

STEEPLE

December 2022

*A Monthly Newsletter
of Evangelical Lutheran
Church
of Mount Horeb*

COMMUNITY SERVICES

MISSION, & VALUES

**MADISON AREA JAIL MINISTRY
A MINISTRY OF PRESENCE**

**FRIENDS OF
THE JAIL MINISTRY**

**December
Benevolence
2022**

EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH
of Mount Horeb

*A family in faith,
reaching out to share God's love
with all people*

WELCOME/
TO
ELC of MOUNT HOREB

We welcome all to ELC. Everyone. Without exception. Regardless of race, ethnicity, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, faith traditions, physical or mental abilities, financial resources, family status, or personal struggles. We are committed to being an anti-racist community. By the power of the Holy Spirit we will work to extend God's grace, love, justice, and dignity. You belong here. Your story and your life are valuable. In Christ's love, we welcome you.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE AT ELC

Holy Communion Celebrated 1st & 3rd Sundays at all services.

SATURDAY: 5:00 pm- (in Chapel) Modified Traditional Worship

SUNDAY 9:00 am Blended Service

Pre-recorded online worship available:

www.elcmthoreb.org/home/worship/sermon-archive/

or listen to Sunday service "live" on your phone 855-514-2017

MORNING DEVOTIONS by Pastor John or Jerome on the ELC Facebook page at 8am Monday through Saturday

ELC'S STAFF

Pastor John Twiton

Accompanists: Ruth Heinecke, Barb Underwood

Agape Preschool Director: Amy Kellesvig

Bell Choir Director: Kristin Willcutt

Custodian: Brian Johnson

Junior Choir Director: Barb Underwood

Music team leader: Barb and Chris Underwood (interim)

Office Manager: Nancy Voss

Organist/Senior Choir Director: Diane Dangerfield

Youth Director: Brenda Martin

A Note from PASTOR JOHN

“A New Beginning”

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. - Isaiah 11:1-2

When Isaiah wrote these words there wasn't a lot of reason to be hopeful. The Assyrians had overrun the country, and the people were discouraged. But the prophet proclaims that God is about to create a new beginning.

As we look ahead in the season of Advent, we witness God's new beginning for this whole creation. But it all comes about in an unlikely time and place – in a humble stable, with a babe lain in a manger. Our experience has not been nearly as full of hardship as the people of Isaiah's day, and yet we long for new beginnings as well. We've seen some hard times and difficult days in our world and in our society. On a personal level we all have struggles and concerns. But the same promise is here for us again this year. God is always about creating new possibilities.

So, I suggest we spend these days before Christmas with eyes wide open in joy and anticipation. While so much of this season is celebrated with wonderful family traditions, we need to be God may act in places and ways we aren't anticipating.

Our challenge as disciples is to be ready to follow where the Lord is leading. We are about to celebrate the arrival of Jesus into our world and into our life. Let's celebrate that this has happened but is still true today.

May the arrival of Jesus into your life lead you into new beginnings, and may we as a church be ready to follow where he leads

God's Peace,



INTERN

On behalf of Wartburg Theological Seminary, I express our abundant gratitude to you for your partnership with us in the Internship Program. We are so grateful for the opportunities you and Pastor John have afforded Wartburg students to learn, grow, explore, imagine, and live into the fullness of their calls to ordained ministry. Today, we are especially grateful for the generosity, hospitality, and compassion you have extended to Intern Jerome Bell.

Sadly, Jerome is dealing with unexpected illness. This has impacted both him and you. Pastor John and I gathered on October 26, 2022, with Jerome, council president Vicky, and internship committee chairperson Jeff. Grounded in prayer and mutual respect, we discerned together that Jerome's internship with you needs to end at this time. This will allow Jerome time and space to focus solely on his health and will allow you and Pastor John to make clear plans for moving forward. Therefore, Jerome Bell's internship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mount Horeb is ended effective October 26, 2022. Jerome has been compensated fairly for his time with the congregation and no additional compensation will be given.

