

The Good News

Vol. 26 Issue 12
December 2024

The Heart of Christmas

Sound over all waters, reach out from all lands,
The chorus of voices, the claspings of hands;
Sing hymns that were sung by the stars of the morn,
Sing songs of the angels when Jesus was born!
With glad jubilations
Bring hope to the nations!
The dark night is ending and dawn has begun:
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one! ...

Blow, bugles of battle, the marches of peace;
East, west, north, and south let the long quarrel cease.
Sing the song of great joy that the angels began,
Sing of glory to God and of good-will to man!
Hark! joining in chorus
The heavens bend o'er us!
The dark night is ending and dawn has begun;
Rise, hope of the ages, arise like the sun,
All speech flow to music, all hearts beat as one!

Christian symbol

ADVENT COLORS — One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form. We also look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ Child.





Our Sunday Worship Schedule and Live Streaming Services

9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. (children & adults)

10:00 a.m. ~ Worship Service

11:00 ~ Fellowship

December 1st ~ 1st Sunday of Advent ~ **Melinda Williams**

December 8th ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent ~ **Don Nettleton**

2:00 p.m. Community Choir Concert, Sturgis Community Center

December 15th ~ Worship-Family Program ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent
~ **Youth**

December 22nd ~ 4th Sunday of Advent ~ **Don Nettleton**

December 24th 4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight

Communion Service ~ **Carole Skalsky**

December 29th ~ 1st Sunday after Christmas ~ **Melinda Williams**



The Lord's Supper in December

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on December 1st. Ordained Elders and Deacons can serve communion.

We appreciate all who are willing to serve the church in this way. It is also helpful if you can sign up a few weeks in advance. Thank you for your help.

Office Hours

Church office hours are

Monday—Friday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Please feel free to give the church office a call with any questions or concerns at 605-347-2395.

After hours you can call Carla at 605-423-6034.



"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!"

You may also join us on Facebook Live Sunday mornings by going to **<https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianSturgis>**.

The service will also be viewed on our website, **www.fpcsturgissd.com**, a short time after 11:30 a.m.



Church Meeting



December 1st ~ 11:15 a.m. ~ Christian Education

December 2nd ~ Worship

December 3rd ~ 6:15pm ~ Deacons

December 5th ~ 1:00pm ~ PW Circle

December 6th ~ Special Session with PNC

December 8th ~ Congregational Meeting at end of worship
to elect officers

December 9th ~ 5:00 p.m. ~ Welcoming

December 10th ~ 5:30 p.m. ~ Finance, Personnel & Stewardship

December 12th ~ 12:00 p.m. ~ Alliance of Churches @ St. Francis

December 17th ~ 5:30 p.m. ~ Building & Grounds

December 17th ~ 7:00p.m. ~ Session



Deadline to submit items for the January newsletter is December 20th.

Please send your newsletter items to Carla at presbychsecretary@gmail.com.

Did you know...Our website contains monthly newsletter, monthly calendar, and much more.

Has your address or phone number changed?

Please let Carla know at 605-347-2395 or presbychsecretary@gmail.com



If you would like to give thanks for or remember someone in our rent a Poinsettia program this year, please sign up on the form in the Narthex, email or call the Church Office. The “rent” amount is \$20 per Poinsettia. The names will be included in the information sent out for Christmas Eve Service. Envelopes will be in narthex beginning December 1st.





Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service is at 4:30 PM and will be a Candlelight Service. We're looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord with you!



Oh Holy Night



Calling all members/friends of the church. The Presbyterian Women are asking for your help with the following projects.

December is a time of preparation for the miracle of Christ's birth. As we prepare, we need to remember others. Once again, the Christmas giving tree will be in the narthex with "tags" on the branches. Each of these tags represents a person residing either in Key City

Assisted Living or Monument Sturgis Senior Care Center. Please take a tag and return the gift in a gift bag on or before Sunday, December 15th.

An additional opportunity for donation has been added this year. We will be collecting identified items for the Crisis Intervention Shelter Service (CISS). Example of needed items are paper towels, individually packaged toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, etc.

