



## God With Us

by Pastor Vera Guebert-Steward

As I write this, North Sinai is reeling from the worst militant attack on Egyptian soil with 300 people dead and 100 injured. Such stories of violence are commonplace anymore. Either in the US, England, France, or the Middle East, hatred and savagery are perpetrated upon innocent people; often people gathered in their houses of worship. The world is a dangerous and pretty harsh place. There has never been a more important and crucial time to seek the Son of God born in a manger; born in his own, turbulent world.

Soon we will enter the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. The Sunday lessons during Advent instill us with pensive anticipation of the coming of the Christ child. The Season of Christmas gives us the joyful opportunity to celebrate the birth of God's own Son. And the Season of Epiphany manifests Jesus to the Gentiles. The characters we come face to face with during the Christmas and Epiphany seasons are rich with meaning. The Magi come humbly seeking an encounter with Baby Jesus. Mary bears her firstborn in a stable and Joseph relents and claims Jesus as his own baby child.

Barbara Brown Taylor believes that other than Jesus, Joseph is one of the more important characters of the Christmas story. It is his life that is so much like ours: "A just man who wakes up one day to find his life changed dramatically," Taylor writes, "even wrecked: his wife pregnant, his trust betrayed, his name ruined, his future revoked. It is about a righteous man who surveys a mess he has had absolutely nothing to do with and decides to believe that God is present in it. He is the one in the story who is most like us, presented day by day by day with circumstances beyond our control, with lives we would never have chosen for ourselves, tempted to divorce ourselves from it all when an angel whispers in our ears: "Do not fear. God is here. It may not be the life you planned, but God may be born here, too, *if*

you will permit it."

That if, she writes, "is the real shocker – that God's yes depends on our own, that God's birth requires human partners – a Mary, Joseph, a you and a me – willing to believe the impossible, willing to claim the scandal, to adopt it and give it our names, accepting the whole sticky mess and rocking it in our arms. Our lives, our losses, our Lord. And not just each of us alone, but the whole church of God, surveying a world that seems to have run amuck and proclaiming over and over again to anyone



who will hear that God is still with us, that God is still being born in the mess and through it, within and among those who will still believe what angels tell them in their dreams."

I hear it today in the midst of our agitated world; angels whispering in our ears, "Do not be

afraid, for God is with you." Without those words, we would be unable to rejoice. Without the angel's song, promises would be shallow and hearts would remain broken. Without the angel's proclamation of good tidings, our world would be lost forever in a state of disarray. Christ is born, the angels told the Shepherds, "born in the city of David." Born in a place very near the heart of the violence and political struggle of Jesus' day. His mommy and daddy were no less akin to the heart ache of human hatred than we are. Yes, into this untidiness, Jesus was born.

The Seasons of the church year we are about to enter are sacred; holy times that might still get disturbed by the ferocity of hatred, unkindness,

***"Do not fear. God is here.  
It may not be the life you planned,  
but God may be born here, too,  
if you will permit it."***

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)  
and violence. We must listen for the angel's voice, seek the Light and cradle the Son of God in our own hearts. This, my brothers and sisters, will be the only way to endure. God is with us; not just today but every day. It is a sure and certain promise that comes true in the baby in Bethlehem. Fear not. You are not alone and you never will be. Even in the harshest times, God is with us. Rest in these words and live into the anticipation, joy and light of the seasons before you.

*Blessed Advent,  
Merry Christmas,  
and Happy, Happy  
New Year to my dear  
family of faith.*

A decorative header featuring a wreath of greenery and pinecones with four lit white candles. The text "your home" is written in a large, elegant cursive font, and "FOR THE HOLIDAYS" is written in a bold, sans-serif font below it. The ELCA logo is visible on the left side.

*your home*  
**FOR THE HOLIDAYS**

**Evergreen Lutheran Church**

*Thursday, December 21*

6:30pm—Worship Service of Healing & Hope

*Sunday, December 24*

9am—Advent 4-One Worship Service

*Christmas Eve Worship*

Communion & Candlelight, Sunday, December 24

4pm—A Service to Bless the Family

6pm—A Service of Lessons and Carols

8pm—A Service to Celebrate the Holy Night

10pm—A Service to Celebrate the Holy Night

*Christmas, December 25*

9am—Christmas Morning-One Worship Service

*Sunday, December 31*

9am—1st Sunday of Christmas-One Worship Service

**Adult Faith Formation  
Sunday Morning, 9:15 a.m.  
In Fellowship Hall**

**December 3**—“To The Boys: A Study of Zechariah and Joseph” lead by Pastor Vera  
**December 10**—No Adult Faith Formation. Children’s Christmas Program in the Sanctuary. Join us in supporting our kids and hear the Christmas Story through their eyes. You will be blessed.