These placements begin with great expectations, and I understand it is a cause for grief when they do not conclude as we had anticipated or hoped. In the midst of this grief, please know that your compassion for Jerome and your prayers on his behalf have clarified his sense of call and lifted him toward healing. You have given him a tremendous gift that will not be forgotten. Thank you.

Again, we are so grateful for your willingness to serve in this way and for the energy and hope with which you entered this partnership with Jerome and with Wartburg. I'm holding you in prayer as you gather for your annual meeting, praying for the Holy Spirit to provide all that you need as you move into the future with hope. We give thanks to God for you and pray that our partnership in raising up leaders for the church will continue in years to come.

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. –Philippians 1:6, NRSV

The peace of Christ be with you.



TREASURER'S REPORT

ELC Mount Horeb Treasurer's Report – October 2022

Cash Balances for ELC Mount Horeb Funds (\$)				
	General	Bldg. Maint	Mortgage	Designated
10/31/22	14,981	24,265	6,181	117,502
12/31/21	64,591	24,391	13,790	61,908
10/31/21	41,125	25,193	17,358	64,768

General Fund Activity (\$)					
	Oct 2022	Oct 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD Budget
Income	22,042	23,517	270,945	247,209	318,670
Expense	36,712	29,618	320,357	273,829	316,337
Net	(14,670)	(6,101)	(49,412)	(26,620)	2,333

Year-to-date General Fund income (44 Sundays) is 10% more than prior year (44 Sundays) and includes \$12,446 of special gifts for Lutheran World Relief; YTD income is 15% less than budget. YTD expenses are 17% more than prior year, primarily due to \$10,396 Lutheran World Relief payments, a \$3,295 World Hunger payment for gifts received last December, increased staff hours/pay rates, synod assembly fees, pastoral ministry, worship costs, building maint., office equipment, electricity cost, and higher natural gas rates; YTD expenses are 1% more than budget, primarily due to the net effect of higher Lutheran World Relief, World Hunger, worship, natural gas, snow removal, and building costs, partially offset by savings in staff hours, intern costs, and various congregational life expenses.

Building "Maintenance" (Capital) Fund Activity (\$)					
	Oct 2022	Oct 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD Budget
Income	480	835	9,309	10,959	11,530
Expense	0	1,275	9,435	58,376	11,530
Net	480	(440)	(126)	(47,417)	0

Year-to-date Building Maintenance Fund income is 15% less than prior year and 19% less than budget. YTD expenses are for repairing the

dishwasher, kitchen plumbing, ceiling/wall damage caused by a leak in the kitchen, and stone columns, while prior year expenses were for new eaves troughs and gutters, roof/wall repair, tree/landscape services, stone/retaining wall repairs, and chapel LED replacement bulbs.

TREASURER’S REPORT Cont.

Mortgage Repayment Fund Activity (\$) [Loan Balance is \$48,801]					
	Oct 2022	Oct 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD Budget
Income	6,088	4,625	33,756	32,123	36,300
Expense	3,630	3,630	41,385	41,300	36,300
Net	2,458	995	(7,629)	(9,177)	0

Year-to-date Mortgage Repayment Fund income is 5% more than prior year and 7% less than budget. YTD payments are equal to prior year and \$5,000 more than budget due to paying additional principal in March 2022. YTD 2022 expense includes \$2,878 in interest (5% APR). The final mortgage payment is due January 15, 2024.

Respectfully submitted by Stephen J. Hall, CPA, ELCMH Treasurer,
November 21, 2022.

AGAPE

Christmas Blessings from Agape,

Welcome winter! The preschool is busy with the anticipation and excitement that always takes over during this month. The energy and spirit brought into the building by each child creates a magical feeling for everyone.

Ms. Wendy will be teaching winter, Christmas, and other songs from a variety of cultures for the holiday season. There will be special lessons about the upcoming birth of baby Jesus in our 3K classes. All the classes will learn about holiday customs and traditions experienced throughout the world including baking cookies (real & pretend) with all sorts of wonderful scents and smells. Yummy!

All of us at ACP wish you peace, comfort, and joy for 2023.