Any donation of Christmas cookies is welcome to assist in the "Christmas Cookie Delivery Project". Please bring your donation to the church office on or before December 7th at 1:00 PM.

The next PW meeting will be **Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 1:00 PM in the Erskine Club Room**. Christmas cookie trays for distribution to various Sturgis Assisted Livings, Monument Health Sturgis Care Center, and homebound members/friends of the congregations will be assembled. Unwrapped toys for **Toys for Tots** and CISS donations will be collected. "Bring" your favorite Christmas Blessing.



From the Welcoming Committee: A huge THANK YOU to all who donated to, handed out, and brought 'treaters' to the 6th annual Trunk or Treat!! Approximately 425 children plus parents, grandparents, neighbors, etc. participated this year. There were 7 "trunks" and 13 adults distributing the treats. It was a lovely evening and fun was had by all. Save the date for 2025!!!







Christmas is a time we celebrate Christ's birth, the greatest gift any can receive. Through your generosity you continue to spread kindness and caring to others.

Total 2018	3164 pounds
Total 2019	2371 pounds
Total 2020	818 pounds
Total 2021	1227 pounds
Total 2022	876 pounds
Total 2023	937 pounds
January thru October 2024	872 pounds (**125 Youth)

****A HUGE thank you to the Underground Squad Youth Group. The scavenger hunt they participated in resulted 125 pounds of food for the Kiwanis Food Pantry.**

Approximately 220 families continue utilize the Food Pantry on a monthly basis. The appreciation of the visitors to the Food Pantry, both customers and volunteers, is priceless. If you wish to make a monetary donation please designate "Food Pantry" on the memo line of your check or offering envelope.

Please also continue to save Lynn's Dakota Mart receipts; the money received through this program is utilized for purchase of regularly stocked products at the Food Pantry. For each \$10,000 in receipts the Food Bank receives \$100.

December's suggested items:

December 1	Meat (non-perishable)
December 8	Baking Ingredients
December 15	Christmas Dinner (non-perishable items)
December 22	Hamburger/Tuna Helper
December 29	Breakfast

Please feel free to contact me at 605-490-3078 or betty.nettleton@gmail.com if you have any questions or suggestions. Thank you for your continued support!

Betty Nettleton



Dear Session at First Presbyterian Church,

Charlie & I are so thankful for the "Farewell Gathering" you hosted for us. We were able to say goodbye to so many and received many hugs and well wishes.

Special thanks to Rhonda Sigman & Betty Nettleton for cookies, coffee, & setting everything up.

With deep love & appreciation.

Denzel & Charlie



To The Halloween Singers,

Thanks for the Halloween candy & the singing. It is so nice to be remembered!
Shirley Jenks



A HUGE thank you to the Underground Squad Youth. The scavenger hunt they participated in resulted in **125 pounds** of food for the Kiwanis Food Pantry.



Hi Kids,

I want to thank all of you for coming to my home in October. You brightened up my day.

When I was in this church and sang with the your group let's see I am 92 now and 13 then. So it was 79 years ago! Time goes fast.

With love,
Joan Hobernicht



December 2024 Daily Bible Reading

Names of Jesus

Songs and hymns have praised the name of Jesus throughout Christian history. Written by John Newton in 1779, one verse of the hymn “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” describes our Lord: “Jesus! My Shepherd, Brother, Friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King. My Lord, my Life, my Way, my End, Accept the praise I bring.

The more recent song, “Jesus Name Above All Names,” reveals these titles: “Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord, Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.”

During this season of Advent, let us celebrate Jesus through His names that we may deepen our relationship with Him and look forward to His return.

