



The

Sanctuary

You are God's Temple

...God's Spirit Lives in You. 1 Cor. 3:15

BLESSED SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH + 1205 NORTH LINCOLN AVE. + O'FALLON, IL 62269 + 618-632-0126 + WWW.MYBSLC.ORG

Upcoming Events

December 2025

Mon. Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

DBSA Support Group 7

Tues. Dec. 2

Jr Confirmation 315

Elders 7 pm

Wed. Dec. 3, 10 17

Advent Dinner 6

Advent Worship 7

Thur. Dec. 4, 11, 18

Adult Inquirer Class 1030

Sun. Dec. 7, 21,

Worship 1045

Sun school/Adult Bible

Study 1045 am

Tues. Dec. 9

Quilting 930 am

Jr. Confirmation 315

Church Council 7 pm

Wed. Dec. 10, 17

Adult Choir 745

Sat. Dec. 13

Sun School Program

Practice 9 am

Birthday Party for Jesus

Following practice

Sun. Dec. 14

Sunday School

Christmas Program

Cookie & Punch

Reception Following

Tues. Dec. 16

Jr. Confirmation 315

Christian Ed 7 pm

Sun. Dec. 21

Christmas Caroling

Following Sun School

Wed. Dec. 24

Christmas Eve

Worship 7 pm

Sun. Dec. 28

Worship 930

No Sun School/Adult Bible

Wed. Dec. 31

New Year's Eve.

Thur. Jan 1, 2026

Happy New Year!



WORSHIP SCHEDULE for Christmas

Schedule of Holiday Services 2025

Sat. Nov. 29

"Hanging of the Greens" 9 am

Come and help decorate the church for Christmas

Sun. Nov. 30

First Sunday in Advent Worship 9:30 am

Wed., Dec. 3, 10 & 17

Advent Dinners—6 pm

Advent Service—7 pm

Adult Choir—745 pm Dec. 10 & 17

Sunday, December 14

Children's Christmas Program 9:30 am

Cookie & Punch Reception following program

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Caroling after Sunday School

Christmas Eve December 24

Candlelight Worship with Communion 7 pm

Sunday, December 28

Worship 930 am—No Sunday School

A CHRIST-CENTERED
CHRISTMAS



Dear Brothers and Sisters of Blessed Savior,

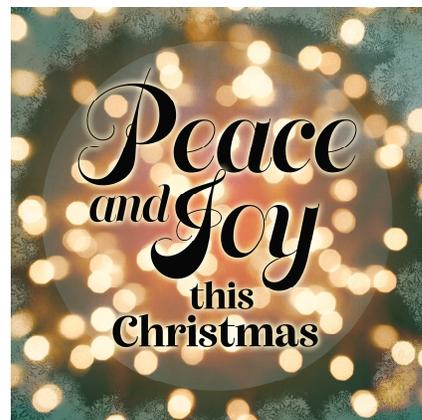
Like most people I know, I enjoy the giving and receiving of Christmas gifts. The gifts, especially ones that are inexpensive, but thoughtful, add to the festive mood of the celebration. More importantly, they remind me of the greatest gift ever given to mankind –the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The amazing thing about this gift is that it automatically conveys even more gifts. Gifts like forgiveness of sins, peace with God, membership in God's family, and a home in heaven. And Jesus is the gift that keeps on giving. His love, kindness and favor are poured into our hearts every day. There's no end to it! Thanks be to God for this amazing gift.

Speaking of gifts, I am so thankful for God's gift of a pastor to Blessed Savior. Because of your leadership and faithfulness, Blessed Savior served the Lord, his Church and the O'Fallon community in wonderful ways even without a pastor. But your new pastor, Pastor Kuhlman, will be a caring and faithful shepherd who will equip and lead you to grow and share God's Word with a world that desperately needs Jesus. I'm confident that he'll keep you laser focused on Jesus, crucified, risen, and living for you. It makes me sad to leave you. You've taught me so much and helped me sharpen some of my pastor skills that needed sharpening. But my joy over what God has done and will do through you outweighs my sadness. God is good –all the time.