Merry Christmas,

**Amy Kellesvig
Director**

Upcoming dates:

Dec 23 – Jan 2	Preschool closed for Winter Break
January 3	4K classes resume, 3K classes resume (red & orange)
January 5	3K classes resume (yellow)
January 6	Toddler Time Resumes
January 20	No school – No 3K or 4K Classes (end of first semester)

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS.

SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:15 - 11 am (3 years old - 8th grade) - Join us for Bible stories, music, games, and snacks. We begin weekly in the chapel. Next Service Day is December 18th. No Sunday School on December 25 & Jan 1st, 2023. We will resume on Jan 8th.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - Dec 18th, 9:00 am
Join our Sunday School youth as they present *“Not Sold in Stores”*. We will discover all the awesome things about Christmas that we can't buy. (A little hint: four of God's greatest gifts to us: Peace, Joy, Giving, and Love.)

7th & 8th GRADE CONFIRMATION- Our 7th & 8th graders meet each Wednesday, (7 - 8:30 pm). No Confirmation on Dec 21st & 28th for Christmas. Merry Christmas. We will resume on Jan 4th, 7 pm.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT/GAMES & CRAFTS AT ELC -

Dec 9th, 4:45 pm -8:30 pm at ELC: Our experienced high school youth will be offering a night of Holiday fun, games, crafts, and treats for youth ages 3 years through 5th grade at ELC. Great opportunity to get some time to shop or have time without the kids peeking around for their gifts. Caring for your children at ELC, will help our passion to help an organization, Urban Reach-STL. They serve children in a very poor neighborhood in St Louis.

HOLIDAY PARENT'S NIGHT OUT/
GAMES AT ELC - DEC 9th



Donation: \$10 per child and \$5 for additional children (family rate). Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend. Sign up with the link or QR code.

<https://forms.gle/d8xHwtwtMBzLCoCi8>

FUSE NIGHT - 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on Sunday evening, December 11 at 7 pm. Fun activities (games & treats) to celebrate Christmas with friends.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS cont.

YOUTH SUMMER TRIP MEETING 2023 - Dec 7th, 6:30 pm - High school youth and their parents are invited to join us for a brief discussion to figure out plans for a youth trip next summer in 2023. Where should we go? Help us decide. We need your input and ideas.

YOUTH FUNDRAISING:

CRAFTS BY NICK - Nick's Crafts will be available for purchase and during the Farmer's indoor Market in December. There are many decorative items or gifts for Christmas. Thank you to Nick for donating to our youth opportunities.

CHRISTMAS CD'S - Time to get ready for Christmas with two Christmas CD's that were created by The Cambridge Road Ensemble (Paul & Ruth Heinecke). Thank you to Paul & Ruth for donating their CD's to the youth. Each CD sells for \$5.00 each. (Lots of music for \$10) Great stocking stuffer idea! CD's will be available after worship in December. Another opportunity to support our youth!

BAKE SALE: Our ELC youth will be hosting a Bake Sale on December 18th, after worship. Come and pick up some Christmas goodies to share! If you are interested in baking some goodies for our bake sale, please contact Brenda. We appreciate your support of our youth.

CULVERS SHARE DAY: SAVE THE DATE - JAN 16th - Stop by Culvers and help our ELC/Immanuel Youth earn money for their transportation fund to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2024.

Blessings & Peace,
Brenda Martin, Youth Ministries Director
brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org

BENEVOLENCE

We're all just one mistake away from jail

"Remember those in prison, as though you were in prison with them."
— Hebrews 13:3

When I was a kid, my dad made a point of emphasizing that everyone is only one mistake away from going to jail. It seemed like a harsh or overly dramatic lesson at the time. In retrospect, his intent was to hammer home the point that regardless of your social status and the accompanying advantages, we're all fallible and subject to paying the price for our actions.

I got the gist of the message, but I don't know that the full weight of that observation ever truly sank in until I had a chance to speak at length with the Rev. Todd Marcotte in summer of 2019 down at the Dane County Jail. That's where Chaplain Todd provides a "ministry of presence" to the hundreds of inmates and dozens of sheriff's deputies through the Madison Area Jail Ministry.

