

The Beacon

"Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."
Habakkuk 3:18



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Office Hours: 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Monday-Friday
Gary Reitzel, Custodian

Council Members: David Arndt (Vice Chair), Benjamin Stewart (Secretary),
Celia Reece (Treasurer), Betty Hawn, Gary Reitzel, Robin Sigmon,
Victor Paquin, Christopher Painter, Wesley Stinson, and Kristen Link

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ADVENT: What Do We Need to Know?

The word Advent comes from the Latin for "coming". This season (Dec. 1-Dec. 24, 2024) will focus on Christ's first coming at Christmas, his coming on the Last Day, and his presence in the Word and Sacrament.

For the grace of God has appeared for bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce all ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:11-13)

Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas. But as we prepare to celebrate the first coming of Jesus in the flesh, we also think of his second coming in rescue and judgment. This gives Advent the twin themes of hope and repentance (1 Peter 1:13-16 and 2 Peter 3:11-14). The best way to be prepared is through listening to God's Word and receiving Christ when he comes to us in the flesh in his holy supper.

Advent began in Gaul in the fifth century as a forty-day penitential season like Lent. Rome enjoyed a more joyful four-week preparation for Christmas. Eventually the two approaches merged to give us our four-week Advent with both penitential and hopeful aspects. In the twentieth century, blue became a popular alternative to violet to differentiate Advent from Lent.

In our contemporary culture, it's difficult to resist the pressure to bring Christmas into Advent. But there are great spiritual blessings in letting Advent have its way. It's four Sundays proclaim the prophecies of Christ's birth, the angelic messages to Joseph and Mary, and the firm promise of his return on the Last Day.

("Lutheranism 101: Worship." Concordia Publishing, St. Louis, 2017, p. 119)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec. 2 - Mon. Women’s Christmas Part (7:00 pm).
- Dec. 5- Thurs. Worship & Music Committee Meeting (6:30 pm).
- Dec. 7 – Sat. Santa at St. James (10:00 am-12:00 pm).
- Dec. 8 – Sun. Congregational Meeting to vote on 2025 proposed budget and elect council members.
- Dec. 14 – Sat. Wreaths Across America in the church cemetery (12:00 noon).
- Dec. 24 – Tues. Christmas Eve Service (7:00 pm).
- Dec. 25—Wed. CHRISTMAS DAY



Tuesday Nights @ 7:00pm, Fellowship Building

A weekly study of the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday worship service.

Thursday Mornings @ 10:30am, Sanctuary with Pastor Ken

Dec. 5	Matthew 7:1-12	Jan. 2	No Class
Dec. 12	Matthew 8:1-17	Jan. 9	Matthew 9:9-34
Dec. 19	No Class	Jan. 16	Matthew 9:35-10:23
Dec. 26	No Class	Jan. 23	Matthew 10:24-11:1
		Jan. 30	Matthew 11:2-19

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WOMEN’S GROUP

A special **THANK YOU!** to all that helped in any way with the Bazaar. It was a big success. A little over \$7,600 was made. This money will be used in several ways in our community.

Orders for poinsettias in honor or memory of someone can now be turned in. Order forms will be in the bulletin beginning next week. The cost for each is \$15.00. Contributions can be made in honor or memory to a fund to replace the manger scene at the church. Return forms by Dec. 15th.

The Women’s Christmas Party is Monday, Dec. 2nd at 7:00 pm. Please bring a wrapped ornament to exchange and finger foods. ALL women of the church are invited.

BLESSING BOX PANTRY

Our “Blessing Box Pantry” is running low on non-perishable food items and needs to be restocked. Can you help us? The Blessing Box is located in the church parking lot and is a community resource available to those in immediate need of food. It’s replenished daily from the pantry inside the church.

We need: soups (chicken noodle, tomato, vegetable), canned meat (tuna, chicken, spam), canned spaghetti, dried pasta and sauce, macaroni & cheese, crackers, and cereal.

Please put these items in the pantry which is located outside of the offices.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!!

The next Blood Drive at St. James will be held on January 15, 2025 from 2:30 - 7:00 p.m.



3. Chase Arndt, Michael Smith
5. Wilma Hedrick
6. Bryson Clark, Aiden Stikeleather,
Katherine Thompson
7. Amber Ford
8. David Link
10. Freddy Link, Reggie Sipe
11. David Moose, Lula Poteat, Joel Reece
13. Anna Clark
15. Erica Paquin
17. Ben Young
22. Tom Devine
23. Ilysa Barr
30. Ps. John Lingle



1. Marshall Sigmon
2. Robert Lineberger
6. Jeff Arndt, Logan Arney, Jean Harris,
Dakota Smith
7. Darbie Crouch, Adam Dixon
8. Joe Devine
10. Todd Sipe
11. Sue Lindley
15. Nell Houser
17. Rue Horne, Dottie Rudisill
18. Ray Ford Jr, Jimmy Long, J.C. Sipe
19. Jamie Smyre Smith
20. Betty Hawn, Tracy Montgomery
22. Reagan Saunders, Charlie Sigmon
24. Averie Crouch O'Brien
25. Kay Sigmon
27. Jeremy Clark, Amber Crouch, Tammy Link
28. Joe Dean Sigmon
29. Teresa Turner



2. Mr. & Mrs. Michael Smith
4. Mr. & Mrs. John Houser
6. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Dixon
14. Mr. & Mrs. Rick Heavner
16. Mr. & Mrs. Ashton Hatley
20. Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Bell

17. Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Sipe
29. Mr. & Mrs. Charles Smyre

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THE LAITY TEAM

Laity Team plans to meet monthly to assess the current status of Church members. Prayers, cards, encouragement, and support to each other is our calling from our Lord.

