



## Every Heart Prepare

Have you started decorating for Christmas yet? Driving around Great Falls at night, there are plenty of houses with lights up outside. Quite a few houses have yard decorations, and you can find plenty of outdoor Nativity Scenes around town. Christmas trees glow from within houses. By the end of the week of Thanksgiving, Trinity will be adorned with trees and garland, chrismons and creches. Soon, our altar and chancel will be covered in poinsettias.

But we are not quite to Christmas just yet. We haven't even begun the Season of Advent, which this year begins on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. Advent is a season of preparation in the Church as we await the coming of our Savior. During the four weeks before Christmas, we wait for our Lord's arrival. We wait for His coming as a Baby in Bethlehem, and we anticipate His coming on the Last Day when He will come as our Judge and our Lord. We spend these weeks in preparation, as we eagerly anticipate the joy that He has promised us when He returns again in glory to bring us to everlasting life. Then, on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we celebrate the birth of our Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

During this Advent Season, we will gather on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 for Advent Midweek Services. As part of our Advent preparations, we will reflect upon three common Christmas decorations and how they help us see Christ and prepare for His coming: evergreens, lights, and the creche. Then on Christmas we will focus on the decorated presents which point us to the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ.

On Wednesdays, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, we will begin downstairs in the Fellowship Hall with a Soup Supper at 6:00pm, followed by the service at 7:00pm. Join us as we prepare our hearts for the Coming of our Lord!

*Pastor Jonathan Schultz*

Our **Sunday School Christmas program** will be during the church service on **December 14<sup>th</sup>** this year. We will be practicing during the Sunday School hour (8:30-9:30) on November 30<sup>th</sup>, December 7<sup>th</sup> and December 14<sup>th</sup>. We would love to have all of our church children come and participate - open to ages 3 and up. Please see Amy for more information.



What do those candles on the Advent Wreath mean? **Come make an Advent Wreath on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>** and find out! All Sunday School kids and their families are welcome to come decorate a family wreath to take home. We are also inviting our Wee Disciples families to come and join us. We will provide sample family devotions, and snacks to enjoy while doing the craft. **This come-and-go activity will run from 4:00-5:30pm**, so you can be done in time for our first Advent soup supper at 6:00pm. *Already have a wreath?* We will have extra candles available after church on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Amy at 970-480-7776.

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## JANUARY LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE

Please have your calendar items and articles into the church office by:

**Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>!!**

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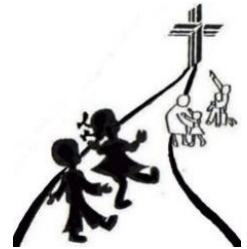
Respect the  
Deadline!



**WEE DISCIPLES**

*"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'" Luke 2:10-12*

*"In a little stable  
Far across the sea  
Was a little Baby  
Just like you and me."*



The children at Wee Disciples are learning about Advent and they are also preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth with their families and friends. Everyone is invited to attend the *Wee Disciples' Family Christmas Chapel* on **Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**. Pastor Schultz will share a Christmas message, and the children will be singing songs and reciting Bible verses throughout the service. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall following the service.

Wee Disciples will be closed on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, and 26<sup>th</sup> and on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Our fundraising efforts continue with the Smith's Rewards Program and with the *Fuddrucker's Burgers for Benefits Night*. Our next Fuddrucker's night is **December 16<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 9:00pm**. You can eat in or take out. Coupons are available on the announcement board by the church office, or you can show them a picture of the coupon on your phone at the time of checkout. Thanks to everyone who has been supporting these fundraising activities!

Board of Early Childhood Education meets on Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

*Have a very Blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year!*



Did you know that Trinity has scholarships available for families of Trinity who have, or would like to have, their children attending Wee Disciples Preschool and Day Care? The application is available on our website ([www.trinity-mt.org](http://www.trinity-mt.org)) or in the church office. **NOTE ~ The congregation is encouraged to contribute to the scholarship fund just as we do the roof repair or any other special fund. There are special envelopes in the back of the Sanctuary to place your donations in.**

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## LWML News

*All ladies of the congregation, including our new members and confirmed young women, are invited and encouraged to attend all LWML happenings here at Trinity.*

*Please contact Sylvia Adams or Amy Schultz for more information.*



## **Advent Brunch Saturday, December 13 10:00 am Trinity Lutheran Church Great Falls**

**“The Blessings of Christmas – Today”**

**Ingathering: diapers & wipes for Toby’s House**

**Please join us for fellowship and time in God’s Word!**

**Bring a dish to share**

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**Baking for a Cause** - It's time for the **LWML Cookie Walk!** This year we will have cookies available **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>** after church. You can fill up a plate of delicious Christmas delicacies to take to work parties or family gatherings...or take them home to enjoy. We will even wrap your plate for you! Funds raised will be split between Family Promise and our local 2026 LWML Mission Grants. Previous grants have gone to support missionaries, seminarians, chaplains, Trinity Lutheran Camp, and various local organizations. Family Promise is one such organization that helps families experiencing homelessness and provides support through local services and resources. Please join us December 21<sup>st</sup> to raise money that provides for our neighbors' needs - here and across the world. Cookie donations are welcome!