He reminded me that a majority of the men and women who find themselves behind bars at the jail didn't see this coming. They're at a low point in their lives, a time of personal disappointment and often embarrassment. A time when they contemplate what went wrong, and how they'll bounce back.

Further, according to Chaplain Todd, it's common that folks who are cycling through the system on a regular basis hit that breaking point as well – a moment of opportunity for someone who cares about their well-being to point them in a different direction and provide them a sense of hope that they've lacked.

For more than 50 years, the Jail Ministry has been there for people in these precarious situations, providing counsel for those who are incarcerated and those who are responsible for both guarding them and protecting them.

MAJM provides pastoral care through the work of chaplains (including Todd and Joyce Guimond, the Women's Pastor at City Church), volunteer chaplains, and ministry volunteers. Chaplain Todd leads a team of over 30 dedicated volunteers who understand that incarceration often results from ongoing self-destructive habits, mindsets, and behaviors. As such,

BENEVOLENCE cont.

the team encourages and aids men and women in their efforts to access support through counseling, Bible studies, support groups and literacy training, and provides resources for alcohol and drug abuse recovery, education, and employment.

This Christmas season, please remember those in prison as though you were in their place. Please consider a contribution – of your time, talents or money – to Benevolence to support this worthy organization.

You can donate financially by:

- **Mail:** Send a check to ELC and note "Benevolence" in the memo
- **Online:** Visit the ELC website and click "Give"
- **Digitally:** Download the "GivePlus Church" mobile app, or text "Benevolence" to 608-400-0183 with the amount you wish to give.

There are ways to help MAJM beyond financial donations. To learn more or to get involved, visit madisonjailministry.org, call (608) 261-9755 or email info@madisonjailministry.org.

Prayer: Partners who pledge to pray every day for the men and women who find themselves facing incarceration, the jail staff, and your MAJM ministry team.

Participation: Beyond jail visitation, you can help by coordinating book drives, facilitating discussions on social justice, writing organizations to request free ministry materials, winter coat drives, and writing out Christmas cards.

Promotion: Tell the MAJM story through temple talks; articles in the congregational newsletter or bulletin; hosting a special book club discussion, adult education forum, or fundraiser.

On behalf of Benevolence,

**Adam Mertz
adammertz2@gmail.com**

BENEVOLENCE cont.

2022 CONTRIBUTIONS

January: Divine Savior - \$935

February: Compassion International - \$985

March: ELC Youth Programming - \$1,070

April: Reconciliation in Christ - \$1,130

May: Lutheran Immigration & Relief Services - \$1175

June: Mount Horeb Senior Center - \$675

July: Literacy Network & Domestic Abuse Intervention Services-\$725

August: Lutheran Campus Ministry - \$835

September: SABA International - \$1110.00

October: Divine Savior - Hurricane Relief - \$2469.82

November: Accessible local health care through Our Lady of Hope in Madison and Community Connections Free Clinic in Dodgeville TBD

December: Madison Area Jail Ministry

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Praise Team

We are currently accepting applications for Praise Team Leader. She or he is responsible for directing the Praise Team. This includes leading the Praise Team, selecting music, coordinating and cooperating with staff and members of the Praise Team, and able to identify and recommend changes as needed.

The Praise Team currently rehearses on Sundays at 8:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. All those interested, please submit your resume to the Personnel Committee. Applications close December 10.

SOCIAL ACTION

ABOUT LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF part three

At Lutheran World Relief, we envision a future where all people, in every corner of the world can live full, dignified lives.

Lutheran World Relief Quilts

Often, when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents, or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

LWR distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following the Second World War. Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe to villages far removed from the world's attention. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year.

LWR Mission Quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. Your careful adherence to our quilt-making guidelines will ensure that every quilt is useful, consistent and fair.

Source: lwr.org

Here at ELC, a dedicated group meets every Thursday to work at quilt making. Each quilt needs a strong back (a gently used sheet or other

sturdy material), a warm filling (cotton blankets that have begun to show signs of wear or purchased quilt batting), and a top. The three layers are stacked and then tied together. Finally, the hem is sewn to finish each quilt. YOUR DONATIONS of old sheets and blankets and other yard goods are the mainstay of our supplies. New workers are welcome and we provide on the job training.