**December 17**—“To The Boys: A Study of Zechariah and Joseph” lead by Pastor Vera

**Beginning January 7**—Pastor Vera will lead a study on “Luther’s Thirst for Grace”. During the season of Epiphany you are invited to gather with Pastor Vera to discuss the religious climate that preceded the Reformation, the Quest for the “True church” and Luther’s deep yearning for Grace. Using the book “The Theology of the Reformers” as the basis of our discussions, we will look at our current religious climate and anxiety that seems to be prevalent in our world and country. Join us Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15am.

**In the Great Hall**  
Faithful Parenting lead by Terry and Jim Ritter

**In Nazareth**  
Tom McEwen will lead a class looking at the Protestant denominations which have sprung from the Reformation.

**Advent**

Advent is one of my favorite times of the year. If you look for it amid the hustle and bustle of the upcoming season of Christmas, you will find stillness, you will see the light in the darkness shine a little brighter and you will be reminded that this season of waiting will point us toward the birth of our Savior. A savior that will break into the darkness of this world with light, hope and peace.

**John 1:1-5 (NRSV)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Lord from the beginning of time,  
light made the difference.

**Let your light shine upon us, Lord.**

You introduced light by your command and dispelled darkness.

**Dispel our darkness, Lord.**

Your light is a gift to the world and an answer to our prayer.

**May we receive your gift, O Lord.**

We come in our darkness, and prefer to remain hidden.

**Shine your light upon us, Lord.**

Remove our stubborn wills and penetrate our darkness.

**Come into our lives with light, Lord.**

Let our lives be gifts to you and brightness to others.

**Make us shine with your light, Lord.**

Fill this place with light eternal.

**We will shine for you, Lord. Amen.**

– T. Anne Daniel, *The Africana Worship Book: Year C*

Blessings to you through this season of Advent, the celebration of the Christ child and beginning of the New Year. May Christ’s light shine bright upon you.

*With you in Ministry,*  
Kim Williams

**Lunch Bunch** will meet at Keys on the Green, **December 21** at noon. This is a no host lunch. Please call the church office if you plan to attend so we can let the restaurant know we are coming. On **January 18** we will meet at Lakeshore Café.

**Java and Jesus** meets on **Thursday mornings at 9:30am**. We will continue the Advent study, “While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent” through January 4 and begin a new study on January 11.

**Stephen Ministry** meets **January 18** at 7:15pm in Fellowship Hall. The December date will be announced soon.



**Faith & Culture in January**

Your Concerns and Convictions from Our Wittenberg Door: A Conversation Hosted by ELC's staff, Pastor and Leaders **Thursdays throughout the month of January 5:15 p.m.**

Please join ELC's Staff and Pastor in the Fellowship Hall any or all Thursdays in January at 5:15 before evening worship for an assessment of and conversation about the suggestions you posted on the Wittenberg Door.

All are welcome...no kidding!

Stone Soup

**Stone Soup**

We will make Beef Barley on **Sunday, December 3 at 7:30 a.m.** in the upstairs kitchen. Once a month during the colder months, we make 5 gallons of soup for EChO clients.

Please email Dale Knochenmus, mdaleknochenmus@gmail.com if you can help with this ministry.

## Christmas Carols

### Advent --

#### A Time for Rebirth

I get many suggestions from people about worship and music – and I truly appreciate it when people come to me with their questions and comments. One comment I recently got from someone is that we don't sing Christmas Carols during Advent.

The seasons of the church year are developed around the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During these seasons, we experience beginnings and endings – with waiting, lament and hope in the midst of them. The church family is probably most in tune with Advent and Lent – waiting and preparation times for great joy in our Christian lives...the birth of Christ, and his resurrection. Maybe it's even more real to us now with our world in such turmoil, that we have something to look forward to and rest into joy and peace. Advent is a time we are to prepare to live in harmony with each other as we experience the full meaning of "Christ with us." But, when we look at the texts for Advent – they are not warm and fuzzy. There are warnings of how we are to be in relationship with others and God.

Like people in the time prior to Jesus' birth – things were not right in the world and within themselves. We are a part of that narrative today. We are being asked to own our part in being reborn into new ways of thinking and being.

Perhaps singing and hearing Christmas carols stir good memories in us – and we don't get to live in that "comfort zone" for very long in the church during the Christmas season. After talking about this with Pastor Vera, our Worship and Music Board, and Staff, we decided to incorporate some carols into our preparation time during Advent. We hope that it blesses you.

God's vision for our lives is an exciting and powerful one -- to love one another and live in peace. What an incredible world we would live in if each of us committed to be reborn during this season of Advent. To live into who we are created to be as individuals and children of God, filled with grace and love.

