St. John's LUTHERAN CHURCH
"Come and See..."

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, you will have had your fill of pumpkin pie, turkey sandwiches and cranberries for a while—if not for another year. We will have retrieved all of our decorations from the storage room. (This is the time when pastors get gray hair, as everything comes at them all at once—Advent, Christmas, Food, Candy, Parties, New Years, along with advertisements for Lent—seriously now!)

I have learned over the years to make several lists and to cross reference them if needed. At the end of the day, I give thanks to God for all that has been accomplished—and not only by me. The next morning, I pray that I might have the energy to accomplish whatever I can. I have also learned to fret over the small stuff—because the small details can be very important (small items to me may be extremely important to someone else).

With all these things, I also try to keep my focus on the coming of Jesus Christ. This year that means both the 24th and 25th (Christmas Day this year lands on Sunday—and yes, we will have worship at St. John's). We will also have Wednesday Advent worship – 1pm at St. Paul and 7pm at St. John's—with the exception of December 21st when we will go caroling at 6pm (Worship at St. Paul at 1pm will still take place). If all this sounds confusing, I will try to keep things straight—and communicate the best that I can.

So with all this in mind, may God surround you with comfort and peace this Christmas—along with a whole lot of patience and strength – and more than enough joy as we celebrate our Lord's birth.

Peace.

Pastor Mike

St. John's Lutheran Church
PO Box 819
203 Pearl Street
Guttenberg, IA 52052

Pastor Michael Ashman
319-231-6440
mikepstr64@gmail.com

CHURCH WORSHIP:
5:30 PM - Saturday
10:15 AM - Sunday
7:00 PM - Advent Wednesday
8:00 PM - Christmas Eve

Church Office Hours:
Tues: 7:00AM - 3:00 PM
Wed & Fri: 7:00AM - 12:30 PM
Thursdays 12:30-3:30 PM

Church Phone: 563-252-2355

Church Email:
stjohnsoffice@alpinecom.net

December 17th Grades 3-6 10:30- Noon

Friends are Welcome!!

Cookie decorating Games Gifts

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Please submit this form to the church office with payment to St. John's **no later than Dec. 4, 2022.**

Choose your poinsettia size:

_____8 inch pot - $27 ____6 inch pot - $14

Please complete one form for each poinsettia you wish to purchase.

IN HONOR OF:

_____

IN MEMORY OF

_____

GIVEN BY:

_____

Your Name _____Your Phone_____

Check your preference:

_____ Please donate my poinsettia to the church _____ I will pick up my poinsettia after worship service on Dec. 24th or 25th

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Camera Ministry

Dec. 4 - Gavin Stoerp
Dec. 11 -
Dec. 18 - Caleb Bittner
Dec. 24- Crystal Duwe & Brandon Duwe

**We have started to have our Confirmation Students help with th camera as part of their work

Acolyte Ministry

Dec. 4 - Caleb Bittner
Wed. Dec. 7 Gavin Stoerp
Dec. 11 - Nash Reimer
Wed. Dec. 14 - Caleb Bittner
Dec. 18 - Myka Bries

Dec. 4 - Harbaugh Family
Dec. 11 - Thomas Family
Dec. 18 - Brown Family

ADOPT A DAY

How would you like to consider adopting a day(s) and paying for St. John's church utilities for that day(s)? This would be above your regular church giving and would be a huge financial plus for St. John's. You choose the day(s). Why not consider adopting a day for your birthday or that of a family member, or an anniversary of your baptism, wedding or all of them and more? If you would like to adopt a day, just write your information on a piece of paper and enclose it with your payment of $38 per day.

