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East Side Lutheran Church
1300 East 10th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796
www.eastsidelc.org

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Sioux Falls, SD

December 2024



WORSHIP SERVICES
Saturdays: 5:30 pm
Sundays: 8:00 am & 10:00 am
KXRB Radio at 11:00am on 1140 AM
or 100.1 FM on your radio dial
Facebook live services
& YouTube



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 10:00 am Koen Leafstedt Baptism 11:15 an Education Task Force	2	3 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	4 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper—Youth 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45 pm Choir	5 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Food to You	6	7 12:00 noon WELCA Christmas Luncheon 5:30 pm Worship
8 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 9:15 am Youth Committee Meeting 9:15 am King's Choir 11:15 Healing Service	9 9:00 am Quilters—Lower Level	10 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 6:00 pm Charis Board Meeting	11 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper—WELCA 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45 pm Choir	12 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	13	14 9:00 am Children's Christmas Practice 11:00 Choir Practice 5:30 pm Worship
15 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 9:15 am King's Choir 11:15 Council Meeting 5:30 pm Children's Christmas Program	16 Newsletter Items Due	17 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	18 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper—Choir 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:45 pm Choir	19 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	20	21 5:30 pm Worship
22 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 9:15 am King's Choir	23	24 4:00 pm, 5:30 pm, & 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Services	25 OFFICE CLOSED MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 5:30 pm Worship
29 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 9:15 am King's Choir	30 9:00 am Quilters—Lower Level	31 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 5:00—6:30pm Silent Communion				



The Voice

This is the monthly newsletter of East Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

It can also be downloaded from our website.

East Side Lutheran Church

1300 East 10th Street, Sioux Falls SD 57103-1796

(605) 336-3597 www.eastsidelc.org

Staff

Rev. Layne Nelson Lead Pastor
Rev. Ray Heidenson Visitation Pastor
Wayne Wosje Business Manager
Gayle Lee Parish Secretary
Sue Hart Volunteer Coordinator
Tom Call Security

Music Ministries

Paul R. Griffith Organist
Dr. Thomas Krause Director of Music
Katrina Mitchell Accompanist

Worship Services

Saturdays

5:30 pm

Sundays

8:00 am 10:00 am

Radio Broadcast: KXRB 1140 AM or 100.1 FM

Sundays, 11:00 am

OnLine: Facebook, YouTube, and ESL Website

Sundays, 8:00 am

WELCA Giving Tree

The WELCA Christmas Giving Tree this year will be for Union Gospel Mission. They are asking for underwear for men, women, teens, and children, as well as socks, hats, gloves, and hoodies.

Radio Sponsorship:



For 80 years we've received cards, letters, phone calls and e-mails from those who enjoy "being with you" in

Sunday morning worship through our radio ministry.

"You're the church on the radio!"

-Sioux Falls Resident

YOU make this possible! Your sponsorship allows this to happen AND can honor someone or something special in your life... anniversaries, birthdays, the memory of a loved one or simply gratitude of God's love. THANK YOU! If you would like to help support this special ministry call the church office at 605-336-3597.

11:00am on KXRB Radio (1140 AM or 100.1 FM)

Sponsor a radio broadcast - \$255/Sunday!

Dec 1—In honor of Our Anniversary given by Dick & Sheryll Adkings
 Dec 8 — in Memory of Mary Jane Bernard given by Family & Friends
 Dec 15 — In memory of Mary Jane Bernard given by Family & Friends
 Dec 22 — in honor of family given by Evie Pruden
 Dec 29 — in memory of Mary Jane Bernard given by Family & Friends



Online Sponsorship:

Did you know that people in SD, ND, NV, WY, TX OK, OH (and other states) regularly worship with us online... and then share the Good News in their local community. YOU make that possible!

Sponsor an online broadcast—\$50/Sunday!

Dec 22 — in honor of family given by Evie Pruden
 Dec 22 — in honor of Milt & Sue Jackson's 58th wedding anniversary giving by their children
 Dec 29 — in honor of Olivia Nelson's birthday given by Lloyd & Peggy Nelson

Sunday School News

Practice for the “Fumbly Bumbly Angels” is going strong and you may have noticed more than the normal noise in the Sunday School area with lots of singing and the cast practicing their lines. A big Thank you to the Sunday School parents for helping the children learn their songs and lines for the program.

As we finish the year the children have been doing a great job with sharing our theme “Let Your Light Shine”. The cross on the wall in the Sunday School gathering area is getting filled with Post It notes by the children each week on how they have they helped or put a smile on faces during the week.

