

First Lutheran Church
309 Ninth Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

First Lutheran Church
Office Phone 324-2984
Office hours
Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Thursday 9:00 a.m.-Noon, Closed on Fridays
E-mail Address flc@flcnorthwood.org
Web Site www.flcnorthwood.org
Pastor Judy Converse
E-mail Address pastor@flcnorthwood.org
Cell Phone 1-978-808-6780
Parsonage 323-0081

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 33

Address Service Requested

FIRST LUTHERAN FOCUS

December 2018

December Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 2 – First Sunday of Advent – Holy Communion
Sunday, December 9 – Second Sunday of Advent – Service of the Word
Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent
Children's Christmas Program at 9:00 a.m.
Choir Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 20 – Service of the Longest Night at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent – Service of the Word
Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve – Holy Communion at 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas Day – Holy Communion at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday, December 30 – First Sunday after Christmas – Christmas Lessons and Carols



Just a
reminder...



2018 CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions for the year 2018 must be received into the church office by December 28th. All contributions after that will be posted the year 2019.

Thank you
Jan Thompson, Financial Secretary



From The Pastor's Desk....

Dear friends,

Advent is the season of the church year that happens during the four weeks before Christmas. It's color is blue, and it's word is HOPE. And the 'feeling's' of the season are those of waiting and anticipation.

Waiting is not easy. We, humans, want to know NOW. But I believe that there are some good lessons to be found in our times of waiting.

And a fine theologian, Walter Brueggemann, says this also in his prayer for the season of Advent:

*In our secret yearning we wait for your coming,
and in our grinding despair we doubt that you will.
And in this privileged place we are surrounded by witnesses who yearn more
than do we and by those who despair more deeply than do we.
Look upon your church in this season of hope which runs so quickly to fatigue
and this season of yearning which becomes so easily quarrelsome.
Give us the grace and the impatience to wait for your coming
to the bottom of our toes, to the edges of our finger tips.
We do not want our several worlds to end.
Come in your power and come in your weakness in any case
and make all things new. Amen.*

Pastor Judy

THANKS - - - THANKS - - - THANKS

Many thanks for

New members at First Lutheran – and more to come!

Our education leaders who plan and coordinate and staff our Sunday school classes and confirmation time to teach our younger members about God's love!

For flexibility and coordination in covering the work of the church – in the office, in the building, and for our music program!

For the time and energy of many who serve the church on council, committee, or board!

For our youth program which reaches out to all youth in this community – sharing the good news about Jesus with them – and providing a welcoming and safe space for fun and fellowship!

For the 'season of November' and our opportunity to remember those who have gone ahead of us into God's everlasting rest!

For those who serve our families and friends in their time of grief!

For all those who share their blessing with FLC – time, talent, and treasure!

Many blessings,

Pastor Judy

PASTORAL ACTS

Baptisms

Andrew Ballantyne—November 11th

Wesley Ballantyne—November 11th

Kam Reindl—November 18th

Weddings

No Weddings in November

Funerals/Memorial Services

George "Flip" Lindflott—November 17th

Frances (Cathy) Kalvig—November 20th



Mission Project for December



Heifer International

An organization dedicated to ending hunger and poverty and caring for the earth. Provides livestock and training to those with genuine need.

Please contact Pastor Judy or the church office
if you or a loved one is or will be hospitalized.

Cell: 1-978-808-6780, Home: 323-0081, Church Office: 324-2984

YOUTH NEWS

Sr. High Youth – Wednesday 7:00—8:30

Jr. High Youth – Sunday 6:30-8:00

“Deeper” Group – Monday 5:00-??

We finished out October with Manna Monsters on Halloween night. This has been a tradition for us for many years now, and the Junior High students collected a huge amount of food again this year. With Halloween falling on a Wednesday this year, we decided to have Senior High youth at the same time, as well as allowing smaller kids to come in and thick-or-treat. It was a very busy night, but one that allowed us to serve, help, learn and laugh.

November was a busy month for us. Both Jr. and Sr. High saw increased numbers of students attending over last month. Lessons covered a very wide area, but many dealt with the many different kind of addictions that can seep into our lives. So we've spent a good deal of time focusing on how that happens and how God can protect us from the addictions that will try to ruin our lives and families. We also spent a week looking at how God makes every single one of us different and that we should learn to be proud of the things that set us apart from those around us.

I'd like to personally give a huge thank you to the Trust Fund! Next summer we'll be taking students to Li fest in Wisconsin and their generous support will help so many. It will also allow us to purchase a few new tents that will also be used for Day Camp and other youth events.