Dec. 8 - by Marie Hagen's memorial, in honor of Duane Hagen's birthday
Dec. 12 - by Rick & Mary Allyn in honor of their granddaughter, Jovi Allyn's birthday

December Stewards

	Ushers	Lector
Dec. 4	MJ & Andy Smith	Cindy Niehaus
Dec. 11	Jessica Hillers Rebecca Hillers	Craig Tuecke
Dec. 18	Frank Davis Ellie Davis	Julie Davis
Dec. 25	Rick & MaryBeth Allyn	MaryBeth Allyn

-PLEASE PRAY FOR-

Ross Abbott, John & Karen Anderegg, Bev Aulwes, Owen Aulwes, Cecil Bahls, Kay Becker, Lois Davis, Bob & Carla Ferguson, George Harbaugh, Jerry Kolker, Brayton Kuhse, Richard Larson, Russ Loven, Kathy Meskimen, Jenny Meyer, Randy Moser, Shirley A. Moser, Shirley M. Moser, Tiffany Moser, Mick Pierce, Shelby Preston, Zander Purman, Denny & Sharon Reth, Denny Roth, Terry Thein, Bill Tielbar, Arthur Tomkins, Al Ullerick, Misty Wells

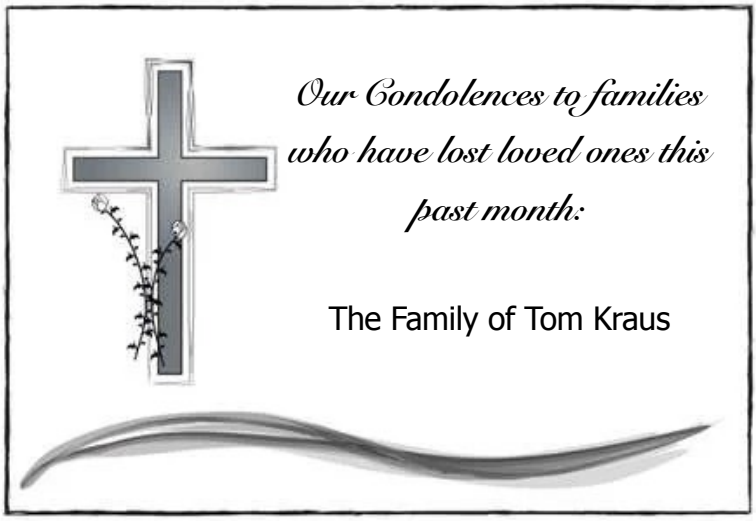
River Living Center: (SJ) Nell Stone, Arlene Tackman, Mae Jetter, Janet Lundt, Judy Olson, Virginia Roth

Guttenberg Care Center: (SJ) George Harbaugh, Shirley Moore, Shirley Moser, Terry Krieg, Carla Ferguson

Ennoble Nursing Care: (SJ) Dennis Roth

Garden View Place, Monona: (SJ) Terry Thein

Homebound: (SJ) Bob Ferguson, Bill Tielbar



CARE CENTER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

GUTTENBERG CARE CENTER: MON. DEC. 5 & 12 - 10:00 AM

RIVER LIVING CENTER: THUR. DEC. 1 - 10:30 AM

Join Us.... At our monthly sing-a-long at the River Living Center

When: The 2nd Monday of each month, 11:00 a.m.

The Outreach Committee, with Karilyn McArthur on piano, leads our monthly Sing-A-Long at the River Living Center. The public is welcome!

St. John's Lutheran Stewardship Committee News

THANK YOU TO:

- Our volunteers at the recent Mobile Food Pantry held on Wednesday, November 16. A special thank you to the staff from the City of Guttenberg for helping out. The next mobile food truck will be here on Wednesday, December 21 from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Volunteers are always appreciated.
- Those who volunteered at the Community Thanksgiving dinner by serving, delivering, or cooking. A tremendous amount of time and planning went into this outreach. Thank you to all who gave food or cash to help make this dinner possible.
- Many who shared their talents for Stewardship weekend, November 12 & 13. Thank you to Frank Davis for singing, Brandon and Erin Bries for creating the St. John's movie, Dr. Smith and the bell choir for their anthem, Katie Bahlmann for playing the piano for our theme, "Here I Am, Lord", Rabecca Hennessey for all her assistance and creativity, and for Pastor Mike Ashman's special message to answer God's call with, "Here I Am Lord, Send Me".
- A special thank you to the members of the Stewardship Committee who glued, folded, stamped, baked, "You Name it" they did it!
- Those who help support the "Scrip" program during the year.
- Members assisting with funeral dinners by bringing in food or helping to serve.
- GIVING THANKS WITH A GRATEFUL HEART FOR ALL ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATION.

