



ST. BARTHOLOMEW NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021



"To God be the Glory!" (1 Peter 4:11)

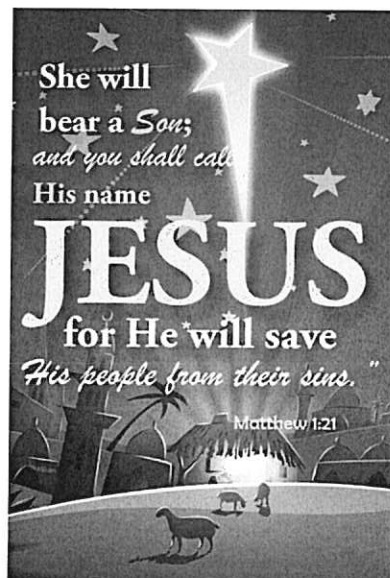
GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE CHRIST-CHILD!

Some couples expecting a baby are eager to know the sex of the child beforehand for obvious reasons - like appropriate nursery décor, blue or pink clothing, even choosing names. Others like to wait till the baby is born to find out if they are parents of a baby boy or a baby girl.

Joseph and Mary had no such dilemma. An angel appeared to each with the same message: "She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 'Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel' (which means God with us)" (Matt. 1:21-23).

Thirty plus years later, this Jesus rode into Jerusalem as people shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" but some asked, "Who is this?" After all Jesus had done throughout His three-year ministry, people still didn't know who He was! Even those who answered the question gave an insufficient reply: "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee" (Matt. 21:9-11).

The same terrible reality is ours today: Not everyone knows who Jesus is. Some, like those in Jesus' triumphal path that day, say He was a great prophet or teacher. Others say He was a fake, an imposter. How would you answer the question, "Who is Jesus?" We, like Peter, have the only true answer: "[He is] the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16). Not only did Peter have the answer, he directs us, "In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15 NIV).



As stewards of the Gospel, we must be prepared. We must be studying God's Word and be in prayer that we might be empowered by the Word and equipped by His Spirit to give answers to those who ask and to use the wonderful, natural opportunities that the Christmas season affords to speak about the Savior, the reason for our Christmas joy.

May God empower us all to spread the wonderful news that Jesus who is the Savior of the world has come to redeem us and to give us an abundant life now and life with Him in eternity.

Together in Christ,

Pastor Kuege

Sharing, Believing, Living, Caring

FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

October 2021

Year-to-date Income:	\$123,339.96
Year-to-date Expenses:	\$142,785.56
Year-to-date Budget:	\$141,640.00

+ + + +

WEDDING

Andrew Kiefer & Megan Boldt 10/29

KINGDOM WORKERS - DECEMBER

The following members are listed as Kingdom workers for December in the following areas:

Altar Guild: Janet Kalies, Sue Juno

Acolytes: Dec. 1 - (Wed.) - Natalie
5 - Addison
8 - (Wed.) - Emma
12 - Kelvin
15 - (Wed.) - Simon
19 - (Children's Service) Natalie
24 - (4 p.m.) - Addison
(8 p.m.) - Emma
25 - Kelvin
26 - Simon

Ushers: Wednesdays: Joel Koerth, Gary Koerth
Sundays: Hank Horn, Hank Horn VII

Greeters: Sundays: Gary Lemke

ST. BARTHOLOMEW MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing the Good News of salvation with others
(Matt. 28:19)

Believing in Jesus as our Savior (John 3:16)

Living our faith in what we say and do (James 2:18)

Caring for those in need (1 Peter 3:15; Mark 10:45;
Eph. 4:28; 1 John 3:17)

SHARING, BELIEVING, LIVING AND CARING



Prayer Chain

A prayer request may be made to any member of the prayer chain. If you are requesting a prayer for someone, let the person know so that they are aware and respect their wishes if they do not want the request given to the prayer chain.