Chosen One, Lamb of God

- Day 1 Isaiah 42: 1
- Day 2 Luke 9: 28-35
- Day 3 John 1: 29-34
- Day 4 1 Peter 1: 18-21
- Day 5 Revelation 7: 13-17

Son of God

- Day 6 Romans 1: 1-4
- Day 7 Matthew 14: 25-33
- Day 8 Galatians 4: 4-7

Messiah, Lord Jesus Christ

- Day 9 Matthew 16: 13-16
- Day 10 Luke 2: 10-12
- Day 11 John 1: 40-42
- Day 12 John 4: 25-30
- Day 13 Revelations 11: 15-16

Savior, Blessed Redeemer

- Day 14 Titus 2: 11-14
- Day 15 1 John 4: 13-16
- Day 16 Galatians 3: 11-14
- Day 17 Acts 4: 5-12
- Day 18 1 Timothy 2: 5-6
- Day 19 Colossians 1: 13-14
- Day 20 John 4: 39-42

Prince of Peace

- Day 21 John 14: 27
- Day 22 Colossians 3: 15
- Day 23 2 Thessalonians 3: 16
- Day 24 Isaiah 9: 6-7

Good Shepherd

- Day 25 Hebrews 13: 20-21
- Day 26 John 10: 11-16
- Day 27 1 Peter 2: 23-25
- Day 28 1 Peter 5: 2-4

Jesus' Return

- Day 29 Revelation 1: 7-8
- Day 30 Hebrews 9: 24-28
- Day 31 Revelation 22: 12-13



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE STAFF OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Carla Harrison ~ FPC Secretary
Morgan Pickett ~ Disbursing Treasurer
Clint Jandreau ~ Custodian
Brenda Schaffer ~ Chancel Choir Director
Carole Skalsky ~ Chapel Bells Director,
Director of Family Ministries**

Blue Christmas Worship Service

What is a Blue Christmas Worship Service, and why do we have one?

This service is for anyone who has experienced a loss in their life. It could have been the death of a spouse, parent, brother, sister, or your best friend. Maybe it is your first year of being single after a divorce, or separation. It matters not if your loss is recent or from years ago, this is a service of healing, comfort, and hope. If this is you, you are encouraged to attend this service.

This year the service will be held on Monday, December 16th, at 6:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, and is open to everyone.



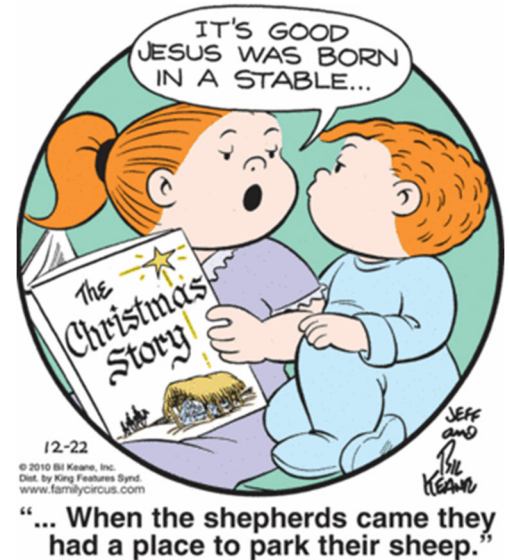
It is often referred to as the longest night of the year.





Special dates

- First Sunday of Advent, *December 1, 2024*
- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 8, 2024*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 15, 2024*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2024*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 22, 2024*
- Christmas Eve *December 24, 2024*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2024*
- New Year's Eve, *December 31, 2024*



A Reminder about Annual Reports!

Every committee and organization under the umbrella of the church needs to provide the church office with an annual report. Those that are typed, and especially those sent to the church office as email attachments, or even those within the body of the email are greatly appreciated.

Each report should be concise. Usually, it needs to be no longer than a page in length. If what you need to say can be said in a para-



graph, that is fine. If you wish to list those who served on your committee, it is very appropriate. Make sure that your heading gives the name of your committee or organization and that this is the Annual Report for 2024. It is appropriate to get them in as soon as possible after January 1. And **THANK YOU!**



Veterans' TR House Support

Our congregation supports our military veterans through supporting the Veterans' Transitional Residence program. Many veterans, as part of their recovery, move to the transitional residence in preparation for independent living. While living in the transitional residence, they are in need of supplies and items that we can provide. This mission is done under supervision of our Mission Committee, although we do not allocate funds for it.