ADVENT PLANS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

During the first weekend of Advent, November 26 & 27, a committee member will be handing out an Advent pamphlet of worship times and readings in Luke for December. This year our team has created a reverse ADVENT CALENDAR. Instead of each day where kids typically get something, we are asking members and families to consider this new approach of giving daily. We are excited about the impact our food gifts will make for our neighbors at the local Family Resource Center. Details are on the calendar each day in December along with the readings from Luke that unfold the story of Jesus. Please see the ADVENT CALENDAR in the newsletter as well as the paper copy you'll receive at worship.

Thank you to the City of Guttenberg employees and to all of our local volunteers who helped out at the November Mobile Food Pantry!

December 2022

St. John's Lutheran Advent Calendar

Please consider our suggestion below as a reverse Advent calendar. Find a large, sturdy box. Each day add a food item to your box as suggested on the calendar. **By Monday, January 2, 2023** please return your full box to the narthex at St. John's. The Stewardship Committee will deliver them to the Family Resource Center.
Thank you for sharing with others so they may know the kindness and joy we celebrate in Christ.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
By reading a chapter in the gospel of Luke daily, the story of Jesus will unfold over twenty-four days.				1-Begin reading chapter one in Luke	2-Read the second chapter in Luke.	3-Read the third chapter in Luke.
				Box of cereal	Peanut Butter	Stuffing mix
4-Second Sunday in Advent Read chapter 4 in Luke.	5-Read chapter 5 in Luke.	6-Read chapter 6 in Luke.	7-Read chapter 7 in Luke.	8-Read chapter 8 in Luke.	9-Read chapter 9 in Luke.	10-Read chapter 10 in Luke.
Boxed potatoes	Macaroni & Cheese	Canned fruit	Canned tomatoes	Canned tuna	Dessert Mix	Can of applesauce
11-Third Sunday in Advent Read chapter 11 in Luke	12-Read Luke 12	13-Read Luke 13	14-Read Luke 14	15-Read Luke 15	16-Read Luke 15	17-Read Luke 17
Can sweet potatoes	Cranberry sauce	Canned beans	Box of crackers	Package of rice	Package of oatmeal	Package of pasta
18-Fourth Sunday in Advent Read chapter 18 in Luke	19-Read Luke 19	20-Read Luke 20	21-Read Luke 21	22-Read Luke 22	23-Read Luke 23	24-Christmas Eve Read Luke 24
Can spaghetti sauce	Chicken noodle soup	Tomato soup	Can of corn	Can mixed veggies	Can of carrots	Can of green beans
25-Christmas Day Christ our Savior is born.						
Spread JOY!						

All Women of St. John's. **www.womenoftheelca.org**

2022 St. John's Women of the Board

President: Lynda Akers -- Vice President: Carolyn Hoffmann
Treasurer: Cindy Niehaus -- Secretary: Pat Meyer
At Large: Lynda Schaefers, Jan Solomon — Sarah Circle Representative: Diane Schilling

Mission: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.
Purpose: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

WELCA ORGANIZATION

The women of St. John's voted on November 12 & 13 to become an inactive WELCA Organization church unit.

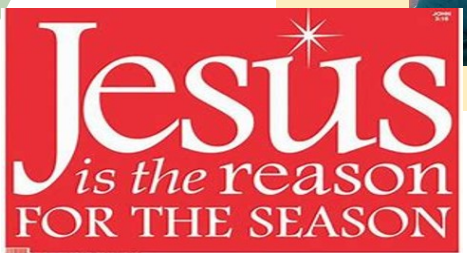
The current ministries such as the Funeral Luncheon Groups will be transitioned to other St. John's groups and committees. St. John's will still participate in World Day of Prayer and the Mother, Daughter, Friend Tea. Thank you to all women who have been part of these ministries under WELCA in the past and will continue to support life-changing ministries in the future here at St. John's!

Lvnda Akers

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

35 LWR Quilts and 16 School Kits were transported on November 5th to the truck in Decorah that would be soon on it's way to the Minnesota LWR warehouse

Enjoying the luncheon at the October 22 Fall Gathering – Squeeze the Day!



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Merry Christmas!

Another season is upon us and what a wonder it is! We just finished a beautiful season of Thanksgiving where the focus was on the gifts of provision, harvest, and community. Thanks for all who gave, volunteered and participated in the Community Thanksgiving meal. We had approximately 68 meals picked up, 30 plus dined in, and 44 meals were delivered. God is so good!