Judy Baer	756-2696
Florence Behnke	(920) 418-4315
Renee Bonick	(920) 296-9164
Sue Detert	756-3439
Lori Fels	(920) 639-3792
Rhonda Geiger	(920) 371-7375
Sandy Haberland	(920) 524-2016
Kris Krueger	756-3912
Faith Sonnabend	756-2779
Diane Zickert	(920) 841-8951
Joan Zutz	756-2501



"This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us" (1 John 5:14)

ELDER GROUPS

(A-G) Tanner Behnke	(920) 427-6201
(H-M) Ron Detert	756-3439
(N-Z) Gary Lemke	464-1050



Children's Christmas Service
Sunday, December 19 - 9:00 a.m.

Children's service reminders:

No pictures are to be taken during the service.

Be respectful when children are reciting their parts.

REMEMBER - this is a *Worship service* in which the children are sharing the message of Christ's birth with you.

ANNUAL REPORT ITEMS ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 2022

Reports will be needed from the following
Boards/Committees:

Board of Elders
Board of Stewardship/Evangelism
Board of Trustees
Altar Guild
Ladies Aid
Youth Group
Sunday School

Thank you for your assistance! It is greatly
appreciated.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR



Reminder: If you would like to donate a poinsettia
for the altar this Christmas season, the deadline for
ordering will be Wednesday, December 5th. Please
drop your form off in the church office along with
your payment.



Sign seen in a nursing home:

"Remember, old folks are worth a fortune –
silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones
in their kidneys, lead in their feet, and gas in
their stomach."

– via Rev. Paul Lintern
Mansfield, OH

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who brought in your
garden produce this past summer and fall to
share with others in the congregation. It was
greatly appreciated!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Interior decorating will take place on
Saturday, November 27 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Exterior decorating will take place on
Saturday December 4 beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Please consider helping even if you can
only give an hour of your time. *Thank you!*

"Old-timer: an elderly person who
can remember when folks sat down at
the table and counted their blessings
instead of calories."

2022 FLOWER CHART

If you would like to donate flowers for
the altar during the year, be sure to
sign up on the bulletin board. If you are
placing an arrangement for a special
occasion, in memory of someone, etc.
please be sure to indicate that on the
sign-up sheet.

BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

A sign-up sheet will be posted on the
bulletin board for anyone wishing to
sponsor bulletins for 2022. Cost is \$10/
week.

When signing up, please indicate if it
is for a special occasion, in memory of
someone, etc.

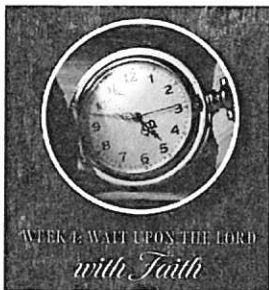
Put your sponsorship money in an
envelope with your name, mark it for
Bulletins and put it in the collection
plate or drop it off in the office.



WAIT UPON THE LORD

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

The season of Advent is characterized by waiting—waiting upon the Lord for His presence to be revealed to us on Christmas. In this worship series for Advent, we look back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for His promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We also look forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make Himself known to us.



Wednesday, December 1 • Wait Upon the Lord with Faith (Galatians 3:8): Abraham and Sarah waited with faith for the birth of their son, Isaac, and we wait with faith for the birth of God's Son, Jesus, trusting that He will come at

Christmas to save all people.

Wednesday, December 8 • Wait Upon the Lord with Hope (Psalm 130:5): The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.



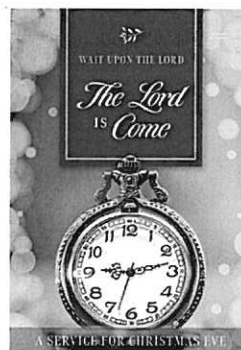
Sunday, December 12 • Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing (Isaiah 25:9): Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.



Wednesday, December 15 • Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude (Psalm 9:1): Zechariah's waiting days for John the Baptist's birth were filled with great gratitude for the Lord's promise about to be fulfilled. In these remaining waiting days before our Savior's birth, we are ever more grateful for the arrival of the Promised One.



CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY



Friday, December 24 • The Lord is Come (Luke 2:7): After our long Advent waiting, the Lord is come – into our lives, into our homes, and into our hearts. It's time to celebrate His birth as our Savior and Friend.