*Blessings of rebirth to you this Advent season,*

*Peggy Fetchenhier,  
Minister of Worship and Music*

## I Want You, I Need You, I Love You – Come!

Many years ago, my sisters, Dale and I traveled to Italy. When we were at the Vatican, we had a delightful guide. I don't remember his name – all I remember is what he said every time he wanted to move us on to another area. It was "I want you, I need you, I love you – come"...a bit of lyric from an old Elvis Presley song. Of course, it made us laugh, and we cheerfully followed him through the maze of religious history and art. While Elvis was not singing about a relationship with God, as we live in to the Advent season of anticipation, the fulfillment of the gift of the Christ child and the season of light in Epiphany, these words keep coming to my mind.

Life can often feel overwhelming and I must admit, my God vision is a moving one, as I experience and witness others' joys, struggles and suffering. But when I'm able to reel in the complexities of relationships and expectations that we all live with, I believe in a loving and caring God who wants us to be in intimate relationship with God and each other. Difficult? Yes, sometimes, but so worth the journey. It is my star to follow and keep focused on.

So, as I enter this season of anticipation, I will imagine this loving, parent God saying to each of us "I want you, I need you, I love you – come". And I will feel the joy of being a child of God – beloved, wanted and needed.

*God's blessings of peace, joy and love to you,*

*Peggy Fetchenhier  
Minister of Worship  
and Music*



## December Birthdays

- 1 Howard Ritter,  
Shannon Holtmann
- 3 Karladee Ormsby,  
Andrea Furlong
- 5 Anna Carswell,  
Blake Haggenjos,  
Zachary Haggenjos
- 7 Anah Fuelling, John Serfling
- 8 Eric Blumenstein
- 9 Aaron Gerlach, Andy Riedel
- 10 Casey Jung, Don Ormsby
- 12 Adelynn Holtmann
- 17 Ryan Briggs, Sarah Grube
- 19 Keedran Boettger Thorpe,  
John Kohnke
- 20 Tara Alexander-Walker
- 21 Rocky Petrocchi,  
Charlotte Konigsbauer
- 22 Carole Coukos
- 23 John Riscoe, Ann Bengtson
- 24 Andrew Queen, Barb Bender
- 26 Michael Theiss, Scott Sudmalis
- 27 Kristi Kohnke, Cody Knopf
- 28 Kimberly Nemmers
- 29 Jim Tellman
- 31 Devon Thompson

## December Anniversaries

- 1 Tupper & Karla Briggs
- 6 Jeané & Rick Mitzelfelt
- 10 Beth Erlund & Dennis Johnson,  
Marilyn & Ron Pearson
- 19 George & Sunny Golder
- 27 Philip & Lynn Nestingen
- 28 Marlyce & Sig Brekke
- 29 Ruth & Tom McEwen,  
Michael & Zoe Bergner
- 30 Don & Karladee Ormsby

## Blue Advent Paraments

John 1:5 *“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”*

The beginning of Advent will bring a new look to the altar area and the cape-like garment that Pastor Vera wears. These fabric creations are called paraments and the cape-like garment is called a chasuble.

Although they do tend to “decorate” the church, their real reason is to help us know and understand God’s message to us. The Advent message is one of hope, hence the use of the color blue.

Although the majority of the fabric is a dark royal blue and purple spiraling back into black darkness, it is the star that is most obvious. The star represents the light, God’s light that shines in our dark world, the coming of Emmanuel.

Furthermore, common cotton fabrics and more luxurious velvets and satin are used to remind us that God sent his Son Jesus for all, both the rich and the poor, the poor

shepherds and the wealthy kings. His light shatters the darkness for everyone.

The multicolored pieced design seen in most of the paraments is called a crazy quilt. It is a design that Jackie Antweiler loved to sew. And since blue was her favorite color, it seems only fitting to dedicate these Advent paraments to her. Knowing Jackie, I’m sure she’d be delighted that they are also dedicated to the Piecemaker husbands, whose light no longer shines here on earth, but we know shines bright in heaven with Jackie.

In conclusion, these paraments are a gift to Evergreen Lutheran Church in memory of Jackie Antweiler, Mark Meyer, Larry Sohrweid, David Julseth, Tim Walgren, Chuck Sear, and Dave Wahlstrom from Kathy Zbryk, John Serfling, and Marcia Henderson. Kathy and Marcia did the planning, piecing, and assembly and John digitized and embroidered the stars. Thanks also go to Karen Schutt for her advice and support.

The design of these paraments is inspired by the work of Linda Witte Henke who was in turn inspired by the words from John 1:5.



## Resolutions

Alternative Gift Fair. Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes for the Mountain Backpack Program. Operation Christmas Child. Christmas boxes for military members overseas. The opportunities to serve come at us fast and furious between November and January. Just as our calendars fill up with holiday festivities and our shopping carts fill up with tasty treats to share with family and friends, our chances to serve our local and global community increase during the extended holiday season, too. It is a beautiful opportunity to share our abundance with others during a time of celebration about the birth of our Savior.

