

# Covenant News



December 2025



## Preparing Room

Every holiday season, our world fills with music. Walk into a grocery store, turn on the radio, scroll through social media, and you'll hear the familiar strains of Christmas carols. Some people love it. Some people have very specific rules about when they'll allow themselves to start listening-- not until after Thanksgiving, or not until December 1, or only when the tree is up. And almost everyone has at least one song that announces,

"Now it's really Christmas."

One of the most familiar is *Joy to the World*, with its bright opening call:

"Let every heart prepare him room."

It's a line we sing easily, but it asks something of us. Preparing room is active

work, and spiritual work. It's about making space in a season that often feels too full. We prepare room not only in our calendars, but in our spirits. We prepare room when we unclutter a noisy corner of our hearts, when we slow down long enough to notice God's presence, when we practice generosity or forgiveness, or when we welcome a neighbor or stranger. We prepare room when we decide that the coming of Christ matters more than the pressure to have a picture-perfect Christmas.

And perhaps most importantly, we prepare room by remembering that God chooses to come close to us, just as we are. Not to a world already tidy and peaceful, but to one in need of healing. Not to people who have everything together, but to people who are still searching, still waiting, still longing for hope.

This Advent, as the carols rise around us-- from store speakers, car radios, children's choirs, and your own playlists-- let that one line from Joy to the World stay with you: prepare him room. Not perfectly. Not all at once. Just enough room for God to meet you here. And in all the spaces we prepare, may Christ's coming bring joy, peace, and a renewed sense of God's presence among us.

From the staff and council of Church of the Covenant, we wish you, your family, and your friends a very Merry Christmas!!!

We will celebrate our  
Christmas Eve service at 7:00  
pm here at Lutheran Church  
of the Covenant on  
Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>.  
So come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord! Celebrating  
his birth.



FREE  
community  
MEAL

Our next FREE community meal is  
Thursday, December 18, 25 (5-6pm).  
One week early due to Christmas being  
the fourth Thursday of the month. We  
invite you to come in through the back  
door into our fellowship hall and have a  
seat, as we serve you and our neighbors  
a FREE meal.



*12/8 Mary Kaye Bernardo*

*12/8 Gwen Susanek*

*12/14 Jane Gradert*

*12/15 Peggy Smith*

*12/18 Heather Lasher*

*12/20 Kara Constant*

*12/26 Courtney Wright*

*12/28 Dick Ptak*

*12/29 Sheila Werner*

Just a reminder we will be having our congregational assembly meeting in January to approve the budget for 2026. Date to be determined. Please plan to attend the meeting.



# *Covenant News*

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant  
19000 Libby Road, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

## **Adopt-A-Turkey Southeast Clergy Hunger Center Christmas Food Drive**

The Southeast Clergy Hunger Center continues to feed families and individuals in increasing numbers. Because the U.S. Department of Agriculture is giving less food to the Cleveland Foodbank, the Hunger Center's funds do not go as far. As a result, the Center is asking member congregations to consider an "Adopt-a-Turkey" drive to provide turkeys for the families at Christmas.



To that end, Covenant has established an "Adopt-a-Turkey" fund. On average, turkeys run from \$12 to \$14 dollars each. If you feel so moved, please make a contribution to the Southeast Clergy Hunger Center, either directly or through the Lutheran Church of the Covenant. Thank you in advance for your generosity