With December upon us things will be busy with school getting out for Christmas break and a few Lock-Ins tossed in for more opportunities of fellowship. Here is our schedule for December

- 2 - Jr. High - Things Left Unsaid
- 3 - Deeper
- 5 - Sr. High - Things Left Unsaid
- 9 - Jr. High - Cheesecake
- 10 - Deeper
- 12 - Sr. High - Cheesecake
- 16 - Jr. High Christmas Party
- 17 - Deeper
- 19 - Sr. High Christmas Party
- 21 - Youth Alumni Lunch
- 21 - Sr. High Lock-In
- 23 - Jr. High Youth - Lights Out
- 26 - Sr. High Youth - Blanket Fort Night
- 30 - Jr. High Youth - Blanket Fort Night
- 31 - Jr. High + 6th Grade Lock-In



SUNDAY SCHOOL INFORMATION

December 9th—Program Practice from 10:10 am—Noon

December 16th—Christmas Program at 9:00 am

December 23rd & 30th—No Sunday School

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE MONDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

Forms are available on a table in the narthex and church website.

**First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2018 10:15 AM**

4.

WE ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Present: Shana Brunsvold, Pastor Judy Converse, Josie Einertson, Doug Fallgatter, Lisa Hagen, Mitch Hanson, Sharyl Nestor, Heather Rheingans, Judy Stevens and Lynn Tenold. Absent: Stuart Anderson and Jacob Urbatsch.

WE CELEBRATE OUR PAST

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the following reports: (MMSP Nestor / Hagen)

- President (No report.)
- Secretary (Changes to minutes discussed and approved.)
- Treasurer (\$4K September loss, upcoming expenditures reviewed.)
- Pastoral (Fall calendar review, Synod pastoral compensation guidelines submitted.)

WE PRESENT OUR OFFERING

- Education Committee (next meeting TBD) - No report.
- Fellowship & Social Ministry Committees (next meeting TBD)
 - ◊ Family Fun Game Night November 11th 5-7PM. Volunteers to bring food.
- Finance Committee (next meeting TBD)
 - ◊ Protocols in place to address and clarify designated and non-designated funds.
 - ◊ Recruiting one more member, indicate any possible candidates.
 - ◊ 2019 budget assumptions discussed per below.
- Property Committee (next meeting 10/22 7PM)
 - ◊ Council tasked Committee to assess independent appraisal of assets for appropriate coverages with insurance carrier. Report back to Council pending.
 - ◊ Current projects:
 - * Phase 3 of kitchen remodel will be taken to Annual Meeting.
 - * WCDA grant request for back-up power generator in-flight.
 - ◊ Parsonage upgrades – New gutter and downspout replacements approved cost of \$1,200. (MMSP Rheingans / Nestor)
- Stewardship Committee (next meeting 10/18 7PM)
 - ◊ November 11th is Commitment Sunday for annual pledging.
 - ◊ Fall Stewardship campaign letters sent to Congregational members (included notice of annual meeting).
 - ◊ Members encouraged to share “Thankful Thoughts” during weeks leading up to Nov 11th.
 - ◊ E-Church (Push-Pay) app to be discontinued. Members encouraged to use Simply Giving.
- Worship & Music Committee (next meeting 10/30 5PM)
 - ◊ Service of Candles Christmas concert on 12/16 7PM.
 - ◊ Grant request submitted for new music, cabinetry and banners. Fall decorations done by Mary Reyerson.
 - ◊ Wicks organ project update:
 - * Sharyl Nestor shared process how Northrup Auditorium in Minneapolis, MN refurbished their organ.Advised committee to follow a similar process.
- Youth Representative
 - ◊ “Valley Scare” event planned for 34 attendees.

CONCERNS FOR THE PRESENT

- Constitution Committee (next meeting TBD)
 - ◊ Updates as follows:
 - * Notable changes address term limits (based on Council duration of two 3 year terms), and fiscal year timing.
 - * Council members encouraged to market these changes to Congregation.
 - * Proposed changes reviewed by Council and approved. (MMSP Brunsvold / Stevens)
- Budget for 2019 (MMSP Nestor / Selvig)
 - ◊ Fiscal year 2018 \$7K profit, improvement over fiscal year 2017 \$19K loss.
 - ◊ Cost of living increase of 2.0% approved. (MMSP Brunsvold / Nestor)
 - ◊ Synod pastoral compensation guidelines reviewed and approved.
 - ◊ Reviewed overall budget with Council for completeness / awareness.