The Christmas season is a time to focus on our Creator, our Provider, our Protector, and our Savior, Jesus Christ! The most significant gift to yourself and others is by spending time in His Word, listening for answers to your prayers instead of rattling them off and leaving, praying for others, etc. He invites you to the biggest celebration each and every day, in fact, he requests your presence. It is a living gift 365 days a year, 24/7.

Blessings!
Diane

St. John's American Evangelical Lutheran Church
Thursday, November 10, 2022
Council Meeting Minutes

Members present; Diane Thiese, Craig Tuecke, Deb Preston, Brian Rodenberg, Forest Brown, Michele Von Handorf, Mary Streich, Lorna Moser, Frank Davis, Sherry Oliver
Staff Present: Pastor Ashman, Rabecca Hennessey
Members Absent: Chuck Hemann, Stephanie Thomas

Call to Order: President Brian Rodenberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Devotions & Prayers: Pastor Ashman led with an opening devotion and prayer.

Secretary's Report: The council reviewed minutes of the October 13th council meeting. No additions or corrections were noted. Mary motioned to approve the minutes as published. Diane seconded the motion. President Rodenberg declared the minutes as approved.

Treasurer's Report: Michele motioned to approve the Treasurer's report. Stephanie seconded the motion.

General Fund:	$ 9,343.30
Benevolence:	$28,403.67
Improvement:	$42,360.02
Memorial Fund:	$74,697.62
Benevolence Savings:	$15,765.10
Sunday School:	$ 2,311.03
Organ Fund:	$ 3,363.65
Scrip:	$ 3,571.11
Luther League:	$ 5,673.59
Ending Balance:	$185,489.09

Pastor's Report: Pastor presented a written report highlighting his many activities during the month of October. He is currently looking at open dates and planning a youth turnaround meal.

Outreach Ministries: Diane reported on Thanksgiving Dinner plans. Donations have been generous. Volunteers were reviewed. Numbers to date consist of 51 drive through meals, 22 dine in meals, and 19 meals to be delivered. In addition, meals will be provided to staff working the holiday at the hospital.

Educational Ministries: Stephanie was absent but provided a report. The Sunday School Christmas program is planned for December 18th during the 10:15 worship service. She is also working on the purchase of the television approved at last month's meeting.

Children & Youth Ministries: Forest reported that Trunk or Treat was very successful this year with several volunteers participating. Approximately 285 children and youth attended. His committee is also looking to arrange for youth to travel to the Dubuque mission for a service event.

Public Relations: No report

Stewardship Ministries: Sherry reported that this weekend is Stewardship weekend. Postcards have been sent. Fellowship will be held after both services. Frank will be singing, and the Bell Choir is also playing. A slide show with photos from the Directory will be played prior to the service. Thank you certificates will be sent to the various groups and organizations. The committee also worked on their annual budget.

Worship & Music Ministries: Mary provided a report. A Thanksgiving service will be held on Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm. Pastor is planning Advent services. December 11th will be a baptismal remembrance service. Christmas caroling will be on December 21st. A Christmas Eve service is being planned for 8:00pm. A Christmas Day service will be held at 10:15.

Property Ministries: Frank is looking into a potential remodel of the parsonage bathroom. An estimate will be provided.

Parish Fellowship: Lorna reported that she is working with Diane on the Thanksgiving meal. Fellowship is planned for every Sunday.

V.P. Report: No report given.

Old Business:

1. Building Plans/Update: Forest, Gary, and Brian met and are dividing into various sub committees which include a general carpenter, flooring, insulation, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and technology. Preliminary estimates will be obtained.
2. Stewardship: Designation of funds from Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as any free will offerings was discussed. Mary made a motion and Sherry seconded the motion that these funds go to the local Family Resource Center. Designation of the special envelope "Local Crisis Fund" will be discussed at the January meeting.