Remember that we have Midweek Advent Services coming up most Wednesdays during December. They'll be held on December 3, 10, and 17 and will feature a sermon series called, "All About Mary." You guessed it. In these sermons we'll talk about Mary, the mother of our Lord, and how God used her to bring Jesus into the world. Not only is she a wonderful model of faith, but the Lord used her to bless you and me and all believers in ways that go beyond human understanding. And don't forget the dinners we have before the Midweek Advent Services. They're always delicious and nutritious.

So, dear brothers and sisters, keep your eyes on Jesus! Enjoy all his gifts, especially the gift of a loving Savior. And before you know it, we'll be gathered together before the throne of God and the Lamb to bask in God's presence forever. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Love in Christ, Pastor Tony



Born to You ... a Savior – Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

God in His incomparable love has made a way for us through the wilderness. He did this by giving us His Son, our Light in the darkness. In ***Born to You ... a Savior***, we embrace the Christmas joy and wonder of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

At Christ's birth, God the Father did a new and everlasting thing in our lives: He gave us His one and only Son for our redemption. In divine humility, Jesus joined us as a human being. Born of a woman, bearing the sins of the world, Jesus comes to us as our Protector, our Deliverer, our Savior.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them [delivered right to your inbox](#), [podcast the audio devotional](#), access them on your mobile device through the [FREE app](#), or listen with [Spotify](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Alexa](#), or [Google Home](#). Seasonal Devotions for Advent are available here in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#), as well as in French, and Chinese, from our ministry center in Canada. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.



Greetings in Christ BSLC Family!

It is with great joy that I was able to announce on Sunday, November 9th, that Pastor Nathan Kuhlman has accepted the call to be the next Blessed Savior pastor. The journey to find our next pastor, and begin a new chapter at BSLC, has been challenging, frustrating, and emotionally draining for our congregation, especially our

visiting pastors; at the same time, God had this plan for us all along, and as a church we have developed a new Vision and energy that will lead us into 2026 and beyond.

Personally, I came to appreciate the wisdom and passion that each of the call committee members exhibited during this nearly two year long journey. If you happen to see Ben, Ginger, Keith, Marty, Phyllis, Sandie, or Terry, be sure to thank them for the amazing effort each of them put into the call committee. It was truly an honor and God's blessing to have them on the team. And a big thanks to Pastor Chris Spelbring, whose wisdom and teachings guided us through the process.

Finally, thanks to all of you who prayed for the call committee and the church as we navigated this journey. God heard all of you and has graced us with a wonderful new Pastor!

RJ Kinsella

PASTOR NATHAN KUHLMAN ACCEPTS CALL TO BLESSED SAVIOR

November 9, 2025

RJ Kinsella, Call Committee Chair
Blessed Savior Lutheran Church
1205 N Lincoln Ave.
O'Fallon, IL 62269

Greetings from Missouri!

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to you for your faith in extending the Call for me to serve as your pastor. Over the last weeks I have been in prayer, met with trusted men and women of faith, but most importantly, have sought the Lord's will through His Word. In doing so, I believe He has led me to accept your Call to serve as pastor of Blessed Savior Lutheran Church.

I look forward to joining with you to dream, plan, and work toward a future Blessed Savior. The leadership at the church are among the best I have met. I repeatedly witnessed men, women, and youth serving the Lord with their whole hearts, exhibiting wonderful Christian joy! You made me feel extremely welcome during my recent visit. The only words I can use to describe this visit, is it felt like a big warm hug. I enjoyed our conversation immensely, exploring future possibilities, and celebrating the great ministry you are currently doing in O'Fallon and beyond. It is clear, a great foundation has been established upon which to build.

As I begin to make the transition to become a part of the Blessed Savior family, I look forward with eager anticipation to see how God will reveal Himself in the months and years ahead as we together seek to connect people to Jesus! Indeed, our tomorrow is filled with great opportunity!

God bless and keep you!

In His service,
Rev. Dr. Nathan Kuhlman

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The season of Advent is upon us, readying our hearts and minds for the birth of Jesus! Our lessons in Sunday School will focus on the events leading up to the miracle in Bethlehem. We are also preparing for that joyous celebration as we get ready for our Sunday School Christmas Program, "Christmas New Star". We extend a huge "Thank You" to our director, Phyllis Miesner, who is busy preparing everything, as well as to our entire Sunday school staff, who have helped the children learn their parts and songs for the program. It is a very busy and exciting time for us, so everyone needs to be present this month.