I recently delivered boxes of donations to the Fort Meade office that oversees the program and obtained from them an updated list of things they are currently in need of. Please consider donating items from this list if you feel led to do so. The collection box is located in the northeast corner of the narthex. The new list, which follows, includes mostly consumable items.

Coffee pot, paper towels, toilet paper, saran wrap, aluminum foil, zip lock bags, trash bags, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste. Please contact any member of the Mission Committee with questions or comments.

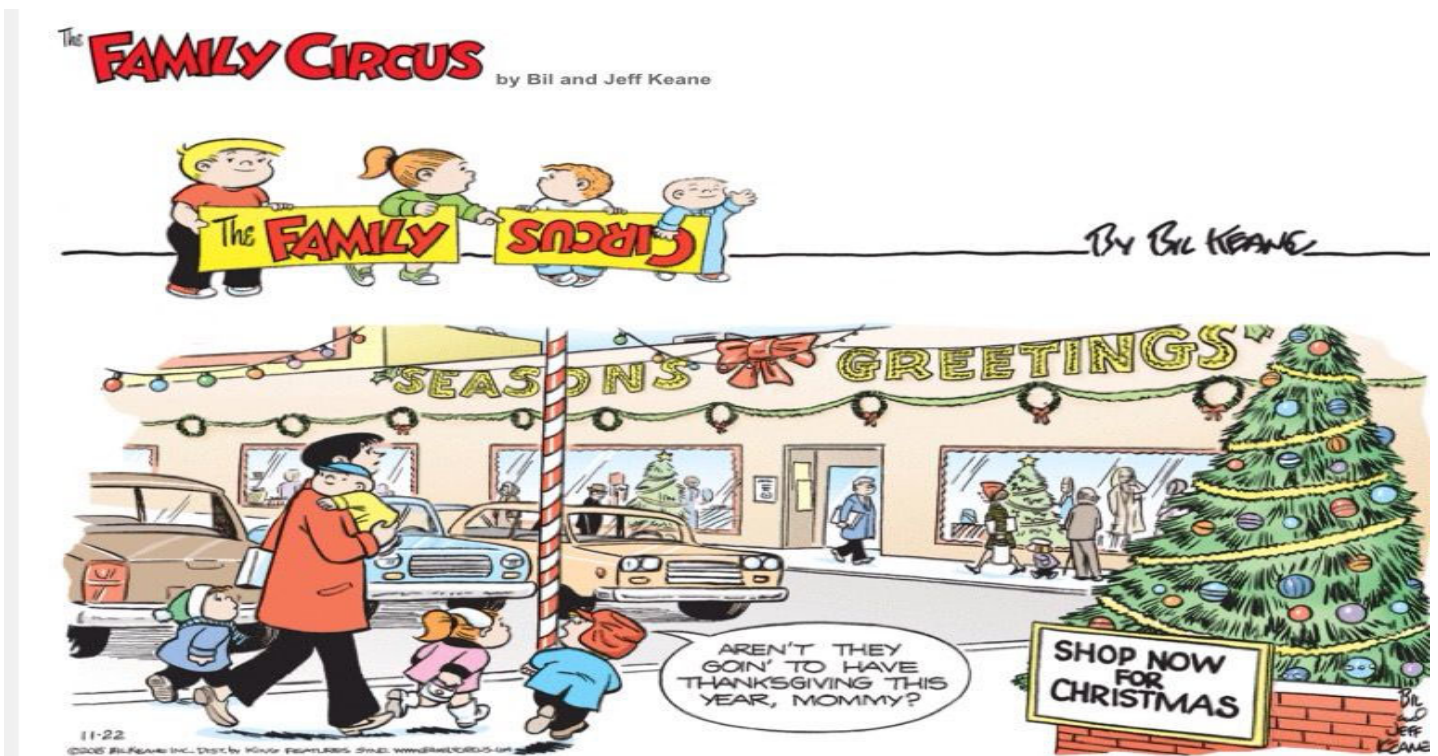
Don Nettleton.