COUNCIL NEWS

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM YOUR COUNCIL

First, a big thank you to all who attended the annual meeting on November 13. Thanks also to Diane Bartz and Katie Zelle for their past service on the Church Council, and thank you to Steve Hall for his service as our treasurer for the past 6 years.

As we head into 2023 we hope to invigorate and renew the body of our Church – you the people. Pastor John has from time to time mentioned that he is asked when we are going to get back to the way things were. His response to that question is so very true and thought provoking. “It’s not going to be the same,” but it’s up to us to make it better than before. We need your ideas, energy, and commitment to move forward into 2023 with renewed enthusiasm and vigor. Every person reading this has talents and skills that are useful and needed for your Church. Ushers, funeral help, readers, youth activities, acolytes, greeters, technological skills are just a few examples.

There are numerous opportunities for you to become a more active member of this congregation. Many of our Church Ministries became dormant due to Covid, and it’s time to re-energize and revitalize these groups. Maybe some need to be revamped or combined. Perhaps there are new ministries no one has thought of yet. Perhaps the chairperson is tired and needs some assistance from you. A list with contact information for the various ministries and opportunities will soon be available on the tables in the entry way. There will be a new time and talent survey in the near future, but you don’t need to wait for that. You can contact any of the leaders of these groups or anyone on Council and ask how you can help. Active participation makes faith come alive. Gathering together and sharing both old and new ideas is vital to keep our congregation vibrant and growing together in faith, yet rooted in our history.

Pastor John said something else a couple of Sundays ago after the Praise Team and the choir finished singing. "It is easy to take for granted just how fortunate we are here at ELC!" Once again, he is so right! Talent abounds, and if we each bring our own strengths to the table, we are going to be stronger than we've ever been before. Perhaps even more importantly, bringing our weaknesses to Christ may lead to profound discovery and new strength to spread his Word in new and ever-changing ways.

May each of you have a meaningful and special Christmas, and let's all try to help someone who is struggling to reach that peace which we all long for through this beautiful season and throughout the year.

**Sincerely,
Vicky Rosenbaum
Council President**

COUNCIL NEWS cont.

KNOW YOUR COUNCIL Email

**President - Vicky Rosenbaum
jvrosen@tds.net**

**Vice President - Carl Sieg
carlsieg1@gmail.com**

**Treasurer - Ben Brothers
ben.brothers@gmail.com**

**Secretary - Amy Sinner
amylsinner@gmail.com**

**John Coffin
jcoffin@mhtc.net**

**Jan Ekenberg
janek825@gmail.com**

**Alie Grundahl (youth)
alieoakley@icloud.com**

**Shannon Hadac
shannonhadac@gmail.com**

**Sean LaBorde
slaborde@tds.net**

LIAISON MINISTRY

Mutual Ministry

Children & Youth

Technology

Social Action

Spiritual Growth

Personnel

Stewardship

Andy Mullendore
mullendore@live.com

Property

Becky Strube
rebeccastrube@gmail.com

Worship & Music

Serena Vondra
serenachristina@gmail.com

Agape

Barb Underwood
underwod@mhtc.net

Inreach/Outreach

Each council member is assigned to a particular ministry serving as a liaison for the group to communicate with Church Council. You may reach out to any member with questions or concerns. Meetings are held in the Matthew Room the second Monday of each month beginning in January at 7:00 p.m. The December 2022 meeting will be on the third Monday.

PROPERTY

DID YOU KNOW.....

ELC has a process where you can "borrow" items for your personal use?

Tables and chairs, kitchen items, etc. Unfortunately, we've not been good stewards of maintaining who has which items and when and if they've been returned.

A recent cleaning out of the basement revealed that many of the pictured tables and chairs are missing. If there's a chance these are still in your possession, please return them asap!

Going forward we will be more diligent in following the sign out and return process. We'd like to continue loaning out the churches items but in order to do so we'll need to be sure they are returned.

Sincere thanks for taking care of getting these items back to us!