New Business:

1. Mission Support Statement of Intent – Forest made a motion and Mary seconded the motion to support the Synod with a $15,000 pledge.
2. Authorization from the Council to request distributions from the endowment funds. Michele made a motion. Diane seconded a motion:
   a. $12,410.00 to the Improvement Fund
   b. $1750.00 to the General Fund
3. Parsonage Allowance Resolution: In order to permit Pastor Michael Ashman to benefit from the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the Church Council of St. John's American Lutheran Church specifies that the total compensation paid to Pastor Ashman during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, and all subsequent years, includes a parsonage allowance to be used for expenses related to the parsonage Since such approval by the Church Council of St. John's American Lutheran Church would permit Pastor Ashman to deduct that amount from his taxable income and has no further effect upon our congregation or budget, it was resolved that the total compensation paid to Pastor Ashman includes a parsonage allowance of $5000 for the current year and for all future years, unless otherwise provided. Forest made a motion to approve while Diane made a second to that motion.
4. The Council approved those remaining funds needed for the purchase of new artificial Christmas trees be expensed from the General fund. These trees will be placed in the Sanctuary.

Adjournment: Michele motioned to adjourn. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00 pm.

Next regular council meeting: Thur, Dec.8, 2022, at 6:00.

Monthly Stewardship Report

Amount Needed Weekly $3564

Offering	Oct. 30	$2799
	Nov. 6	$3475
	Nov. 13	$2500
	Nov. 20	$1795

December 2022, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

Merry Christmas from LSI!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Because of your generosity LSI has continued to offer hope and healing to Iowans of all ages. Thank you for bringing the light of Christ to your neighbors who rely on these important services!

At LSI we see veterans getting help, children overcoming fear, moms and dads parenting with renewed joy and confidence, new neighbors from foreign lands becoming established and active in their communities, the pride of independence for those experiencing challenges in everyday life. We know parents who feel hopeless, with few resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a forever family.

The spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, allows us to stand together and celebrate this Christmas season.

LSI's annual matching gift campaign gives opportunities to double new and increased gifts through the end of the year. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa. Thank you!

As 2022 comes to an end, we reflect back on all those whose lives have been impacted by your gifts.

From Iowa's newest citizens, those you've helped to feel at home in a new country: "Thank you"; from the young first-time mom who has learned how to care for her newborn: "Thank you"; from the teenager who needed some redirection and support: "Thank you".

From the veterans needing help readjusting from trauma they endured: "Thank you"; from the person who was able to receive the kind of mental health therapy they needed: "Thank you".

From the person with disabilities who is able to live as independently as possible with our help: "Thank you"; from the parents who are learning new processes to provide healthy, safe environments for their children: "Thank you"; from the foster parents who are providing care when needed, "Thank you".

From those kids in residential whose lives have come to a turning point with new skills to use going forward: "Thank you!"

And from all of us at LSI that you have encouraged and supported: "Thank you!"

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sat. Dec. 3	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Dec. 4	8:15 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	9:15 am	(SP) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship / Stephen Ministers
Mon. Dec. 5	4:30 pm	(SJ) Stephen Ministers
Tues. Dec. 6	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesdays w/God
	5:30 pm	(SP) Council Meeting
Wed. Dec. 7	1:00 pm	(SP) Advent Worship
	1:00 pm	(SJ) Sarah Circle
	2:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	5:30 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	7:00 pm	(SJ) Advent Worship
Thur. Dec. 8	6:00 pm	(SJ) Council Meeting
Sat. Dec. 10	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Dec. 11	8:15 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	9:15 am	(SP) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
Tues. Dec. 13	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Dec. 14	1:00 pm	(SP) Advent Worship
	2:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	5:30 pm	(SJ) Confirmation
	7:00 pm	(SJ) Advent Worship
Sat. Dec. 17	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Dec. 18	8:15 am	(SP) Worship
	9:00 am	(SJ) Sunday School
	9:15 am	(SP) Sunday School
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship/Christmas Program
Tues. Dec. 20	1:00 pm	(SJ) Tuesday w/God
Wed. Dec. 21	1:00 pm	(SP) Advent Worship
	4:30 pm	(SJ) Food Pantry Volunteers
	5:00 pm	(SJ) Food Pantry Drive-Thru
	6:00 pm	(SJ) Confirmation / Caroling
Sat. Dec. 24	5:30 pm	(SP) Worship
	8:00 pm	(SJ) Worship
Sun. Dec. 25	8:15 am	(SP) Worship
	10:15 am	(SJ) Worship
Sat. Dec. 31	5:30 pm	(SJ) Worship

Church Office Hours

The Church Office is Open:

Tues: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm
Wed: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm
Thurs: 12:30 - 3:30 pm
Fri: 7:00 am - 12:30 pm

NORTHEAST IOWA FOOD BANK

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the mobile food pantry, both pre-packing and distributing.