Saturday, December 25 • Let Earth Receive Her King (John 1:7): We receive on Christmas Day the gift of Jesus, our King of kings. The wait is over and our new life with Jesus has begun. We join the whole earth in glorifying Him on this day.



*Good news from heaven the angels bring,
Glad tidings to the earth they sing:
To us this day a child is given,
To crown us with the joy of heaven.*
(Martin Luther)

Kris and I would like to wish all of you the perfect peace this Christmas and throughout the coming year that comes only through the Babe of Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year!
Pastor & Kris

Living Generously

The purpose of this newsletter is to share God's Word so that our members will better understand who we are to be and what we are to do in the light of the Scriptures. It is our hope that this monthly publication will help you grow in your relationship with the Lord and as a Christian steward.



Rise and Shine

In his Gospel John wrote, *"In [Jesus] was life, and that life was the light of men"* (John 1:4). The prophet Isaiah some 700 years earlier foretold the Messiah by saying, *"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn"* (Isaiah 60:1-3).

Darkness covers the earth—darkness so thick we cannot see our own way, but Isaiah encourages us, *"The Lord rises upon [us]."* No longer do we grope our way. No longer are we left to our own wisdom and resources. No longer do we live in despair. No we *"Arise,"* and

"shine," for our light has come upon us!

The night of His birth, the sky was filled with light as the angels brought the message of good news to the shepherds. The bright star in the East continued to shine to guide the Wise Men to the Christ Child that they might worship Him.

Jesus, the Light of the World, continues to draw us to Himself, and, as we reflect the light of Christ in our lives, others will see that light and be drawn to Him.



John the Baptist, sent from God, witnessed to the light of Christ. As individual Christians, we have a responsibility to do what John did, to testify to *"the true light that gives light to every man"* (John 1:9). Each of us has been individually gifted and equipped to work together within the whole body of Christ that we might testify to Christ, *"the light [Who] shines in the darkness."* (John 1:5).

As you reflect during this Advent season on all that Jesus has done for you, pray that the same grace and love that moved John the Baptist to tell others about

Jesus move your heart to share the Good News with others.

More Blessed to Give

Have you ever become really excited about giving a gift to someone? Maybe for a birthday or at Christmas you were so excited that you could hardly wait for the person receiving the present to open it. Do you remember how proud you felt when the recipient opened the gift and was so happy and thankful to receive it? Then, when you saw that person use or wear your present, you probably beamed with pleasure because you had given it.

Giving gifts can be fun, and it is an activity that as Christians we are called to do. Jesus said in Acts 20:35, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" If you have had the experience related above, you know what Jesus meant.

Giving is part of life. Parents constantly give to their children. Teachers give care, attention, wisdom, and information. God created things in nature for your use and enjoyment that keep on giving: the sun gives energy, the clouds rain down moisture, cornfields share their nutrients, and apple trees bear their fruit.

God Who loves you receives more joy in giving to you than you can imagine. He knows you by name. He daily gives you food to eat, clothes to wear, and a warm place to sleep. It is God Who has given you life and the world to live in.

The prophet Jeremiah wrote that God also has a plan for you—a plan to prosper you, to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

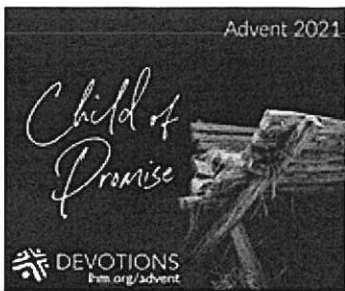
God uses us to help provide for the needs of others so that we, too, may experience the joy of giving. As His stewards, we are merely His conduits through which He feeds the hungry, shelters the homeless, and provides clothes for the naked. Through His grace, He will give us all that we need so that we "*will abound in every good work*" (2 Corinthians 9:8).