The December schedule is as follows:

Sun., Dec. 7 – regular class time (practice songs at Opening & parts during class)

Sat., Dec. 13 at 9:00 am – 12:00ish Dress Rehearsal (Grades PreK – High School) Birthday Party for Jesus Lunch immediately following rehearsal

Sun., Dec. 14 at 9:00 am – All classes meet in their respective classrooms to get ready

9:30 pm – "Christmas New Star" Program

Cookie and Punch Reception to follow in the basement
No Sunday School

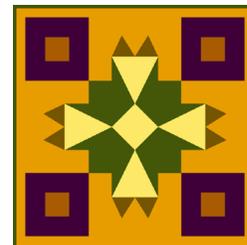
Sun., Dec. 21 – Regular SS Classes

Sun., Dec. 28 – NO SS CLASSES

Sun., Jan. 4 – NO SS CLASSES

A sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex for items needed for the **Birthday Party for Jesus lunch**. A light lunch of hot dogs, chips, and carrots will be provided. We need **people who would be willing to prepare and serve the meal**. Thank you for your help!

All are invited downstairs after our **Christmas Program for a cookie and punch reception**. We ask **all families to bring a platter of cookies to share**. We appreciate your help with this.
Ryan Moureau



Join the Lutheran World Relief **QUILTERS** on **Tuesdays, Dec. 9, Jan. 13** and **Feb. 10** from 9:30–12:00 p.m. to tie quilts. (We don't actually quilt by hand. Instead we secure the layers by hand tying them.) Come and join us for a time of good ole fellowship. Hope to see you there! Mark your calendar for the 2nd Tuesday of each month. If you have any fabric pieces, thin blankets, curtains, drapes, sheets, etc. you no longer need, the quilters would love to recycle them into quilts.



Christmas Adult Choir

Practices Wed., Dec 10 & 17 following Advent worship

If interested, please text Marty Lintvedt 618-531-3344

Just 2 practices and then sing on Christmas Eve.



A New Beginning

“He’s coming!” How excited we are to hear that Pastor Nathan Kuhlman has accepted our call to be pastor of Blessed Savior Lutheran, O’Fallon. Details have not yet been worked out yet for his installation, but he will be here in January. It’s been a long 2 years of waiting, praying, and hoping for an end to this vacancy and God’s answer to our prayers. And now the time is almost here. How exciting!



It’s probably no coincidence that the same could be said of God’s divine plan for the coming of His Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. It must have seemed like a long time to the children of Israel. They, too, had been “waiting, praying, and hoping” for the Savior of the world to come to them: their country (or, congregation?) The news and plans for His arrival came in what we call the Advent Season. In fact, the word “Advent” means “coming.” Soon, we will be preparing for Jesus’ first coming at Christmas – and His second coming at the end of the world (as we know it now.). Yes, there is much anticipation, excitement, and thanksgiving as there is for Pastor Kuhlman’s coming to be the pastor of our congregation.

What can you expect? You can expect Pastor Kuhlman to share with you the promises and gifts of God in His Word and in His Supper as well as through his spiritual gifts and presence. You can expect God to use Him to nourish and support you on your journey through life to heaven.

And, in this coming Advent season you can expect God to come near you in all the situations of your life to nourish and support you with His Word and Spirit. Pastor Jeremiah Bauer, Pastor Tony, and Pastor Mark Wiesner, will be bringing the good news of God’s love to us in our Mid-Week Advent Services. We continue “waiting, praying, and hoping” not only for our new pastor, but for the celebration of our Savior’s birth and His return in glory.

The end of this vacancy marks a new beginning in Diane and my personal lives as well. She has a liver disease, which has led to her specialist recommending a stent be put into her liver. The surgery is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 25th, at Barnes Hospital. Dr. Sauk assures us that the procedure is safe, “minimally invasive,” and will help with blood flow through her diseased liver, so she will not have to have blood transfusions every couple of weeks. We, too, “wait, pray, and hope” that he is right.