Kristy Painter or Keeley Stikeleather, co-chairs, may be contacted. God's continued blessings and peace to everyone. The committee consists of Robin Burgess, Betty Hawn, Sue Lindley, and Claire Sipe.

Our shut-ins and others will receive *MERRY CHRISTMAS* wishes from St. James.

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EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee will not meet in December.

The Committee is asking for your help with the Luminaires in December. We plan to put them together on Sunday, Dec. 22nd at 4 pm in the Fellowship Building. We will put them around the Church and Cemetery on Tuesday, Dec. 24th at 3 pm. They will be lit at 5:30 pm. On Christmas Day we will take them up. *PLEASE COME AND HELP US IF YOU CAN.*

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Cemetery clean-up will be held on Friday, Dec. 13th at 3:00 pm. Please remove your Fall flowers beforehand.

2025 Envelopes are ready for pick-up. They are located on the table outside the church office.

Household Information Changes: If you have had any changes in your address, phone number, or email address, please notify the office. There are forms in the back hallway of the Sunday School area. We are trying to get all household information updated for the upcoming 2025 Yearbook. Thank you!



SCHEDULE

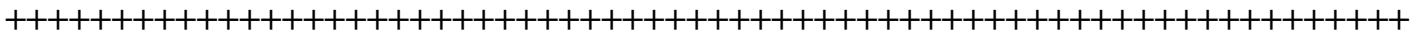
- Dec. 1 (Sun) 4 pm: Bowling and Supper, Pin Station
- Dec. 22 (Sun) 3 pm: White Elephant Christmas Party, Youth Room
- Jan. 5 (Sun) 3 pm: Family Volleyball, Fellowship Building
- Jan. 16 (Sun) 3 pm: Meet in the Fellowship Building

The **Youth** are selling **2025 Calendars**. If you would like to buy one, contact Jessie Sipe, Noah Dixon, Gabby Hernandez, or Karen Stewart.

CONGRATULATIONS to Annabelle Hernandez! She won the Christmas Card Contest for Frye Hospital. Her drawing will be this year’s Christmas card.

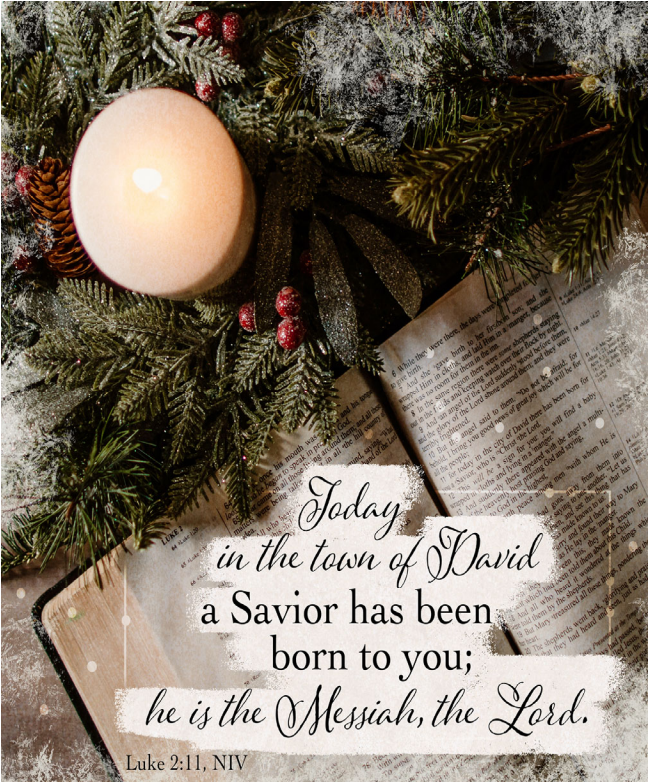
Wreaths Across America is Saturday, Dec. 14th at Noon. This is Rain or Shine. Any Veteran that would like to be a part of this, please let Erica know.

The AHG will host a parent’s night out on Sunday, Dec. 1st from 5-8 pm. The girls will be earning their Kid Care Badge. Anyone wishing to bring their child, please let Erica know. All ages are welcome.



SPECIAL DATES IN DECEMBER

- Dec. 1 1st Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 8 2nd Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 15 3rd Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 21 First Day of Winter
- Dec. 22 4th Sunday in Advent
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 31 New Year’s Eve



PHOTOS OF SAINT JAMES



The new
Playground

Thanks to all
who helped
with this pro-
ject.



The Men’s Group fixed a delicious breakfast for the congregation on Nov. 24.
Pastor Ken led a Bible Study following the meal.



Handbells performed “Canon of Grace” for the Prelude at Sunday’s Worship Service.