Mobile Food Pantry is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. **Truck from the Northeast Iowa Food Bank is scheduled to arrive at 4:30 pm, with distribution from 5 - 6 pm.**

The next event will be a drive through event at 5:00 pm on Wed. Dec. 21st-
volunteers needed at 4:30 to unload the truck

If you are able to help, please call the church office and we will add your name to our volunteer list.

DECEMBER *Baptisms*

Dec. 1
Ron Rosacker
Nancy Ruzicka
Michele VonHandorf
Dustin Kelly

Dec. 2
Ashlynn Finnegan

Dec. 3
Scott Fischer

Dec. 5
Caleb Bittner
Elliott Brown
Lorna Moser

Dec. 9
Gary Bahls
Dick Zittergruen

Dec. 10
Tara Augustyn
Edward Tuecke

Dec. 13
Tyler Kraus

Dec. 14
Alan Moser
Carol Moser
Nell Stone

Dec. 15
Kendra Moser

Dec. 18
Jarad Esmann

Dec. 19
Don Schmelzer

Dec. 20
Jan Solomon

Dec. 21
Dayton Miller

Dec. 22
Crystal Duwe

Dec. 27
Jovi Allyn

Dec. 28
Erin Bries

Dec. 29
Helen Duwe

DECEMBER *Birthdays*

Dec. 2
Helen Duwe
Breyer Witham

Dec. 3
Erin Bries

Dec. 4
Jarad Esmann
Kohle Helle
Sharon Troester

Dec. 5
Wyatt Backes

Dec. 6
Margo Friedlein

Dec. 7
David Bahls

Dec. 8
Cole Bittner

Dec. 9
Anna Lewis

Dec. 10
Lola Reimer

Dec. 12
Jovi Allyn

Dec. 14
Frank Davis
Annalise Niesman

Dec. 16
Barrett Preston
David Sadewasser

Dec. 17
Shirley Meyer

Dec. 18
Roger Rodenberg

Dec, 20
Maisyn Chase

Dec. 21
Tim Hillers

Dec. 22
Jace Moore
Ronald Troester

Dec. 23
Jessica Klein
Addison Stoerp

Dec. 26
Lisa Judkins

Dec. 27
Matthew Preston

Dec. 28
Deb Bries
Everett Anderegg

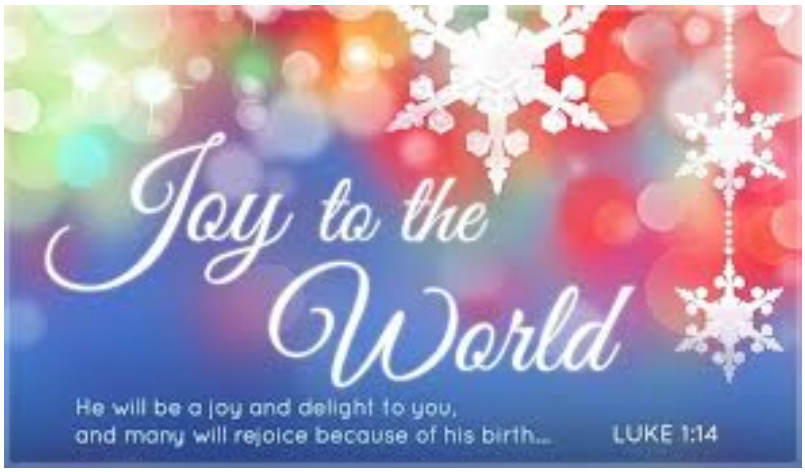
Dec. 29
Carrie Niehaus

Dec. 30
Kayla Kelly

DECEMBER *Wedding Anniversaries*

Dec. 7
Forest & Tina Brown

Dec. 9
Chuck & Paula Hemann

Dec. 14
Ross & Mary Abbott

Dec. 26
Dennis & Sharon Reth