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**Sewing and quilters needed!** Our LWML will be donating a baby quilt on behalf of our congregation at our District Convention in April. We want this to be a group effort and are looking for people to donate fabric, cut squares and even help sew the quilt top together. We are hoping to tie the quilt in February - more info about that to come later. Please contact Sylvia Adams for more details (406) 781-3911.

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Our next **LWML Group Gathering** will be **Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We will finalize our budget - which means we get to vote on which Mission Projects we will support in 2026! What a joyful time it is to make plans to support church workers here and abroad, help our neighbors in need, share Jesus' love with kids at camp and through military chaplains... there are so many possibilities! Ladies - come help us plan for the outreach of the Gospel on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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**Wednesday Ladies Bible study** ~ **Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00am** in the Stahlecker Room. All the ladies of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

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**Men’s Bible Study** meets on **Thursday mornings at 8:30 am** for an hour of fellowship and study of God’s Word. All the men of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

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**The Friday Ladies Bible study** ~ Friday Ladies Bible study continues to be in recess until further notice.

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An old English Christmas carol has these lyrics:

*Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat;  
Please [do] put a penny in the old man's hat.  
If you haven't got a penny, [then] a ha'penny will do.  
If you haven't got a ha'penny, [then] God bless you!*

This carol indicates that some poor people hearing the song do not have even a half penny to give away at Christmas time. Will you be having Christmas presents under your Christmas tree this year? Will there be few or an abundance for each person in your family to receive? Will there be almost an overabundance of gifts? Will there be someone in the family who it is difficult to buy gifts for because they seem to "have everything?" There are people in Great Falls who are like those in the song who don't have a half penny to give the old man. Do you know anyone who is that poor? No? Well, the *Mercy Home* does. The *Food Bank* does. *Helping Hands* does. The *Salvation Army* does. *Family Promise* does. The list goes on and on. If you're having trouble buying a gift for well financed Grandma or Grandpa, well-to-do Aunt or Uncle, or others consider a gift in their honor to one of these organizations that is helping the poor in our community, however small the amount. Make a card for the honoree to place under the tree to let your relative know where your gift was given in their name. Ponder this idea in your heart as you buy gifts for your family this giving season...

**Assisted Living Ministry** ~ Assisted Living Ministry will be singing Christmas carols and giving a devotion at **1:30pm on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** at *Highgate Senior Living*, 3000 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. Earlier that day a **no host lunch** will be held **at 11:30am** at *Old Chicago Pizza*, 1101 7<sup>th</sup> St. S. Don't get too busy wrapping gifts to miss these opportunities to enjoy the fellowship with friends at a delicious meal and singing God's Word that Christ is born!

Pastor Reinke will be delivering the Christmas message of the Babe of Bethlehem born to save the world from sin at *Highgate Senior Living* on **Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm**. The keyboard will peal out the familiar Christmas carols as parishioners enjoy joining the group leading the songs. Take time to give the gift of yourself for an hour with these residents. The residents at their age and living now in smaller quarters don't need physical gifts, but the gift of your smile and Christmas greeting lights up their faces and puts a song in their hearts. Ponder this idea...

**Fellowship Time Help Needed!!** We are looking for individuals or couples who would be willing to help set up the coffee and cookies for Sunday mornings. This would be one or two Saturdays a month (the more people who volunteer the less often you would be asked to help). If you are interested, please talk to Pastor (406-402-2081) or Cheryl (406-452-2121).

**We are also looking for individuals, couples, families or groups** who would be willing to help with the tear down and clean-up follow Fellowship time each Sunday. If you are interested, please talk to Pastor (406-402-2081) or Cheryl (406-452-2121).

**A/V Help** ~ Our video ministry goes out each week on our Facebook page and reaches countless people. **The audio/video crew is looking for a few good people. No experience is needed; we will teach you what you will need to know.** If you would be interested in helping with this very important ministry, contact Pastor (406-402-2081) or Cheryl (406-452-2121) for more information.