This will be my last article for the newsletter. I want to thank you for your partnership with me in the Gospel during this vacancy. It has been a blessing to be with you not only as a parish family but as a parish pastor (retired?). And, I hope to continue that partnership in the Gospel even as we receive a new pastor. We wait, we pray, and we hope as we work together as God’s people during this Advent Season and until Jesus calls us home through death or returns with all of His angels to take us to “new heavens.”

Pastor Perry Schefelker

His Many Names, Our Great Hope

Long before the manger in Bethlehem, the prophet Isaiah pointed God’s people to the promise of a Savior. In Isaiah 9:6 (NIV) we read: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Even before Jesus’ birth, his names revealed who he is and what he would bring. Each title carries a promise that still impacts our lives today.

- **Wonderful Counselor.** Jesus brings wisdom and guidance for every situation. In moments of confusion, we can lean on him to direct our steps with love and truth.
 - **Mighty God.** He is strong enough to carry our burdens and powerful enough to overcome sin, fear and death itself.
 - **Everlasting Father.** Jesus reflects the heart of God the Father, offering care that is constant and unchanging. His love doesn’t fade with time or circumstance.
- Prince of Peace.** In a world filled with turmoil, Jesus offers a peace that goes deeper than circumstances, a peace that guards our hearts and minds.

At Christmas, we celebrate more than a baby’s birth. We celebrate the fulfillment of God’s promise, a Savior with many names. Each one reminds us of his eternal love and presence. This season, let his names bring you comfort, strength and peace.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Millstadt invites the community to its annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 13, from 9 am to noon. Come stock up on all your favorite delicious homemade Christmas Cookies which are sold by the pound (\$14 per pound for mixed cookies and \$15 per pound for fancy cookies). Advance orders are welcome. Please contact Shirley Boehm at 618-476-1113 to place your order or for any other information. The church address is 503 East Washington, Millstadt.



Fellowship Committee

Fellowship continues with the Donuts until the end of the year. Please bear with us as we get with the new Pastor and work with him on how/what he would like to see for Fellowship time in the New Year.



ADVENT DINNERS

Advent dinners start on Dec 3, 6pm with Fellowship and Christian Ed leading the charge.

Dec 10: (Week 2): Volunteers needed

Dec 17: (Week 3): Stewardship

The Fellowship Committee wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.



Council Notes

Pastor report: Pastor Tony Troup - The Midweek Advent Services are all lined up. The series is called "All About Mary" and will focus on how God loved Mary and he used her to bring our Savior into the world. The preachers will be Rev. Jeremiah Bauer on Dec. 3, Rev. Tony Troup on

Dec. 10, and Rev. Mark Wiesner on Dec. 17.

Christian Ed - The Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat was held on 26 Oct despite the rain. The trunk or treat was held in the sanctuary, and the games were held in the fellowship hall. Even with the rain, we still had a huge turnout. Sunday school is currently working on the children's Christmas program 14 December. Phyllis Miesner is once again the program director.

Elders - Church safety, reviewing overall safety procedures, CPR Certification, Fire Ext training, add escape door to the Northeast corner of the sanctuary.

Evangelism/Outreach - Pastor Nehrt presented us with a proposal to host a training session in January of Ambassadors for Christ. This discussion was postponed until Pastor Kuhlman is installed as our Pastor.

Properties - Parking lot complete, Wiring for video wall complete, Video wall install Nov. 12, Lock replaced on north entrance door, and Waiting for deal on new refrigerator (Gil Klein).

Stewardship - The Time and Talent survey is ongoing, as they are returned they will be tabulated and returned to the committees for their review.

Worship - This year (2025) expenses were significantly higher due to computer replacements caused by Windows 10 end-of-life. We replaced two of the three machines, upgraded server space, and will replace the sanctuary machine soon.

Keith Szolga, Council Chairman



Holiday Humor

Much planning and preparation goes into worship during December. But that doesn't mean Christmas services and pageants are always picture-perfect. For anyone who's experienced holiday chaos (who hasn't?!), take comfort in knowing you're not alone.