Volunteers help run the First Presbyterian Church. We have sign-up sheets in the narthex for Nursery, Scripture readers, youth group meals, meals on wheels, and communion. Below are a few the sign-up sheets and dates that are open. If you would like to help, please contact the church office (605-347-2395 or presbychsecretary@gmail.com) or put your name on the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Thank you for your help.

Position	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
Nursery					
Scripture Reader	Nancy Harlan				
Parish	Parish 2	Parish 3	Parish 4	Parish 1	Parish 2
	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18		
Youth Group Meal					





December

BIRTHDAYS

December 1

Darrel Hatzenbuhler

Scott Peterson

December 2

Bryce Sigman

Ben Bauer

Josh Schriock

December 4

Hannah Peterson

Roy Sigman

December 7

Michele Loobey-Gertsch

December 8

Virginia (Ginger) Gerbracht

December 9

Carol Price

December 10

Taven Dunn

December 13

Kathy Biesheuvel

December 16

Craig Henderson

December 17

Ray Kaitfors

December 20

Guy Edwards

December 23

Lynne McPherson

December 30

Patricia Jentes





December

ANNIVERSARIES

December 27
Niel & Karen Hinek

Christmas Concert

What a joy it is to praise God through music. That is what the annual Christmas Concert is all about. It will be held at the **Theater of the Sturgis Community Center on December 8 at 2:00 p.m.** You will hear many choirs, including our own Presbyterian Chancel Choir. It is just such a great time. A free will offering is received at the door. You are invited to attend.



Northern Hills Connection

Tuesday, December 17, 2024

12:00 Noon \$12 Inclusive

1st Presbyterian Church Fellowship Rm.

1319 Junction Ave, Sturgis

Speaker

"It Began in a Manger"

Presented by Janet Anderson

Special Feature

"Wrap It Up"

Presented by Rose Ager

Music

Christmas Sing-A-Long

Led by Carole Skalsky



Reservations required by Dec.13. Please call: Mary
605-645-7601 or Marlene 605-580-5493. Or email
maridel.sprenger@yahoo.com

.....
Prayer Coffee: Tuesday, Dec.10 @ 9:00 AM
2105 LaZelle St. Sturgis (All women are invited and
encouraged to bring a friend)
.....

Affiliated with Stonecroft Ministries (Women connecting
with God, each other, and their communities)