**Snow Removal Sign-up** ~ Help is needed for the winter to remove snow from the sidewalks before church on Sunday mornings. If you would be willing to help, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office.

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### **COMPARISON OF GIVING REPORT ~ 2025**

For the period October 26<sup>th</sup> through November 23<sup>rd</sup>



October 26 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,506
November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$5,351
November 9 <sup>th</sup>	\$4,844
November 16 <sup>th</sup>	\$4,085
November 23 <sup>rd</sup>	\$3,221
Vanco	\$1,900

**Actual giving for report period: \$22,907**

Roof Repair Fund –through 11/23/2025 \$50,374

If you have any questions, please call me at (406) 781-7605 ~ *Logan Stene, Bookkeeper*

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**Vanco's Give+ Online**

**Vanco's Give+ Mobile**

*The next generation of giving*

Please visit our website **[www.trinity-mt.org](http://www.trinity-mt.org)**, go to the “Fellowship” tab and sign up for online giving. You can also download the Vanco mobile app to your smart phone for even more convenience.



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**A Reminder to Use Your New Offering Envelopes** ~ New boxes of offering envelopes for **2026 (BUFF in color)** will be issued Wednesday, December 17, 2025. The last time to use the 2025 green envelopes is December 31, 2025!

**Please destroy any remaining 2025 green offering envelopes after December 31, 2025.**

**Begin using the BUFF colored offering envelopes SUNDAY, January 4, 2026.**

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**Offering Counters are needed** to assist the Treasurer and Bookkeeper in counting and recording the offerings following each Sunday service. No experience is needed. Please call the church office (452-2121) or sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office if you are willing to assist with this necessary mission.

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**End-of-Year Contributions** will need to be in **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2025**, in order to be counted toward your pledge for 2025. Please be sure to bring those contributions to the church office as soon as possible, either by mail or drop-off at the church Monday through Friday (you may use the locked mailbox outside the office). **We will make one final deposit for 2025 on December 31, 2025, after 12:00pm.**

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### **Our shut-ins**



**Mildred Birkholz** (The Lodge), **Ellen Carpenter** (Eagle's Manor), **Anita Erickson** (at home), **Ed Hickel** (at home), **Arleen Nelson** (Rosetta Assisted Living), **Lauretta Stanfield** (at home); **Barbara Zafft** (The Lodge)

**Bob Blomstrom** (Helena), **Darlene Murray** (at son's home in Kansas)

**Our members who continue to battle health issues and their caregivers**

Roy & Carolyn Arves, Chuck & Judy Lively, Jerry & Colleen Mans, Henry & Alice Schuman

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**We pray for those serving in the military and our First Responders**

**Sam Birkett**, Cascade County Sheriff's Deputy; **Matt Clark**, Great Falls Emergency Services; **Joshua Graham**, (Blomstrom's grandson-in-law) Helena Police Department

**Scott Backus**, MANG; **Scott Broberg**, USAF; **Daniel Crème**, USAF; **Ricardo Dominguez**, USAF; **Matthew Erickson**, USAF (Anita Erickson's grandson); **Landon Grosenick**, MANG (Pam Grosenick's grandson); **Chaplain Jonathan Schultz**, USAF Reserves; **Julie Timms** (Waetzig's granddaughter)

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**We pray for our Montana District missionaries...**

**Rev. Dr. David & Jennifer Preus** ~ Eurasia (Romania)

**John & Jenn Wolf** ~ Kenya

**Rev. Dr. Gerald & Heidi Paul** ~ Cayman Islands

**Rev. Eric & Johanna Stinnett** ~ Ethiopia

**Giving Online:** You can partner with the LCMS by making an online gift restricted in use to the support of these missionaries at **lcms.org**

**Giving by Check:** You can also make a donation to their ministries by check. *Mail your check, made payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and designated in the memo line with the missionaries last name*, to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861, **QUESTIONS?** Call 888-930-4438 or send an email to **mission.giving@lcms.org**.

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***Called Home to Glory***



*September 10, 2025*

*Violet Lillian (Haase) Nell*

*October 28, 2025*

*Juanita Irene (Kinzel) Winter*



The Altar Committee will once again be placing an order for poinsettias to grace our altar for Christmas. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of these poinsettias, please make your check payable to **Trinity Lutheran Church**, designate on the check **"For Poinsettias"** and drop it into the offering. If you would like your donation in memory or honor of a loved one, please attach a note with the details to your check or contact the church office at 452-2121 with that information.