Then it's January, and we can go back to our regularly scheduled program, plus a resolution or two. It is tempting, isn't it? We purchased beautiful gifts at the Alternative Gift Fair that benefitted some wonderful organizations, we donated food for Christmas boxes, and we sent three shoeboxes full of fun items to kids overseas. Check. Check. And check.

But the sad reality is that just because our lives go back to normal after the hustle and bustle of the holidays, the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors do not go away. There is still hunger, homelessness, abuse, and war. There is still disease, violence, brutality, and illness. That's the bad news. The good news is there is still God. No matter the season, weather, or situation, God is still here and using us to be God's hands and feet to our neighbors across the street and across the globe.

The Board of Christian Outreach here at ELC aims to make service to Christ and others as easy as possible. We want you to know of needs in our local and global community, but we are also receptive to hearing where you think Evergreen Lutheran could be more active. Please join us on Sunday, January 28 between services and after the late service for our

Outreach Fair to learn about organizations that we support with our time, talents, and treasures.

As we flip the calendar to a new year, make service the resolution that you actually keep.

*DeNae vanWestrienen  
Board of Christian Outreach*

## Alternative Gift Fair



The final figures for the fair follow. The vendors will receive 100% of the \$112,785.84. They do not pay any entry fees, table fees or any other fees. Even the credit card charges are covered by the AGF organization. The bake sale amount will be used to finance purchases, advertising, etc. for next year's fair. The Youth Cafe total will be divided among the participating youth groups. The Salvation Army and Rotary will receive 100% of their totals shown below. WOW! What an incredible success! Thanks to all of you volunteers this was another amazing fair that will provide assistance for people around our country as well as many in other nations. All of this would not be possible without your many hours of dedication and hard work. We are forever grateful to you all and will look forward to another successful fair in 2018.

Vendors	112,785.84
Bake Sale	4,438.15
Youth Café	1,358.45
Salvation Army	502.61
Ice Melt – Rotary	307.00

Grand Total of \$119,392.05. Again another fantastic fair.

Mary Richards  
Volunteer Coordinator

## French Onion Soup Au Gratin

- 1 large onion per person
- 2 tbsp flour
- butter—2 sticks per 8-10 onions
- 1 c water (or stock) per person + 1 for pot
- Gruyere cheese, grated
- dried French bread

Directions:

Peel and slice onions. Sauté onions in a generous amount of butter in a heavy pan. Allow onions to cook until a deep golden brown color stirring occasionally to prevent sticking. This cooking time will vary depending upon the number of onions used.

Add 2 tbsp flour and water (the number of cups will depend on number of servings desired). Boil this for 15 min.

Add a few handfuls of grated gruyere cheese and top with dried French bread. Sprinkle remaining gruyere cheese on top.

Bake at 400 until cheese has melted and turned a golden brown.



Christmas and Advent books and DVD's are available in ELC's library. Please note that it includes the title, author, and Dewey Decimal number of each item to make your search easier. For your convenience, all materials will be on display on the table and counter in the library through the Christmas and Advent season. If you can't find your selection, it may have been checked out. If you would like to sign out a book or DVD, please fill out a sign-out slip located on top of the card catalog and put it in the black recipe box.

*The members of the Library Committee wish you a very merry and blessed Christmas season!*

Lloyd Peltzer,  
Librarian

**A is for Advent** by Charles W. Ferguson -230 Fer

**Advent and Christmas: Wisdom from Henri J. M. Nouwen** by Henri J. M. Nouwen-242 Nou

**Advent Moments** by Neil Strait and Stan Toler-242 Str

**The Advent Wreath: A Light in the Darkness** by Debbie O'Neal-242 One

**Before and After Christmas: Activities and Ideas** by Debbie O'Neal-249 One

**Best Christmas Pageant Ever** by Barbara Robinson-Fic Robinson

**Carols for Christmas** by David Willcocks-783.6 Wil

**Chicken Soup for the Soul Christmas Treasury: Holiday Stories to Warm the Heart** by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen-242.3 Can

**Christ in the Carols** by Christopher and Melodie Lane-242 Lan

**The Christ of Christmas** by Calvin Miller-263.94 Mil

**Christmas: An Annual Treasury-Oversized** 394.26 Chr

**The Christmas Box** by Richard Paul Evans-813.54 Eva

**The Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens-808.3 Dic

**Christmas Customs and Their Origins** by Hilding E. Nelson-394.2 Nel

**Christmas Jars** by Jason Wright-Fic Wright

*“All the glory and beauty of Christ are manifested within, and there he delights to dwell; his visits there are frequent, his condescension amazing, his conversations sweet, his comforts refreshing; and the peace that he brings passeth all understanding.”*