Church leaders who shared stories with Outreach magazine describe an alarming number of Christmas candle vs. hair incidents. Here's what else has transpired:

- One pastor was sharing the Nativity story when he bumped the button on his singing Christmas tie, which didn't have a mute button. So congregants had to listen to the entire verse and chorus of "Jingle Bells."
- A child discovered a live mouse in his chocolate-filled gift bag on Christmas Eve. Although the creature jumped out and scurried out the door, worshipers saw it return for the next service.
- After flames were distributed for the candlelight service, a pastor said, "Now that we're all good and lit ...," causing laughter throughout the pews. Children tend to go off-script during Christmas plays, as evidenced by all the bloopers available online. (Check out the YouTube clip titled "Sheep, Mary tussle over baby Jesus in children's pageant gone hilariously awry.")



Stewardship CORNER

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
 “We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.



STEWARDSHIP NOTES:

IF YOU HAVE NOT MADE YOUR PLEDGE FOR 2026 YOU MAY STILL DO SO. FILL OUT YOUR PLEDGE AND PLACE IN THE GOLD BOX ON THE ALTAR. ALSO, PLEASE FILL OUT A TIME AND TIME AND TALENT SURVEY AND LEAVE IN THE BASKET IN THE NARTHEX. THANK YOU. THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

POINSETTIA —

This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Christmas Caroling
All Ages Welcome!
Sunday, December 21, 2025



Immediately following Sunday School
 A Light lunch will be served.
 Caravan to carol for local shut-ins.
 Share the joy of Christ's birth!
 Please sign up in the Narthex!

Candles That Tell a Story



Lighting its candles each Sunday is a treasured tradition during the four weeks of Advent. Depending on denomination, churches use different color combinations for the candles. Some place four blue candles around the wreath with a white one in the center, while others use all white. Many light purple candles on the first two Sundays, pink on the third, purple again on the fourth, and then a large white candle on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Each part of the wreath carries symbolic meaning:

- **The wreath:** Its circular shape represents the everlasting love of God, having no beginning or end. The green symbolizes eternal life.
- **The four candles:** Mark the four weeks of Advent.

One tradition says that each candle also represents 1,000 years, totaling 4,000 years from Adam and Eve to Christ's birth.

- **Purple candles:** in ancient times, was expensive and was considered the color of royalty and kings. On Christmas, Christ is proclaimed King of Kings. Purple also symbolizes humility and penitence. The first purple candle represents Hope; the second, Peace; and the final purple candle, Love.
- **Blue candles:** Blue is another color often used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use blue candles to symbolize the night sky and the anticipation of the announcement of Christ's birth. Blue also symbolizes the beginning of a new creation as in the waters of Genesis 1.
- **The pink candle:** Lit on the third Sunday, it represents Joy and marks the halfway point of Advent.

The white candle: The large white candle in the center is the Christ candle. Its light symbolizes Christ the Savior — "the light of the world."

The beauty and brightness from the glow of all five candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the light for all earth's people — "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:5, NRSV).

The Advent wreath is more than just greenery and candles—it's a symbol of watchfulness and growing joy as Christmas draws near.

Lutheran Older Adult Retreat

"Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord!"

April 15-16 2026

Pere Marquette Lodge
 Grafton, IL

Sponsored by Southern Illinois District LCMS and Missouri District LCMS

Enjoy the beautiful surrounds of Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton, Illinois.

Excellent Workshops include:

Life Issues
 Lifelong Disciples
 Everyday Missionaries
 Music in Worship
 Prison Mentoring
 Challenges Every Church Faces
 Resilience

Presenters include

Rev. Dr. Mart & Cheryl Thompson
 Rev Jeff Nehrt
 Rev. Matt Peeples
 Rev. Heath Curtis
 Rev Dr. Bob Weise
 Rev. Dr. Richard Marrs

Wed. Entertainment

Jan Struck
 Reservations & Info
 Margo Wolf
 618-979-3376
 Registration \$135 plus lodging



- 1—Cheryl Krantz
- 2—Ryan Moureau
- 5—Sloan Colvin, Randy Emmons
- 6—Laurie Tatge
- 9—Dennis Brockmeyer
- 10—Todd Gorney
- 11 – Brooks Colvin
- 15 – Erik Lintvedt, Dale Schutte
- 15—Gwen Borsch,
- 17 – Lauren Williams
- 17—Luke Lesire
- 20 – Tammy Ellington, Carrie Johnson
- 21 - Danielle Stake

