274:00PM HSOJ</div>
<div>2810AM WORSHIP 11:10AM KIDS ZONE 11:15AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR</div>	<div>295:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS</div>	<div>306:45PM SCOUTS</div>	<div>31NEW YEARS EVE OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM CRAFTY CONNECTIONS 7:00PM ADULT FORUM (ZOOM)</div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>



# DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVANTS

	December 7th	December 14th	December 21st	December 24th	December 28th
Assisting Ministers	Robert Clisch	Steven Prinz	Heather Fogle	George Evalt	Jane Alder
Communion Assistants	Deanna Holt	Stew Israel	Rick Reed	Cindy Sweier	Robert Clisch
Ushers	Georgia Hartsell Larry Hartsell	Cindy Sweier Cliff Switzer	Mike Bierbaum Charlie Lair	Cliff Switzer Larry Hartsell	Rick Reed Carol Gregg
Greeter	Kathy Groff	Michelle Lair	Charlene Tennant	Christine Snowden	Luan Purcell
Acolytes	Arne Wommer	Bruno Wommer	Pending	Arne Wommer	Charleigh Truskowski
Flagon Bearers	Chris Wommer	Kristina Wommer	Robert Clisch	Chris Wommer	Tina Truskowski
Altar Guild	Carol Gregg, Janet Clisch, Sally Evalt	Laureen Preston, Katie Frank, Carole Hakala	Jane Alder, Jodi Reed, Luan Purcell	Marge Ross, Greg Tapper, Gloria Tapper	Laureen Preston, Katie Frank, Janet Clisch

## PRAYING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

If you would like someone on the prayer list, please fill out a connection card and place their name on prayer sheets located in the Welcoming Area. After two weeks, names will be either taken off or put on the continuous listed prayers, but not read aloud in church. Members will have a written reminder of who to pray for in the weekly newsletter.

### **Ongoing prayers for members that are ill/homebound:**

Grace Bryngelson; Jon and Karen Call; Julia Gardner; Kathy Groff; Carole Knapp; Eva Miner; Carol Noonan; Mark Roffi; Gladys Seeger

### **New prayers for People who are ill or homebound:**

Doris Reece  
Dee Wheeler  
Angie Lehmkul  
Sue Baliko  
Theo and Nicole Brook's Family

### **Prayers for families and friends with special needs:** Victoria Reed

People impacted by lack of food and medication  
People affected by persecution and conflict  
People and their families who are struggling with mental illness or addictions

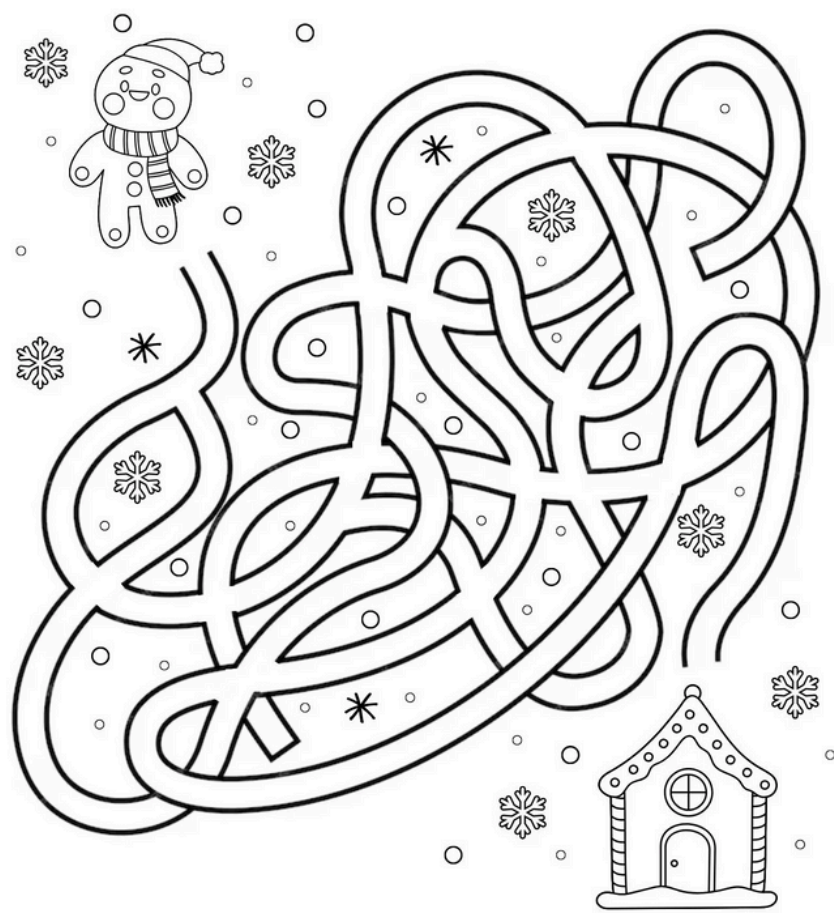
### **Those who are serving our country especially:**

Ian Bramigk (Army), Trevor Danielson (Coast Guard), Calvin Heim (Air Force), Ryan Loyd (Air Force), Tyler Miller (Army)



Please note: Prayer list started anew on Advent Sunday, November 30, 2025. Please update using connection cards or updating the prayer list in the church lobby





## CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Circle words in the puzzle below

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



Santa	stocking	snow	toys
elves	tree	cookies	ornament
Rudolph	star	present	sleigh

**Celebration Lutheran Church**  
**39375 Joy Road,**  
**Westland, MI 48185**



**39375 Joy Road,**  
**Westland, MI 48185**  
**734-582-4112**