~ Thomas a Kempis  
Grandpa Lee's Gems for the Fireside

**Day by Day in Advent** by Christopher G. Milarch-242 Mil

**The Days Before Christmas** by W. A. Poovey-263 Poo

**The Essential Christmas Book** by Alan MacDonald and Janet Stickley-394.2 Mac

**Esther's Gift** by Jan Karon-Fic Karon

**Eternal Season: A Spiritual Journey Through the Church's Year** by Henri J. M. Nouwen-242 Nou

**Evergreen Lutheran Church Children's 2010 Christmas Program** by ELC Children-AV DVD 394.2 Eve

**The First Christmas** by Paul L. Maier -Oversized 232 Mai

**God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer 242.33 Bon

**The Guidepost's Christmas Treasury** -813.01 Gui

**Home By Another Way** by Barbara Brown Taylor-252.6 Tay

**In the Days of the Angels: Stories and Carols for Christmas** by Walter Wangerin-813 Wal

**The Joy of Christmas-AV DVD** 394.2 Aco

**Joy to the World** by Kenneth W. Osbeck-242 Osb

**A Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas** by Max Lucado-231.6 Luc

**Lucia: Child of Light**-920 Kuc

**Lyrics, Legends, Lore of Christmas** by Alice E. Adamak-394.26 Ada

**Making New Testament Toys** by Margaret Hutchings-745 Hut

**Making Room for Christmas: Preparing a Place for the Christ Child** by Herbert Brokering-242.23 Bro

**Manger in the Mountains** by James Arne Nestingen-242 Nes

**The Man Who Saved Christmas** by Joe Maurer-AV DVD Fic Maurer

**Martin Luther's Christmas Book** by Roland Bainton, ed.-252.6 Bai

**Miracles of Christmas**-263.9 Mir

**The Mitford Snowmen** by Jan Karon-Fic Karon

**The Practical Dreamer and Other Stories to Tell at Christmas** by Richard P. Olson-242.3 Ols

**Prayers and Promises for Christmas** by Jennifer Hahn-242.3 Hah

**Preparing for Jesus: Meditations on the Coming of Christ, Advent, Christmas, and the Kingdom** by Walter Wangerin-242 Wan

**The Reader's Digest Book of Christmas** by Reader's Digest-Oversized 394.2 Rea

**Redeeming Light** by O.P. Kretzmann-263.91 Kre

**Rick Steves' European Christmas** by Rick Steves-AV DVD 394.26 Ste

**The Shepherd of the Hills** by Harold Bell Wright-Fic Wright

**Shepherds Abiding** by Jan Karon-Fic Karon  
**Skipping Christmas** by John Grisham-Fic Grisham

**Song for the Season** by Darran Cloud-AV DVD Fic Cloud

**Stories for the Christian Year** by Eugene Peters-SC Peters

**The Story of the Advent Wreath**-242 Sto

**The Story of the Christmas Tree**-263.91 Sto

**Swedish Toys, Dolls, and Gifts You Can Make Yourself** by Ulf Lofgren-745.5 Lof

**Through the Year with Martin Luther** by Martin Luther-252.6 Lut

**When Christmas Came to Bethlehem** by Charles L. Allen and Charles L. Wallin-225.9 All

**Woodcutter's Christmas** by Brad Kessler-Fic Kessler

**The World Encyclopedia of Christmas** by Gerry Bowler-Oversized 394.2 Bow

**The World's Greatest Stories** by Eric Posselt, ed.-394.2 Pos

The Board of Christian Outreach at Evergreen Lutheran Church determines which charitable organizations will receive our congregation's generous donations. Each month we will feature a few of the organizations to which we give benevolences. Please visit their websites for more information.

### Lutheran Family Services

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains is a faith based, non-profit human service agency providing adoption, foster care, older adult caregiver, prevention, and refugee services since 1948. We help children and families during their most challenging times regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation or age. We believe that all people, from the newborn to the most elderly, are valued members of our community. Every day we provide help and support to children and families, because everyone deserves hope during the most challenging times of their lives. With offices in Denver, Colorado

Springs, Fort Collins, Greeley, Fort Morgan and Albuquerque, we partner with communities to meet the unmet needs affecting their most vulnerable populations. LFS strives to recognize areas in need and to find ways to serve those who have seemingly become invisible.



Every day, hundreds of people turn to LFS for refuge, help and hope.

We don't do it alone! The hallmark of serving through LFS has always been a shared sense of being in this together; joined at the heart with volunteers, clients, donors and neighbors.

#### Ways You Can Help

Open your heart, open your home – considering becoming a Foster Parent! As a foster parent you'll change not only the life of a child but your own.

Donate – help ensure sustainability of LFS programs helping our most vulnerable neighbors.

Volunteer – we are always in need of volunteers!

<https://lfsrm.org/>

### Seniors' Resource Center

#### Our Mission

Seniors' Resource Center is a community partner providing person-focused, coordinated services to enhance independence, dignity and quality of life.