Prayer for Christmas Day

Dear Heavenly Father, today all of Christendom sings with jubilation, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!" How incomprehensible the love You have for us that would cause You to send Your only Son to earth to bring us joy. Yet we confess that we often are mired in discouragement and grief. While looking at our present circumstances, we forget that You have gone before us on the roads we travel and You are with us to take us through all the difficult passages of life. Suffering with our various losses, we forget that You, in the Person of Your beloved Son, have come and are still with us today to bring us abundant joy. Forgive us for our lack of trust in You. Help us to keep in our hearts every day the joy of this holy day and to share that joy with all we meet. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Blessings as you Live Generously!



Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

Child of Promise

The birth of the Savior is celebrated again this year in *Child of Promise*, a joyful look at the miracle of Jesus' birth. From the beginning, foretold in Genesis and proclaimed throughout the Old Testament, God announced the coming Messiah to a wayward world. In Jesus Christ, that promise was fulfilled.

Each year Christians reflect on the hope God offers the world at Christmas. Born unto us—God's Son, our Savior—Jesus is the fulfillment of the Father's promise to send a Redeemer. Announced beforehand by the prophets, in the Christ Child we have the forgiveness of our sins and the hope of life eternal. This God has given to us in His *Child of Promise*.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home. Devotions for Advent are available here in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family and friends, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of the season.



NEW YEAR'S EVE

WORSHIP TIME

Time has been changed to 5 p.m.
from the previous time of 5:30 p.m.

NEW CHRISTMAS TREE

We have a new Christmas tree for the front of church. Thank you to the family of Carol Beyer for this wonderful gift given in her memory!

An added note: The baptismal font was given in memory of Carol's first husband, Richard Doughty.

COUNTDOWN . . . OR BUILDING UP?

Ten little church members came to worship all the time. One fell out and then there were nine.

Nine little members stayed up late. One over-slept and then there were eight.

Eight church members on their way to heaven. One took the low road and now there are seven.

Seven church members all chirping like chicks. One didn't like the music, now there are six.

Six church members seemed very much alive, but one got 'travelitis'; this left five.

Five church members pulling pulling for heaven's shore. One tired and got disgruntled, and this left four.

Four church members, busy as can be; but one got his feelings hurt, and now there were three.

Three church members and the story's almost done, for two of them got weary and this left one.

Now everybody knows that one can't do much, but one brought a friend last month and then there were two.

Two church members each won one more. Now don't you see? $2 + 2 = 4!$

Four church members worked early and late. Each one brought one and now there are eight.

Have you got the message, pointed and true? Come on folks, we've got a job to do. For you see, these eight church members, if they double as before, in just seven weeks would have 1024!

In this little jingle there is a lesson true. You belong to one of the two—either you BUILDING or the WRECKING crew.

Did You Know

Walking can help protect you during cold and flu season by boosting your immune system. A study of more than 1,000 men and women found that those who walked at least 20 minutes a day, for at least five days a week had 43% fewer sick days than those who exercised once a week or less. Even if they did get sick, it was for a shorter duration and they had milder symptoms.

Source: Harvard Health Publishing

Five A Day Is the Way

The recommendation of “five-a-day” fruit and vegetable servings wasn’t just plucked from the air. For more than 30 years, researchers studied the diets of two million people. They found that eating five servings of fruits and vegetables daily was associated with the lowest risk of death. Eating more than five had no additional benefits.

Compared with people who consumed only two servings a day, those who ate five servings had a 13% lower risk of death from all causes; a 12% lower risk of death from heart disease or stroke; a 10% lower risk of death from cancer; and a 35% lower risk of death from respiratory disease, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Other interesting findings from the research:

- Two servings of fruit and three vegetables had better results than any other combination.
- Green leafy vegetables (including spinach and kale) and fruits and vegetables rich in beta carotene and vitamin C (such as citrus fruits, berries, and carrots) were deemed the most beneficial.

Source: Circulation

Slow Down, Don't Eat So Fast

How quickly you eat influences how much you eat – and how likely you are to gain weight.

Studies show that fast eaters are much more likely to eat more and have a higher body mass index (BMI) than slow eaters. In fact, fast eaters are up to 115% more likely than slower eaters to be obese.