WE GO OUT IN GOD'S NAME

Lord's Prayer

We Adjourn to Serve (upcoming dates)

- October 28** Communion (Intinction) – Shana Brunsvold & Judy Stevens
- November 4** Communion (Rail) – Sharyl Nestor & Heather Rheingans
- November 11** Council monthly meeting 10:15 AM
- December 8** Council Christmas party at parsonage 2-5PM.

“That all may know the love of God in Jesus Christ”

Respectfully submitted, Richard Selvig, Secretary

December Volunteers

5

Ushers

December 2nd—Jerry & Jan Hopperstad, Larry Foley, Doug Fallgatter
December 9th—Sawyer & Michelle Schulz, Mitch & Jess Hanson, James & Steph Eskildsen family
December 16th (9:00) - Eric and Austin Foss, Tom and Josh Stevens, Cade Hengesteg
December 16th (7:00) - Brian Costello, Dave Capitani, Richard Butler, Samantha Butler, Landon Perkins
December 23rd—Harlan & Barb Helgeson, Colton and Casson Moretz
December 24th (4:30) - Jake Urbatsch, Dan Reeder, Dennis Reeder, Hal Johnson
December 25th (10:30)—David & Sharron Petznick, Kevin and Maeghan Petznick
December 30th—Dan Hendrikson, Bernie VanVeldhuizen, David & Sharron Petznick



Greeters

December 2nd—Kevin, Michelle, Maeghan & Lauren Petznick
December 9th—Pam Perkins and Avis Lehman
December 16th—Doug & Gloria Fallgatter
December 23rd—Mike & DeAnn Read
December 24th (4:30)—Scott, Brenda, Colton & Casson Moretz
December 25th (10:30)—Congregation Members
December 30th—Lynn & Mindy Tenold

Coffee Servers

December 2nd—Patty Irons and Avis Lehman
December 9th—Judy Stevens and Nancy Amundson
December 16th—Sunday School and Congregation Party
December 23rd—Ray & Wanda Hoffman and Shirley Olson
December 25th—Christmas Dinner
December 30th—Carol Liljedahl and Linda Loken

COFFEE
FELLOWSHIP



Acolytes

December 2nd—Nolan Senne and Haddie Hanson
December 9th—Joshua Stevens and Reese Wahl
December 16th (9:00)—Madison Berry and Peyton Wilder
December 23rd—Kennedy Christianson and Chloe Costello
December 24th (4:30)—Nicholas Hanson and Jackson Foss
December 25th (10:30)—Ian Husske and Lindsey Moore
December 30th—Trace Low and Haddie Hanson

Lay Readers

December 2nd—Doug Krull
December 9th—Heather Rheingans
December 16th—Sunday School Program
December 23rd—Patty Irons
December 24th (4:30)—Carolyn Reeder
December 25th (10:30)—Volunteer
December 30th—Numerous Readers

Altar Guild & Share Shoppe

Julia Circle

Offering Collectors/Counters

December 2nd—Russ & Delores Knudson
December 9th—Mike & Judy Stevens
December 16th—Lee & Becky Okerlund
December 23rd—Gloria Fallgatter and Nancy Amundson
December 24th (4:30)—David & Sharron Petznick
December 25th (10:30)—Russ & Delores Knudson
December 30th—Mike & Judy Stevens



Assisting Ministers

December 2nd—Stu Anderson
December 24th (4:30)—Julia Quisley
December 25th (10:30)—Richard Selvig

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

God bless each and everyone of you that donated to Operation Christmas Child. Whether you donated supplies, money or put a shoe box together, you have been a blessing to a child in need. I will deliver the boxes November 15th.

This is Operation Christmas Child's 25th anniversary. Awesome!

God bless you and your family this Thanksgiving and Christmas with joy, peace, and love.

In Christ's love,
Rose Fredericks



FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN

"Blessed are you among women" Luke 1:42

Julia	December 3rd	12:00 pm	Linda Loken's home
Leah	December 6th	9:00 am	Maple Court, Potluck
Lydia	December 5th	12:00 pm	Sharyl Ferley's home
Rebecca	December 5th	12:00 pm	Christmas Party at Signature's
Sarah	December 11th	1:00 pm	Marcia Kraft's home

FLC Financial Update

October 2018		Fiscal Year as of October 31st	
Income	\$16,537.92	Income	\$16,537.92
Electronic Income	\$764.00	Electronic Income	\$764.00
Expense	\$15,811.90	Expense	\$15,811.90
End of month	\$ 1,490.02	Year to date	\$1,490.02

FIRST LUTHERAN OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you need offering envelopes, please stop in or contact the church office.