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**Advent Soup Suppers** ~ Believe it or not Advent is here! We will be having Advent soup suppers followed by an Advent service each Wednesday again this year. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please sign up for items to bring each week. See you on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** for our first Advent Mid-Week.





Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you so much for your continued support during my seminary journey.

I am now in my seventh week of the *Fall* quarter meaning that there are just four more weeks to go including this one until FalJ break. Things have certainly been busy around the Harr household. I have a full academic schedule for this quarter with classes that include Dogmatics (doctrine), Book of Genesis, Greek Readings, Gospel of John, Lutheran Confessions, Homiletics (preaching) and Field Education. I am thankful to have such a wide variety of classes this quarter and I am learning so much in each one.

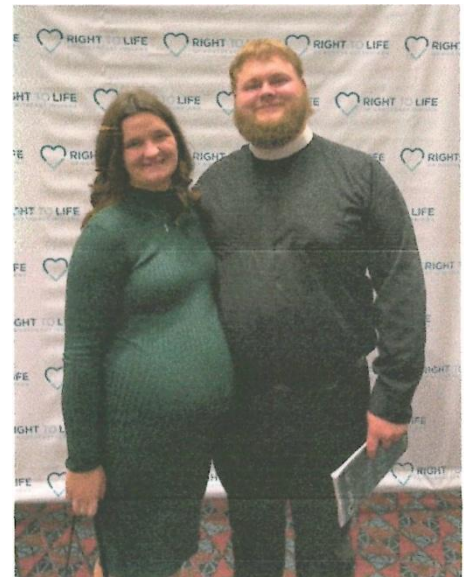
At my assigned local Field Education congregation, I have had the privilege of teaching Sunday morning Bible Study and Catechism class, preaching, and teaching a Bible Study on Galatians for the youth group on Sunday nights. These opportunities allow for the practical application of my in-class seminary learning. I am thankful to be able to put what I have learned into practice as I interact with a real-life LCMS congregation.

Grace and baby Han- have been doing wonderful and we continue to hear good news at each of our doctor's appointments. Praise be to God! Grace has been able to continue working at the hospital and they have taken good care of making sure she does not overwork herself. We are eager for baby to come and have been prepared with all of the necessary things for some time (thanks to my wonderful wife who is always planning ahead). We are so incredibly thankful for your financial support as well as your prayers while we have been away. We think of you members of Trinity often and look forward to our next opportunity to make it back home to Montana. May God continue to bless you and the work that you do!

In Christ,

*William and Grace Harr*

At the annual Right to Life  
of Northeast Indiana  
Banquet



# Holiday Schedule

## ***First Advent Mid-week ~ December 3<sup>rd</sup>***

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm      Worship 7:00 pm

## ***Second Sunday in Advent ~ December 7<sup>th</sup>***

Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am

Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

## ***Second Advent Mid-week ~ December 10<sup>th</sup>***

Soup Supper ~ 6:00pm      Worship 7:00 pm

## ***Children's Christmas Service / Third Sunday in Advent ~ December 14<sup>th</sup>***

Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am

Divine Service w/children's message ~ 10:00 am

## ***Third Advent Mid-week ~ December 17<sup>th</sup>***

Soup Supper ~ 6:00 pm      Worship 7:00 pm

## ***Wee Disciples Christmas Chapel ~ Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 6:30pm***

## ***Fourth Sunday in Advent ~ December 21<sup>st</sup>***

Sunday school & Bible study ~ 8:30 am

Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

## ***Christmas Eve Family Worship ~ Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00 pm***

## ***Christmas Day ~ Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>***

Divine Service ~ 10:00 am

## ***First Sunday after Christmas ~ December 28<sup>th</sup>***

Divine Service ~ 10:00 am







**Serving this Month**

***Altar Guild*** ~ Denise Wegner / Sandy Baranko / Candace Tanksley

***Ushers*** ~ Alan Wegner / Roy Arves / Elders

**December 3, 2025 ~ First Advent Mid-Week Service**

Duty Elder	No one assigned
Music	Cheryl Bauer

**December 7, 2025 ~ Second Sunday in Advent (blue)**

Duty Elders	Shawn Shaw / Ron VanVoast
Audio/Video/Music	Cheryl Bauer
Fellowship Set-up ~ Jessica Brookie	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Judy Boyce

**December 10, 2025 ~ Second Advent Mid-Week Service**

Duty Elder	No one assigned
Music	Cheryl Bauer

**December 14, 2025 ~ Third Sunday in Advent (blue)**

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel / Bill Sybrant
Audio/Video	Denise Rutledge
Organist	Gloria Creek
Fellowship Set-up ~ Jessica Brookie	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Alice Schuman

