

The Messenger

DECEMBER 2020



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NEWS FROM SON-SHINE CHILD CARE CENTER

Son-Shine Employee Spotlight:

Melinda Moyer has been with us for 2 and 1/2 years. She has had several different roles including teacher, head teacher, assistant director, and currently serves as the Director of our center. Melinda does an excellent job, making sure our kids are well cared for and things run smoothly. When she's not at Son-Shine, she enjoys spending time with her husband, Jason and children, John and Maddy.



Kids' Corner Update:

Our classrooms just finished talking about Veterans Day. Our teachers had lots of great patriotic art projects for our kids to do. Here's a look at what our toddlers were up to...



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cass County Food Pantry Distribution

Saturday, December 19, 2020, 9:00–11:00 a.m.
Elmwood Community Center

Elmwood Community Center

The Center is open for noon meals OR the weekday lunches can be delivered upon request or can be picked up at the Center. Call 402-994-2145 to make a request for lunch on weekdays.

UMW CORNER

Elmwood UMW

Elmwood UMW's will not meet in December. More details about next year's meetings will be advised at a later date.

Murdock UMW

We will meet again on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. We will not be having the usual meal before the meeting.

December Mission Opportunities!

This year has certainly been challenging as our Son-Shine families continue to navigate through this ongoing pandemic. Families in our community have been negatively impacted in so many ways. The Son-Shine Board of Directors would like to invite you to contribute to our Childcare Assistance Fund, which will be wholly and equitably distributed to our Son-Shine families' childcare bills who have been impacted by COVID and are struggling financially. All donations and gift recipients will remain anonymous. You can make a contribution by: online at <https://elmwoodmurdockumc.com>; select the donate button under Elmwood. Be sure add a note designating your gift to the "Childcare Assistance Fund" OR drop off check or cash or mail check to 400 W. G Street Elmwood, NE 68349 "Attn: Childcare Assistance Fund". We hope you will consider a gift to support our Son-Shine Families, neighbors, and local community members.

In addition to the above mission project, we will be collecting gloves, mitten, scarves, etc. for LuLu's Restaurant, which is a non-profit organization in Lincoln, feeding the community one meal at a time, committed to providing a meal to everyone who is hungry. They also offer necessary items to the people who come in and are in need of such items. So, you have two mission opportunities during the month of December.



December Birthdays-Elmwood



Clayton Miller – December 2
Karen Howard – December 2
John Stephens – December 3
Carolyn Oehlerking – December 5
Gerry Wilhelm – December 6
Patricia Brennan – December 6
Donna Amberly – December 8
Nicholas Brewer – December 8

Ben Spaulding – December 10
Jessie Spaulding – December 10
Dalton Wheeler – December 10
Keith Bornemeier – December 13
Rex Clements – December 15
Scott Rorie – December 17
Deb Lenz – December 18
Wayne Stubbendeck – December 19

Harvey Bornemeier – December 19
Dana Kollars – December 23
James Stubbendick – December 24
Gary Bornemeier – December 26
Jake Cox – December 26
Angelo Leone – December 28
Conner Clements – December 28
Thomas Lenz – December 30
Joel Clements – December 31



December Birthdays-Murdock



Emily Zakaras – December 1
Winona Henk – December 2
Ella Zierott – December 3
Emerson Chesnut – December 5
Jane Leadabrand – December 6
Susan Bober – December 7

Asha Murdoch – December 15
Thad Bornemeier – December 16
Ramona Oehlerking – December 21
Haddie Zierott – December 22
Jeff Backemeyer – December 24
Harvey Mills – December 24

Cindy Mills – December 25
Tim Schmitt – December 26
Steve Cawley – December 27
Whitney Koehn – December 27
Tara Bornemeier – December 28
Melissa Meyer – December 28
Cheryl Patterson – December 29

PASTOR'S PEN



Greetings!

We have made it through the end of the year. In some ways it is hard to believe that it is already December and yet in the same breath I say, "We made it!" For the church December often marks the beginning of a new year. Advent and the birth of Christ is the start of a new year for the church and for us. This week in one of my clergy groups, someone asked how to remember which order we celebrate the candles of Advent. Then someone responded "We hope for the love of God to fill our lives with joy and peace." This statement spoke so true to me especially this year. I think this year has shown us that it is exactly what we need to do. We are supposed to live in hope. A year where hope could easily be lost, we remember that our hope cannot be in humans but in the love of God. And when we have hope in the love of God, we will also find peace and joy.

Tis the season of Christmas letters and cards, where we see the pictures of what our friends and family have been up to this year. I assume like all other things this year, the letters will look different than they have in the past. Possibly not the great tales of the adventures of places my friends have traveled to this year but more likely a snapshot of sheltering in place and schooling from home. A year where we all remember how thankful we are for teachers for trying to teach our children math skills that we have long forgotten how to do. A year where we mourn the life that we had taken for granted where we could see our family and friends anytime we wanted to, or eat out at a restaurant or go to a concert or sporting event whenever we wanted to. A year where we realized that the simple things like hugging each other is something that even the biggest introvert misses. A year of unexpected events, things and happenings. Without a doubt the letters will be interesting this year.