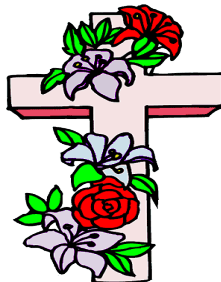
MEMORIALS

DeWayne Roppe
 \$535.00—General Fund
 \$40.00—Youth Fund
 \$10.00—Property (Kitchen) Fund

Lonnie Harris
 \$110.00—General Fund
 \$225.00—Property (Organ) Fund
 \$20.00—Worship (Music) Fund
 \$40.00—Youth Fund

Maynis Aamodt
 \$150.00—Property (Organ) Fund

Lowell Gangstad
 \$25.00—Property (Organ) Fund



DONATIONS

\$865.00 (From FLW) - Property (Organ) Fund

First Lutheran Missions

October 1, 2018-September 30, 2019	
Bremwood	\$ 80.00
Operation Christmas Child	\$ 184.61
Youth Fund (Bibles & Catechisms)	\$ 75.00
Caring Tree	\$ 75.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 25.00
Caring Tree	\$ 84.62
Meals on Wheels	\$ 80.00
Manna	\$ 50.00
Total	\$ 654.23





December 2018, 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! Every day, as a ministry partner of LSI, you help bring the light of Christ to others.

At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little to no 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 the foster care system, who fear they will never have a family to love them.

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our most vulnerable neighbors. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. 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.

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.

Giving Back to Her Community

Two years ago, Sarah felt helpless. She struggled with her mental health, there was tension between family members at home, and she couldn't find support or resources that worked with her family's busy schedule.

Sarah connected with LSI's Early Childhood Services, and through a local program she received flexible in-home parenting education to help her family thrive. Her LSI parent educator worked with her to learn about money management, healthy communication, and skills for parenting her two young children.

Now Sarah feels confident raising her family. She has found a support system and is ready to give back to her community and help other young mothers in need. Whenever she can, she tells other moms about LSI and helps refer them for services.

Because she felt empowered by LSI's Early Childhood Services, Sarah is creating a ripple effect across her community. She is passionate about lifting up and strengthening other families in need of the hope and healing she received.