Seniors' Resource Center is dedicated to enhancing the independence, dignity and quality of life for seniors in the Metro Denver Area and surrounding communities. We believe seniors are a vital part of our community. At Seniors' Resource Center we provide an array of services that enable older adults to remain in their homes and thrive. Services such as transportation, in home care and adult daytime programs provide life

enriching activities and support both older adults and their caregivers. We help older adults remain independent and engaged.

#### Our History

Since 1978, Seniors' Resource Center has been providing services to seniors. We started under



Jefferson County Department of Social Services as a small department that handled inquiries about senior services and volunteer opportunities. Soon it became evident that there was a need for an agency dedicated to assisting seniors.

Today Seniors' Resource Center provides services, resources and advocacy to over 24,500 people a year.

#### Our Vision

Seniors' Resource Center will continue to ensure quality of life through a constellation of services, information, advocacy, and leadership to meet the needs of the community, enabling individuals to age in the place they call home.

<http://srcaging.org/>

## ELCA World Hunger

*For I was hungry  
and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty  
and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger  
and you welcomed me.*

– Matthew 25:35

God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry.

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, we meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished.

We start with relationships marked by conversation and listening. We believe people know their own communities best. It is our congregations and our global

companion churches that first identify the local needs and related solutions to help make a difference. Then, we partner with communities to help make those solutions a reality.

Working through ELCA congregations, global companion churches, The Lutheran World Federation and other partners like Bread for the World, Church World Service, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran World Relief, the ELCA reaches more places more effectively than we could ever do alone. In addition to funding relief and development projects that assist our sisters and brothers in need, we engage members of the ELCA in education and advocacy to help change the systems that perpetuate poverty.

Through this comprehensive approach, we work to address hunger from all angles — both domestically and globally.

<https://www.elca.org/hunger>

## January Birthdays

- 1 Linda Biery, John Harms
- 2 Carmen Julseth
- 3 Linda Walpole
- 5 George Hellmuth
- 6 Mark Kelly, Kara Halingstad
- 7 Ian Nelson
- 8 Ruth Krauss, Karrie Jones
- 9 Paul Stephenson
- 10 Aaron Dickey
- 11 Lyn Lewis
- 13 Anne Miller, Shelley Harmon
- 14 Audrey Lein, Jim Brannan
- 15 Dominick Pucherelli,  
Alison McClure, Art Hogling
- 16 Carrie Diflumeri
- 18 Dave Kirberg, Sam Loeffler
- 20 Marlin Jung, Ann Bender
- 21 Aryk Greenawalt
- 22 Karen Schutt, Jeannie Hawsey
- 23 Dick More
- 24 Lynn Nestingen, Annika Forbes
- 26 Joy Glennon, Bruce Campbell
- 28 LaVeta Bermudez
- 29 Linda Walgren, Bill Lightcap
- 30 Jackie Link
- 31 Ben Krauss, Jacob Barclay,  
Jake Bender

## January Anniversaries

- 28 Greg & Joanne Miller





## December & January Calendar

- 12/1: 9:15am—Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 12/6: 6:00pm—†ED, Confirmation, Kingdom Kids
- 12/9: 9:30am—Christmas Program Rehearsal
- 12/10: 9:15am—Christmas Program
- 12/13: 5:00pm—Guitar Lessons  
6:00pm—†ED, Confirmation, Kingdom Kids
- 12/20: 6:00pm—†ED, Confirmation, Kingdom Kids
- 12/28: 6:30pm—Worship with Youth  
7:00pm—Middle/High School Lock-in
  
- 1/3: 5:00pm—Guitar Lessons  
6:00pm—†ED, Confirmation, Kingdom Kids
- 1/10: 6:00pm—†ED, Confirmation, Kingdom Kids
- 1/12-14: Middle School Youth Gathering
- 1/17: 5:00pm—Guitar Lessons  
6:00pm—†ED, Confirmation, Kingdom Kids
- 1/24: 6:00pm—†ED, Confirmation, Kingdom Kids
- 1/26: High School Escape Room and Lock-in

## Be Prepared

This year has been flying by. Just yesterday it felt as if Pastor Vera was leaving for Sabbatical and now we're already getting set for Advent and Christmas. In the midst of the fast-paced fall, I've been lucky enough to spend time with our kids of all ages. Middle School has had AMAZING Sunday School lessons as we dove into Revelation. High School ministries have been rich and full with †ED, activities, and the youth gathering this last month. Even our children's ministries have been fun from Sunday School to Kingdom Kids!