And so, we enter Advent; we prepare for the birth of Christ. A season that is often filled with gatherings and celebrations but will without a doubt look different this year. This year where we aren't gathering in person for all of our celebrations, where we continue to physically distance ourselves from our families with the hope that we will get to gather again soon. All this while thinking about the very first Christmas. The day that a little baby was born with just his parents present. A baby that would change the world forever. A baby that came from humble means and was born so that all could feel the love of God and find peace and joy. Perhaps this year is affording us the opportunity to put ourselves in the shoes of Mary and Joseph, to think about what it would be like to be in a situation that would not be socially acceptable. To be a young teenager that is pregnant but not married. To be a man who finds out the woman he is to marry is pregnant and not with your child. To have to wrap your mind around the fact that the child you are going to raise is the Son of God. Perhaps this year where we are not able to run ourselves ragged with all the parties means we take a real moment to remember the reason for this season. That it is not a corporate holiday but rather the day we celebrate a baby being born. Mary and Joseph were in a space that was uncertain, a land that was not their home, doing what was commanded to them by the government. While all that was happening Luke chapter 2 says "6While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

Life changed forever. I pray that in this season you find hope in the love of God that will bring you peace and joy.

Until next time,
Pastor Michelle Chesnut

*CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE
WILL BE CELEBRATED ONLY BY A VIRTUAL
BROADCAST VIA FACEBOOK LIVE AT 6:30 P.M.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
WATCH AT A DIFFERENT TIME, IT WILL BE
AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK, IN ADDITION, A DVD OF
THE SERVICE CAN BE OBTAINED UPON REQUEST.*

**The family of Olga Jo Livers acknowledges
with deep appreciation your kind
expressions of sympathy. Thank you for
your prayers, thoughts, and memories of
Mom.
Debby, Dave and Karen**



THE 3B HOMESTEAD OF MURDOCK, NE
PRESENTS

The Living Nativity

A DRIVE-THROUGH EXPERIENCE

See real stable animals as you drive through the 3B Homestead in this non-traditional, family-friendly presentation of the Nativity Story.

Listen as the Luke Chapter 2 Christmas Story is told through a podcast at each station (English and Spanish versions available).

**Open from 10 am to 4 pm on the following weekends:
November 27-29th, December 4-6th, 11-13th, and 18-20th,
Christmas Eve Day (Dec. 24th) and Christmas Day (Dec. 25th)**

This is a free event; donations graciously accepted to help defray the costs of this COVID-safe Christmas experience.

THANK YOU NOTES FROM SCHOOL CHILDREN FOR THEIR SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Thank you for the book!
From: JUNE

Thank you for the book.
GUY

DEAR ST. PAUL UMC
AND BR. ANDERSON
I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE
NEW BOOK. THANK YOU
SO MUCH FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY.
SINCERELY,
GRAE KRAEGER



Dear Methodist church,
Thank you for donating money to buy books for our class. We really appreciate and enjoy our books! They help us reach our AR Goal. Thank you for your kindness!
Thank you for all you do,
Miss Nutzman's class 4th grade

Gianna Mi Moya
makte

Thank the zejekiah Xdrian

Xader

Eva Jesu

Jesuriel

Books cost
bought from your school
to get a part of you
but for a very beautiful for
the beautiful things you do

Thank you so
much for some book
money! We love
our new books!
I am happy

Thank you for
The
EXPERIENCE

THANK YOU FOR
FOR
ENJOY READING IT.
DENT.

TO MY FAVORITE
THANK YOU FOR MY
NEW BOOK. I LOVE IT.
YOU WOULD ME READ IT.
-RUE EAT



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THE BOOKS.

FROM BRECKEN

December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30pm UMW - M	3	4 The Living 10am-4pm Farm and	5 Nativity Buell's Sunday 6th
6 9:00am Sunday School – E 10:00am Worship Service - E	7	8 7:00pm Church Council – M	9	10	11 The Living 10am-4pm Farm and	12 Nativity Buell's Sunday 13th
13 9:00am Sunday School – E 10:00am Worship Service - E	14	15 7:00pm Church Council - E	16	17	18 The Living 10am-4pm Farm and	19 Nativity Buell's Sunday 20 th 9-11:00am Food Pantry Distribution
20 No Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - E	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> The Living 10am-4pm Buell's Farm 6:30pm Virtual Christmas Eve Service via Facebook	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> The Living 10am-4pm Buell's Farm	26
27 No Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - E	28	29	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>		

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Address Service Requested