**December 17, 2025 ~ Third Advent Mid-Week Service**

Duty Elder	No one assigned
Music	Cheryl Bauer

**December 21, 2025 ~ Fourth Sunday in Advent (blue)**

Duty Elders	Scott Broberg / Shawn Shaw
Audio/Video/Music	Isaac Schultz
Fellowship Set-up ~ Alyssa Birkett	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Elsie Lorenz



**December 24, 2025 ~ Christmas Eve Family Worship (white)**

Duty Elders	Len Koelbel
Music	Cheryl Bauer

**December 25, 2025 ~ Christmas Day (white)**

Duty Elders	Martin Bauer / Scott Broberg
Organist	Gloria Creek

**December 28, 2025 ~ First Sunday after Christmas (white)**

Duty Elders	Bill Sybrant / Ron VanVoast
Audio/Video/Music	Isaac Schultz
Fellowship Set-up ~ Alyssa Birkett	Fellowship Clean-up ~ Sandra Baranko

## Birthdays

### Wedding, Baptismal and Confirmation Anniversaries

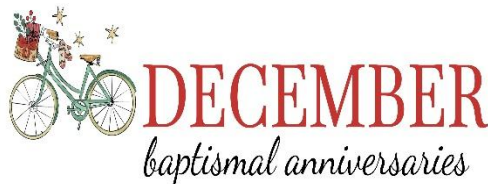
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brielyn Ginnaty	 <b>DECEMBER</b> birthdays	December 19 <sup>th</sup>	Sean Ginnaty
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Chapman			Leif Tanksley
	Aaron Neumann		December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Austin Johnson
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Hayes		December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Chris Magis
	Kelly Norris			Cheyenne Sharrah
	Kari Smith		December 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lynette Copp
	Courtney Walker			Justin Lee
December 6 <sup>th</sup>		Jessica Brookie		<b>Ed VanVleet (80+)</b>
December 8 <sup>th</sup>		Ezra Williams	December 27 <sup>th</sup>	Jarrid Clausen
December 10 <sup>th</sup>		Gunnar Tanksley		Janelle Houle
December 14 <sup>th</sup>		Zeke Morrison	December 28 <sup>th</sup>	Ed Hickel
		John Shaw		Kenzie Legg
December 16 <sup>th</sup>		Jessi Payne	December 30 <sup>th</sup>	Kaden Hill
December 17 <sup>th</sup>		Charlie Kingland	December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Ricardo Dominguez
December 18 <sup>th</sup>		Maycee Graves		Parker Mansch



December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
December 12<sup>th</sup>  
December 27<sup>th</sup>

Tim ♥ Loralyn Fairbanks (9)  
Spencer ♥ Jessi Payne (10)  
Al ♥ Kathleen Redenbaugh (57)

December 1<sup>st</sup> Ashlee Graves  
Channing Hartelius  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> Gary Headington  
December 3<sup>rd</sup> Heidi Paul  
Alexandria Young  
Jason Young



December 5<sup>th</sup> Colton Martello  
Logan Stene  
December 6<sup>th</sup> Spencer Payne  
December 12<sup>th</sup> Donna Hayes  
Ezra Williams  
December 13<sup>th</sup> Cheryl Bauer  
December 16<sup>th</sup> Patrick Norris  
December 19<sup>th</sup> Kathie Sybrant  
December 20<sup>th</sup> Elisa Broberg

December 21<sup>st</sup> Ron Lee  
December 22<sup>nd</sup> Dustin Dalla Mura  
December 23<sup>rd</sup> Rochelle Kimmerle  
December 25<sup>th</sup> Gabriel Shabaan  
Gary Somerfeld,  
Gunnar Tanksley  
Sarah Chapman  
Caitee Miesmer  
Rachel Hill  
Cassidy Kotz  
John Shaw

December 1<sup>st</sup> Judy Lively  
December 5<sup>th</sup> Ruby Willey  
December 6<sup>th</sup> Spencer Payne  
December 9<sup>th</sup> Rev. Gerald Paul  
December 11<sup>th</sup>  
December 14<sup>th</sup>



Linda Wade  
Heidi Paul

December 17<sup>th</sup> Gary Headington  
December 18<sup>th</sup> Grace Harr  
Larry Homen  
December 19<sup>th</sup> Kat Blumhorst  
Ron Lee  
Tina Bink