God created your body to help you not overeat. As you swallow food, it takes about 20 minutes for your stomach to send a signal to your brain that you’re full. Eating slowly gives your brain the time it needs to get that signal so that you can stop eating.

Eating slower by chewing longer, putting down your fork between bites and drinking water between forkfuls can help reduce the number of calories you consume during meals and help you lose weight. In one study, the average calorie intake decreased by 9.5% when people simply chewed 1.5 times longer than normal – and calories decreased nearly 15% when they chewed twice as long as normal.

Chewing longer is also linked to more thorough chewing, which improves the digestive process and the absorbance of nutrients.

Source: Healthline.com

Go Nuts!

Adding nuts to your diet – particularly as a snack – can be good for your health for a variety of reasons:

- Harvard University researchers found that nut eaters had a 14% lower risk of cardiovascular disease and a 20% lower risk of coronary heart disease.
- A large study of men and women published in *BMJ Nutrition, Prevention, & Health* found that adding nuts to your diet may lessen gradual weight gain:
 - People who increased their daily intake of nuts by just half an ounce gained less weight over a 24-year period than those who didn’t eat nuts.
 - Those who ate five or more ounces of nuts per week had a lower body mass index than those who never or rarely ate them.
 - Eating tree nuts (such as almonds or cashews) was linked to an 11% reduced risk of becoming obese, and eating walnuts was linked to a 15% lower risk.

The health benefits of nuts have the greatest potential if you can follow these guidelines:

- Eat four servings of unsalted nuts a week. One serving is a small handful (1.5 ounces) of whole nuts.
- Don’t overdo it with nuts as those calories can add up.
- Choose raw or dry-roasted nuts rather than nuts cooked in oil.
- Nuts are meant to be a replacement for a less healthy snack option, not in addition to it.

Source: Mayo Clinic

(from “Better Health” Winter 2021)

TWAS THE NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS

Twass the night of Christmas, and all through Bethlehem town people hurried and scurried and bustled around.

For this was the time in the Roman world, you see, when all had to pay taxes—no one could flee.

Many had traveled from far and from wide to pay what they owed—forget about pride.

I had an inn in the middle of town where people begged for a place to lie down.

It had been a hard day and now it was night. So tired, I forgot to extinguish my light.

As I slept so cozy and warm in my bed, I heard someone knocking—or was it in my head?

I finally discovered it was at my door. Oh, please, I thought, there's no room for more.

I put on a coat and went out to see. Who is it now? What do they want from me?

There stood a man, and a woman too. It had gotten colder. Their lips had turned blue.

As they explained—they were tired and weak and just needed a place to rest their weary feet.

I said, "I have nothing! No room! No more!" "Oh, please, kind sir," she said. "We'll sleep on the floor."

"I'm having a baby. It won't be long now! You can't turn us away. Can you? Can you? How?"

I saw tears in her eyes and pain on her face, and I knew then I just had to find them a place.

So I grabbed a lantern and said, "Come with me. 'It's not much,'" I called. "It's not much to see."

"But here's a blanket and you may use this light." "It's fine," he answered. "We'll be all right."

As I left the stable, I took one last look; oh, the love in their eyes! I just trembled and shook.

I went back to bed, but I just couldn't sleep. I knew something had happened. I'll go take a peek!

How beautiful it was to see what was there! Their son had been born—a King and an heir.

I asked, "What's His name?" "It's Jesus," she said as she cuddled Him and kissed His tiny, sweet head.

Jesus! Savior! Oh, what a great name! Somehow I knew things would never be the same.

For this Child would grow and become a man to die on a cross with a nail in each hand.

But His death was not wasted—God's plan came to be—This Jesus—God's Son—died for you and for me.

Now we celebrate Christmas because of that night. Don't ever forget. It just wouldn't be right.

Our Savior He is—for now and all time. God sent Him for all. He's yours and He's mine.