December 1 – No Sunday School – Thanksgiving break

December 14 – Christmas program practice – 9:00 am.

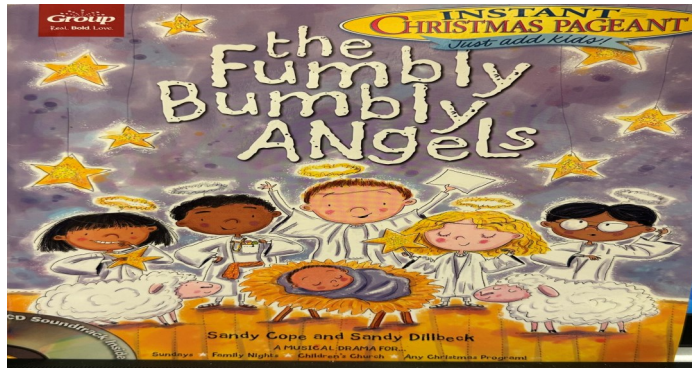
December 15 – Christmas program – 5:30 pm followed by Cookie Fellowship

December 22 – No Sunday School – Christmas break

December 29 – No Sunday School – New Year’s break

Wishing all a Blessed Christmas!

Jackie Swiden – Sunday School Director



Date: Sunday, December 15, 2024

Time: 5:30 pm

Place: East Side Lutheran Church

GET READY FOR BINGO!

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting BINGO on Sunday, March 2, from 2:00-4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Cookies and water will be provided.

We are in need of prizes (large & small) for this event. Last year we had an amazing number of prizes for all ages, and we are hoping for the same this year. New items are preferred. If you are able to donate a prize or donate money toward purchasing prizes, please bring your donation to the office prior to February 24.

Have questions? please contact Carla Midden. We hope to see you March 2.

Fellowship Committee
Carla Midden

Having Fun Making Sandwiches!

This month ESL member had fun caring for our community by making sandwiches to be distributed to hungry mouths that come to our door. **THANK YOU** to Kay Dammer for suppling the buns, ham, and cheese to be shared with the homeless in our midst.



As hearts simultaneously break and

rejoice... please hold the following

ESL families in prayer:

-Lila Heng

The following have been Honored this month to the glory of God through gifts given in their memory to the work and ministry of East Side Lutheran.

Thank you for your generosity.

Virginia Boe given by

- Shirley Watke

- Sheri Watke– Shively

Dale Swan given by

- Marv & Laurie McKnelly

(gifts given as of November 24th)

WELCA NEWS

Put this date on your calendar:

Christmas luncheon is Saturday, December 7 at noon. **ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED.** As always, there will be great food-all homemade food- and great entertainment. The music will be the barbershop quartet "Somewhere In Time." Our friend and lefse-maker Randy Kolden is a member of this group. Bring a friend or two. We need vegetable salads and fruit salads. You will find a sign-up sheet at the bulletin board by the office if you are willing to bring one. If you have a small Christmas item to donate, we will have a grandma's attic table.

Thrivent Action Grants

Wow! We have received so many Thrivent Action Grants. Your dollars are being put to good use through the ministry of your congregation.

Thanks to everyone who has applied and done a Thrivent Action Grant this past year. You are a blessing to the church and others in our neighborhood!

We are asking for help in streamlining our program at ESL. If you have used a Thrivent Action Grant in 2024 we would like to hear from you.

The information we would like to receive is: your name, the date of the grant(s), what it was used for and if you plan to use the same grant in 2025.

You can send your information to:

brdlrsn48@gmail.com

Thanks for your help!

Brad and Marsha Larson



Holiday Worship Schedule

Holden Evening Prayer

-Wednesdays Dec. 4th, 11th, and 18th

(all services at 7pm, meal before at 6pm)

Christmas Eve

-Tuesday Dec. 24th: 4pm, 5:30pm, 11pm

(all services candlelight; communion-11pm)

Christmas Day

-Wednesday Dec. 25th, 9:00am

New Year's Eve— Silent Communion

-Tuesday Dec. 31st

(Church open from 5:00-6:30pm, come and go as you are able)

President's Promptings

Some of you may remember stories told by your Grandparents or maybe your parents about the Christmas presents they received as a kid. Some received only an orange or an apple, maybe a pair of socks or mittens...that was it. Times were tough and money was scarce. The Christmas meal wasn't much better. Seems barbaric compared to the mountains of gifts we give and receive now. And the meal we serve... spare no expense.