BASEMENT CLEANOUT

The past couple of weeks tremendous effort has resulted in two truckloads of miscellaneous items being removed from the basement/mechanical room.

To assure this won't happen again, a process will be established to monitor and approve any request to store anything in that space. In the meantime, please do not place anything in these areas until the process is complete.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Property Committee

INREACH/ OUTREACH

We are beginning to resume our greeter schedule. If you were a greeter in the past and wish to be taken off the list, or if you would like to become a greeter, e-mail Bonny Kellogg @ bonbonvon26@yahoo.com.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 13, in Fellowship Hall to sign Outreach Christmas cards. We'll go from there to North and South in Verona for lunch.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet for an Advent evening visit at the home of hostess Chris Coffin on Monday December 5th at 6:30 pm. We will be deciding where to send our mission money that night. Bring an appetizer/snack to share and don't be afraid to stop by later if 6:30 doesn't work for you. You can contact Connie Curran (curranconnie@hotmail.com) with any inquiries concerning Sarah Circle."

BABY CAP/EYEGLASS CASE MAKERS December is a busy month so Baby Cap/Eyeglass Case makers will only meet Tuesday, Dec. 6, 9:30-11 in the Faith Room. Please drop off completed caps and cases in the Faith Room basket by then so a year-end delivery can be made to Unity Point Meriter. Contact ruthheinecke@gmail.com if you'd like completed items picked up.

THE SEWING GROUP is beginning its new year of quilt production. We meet every Thursday morning from 9:00 a.m. to Noon in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to see how those beautiful quilts are made, please stop by. We'll be happy to show you how it's done. We also invite anyone interested in joining our group for the fun of fellowship and working on this stewardship project. All equipment and supplies are provided so come as you are.

MEN'S BREAKFAST/BIBLE STUDY 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 am on Zoom. Contact Pastor John for the link.

ELC COFFEE TIME Wednesdays at 10am in Fellowship Hall. A great time to connect with our church family



A Community Christmas Celebration



Sunday, December 11th

5:00 p.m. Concert and Carol Sing

6:00 p.m. Chili Supper

A benefit for Neighbors Helping Neighbors of Mt. Horeb Free will offering.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

We need your help at the Community Clothes Closet!

The Clothes Closet, here in Mt. Horeb, provides clothing and bedding for people in need. Members of our congregation will be staffing the Community Clothes Closet through the month of January. We need help on open days and closed days of the facility. It's a fun way to meet people and we welcome new volunteers. Most shifts are two hours but feel free to work as much time as you can. Watch for a sign-up sheet!

Could you help at the CCC one time in January?

*****In addition to January we need to cover December 19th &-31st *****

Please check the ELC website for a signup sheet.

ELC Representative needed for Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Do you have an interest in helping those in need in our community?

Our congregation is part of Neighbors Helping Neighbors, which encompasses the Clothes Closet, Food Pantry, and other support for those in need.

Our representative attends board meetings for the organization and serves to keep the congregation informed and involved with this important ministry. If you are interested in being our representative, contact the church office.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO TAKE HOME A PIECE OF ELC HISTORY!

In the Narthex are old hymnals that are free for the taking: our previous green ones, the red ones before THAT, and Sunday School songbooks. In the library are more green hymnals that are labelled with the names of those they were given in memory of.

Take as many as you wish. They will be available through New Year's Day.

Are you interested in Bible Camp ministry?

Our congregation is part of the membership of both Sugar Creek and Lutherdale Bible Camps. We are in need of representatives to both of these ministries, including attending the annual meeting as functioning as an advocate for these ministries in our congregation.

If you are interested in being our representative, contact the church office.