One particular children's ministry has been sticking in my brain as I get set to gear up for Advent. I have been lucky enough to be working with a few of our older Cub Scouts as they get ready to move up to Boy Scouts. They've been learning about how their relationship with God impacts their life as scouts (and vice-versa!), but I haven't been able to get Be Prepared, the Boy Scout Motto, out of my head. For scouts, Be Prepared is a pretty self-explanatory motto. We need to be ready for any

situation that may arise for us to be leaders in the community and our world. However, at this time of year, that motto means something a little different to us as Christians.

As we approach Advent, our time of waiting before our Lord Jesus' birth, we need to be prepared, too. Often, that preparation ends up looking like decorating the house, putting up lights, and buying gifts, but the reality is so much more personal. We need to prepare *ourselves* for God incarnate. The situation will arise in which we need to be disciples and proclaimers of the Good News; the news that God has wrapped Himself in flesh as a baby in a manger in Bethlehem. We need to keep our eyes out for a star shining over a small town. We need to keep our ears out for a baby's crying. We need to be prepared for the world to be turned upside down.

A great way to make those preparations is to join us at ELC this Advent season. Come to Sunday or Thursday worship, to Sunday School, to youth activities, and to everything in between. Be Prepared isn't just a Scout Motto—it's an Advent Motto.

*Dan Bock*  
Children, Youth, & Family Minister

### Dan's Contact Information:

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Get hooked up with our ELC Youth News. You'll get info for all ELC Youth events! Email danbock@evergreenlutheran.org if you want to get connected.