I wonder if we're better off, now that we give, receive and eat more for Christmas than our parents or grandparents? I'm not convinced.

The one important part of those old stories that we forget to mention is the lesson learned way back then. The lesson that God is good and He provides. It's true that in those days Christmas presents were simple and sparse but, when times are tough and the chips are down even those gifts were great blessings.

Have you counted your blessings recently? Not the big stuff, which we should also give thanks for but, the little things. A soft bed, a warm shower, food in the fridge, things like that. Those are the real Christmas gifts. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and are reminded that the gifts you receive under the tree pale in comparison to the gift you received in the manger.

-Ray Schut

Nativity Word Scramble

- STBALE _____
- HEEPS _____
- NLGEA _____
- TSAR _____
- GAMREN _____
- JHPOES _____
- OENYDK _____
- EUSSJ _____
- SKNGI _____
- YMAR _____



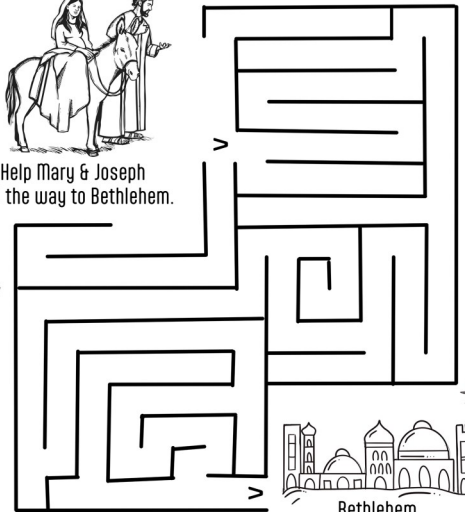
Word Search

H	R	L	Y	V	E	L	A	B
O	B	L	E	S	S	O	A	R
L	R	G	I	F	T	V	S	A
Y	E	G	F	P	S	E	B	T
J	O	Y	A	T	A	E	B	S

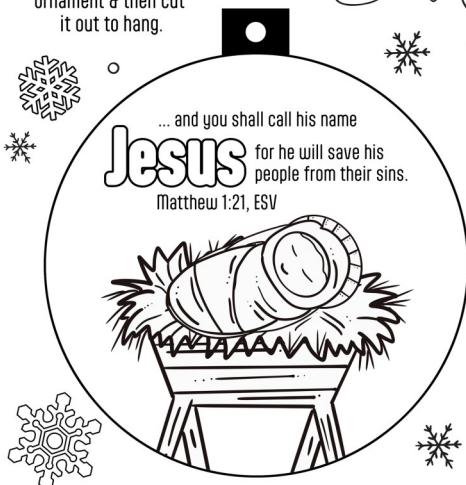
JOY, LOVE, GIFT, HOLY, BLESS, STAR



Help Mary & Joseph find the way to Bethlehem.



Color the Christmas ornament & then cut it out to hang.



In the know about Finances – December 2024

In life we often need to reevaluate and I recently did just that. In the November Council meeting I resigned my position as Treasurer at East Side. This decision was not made easily but I feel like it is the best decision for me personally and for East Side. The Council accepted my resignation with the grace I expected.

Brian Ensberg has agreed to serve as the Treasurer until the annual meeting where a formal vote will occur. Brian has stepped into the role and taken positive steps to connect with the Treasury Committee and Wayne Wosje regarding expenses, revenue, and the process of working on the 2025 annual budget. I hope each of you provide Brian the support you have shown me over the last year and a half. I want to thank Brian for his willingness to take on a this role.

With Brian's move to Treasurer I am moving to his position of Evangelism on the Council. I am looking forward to the challenge of this position. Transition to be voted on for approval at the annual meeting.

Please feel free to reach out to me with questions regarding this change. Please continue to pray for the financial stability of East Side.