HOURS
MONDAY-THURSDAY 9AM – NOON
and 1PM-4PM
FRIDAYS 9AM-NOON

The Church Office will be closed December 23rd – 27th

STEEPLE ECHOES ARTICLES DUE BY Wednesday December 21st

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED on Wednesday, December 28th to assemble the January newsletter. *Newcomers are welcome.* The assembly process usually takes about 2 hours. Please, come and enjoy the fellowship

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Ken Rabideau (Helen Ladwig's Brother in Law), Jerome Bell, Beth Wright (Kate Hook's sister) Nick O'Connell, Paul Kerscher (Amy Thompson's Dad), Donald Strube (Pete's Dad), Steve Mueller, Joyce Fargo, Alycen McKinney, Harold "Chick" Gullickson (Brother of Mary Krantz), Cara Mavis, Amy Hall, Rollie & Joan Schraepfer (Rita Schraepfer-Derke's Brother & Sister in Law), Todd Collins, Norm Hefty, Lincoln Kuhn, Brooklynn Kreul, Mary Jane Ellis (friend of Bonny Kellogg), Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson, Irene Bruflat, Grace Aavang, Carol Johnson

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

In Loving Memory Of:

Vern Drape

By:

Bridgett & Tim Killinger

Janet Ekenberg

David & Ann Baumgartner

Jody Morey
Betsy Baghun
Norm & Rita Hefty
Helen Kahl
LeRoy Collins
Donna Miller
Wayne & Mary Knudson
Cathy Scott
Diane Dreger
Linda Stoenner
Karen & John Freeman
Paul & Ruth Heinecke
Melba Rick
Richard & Carol Engstadt
john & Vicky Rosenbaum
William & Judy Saeman
Robert & Susan Grinde

Vern Drape cont.

Linda Wahlgren
Dennis & Mary Lokken
Craig Kittleson
Rita Schraepfer-Derke
Kendall & Sara Kittleson
Mark & Becky Mostrom
Diane & Steve Mueller
Irv & Judy Steinhauer
Char Smith
Barb Bartz
Louise Arkin
Bonny Kellogg
Gordy & Margie Kahl
Julie & Jerome Landmark
Joe & Kay Tisserand
Carol Losenegger
Kathy O'Donnell
Ivan & Mary Hoffland
Paul & Dawn Kellesvig
Kathy Conrad
David & Kerstin Edwards
Jay & Debra Schneider
Michael & Ann Albert

*Victoria & Steven
Haroldson
Jo Ann Six
Warren & Diane Snyder
Wilma Ingersoll
Jane Kraft
Mary Curtiss
Stephen & Theresa
Cummings
Bridgett & Tim Killinger*

Dorothy Bergum

*Dennis & Phyllis Disch
Cliff & Pat Schrepp
Ellen Cook
Dennis & Julie Garfoot
Irv & Judy Steinhauer
Mary Stamm
Ron & Bonny Kellogg
Chad & Lynn Kitsemble*

Dorothy Bergum Cont.

*Terri & Luke Williams
Char Smith
David Jeglum
Carol Losenegger
Helen Kahl
Rickie & Judy Anderson
Alfred & Patricia Wilson-
Aslakson
Delma Larson
Mark & Becky Mostrom
Bernhard & Linda
Magnuson
Vicki Olsen Spellman &
Gene Spellman
Gordy & Margie Kahl
Chery Sevingen
Lori Havey
Dan & Jenny Hefty
Ann Bilsie
Gary McKenzie
Bill & Dolores Crowley*

*Diane Bartz
Chris & Sandy Hook
Dane & Rosie Losenegger
Larry & Jamie Losenegger
Barb Endres
Lee & Cheryl Ackley
Jim & Audrey Rue
Steve & Jane Frame
Gayle & Jack Scheidegger
Dave & Faye Lorenz
Wanda Phillips
Steve & Jeanette Gerke
Kelli Kruser
Joann Six
Michelle Dunn
Rodney & Jan Latham
Anonymous*

Andrew Munthe

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Poinsettia Hunger Fund Gifts

ELC will be receiving memorial and honoring donations through Sunday, December 18. After purchasing poinsettias to adorn the altar, the remainder of the donations will go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Memorials will be published in the Christmas bulletins.



Please fill in the form and leave it in the church office, in the offering plate, or mail it to ELC with your monetary donations. Make checks payable to ELC.