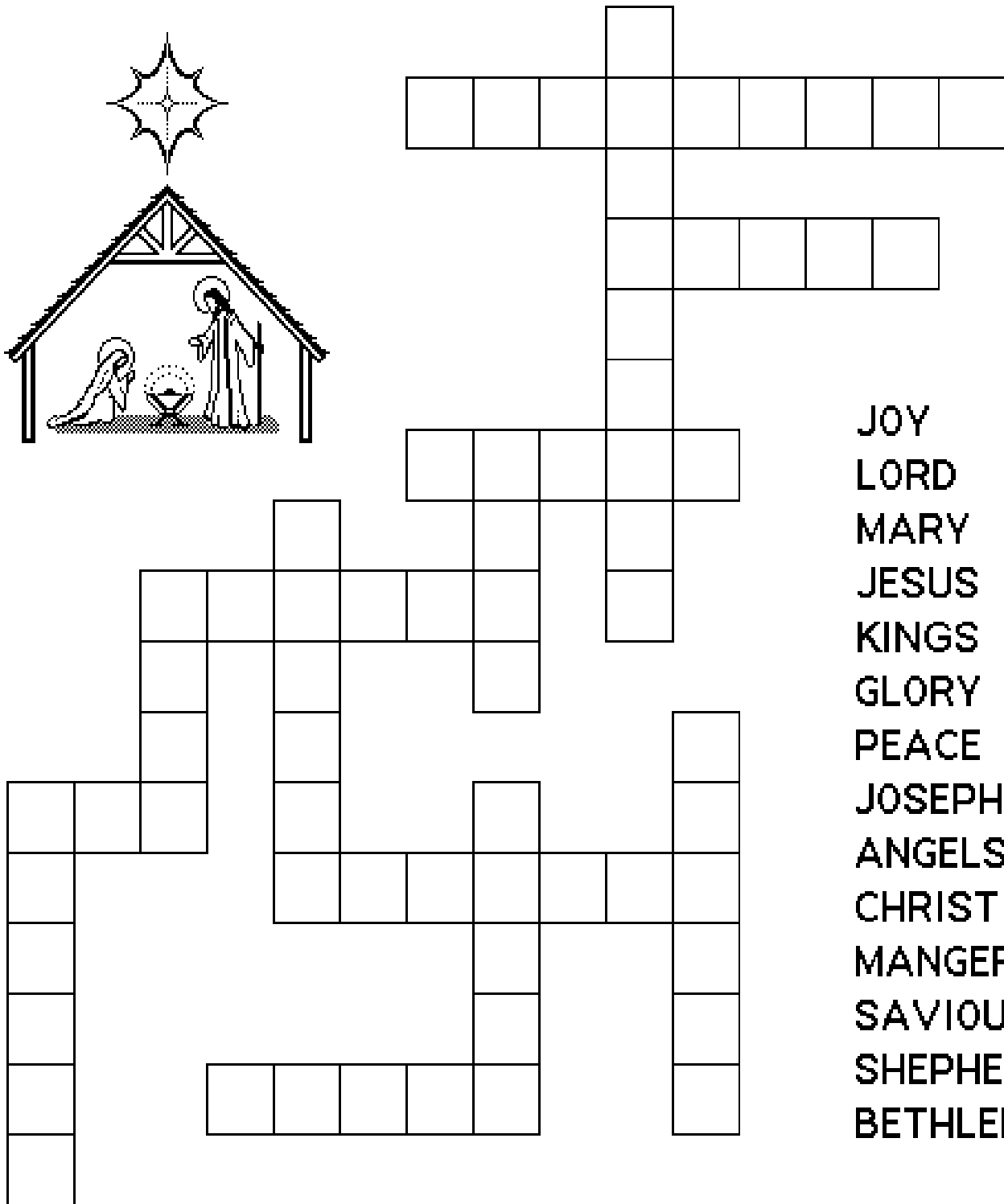
1. Kase Bachtle, Andrew Houg, Marlee Nelson, Mark Senne
2. Cole Eilertson, Jackson Foss, Jenna Bauers,
Truman Hengesteg, Teresa Johnson, Bryce Ogea
3. Jacob Loken
4. Steven Olson
5. Austin Morris, Emily Tufte, Jeff Vansteenburgh
6. Ashley Leegaard, Suzanne Olson, Rylee Watts
7. Debra Brockman, Judy Converse, Natalee Lohmann, Max Rugland
- 8.
9. Kory Olson, Kathleen Thrond
10. Joseph Bedford, Jessica Berry, Steve Converse, Justin Senne
11. Tiffany Berg, Sue Bestul, Jacob Krull
12. Tony Fredericks, Addie Rugland, Glenn Van Sabben
13. Gary Hanson, Bret Johnson, Carter Thofson, Patricia Trenhaile
14. Linda Christianson, Daryl Love, Madelyn Midtgaard
15. Chelsea Boyden, Judith Jorgensen, Bryan Sime
16. Tom Hakes, Jesse Harang, Tyler Hillman, Barbara Trenhaile
17. Jason Adams, Holly Hankins, Bonnie Hengesteg, Frances Olson, Austin Schutz,
Joclyn Shackleton
18. Troy Einertson, Kristine Gordon, Arlynn McHenry
19. Callan Brunsvold, Nalda Zipse
20. Elexis Carrison, Mary Dewitt, Candee Hunchis, Katelyn Jaspers, Russell Knudson
- 21.
22. Wade Flattum, Ronald Hengesteg, Janelle Johnson, Mason Thofson,
Avery Nielsen
23. Rhonda Taylor, O'Brian Tyrrell
- 24.
25. Mary Bachtle, Michael Lee, Carol Van Veldhuizen
26. Stephanie Hengesteg, Calli O'Neill
27. David Borcharding, Larry Roerish, Samantha Zipse
28. Jan Mielke, Grayson Pangburn, Megan Storvick
29. Larry Foley, Sawyer Hulshizer, Lauren Severson, Gina Solberg
30. Jonathan Berry, Mary Bloomingdale, Jordan Helgeson, Arlys Reeder
31. Darin Dahlby, Olivia Gentz, Brandon Knutson, Lauren Petznick



Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword.

Each word is only used once.



- JOY
- LORD
- MARY
- JESUS
- KINGS
- GLORY
- PEACE
- JOSEPH
- ANGELS
- CHRIST
- MANGER
- SAVIOUR
- SHEPHERDS
- BETHLEHEM