-Brenda Schut

For fun, here is a summary of ESL's Annual Operations as of Oct 31, 2024. Column one is the 2024 annual budget. Columns two and three compare year-to-date 2024 to year-to-date 2023. Note that a windfall gift of \$30,000 was transferred to operations during the first quarter of 2024. The budgeted \$30,000 endowment distribution was taken in June of 2024. Thank you to Wayne Wosje for providing the data and to Pam Alexander for verifying the accuracy of this report. Please contact me at 605-254-1870 with questions or I'll see you at Church. *-Brian Ensberg*

2024 Budget as of October 31,2024

Accounts	Annual Budget 2024	Year-To-Date 10/31/2024	Year-To-Date 10/31/2023
Revenues			
Offerings	692,200	456,100.69	586,888.45
Other Income	13,050	15,092.29	7,155.21
Endowment Distribution	30,000	30,000	1,000
Windfalls Designated to Operations	0	30,000	0
Total Revenues	735,250	531,192.98	595,043.66
Expenses			
Missions	18,500	936.04	1,985.47
Personnel	398,425	275,710.90	349,861.75
Administration	32,000	35,168.93	27,557.41
Worship	11,000	9,827.41	8,996.08
Caring Ministry	1,800	1,065.98	1,197.07
Outreach	18,000	12,990.54	13,864.10
Education	1,800	2,969.79	4,236.88
Youth Ministry	7,950	4,152.50	6,610.00
Stewardship	2,500	1,908.07	1,724.09
Property	152,000	138,943.24	131,581.60
Scholarship	0	2,750.00	1,125.00
Mortgage Principal & Interest	71,892	59,910.00	61,042.00
Total Expenses	715,867	546,333.40	609,781.45
Total Net	19,383	(15,140.42)	(14,737.79)

East Side Lutheran Congregation Council Meeting Nov 10, 2024

Present: Ray Schut, Jon Cisar, Carla Midden, Brian Ensberg, Todd Brower, Brenda Schut, Gwen Oakland, Michael Molland, and Pastor Layne Nelson. Excused Absence Danielle Champa.

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:15.

Opening Devotion - Pastor Layne Nelson led the council in devotions. The council members shared what was going on in their lives and their present feelings. He opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report: It was moved by Brian Ensberg; seconded by Brenda Schut to approve the minutes from the October 13, 2024, Council Meeting. Motion Carried.

President's Report: President Schut reported on the upcoming "Thanks for Giving Meal" November 17. Food has been ordered with adjustments made based on last years meal. WELCA will serve and council and volunteers will help with cleaning.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Nelson reported on the events of last month. He presided at two baptisms and one wedding, less than the preceding months. Confirmation, All Saints Sunday, New Members Sunday, and Sunday School Bible distribution made this a busy month.

Upcoming events include Thanksgiving worship with pie social following, Advent worship with meals, and the busy Christmas season with Music Sunday and SS Christmas Program on Dec. 15.

Council Positions: To better balance the needs of the church with council members available time, two council members desired to exchange duties.

It was moved by Jon Cisar; seconded by Carla Midden to accept the resignations of Brian Ensberg as Evangelism member, and Brenda Schut as Treasure. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Jon Cisar; seconded by Carla Midden to appoint Brian Ensberg as Treasurer, and Brenda Schut to Evangelism, both until the Annual Congregation meeting. Motion Carried.

Financial Report: Treasurers Brenda Schut and Brian Ensberg jointly presented the following financial report: Projections indicate there will be a \$32,948.50 deficit at year end. The financial report in the newsletter will show the congregation how these projections were determined. More information will also be available during the "Thanks for Giving Meal" on November 17. The Council reviewed all the financial reports.

It was moved by Carla Midden; seconded by Gwen Oakland that the Treasurers report be approved. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Ensberg presented updated budget planning for 2025. There are some categories that we are waiting for updated numbers. The congregation will be presented four budget options:
1]

continuing present staffing levels, 2] present levels plus a youth coordinator, 3] present level plus a part time Associate Pastor, or 4] present level plus a youth coordinator and a part time Associate Pastor. The numbers are being refined and finalized.

Committees: Stewardship & Visioning – Jon Cisar reported the Stewardship Task Force held their last cottage meeting to gather more insight into our 2025 stewardship drive focus. A letter will be sent out this week that includes the amount of the budget we are short this year plus what is needed in November and December.

Education – Gwen Oakland reported Sunday School is going well, offering envelopes were given out to our students, confirmation is going well. Trunk-or-Treat had an amazing attendance, and we ran out of candy twice. The Sunday School Christmas program will be on 12/15/24 at 5:30. Eggstravaganza will be Saturday, April 12.

Outreach – Danielle Champa reported in written report: Danielle represented our congregation on Tuesday, Nov 5 during a discussion with Mayor Tenhaken where he addressed needs of our community. He stated a large number of poor flock to our city because we are generous people. East Side held the mobile food pantry at the church on Nov. 7, with a high numbers of guests.

Evangelism – Brian Ensberg reported that during new member Sunday we will be receiving five new families into our congregation.