Adopt-A-Family

This year we have 2 families in our Adopt-A-Family. One is a family of 4 including mom, dad, a 14 year old son, and a 15 year old daughter. They are the blue ornaments on the tree. The other family is a mom with 3 sons, ages 11, 13 & 16. They are the red ornaments on the tree. Help spread Christmas blessings and cheer with our adopt-a-family by taking an ornament or two off the tree and purchasing the item listed on the ornament. Please bring the item wrapped with the ornament attached and place it in the Adopt-A-Family box. Deadline date is December 15. We are receiving money from Thrivent Action Team to purchase essential items for the families. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



ADULT INFORMATION CLASS



If anyone is interested in joining our congregation from a non-Lutheran background or is interested in learning the basics of our beliefs as Lutherans, contact Pastor Krueger (756-3031) so a class can be set up beginning in January.

"Even in this age of inflation, the wages of sin remain the same."

— via Rev. Robert E. Harris
Asheville, NC



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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Are you PUZZLED?



Looking for something to do to pass the time on those cold winter days/nights? How about picking up a puzzle or two from the church to work on? If you have puzzles you no longer need, bring them to church and exchange them for another one. Puzzles are a good family activity to do together as well!

2022 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Your next year's envelopes will be **Offering Envelopes** available on the table in the coat room soon. Do not start using them until the January 1, 2022. Thank you.



END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The 2021 'end of year' statements will be emailed to those members whose email addresses we have on file. If you need a hard copy please let the church office know. For those members without email addresses, your statements will be in your church mailbox by Friday, January 7th. Please remember to pick them up for tax purposes! Thank you.

God's kids say & do the funniest things

A Sunday school teacher began her lesson with a question: "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

"He's an artist!" a little boy replied.

"Really. How do you know?" the teacher asked.

"Our Father, who does art in Heaven," the boy replied.

— via Mrs. Donna Benson
Albuquerque, NM

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

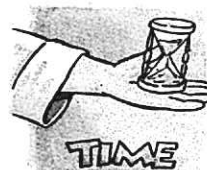
By Bil and Jeff Keane

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



'Tis more blessed
to give, than to
receive..

But learn to accept
those SUPREME GIFTS
not tied up in
ribbons.



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OCTOBER SCRIP TOTALS

CARD NAME	TOTAL	PROFIT
BP	1,250	18.75
Cobblestone	100	5.00
Dairy Queen	20	4.00
Deer Run	25	2.50
Econo	1,775	53.25
Exxon	100	5.00
Festival	400	12.00
Fleet Farm	175	8.75
Kohls	650	26.00
Kwik Trip	500	20.00
Menards	25	0.75
Piggly Wiggly	300	9.00
Roundy's	175	7.00
Shell	50	2.50
Starbucks	25	1.75
Target	25	0.63
WalMart	425	10.63
TOTALS	6,020.00	187.51



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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 rd	Rebekah Krahn	20 th	Millie Behnke
3 rd	Elyssa Schleis	20 th	Lillian Maas
5 th	John Moede	21 st	Sharon Urban
5 th	Nathanial Christopherson	22 nd	Abram Geiger
7 th	Alice Koerth	22 nd	Ben Wilson
13 th	Jules Clausing	26 th	Hannah Delvaux
15 th	Kurt Propson	27 th	Mark Evel
17 th	Mark Wittman	27 th	Gary Woldt
17 th	Diane Zickert	29 th	Jerry Urban
18 th	Carol Clausing	30 th	Krystal Nenahlo
18 th	Ashlynn Hurda	31 st	Shelly Jost
20 th	Laurie Behnke		



ANNIVERSARIES

4 th	Rick & Terri Riemer
17 th	David & Diane Buboltz
17 th	Mark & Jan Wittman
18 th	David & Brigitte Sonnabend



Please forgive us and politely notify us if an anniversary or birthday is missing from the list. Thank you.

"A lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on."

— Winston Churchill

CHURCH CLOSINGS

Before we know it, winter will be upon us. We will be notifying members of any church closings this winter season due to inclement weather via email for any of those members whose email addresses we have on file. You can also tune into radio station Y100 100.3 FM or turn your TV to WBAY Channel 2 or WFRV Channel 5 for any worship service cancellation.