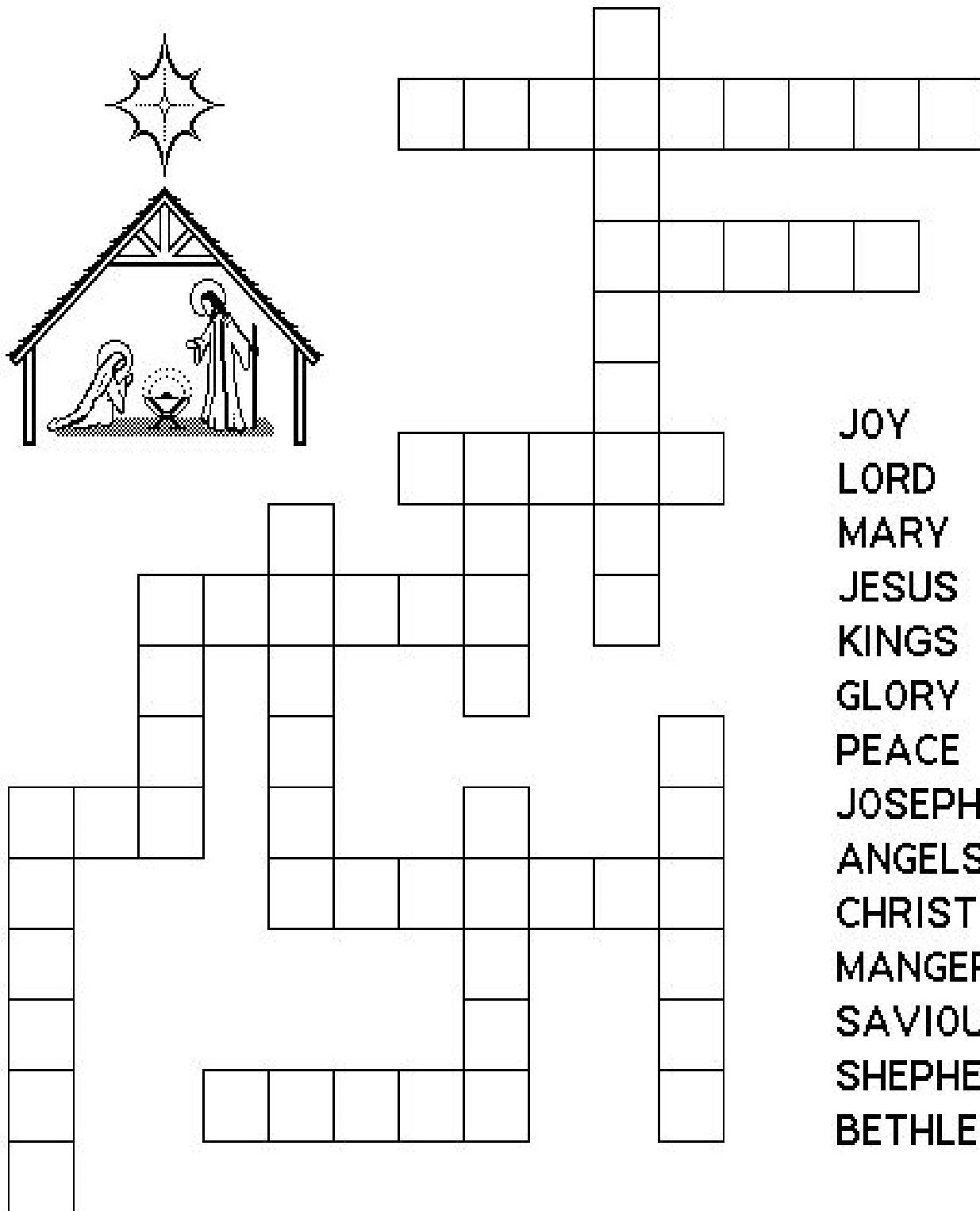
December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
1st Sunday of Advent 1 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship/ Holy Communion 11:00am Fellowship 11:15am CE Meeting Parish 2	2 5:00pm Worship	3 9:00am Home Communion 6:15pm Deacons	4 11:30am Men's Lunch 4:45pm Bells @ Community Center 5:30pm Youth Grp 7:00pm Choir @ Community Center	5 1:00pm PW Circle	6 10:00am Special Session mgt w/PNC	7
2nd Sunday of Advent 8 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Congregational Mtg. 2:00 p.m. Community Choir Concert Parish 3	9 5:00pm Welcoming	10 5:30 p.m. Finance, Personnel & Stewardship	11 11:30am Men's Lunch 4:45pm Bells 5:30pm Youth Grp 7:00pm Choir	12 12:00pm AOC @ St. Francis		14 
3rd Sunday of Advent 15 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship ~ Family Christmas Program 11:00am Fellowship Parish 4	16 6:00pm Blue Christmas	17 12:00 p.m. Northern Hills Connection Lunch 5:30pm Buildings & Grounds 7:00pm Stated Session	18 11:30am Men's Lunch 4:45pm Bells 5:30pm Youth Grp 7:00pm Choir	19 		21 
4th Sunday of Advent 22 9am Sunday School 10:00am Worship ~ Family Christmas Program 11:00am Fellowship Parish 1	23	24 4:30pm Christmas Eve Candle-Light Service	25 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day  Office Closed	26 	27	28
1st Sunday of Christmas 29 10:00am Worship 11:00am Fellowship Parish 2	30	New Year's Eve 31	1/1 			

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