

THE Celebration! CONNECTION!!

DECEMBER
2025



Poinsettias
November 24th, 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!

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

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

Merry Christmas

Christmas Eve
Worship
7:00PM

**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!

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.

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!"

Office Closed

- **December 25th – 26th**
- **Pastor Off Dec 26th – Jan 2nd**

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 21st** 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.



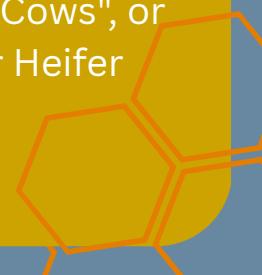
December
Sunday School Theme:
Birth Of Christ



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.



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.

DAY'S 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 21ST**, 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 Tenant

December 21st Charlene Tenant

December 24th Breanne Ruiz

December 28th Charlene Tenant



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 14th : Vase 1 - Charlene Tenant- In Memory of Jim Tenant

Vase 2 - Hartsell family- Georgia's Birthday

December 21st : Vase 1 - The Lair Family

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

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

Vase 2 - Available for Sponsorship



December Anniversaries!

1st Bill and Patty Erwin
23rd Jon and Karen Call

December Birthdays!

1st Linda Bierbaum
2nd David Holt
4th Katie Frank
8th Madeline Crile
9th Arne Wommer
12th Lois Zilka
14th Mark Roffi
15th Georgia Hartsell
18th Rowan Hardy
21st Karin Klein
24th Pat Villemure
25th John Busquaert
27th Terry Tarr
27th Maureen Switzer
30th Irene Shreeve
31st Josh Livingston

THIS MONTH'S ROTATING MEMBER PRAYERS:

December 7th
Steven Prinz
Luan Purcell
Marian Pye
Nicholas Reed

December 14th
Rick and Jodi Reed
Victoria Reed
Dan and Kristina Reid
Lauren Reid

December 21st
Katherine Reid
Sandra Reidenbaugh
Mark Roffi
Marge Ross

December 28th
Anne Runkle
David Runstrom
Robert Scott
Gladys Seeger

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

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SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 5:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS	2 6:45PM SCOUTS	3 6:45PM CUB SCOUTS 7:00PM ADULT FORUM (ZOOM)	4 9:30AM QUILTERS 6:00PM BELL CHIOR 7:00PM VOCAL CHIOR CHIOR PARTY	5	6 8:30AM MEN'S MINISTRY 9:00AM CHURCH DECORATION Scout Overnight
				10 1:00PM WOMANS BIBLE 6:45PM CUB SCOUTS 7:00PM ADULT FORUM (ZOOM)	11 9:30AM QUILTERS 6:00PM BELL CHIOR 7:00PM VOCAL CHIOR	12 9:00AM BLOOD DRIVE
						13 4:00PM HSOJ 10:30AM FINANCE TEAM MEETING FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER 5:00PM
	7 10AM WORSHIP 11:10AM KIDS ZONE 11:15AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR	8 10:00AM W/ELCA MEETING 5:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS	9 6:45PM SCOUTS 12:00PM COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	16 6:45PM SCOUTS 6:30PM COUNCIL	17 1:00PM COOKIE MINISTRY W/ELCA GENERAL MEETING 6:00PM BELL CHIOR 6:45PM CUB SCOUTS 7:00PM VOCAL CHIOR 7:00PM ADULT FORUM (ZOOM)	18 9:30AM QUILTERS 9:30AM QUILTERS 9:30AM QUILTERS
						19 1:00PM GATHERING SPACE RENTED
	14 BRING ONE SUNDAY	15 10AM WORSHIP 11:10AM KIDS ZONE 11:15AM FELLOWSHIP HOUR	22 5:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS	23 6:45PM SCOUTS	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 3:00PM HSOJ 7:00PM WORSHIP	20 8:30AM MEN'S MINISTRY 1:00PM GATHERING SPACE RENTED
						27 4:00PM HSOJ
	21 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	29 5:00PM AA MEETING 5:30PM MARTIAL ARTS	30 6:45PM SCOUTS	31 NEW YEARS EVE OFFICE CLOSED 10:00AM CRAFTY CONNECTIONS 7:00PM ADULT FORUM (ZOOM)		



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	Robert Clisch
Ushers	Georgia Heartsell Larry Heartsell		Cindy Sweier Cliff Switzer	Mike Bierbaum Charlie Lair	Cliff Switzer Larry Heartsell
Greeter	Kathy Groff		Michelle Lair	Christene Tennant	Christene Snowden
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



Santa
elves
Rudolph

stocking
tree
star

snow
cookies
present

toys
ornament
sleigh



Celebration Lutheran Church
39375 Joy Road,
Westland, MI 48185



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