**DECEMBER LAY MINISTER: Jon Johnson & DJ Riedel**

**DECEMBER 3— (8:00 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Art Whyte

**Reader:** Mark Bly      **Greeter:** Fran Pallesen

**Communion Servers:** Dave & Jan Blumenstein, Wayne & Nancy Lowe

**Ushers:** Val Prolow, Eric Halingstad, Jim & Cathy Tellman

**(10:30 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Amy Shoemaker-Leavy

**Reader:** Dave Kirberg      **Greeters:** Paul & Karen Phillippe

**Communion Servers:** Jackson Kohnke, Kristi Kohnke, Linda & Carl Almquist

**Ushers:** Gary Sohrweid, Connell O'Brien, Dennis Johnson, Okie Arnot

**DECEMBER 10—(8:00 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Jim Barclay

**Reader:** Jackie Lanning      **Greeters:** Bob Hawsey, Herman Walke

**Communion Servers:** Chris & Gene Enebo, Jacque & Art Whyte

**Ushers:** Ed Furlong, Deb Pucherelli, Barb & Fred Guist

**(10:30 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Andy Riedel

**Reader:** Rob Bender      **Greeters:** Paul & Karen Phillippe

**Communion Servers:** David & Sue Plothow, Jeff Brekke, Jennifer Swanagon

**Ushers:** Jo & Jon Powers, Drake Klenz, Isaac Brooks

**DECEMBER 17 (8:00 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Marcia Smith

**Reader:** Paul Stephenson      **Greeters:** Chris & Gene Enebo

**Communion Servers:** Jim & Barb Barclay, Pat Brewer

**Ushers:** Val Prolow, Lyn Lewis, Dale Knochenmus, Mark Bly

**(10:30 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** George Wittenberg

**Reader:** Bette Warn      **Greeters:** Bee Dickey

**Communion Servers:** Joe & Carol Brice, Carol Riscoe, Harriet Sear

**Ushers:** Larry & Sue Petroskey, Dave & Sue Plothow

**DECEMBER 24—Advent 4 (9:00 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Amy Shoemaker-Leavy

**Reader:** Nancy Eldridge      **Greeters:** Carolyn & Scott Bergner

**Communion Servers:** Carolyn & Scott Bergner, Herman Walke, Ed Furlong

**Ushers:** Janet Anderson, Karla Briggs, Chris & Gene Enebo

**DECEMBER 24 (4:00 p.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Nick Walker

**Reader:** The Tracy Family      **Greeters:** vanWestrienen Family

**Communion Servers:** Kristi Kohnke, Amanda Evans, Drake Klenz, Anah Fuelling

**Ushers:** Beth Malecki, Deb Pucherelli, Gordon & Sue Queen, Jacob Foley, Bob Hawsey

**(6:00 p.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Dave Kirberg

**Reader:** The Evans Family      **Greeters:** Art & Sharon Onweller

**Communion Servers:** Jan & Rocky Petrocchi, Jim & Barb Barclay

**Ushers:** Shirley Russell, Nolan Bly, Lloyd Peltzer & Bob Mosca

**(8:00 p.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** George Hellmuth

**Reader:** Nancy Lowe      **Greeters:** Karen & Paul Phillippe

**Communion Servers:** Cathy & Jim Tellman, Jo & Jon Powers

**Ushers:** Mark Guebert-Steward, Anna Brooks, Isaac Brooks

**(10:00 p.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Jon Johnson

**Reader:** Mark Guebert-Steward      **Greeters:** Cathy & Jim Tellman

**Communion Servers:** Carol & Joe Brice, Bill & Marcia Smith

**Ushers:** Peder Kruger, Mark Guebert-Steward, Dave Kirberg

**DECEMBER 25 (9:00 a.m.) Assisting Minister: DJ Riedel**

**DECEMBER 31 (9:00 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Shirley Russell

**Reader:** DJ Riedel      **Greeters:** Art & Sharon Onweller

**Communion Servers:** Carolyn & Scott Bergner, Kristi & Scott Moriarty

**Ushers:** Chris & Gene Enebo, Jan & Dave Blumenstein



## January Worship Participants

**JANUARY LAY MINISTER:** Anita Seggelink

**JANUARY 7— (8:00 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Ed Furlong

**Reader:** Melissa Krane

**Greeter:** Deb Pucherelli

**Communion Servers:** Wayne & Nancy Lowe, George Golder, Sheryl Fick

**Ushers:** Lyn Lewis, Mark Bly, Nolan Bly, Mary Noonan

**(10:30 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Dave Kirberg

**Reader:** Jo Powers

**Greeters:** Gordon & Sue Queen

**Communion Servers:** Dave & Sue Plothow, Jennifer Swanagon, Carol Riscoe

**Ushers:** Bob Mosca & Lloyd Peltzer, Karla Briggs, Linda Easton

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**JANUARY 14—(8:00 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Okie Arnot

**Reader:** Jan Blumenstein

**Greeters:** Bob Hawsey, George Golder

**Communion Servers:** Mark Bly, Val Prolow, Pat Brewer, Ed Furlong

**Ushers:** Art & Jacque Whyte, Shirley Russell Debbie Pucherelli

**(10:30 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:** Elaine Sohrweid

**Reader:** Jennifer Hood

**Greeters:** Paul & Karen Phillipe

**Communion Servers:** Jo & Jon Powers, Cindy Gibson, Tom McEwen

**Ushers:** Jan Petrocchi, Connell O'Brien, Harriet Sear, Penny Lambert

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**JANUARY 21 (8:00 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:**

**Reader:** Art Whyte

**Greeters:** Heidi Haggengjos & boys

**Communion Servers:** Chris & Gene Enebo, Fred & Barb Guist

**Ushers:** Bob Hawsey, Wayne Lowe, Marlyce & Sig Brekke

**(10:30 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:**

**Reader:** Lisa Hamm-Greenawalt

**Greeters:** Art & Sharon Onweller

**Communion Servers:** Joe & Carol Brice, Carol Riscoe, Harriet Sear

**Ushers:** George & Phyllis Wittenberg, Sara Larson, Drake Klenz

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**JANUARY 28 (8:00 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:**

**Reader:** Shirley Russell

**Greeters:** Herman Walke, Shirley Russell

**Communion Servers:** Jackie Lanning, Pat Brewer, Sawyer Halingstad, Ethan Halingstad

**Ushers:** Eric Halingstad, Bob Hawsey, Cathy & Jim Tellman

**(10:30 a.m.)**

**Assisting Minister:**

**Reader:** Barb Bender

**Greeters:** Jeff & Holly Brekke

**Communion Servers:** Bob Mosca, Lloyd Peltzer, Nancy Eldridge, Kristi Kohnke

**Ushers:** Peder Kruger, Anah Fuelling, Okie Arnot & Dennis Johnson

**All who serve in worship, please check in with the lay minister when you arrive on Sunday to let them know you are present.**



Evergreen Lutheran Church

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**Ministers:** The people of ELC

**Pastor:** Rev. Vera Guebert-Steward

**Sabbatical Interim:** Rev. Ron Roschke

### Staff

**Minister of Worship and Music:**

Peggy Fetchenhier

**Director of Adult Ministries:**

Kim Williams

**Minister of Children, Youth, & Family:**

Dan Bock

**Confirmation Coordinator:**

DeNae vanWestrienen

**Office Administrator:** Tara Walker

**Organist:** Jeanne Schubert

**Thursday Musicians:** Chris Besler,

Jon Johnson, Dan Bock, Shea McGrath,

Rich Reynolds, Christa Johnson

**Glory Ringers Director:** Carl Cox

**Property Manager:** Ed Boettger

**Asst. Property Manager:** Jay Lipson

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Karladee Ormsby

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### Newsletter Volunteers

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*The article deadline for the newsletter is the 15th of each month. Please email your articles to the church office or Jean.*

*The goal of the Mountain Echo is to provide an interesting and informative newsletter for Evergreen Lutheran Church, provided to you electronically before the first Sunday of each month. It can also be viewed on our website at [www.evergreenlutheran.org](http://www.evergreenlutheran.org). each month. It can also be viewed on our website at [www.evergreenlutheran.org](http://www.evergreenlutheran.org).*