- 27 – Don Drouin, Marc Ellington
- 27—Emil Lintvedt
- 28 – Audrey Lesire
- 28— Mark Morton, Bill Feldmann
- 31 – Ed Brandmeyer,



- 1– Greg & Angie Conrad
- 14—Mike & Tyler Owens
- 19 – Rick & Barb Applegate
- 31– Gabe & Audrey Alvarado



- 1-Charla Morton
- 5-Natalie Bartimus
- 6-Terry Colvin, Matthew Bowman,
- 7-Connie Schatz, Rachel Schmidt
- 7—Mikaila Soberanis
- 8—Hadley Williams
- 12—Cody Krueger
- 21-Anna Satrom, Eric Stake, Ellie Ernst
- 22-Stephanie Williams
- 24 -Cheryl Vohlken, Hayleigh Williams, Thomas Borsch, Mary Bruns
- 25-Nathaniel Ellington,
- 26- Andrew Mabry
- 26-Simoriah Longhorn, Connor Gass
- 27—Amy Boggs
- 28-Mark Berens,
- 29-Thomas Satrom, Tom Sotiropoulos,
- 30-Rick Applegate, Isabel Calzada



If we have overlooked your anniversary or birthday, please notify the church office. 632-0126.



- 29 George & Kim Kruse

12 Christmas PRAYERS

1. Expectation

Fill us with hope, knowing that God kept his promise to send his Son to earth. (See *Isaiah 9:6-7.*)

2. Wonder

Just as the angel's message left Mary in awe, remind us of the joyful news of Jesus' coming. (See *Luke 1:31-33.*)

3. Humility

Like Joseph, make us willing to trust God and humbly care for others. (See *Matthew 1:20-21.*)

4. Obedience

On our earthly journey, teach us to follow your commands, just as Joseph and Mary obediently traveled to Bethlehem. (See *Luke 2:4-5.*)

5. Provision

Thank you for meeting all our needs, as you provided a stable and manger bed for Baby Jesus. (See *Luke 2:6-7.*)

6. Peace

Fill us with your perfect peace, which the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born. (See *Luke 2:13-14.*)

7. Praising

Remind us to follow the shepherds' example of celebrating and sharing the good news of Jesus' birth. (See *Luke 2:16-18.*)

8. Grateful

Keep us thankful for God's greatest gift, which Mary treasured on the first Christmas. (See *Luke 2:19.*)

9. Saved

May Jesus' precious name remind us of his power to save us from our sins. (See *Matthew 1:21.*)