This gift is ___ in memory OR ___ in honor of:

(Please check one of the above blanks)

Given by _____

Envelope # _____

Amount \$ _____

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM ON OR BEFORE SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 18.**



1 Klaetsch	Addison	14 Kahl	Hudson	22 High	Lucas
	Todd Nesheim		Blake Turk	23 Anderson	John
	Lindsey Steinl	15 Kruyne	John		Caroline Boettcher
4 Huseth	Dan		Evan Stange		Bob Faliveno
	Jarod Okeson	16 Eggers	Michael		Dawn Haag
	Kris Sveum		Jim Ekenberg		Lindsey LaBorde
5 Doty	Steven		Steven Helwig		Madlyn LaBorde
	Carol Johnson		Kate Hook		Lincoln Pokallus

	Susan Kaletka	Weston Kahl	24 Brooke Anderson
	Pete Walton	Josephine Sailor	Brenda Fritz
		Xander Strube	Edna Williams
6 Kellesvig	Dawn	17 Barb Iverson	25 Siri Amundsen
7 Meister	Jillian	Jeffrey Kahl	Ella Kahl
10 Allen	Dan	Grace Rollins	Steve Stensby
	Amanda Baum	Becky Stube	Holly Thompson
	Jerilyn Faltz	Jeannie U'Ren	26 Bonny Kellogg
	Sam Farrell	Emilie Van Galen	27 Karen Bunke
	Joseph Scudder	18 Deb Segebrecht	Jeff Paske
	Aiden Scudder	Rachel Smith	29 Brian Johnson
	Jane Topper	Willy Watson	Sharon Hendrickson
		19 Chris Coffin	Nicholas O'Connell
11 Baum	Staci	Garrett Klassy	Samantha Olson
	Dennis Dreger	Jordan Sadowski	Amy Thompson
	Connor Heiting	20 Erik Berg	30 Brett Farnsworth
	Anita Laabs	Craig Kittleson	Anna Ollendick
	Anna Landen	21 Hunter Stamm	Olivia Schrank
	Nathan Zelle	Cole Stamm	Gary Topper
13 Lokken	Mary	Olivia Turk	31 Gwen Olson
	Nancy McKinney		

If we've missed you or a member of your family, or if we've listed your birthday incorrectly, please contact the church office.

Puzzle!

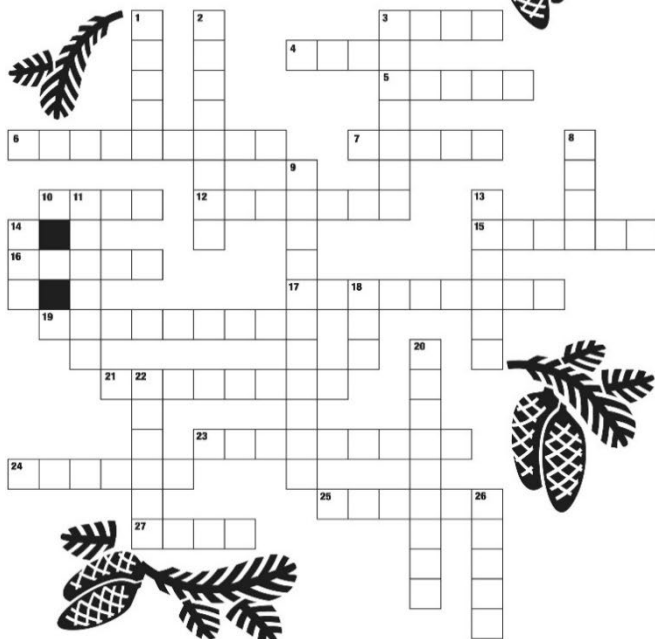
Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

DOWN

1. song
2. keeper of sheep
3. Anointed One
8. a gift of the magi
9. red plants
11. coming
13. Jesus _____
14. 12th month (abbrev.)
18. B&B
20. a form of holly
22. heavenly messengers
26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

ACROSS

3. wise men
4. author of the most famous Christmas account
5. red-suited gift-giver
6. of Ephrathah
7. presents
10. Gabriel came to her
12. has a red nose
15. "Messiah" composer
16. northern little helpers
17. patron saint of children
19. made flesh
21. home for Mary
23. tree decorations
24. crib
25. he was a carpenter
27. a nova



Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod, ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnate, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star