10. Fulfilled

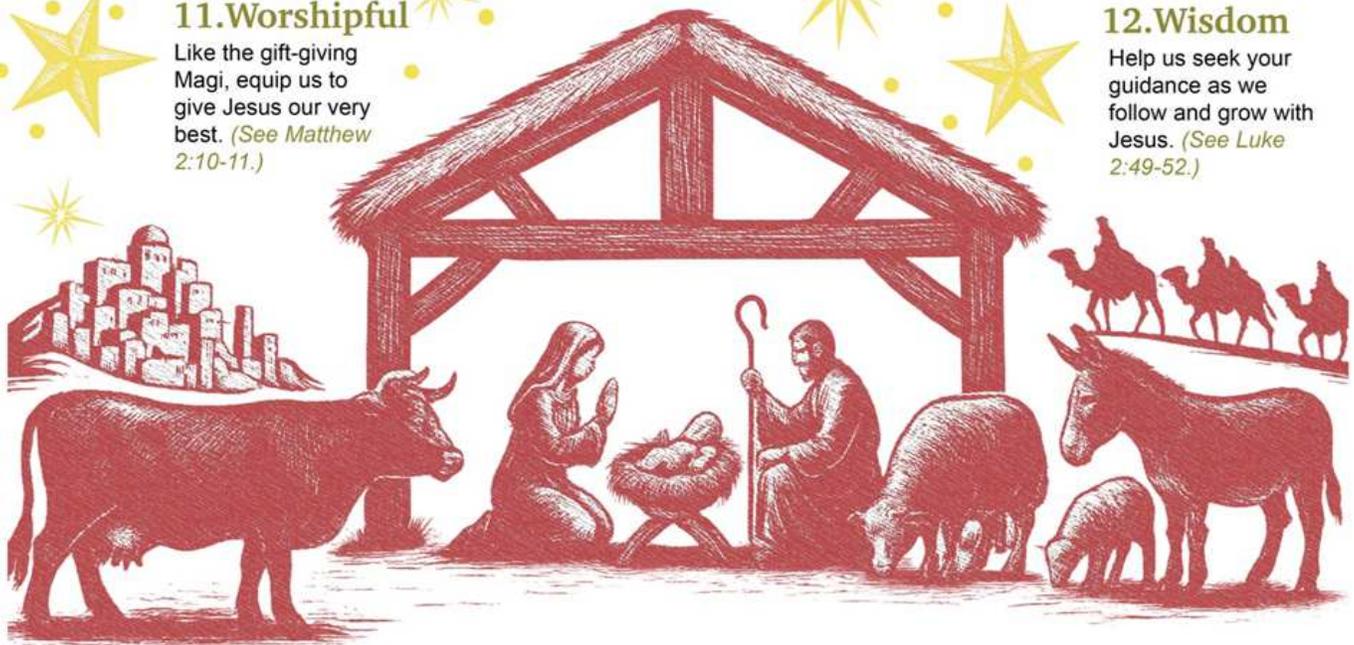
Give us content hearts, just as Simeon and Anna found fulfillment in the promised Savior. (See *Luke 2:28-32.*)

11. Worshipful

Like the gift-giving Magi, equip us to give Jesus our very best. (See *Matthew 2:10-11.*)

12. Wisdom

Help us seek your guidance as we follow and grow with Jesus. (See *Luke 2:49-52.*)



Christmas Card treasures



Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)

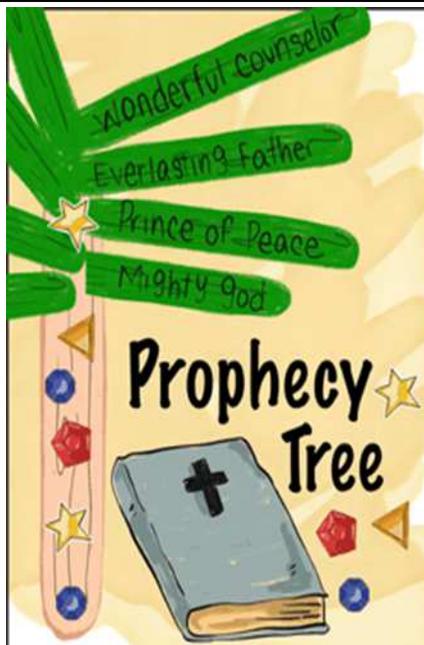


What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.
— James 1:17 (NIV)



Prophecy Tree

Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

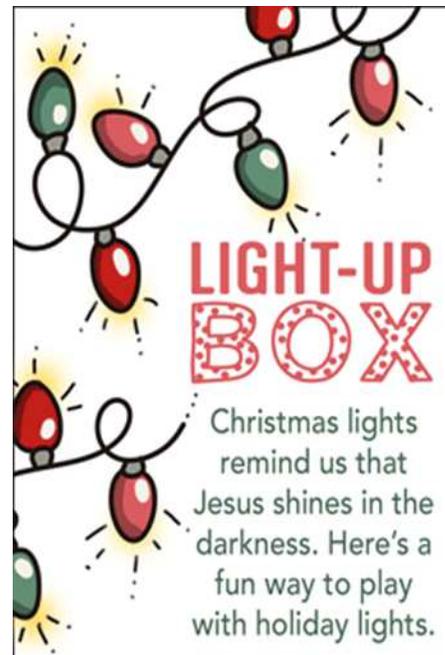
What you need:

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels



What you do:

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.

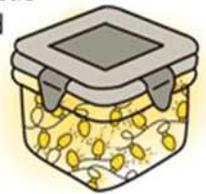


LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.