Fellowship – Carla Midden reported that Bingo will be held on Sunday, March 2 between 2 and 4 pm. They are still seeking more prizes. All are welcome and it is open to all ages.

Property – Todd Brower reported on ongoing furnace repairs. He is still gathering information on possibly converting our boiler to a forced air system.

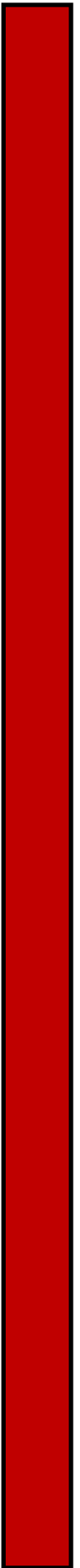
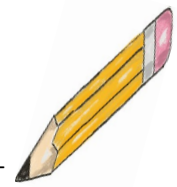
New Business – The council set the Congregational Annual Meeting date for Sunday, February 16. The Council discussed appointing a nominating committee.

The Council discusses promotion and advertising for Christmas events. Members were asked to help the Altar Guild prepare the building for Christmas on Nov 30.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 12:45 pm.

The next meeting will be on December 15 at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Molland, Secretary



Portrait of a Spiritual Quest

a new series interviewing ESL members, by ESL members

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This brief profile of a member of East Side Lutheran Church is presented here because these folks are in the pews and you have noticed them for an hour each week. You are often aware when they are in church and when they are not because their presence shapes a bit of your sense of belonging in this faith community. This story may offer an insight, a bit of inspiration or answer a question you've wanted to ask.

Bob Folschow (performing as Bob LaRoy) tours the area from Inwood, IA to Dell Rapids, SD and points in between playing songs of a generation shaped by the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the Vietnam War.

Few in LaRoy's audience know that as a teenager he was part of a Minneapolis garage band that hit the big time, recorded a best seller—a song that would surface again in the Hollywood movie, "Good Morning, Vietnam." The internet has a clip of the fresh-faced kid from Minneapolis singing the song that made the band famous: "Liar, Liar." It's there, hiding fame in plain sight.

For most in the audience, however, the familiar lyrics and tunes offered by LaRoy are what they needed to hear. The songs stir memories of a when they were young. When the concert is over they thank him for providing a few good memories.

Those kind comments are music to LaRoy's ears. "Music is still in my life; it is the first of my enduring loves," LaRoy says. And it is through music he finds a way – as he always did – to meet people and start conversations.

And for 27 years boys and girls riding on Sioux Falls school buses had no idea the old guy behind the wheel played music with iconic performers of the 60s and 70s; all with names their grandparents knew by heart: The Animals, The Beach Boys ("nice bunch of guys"), Sonny and Cher, and Glenn Campbell.

LaRoy retired as a Sioux Falls school bus driver and thought he would retire from performing as well. "I told my wife, Jan, I'm getting too old for this." And he stuck to that proclamation for seven years before Jan said he needed to get out of the house. So she started booking him to play in nursing homes. "There isn't a Good Sam place I haven't played in the area".

Jan's decision and Bob's acquiescence ended up being "frosting on the cake" in Bob's mind. He was entertaining again, just the way he entertained troops on a ship bound for Vietnam. LaRoy was drafted but opted for a third year so he had a bit of control over options for service in the army. During the process of discovering his aptitudes LaRoy's musical background in music was discovered as well and put to use in the field. LaRoy was able to bring his amplifier and guitar on the troop ship and used it to entertain troops as they headed to Cameron Bay and the jungle war that swallowed up a generation of men and women. Once in Vietnam, LaRoy formed a band, "Group Therapy" and would be flown by helicopter to remote corners of the countryside to play the songs of the day. "The most popular was 'We got to get out of this place' and 'Hang on Sloopy'". And when popular music changed, so did the tunes LaRoy performed. LaRoy's harmonica and guitar skills were perfectly suited to the sounds of another Minnesota kid, Bob Dylan.

In the makeshift venues in Vietnam LaRoy compares some of the songs he performed with his band to ammunition: "some were duds and some hit home."

After years of what LaRoy describes alternatively as "reckless abandon" and "reckless abandonment" he found another venue for his talents and a place of renewal: East Side Lutheran Church.

"It's a God-thing that brings people together."

[Interviews conducted by Jim Smorada and Ray Schut; written by Jim Smorada]



Volume 28, Issue 12

The Voice

December 2024



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“What we need is already here” is a message our stewardship taskforce is living with as we listen to church members and discern how we are being called to live out our faith together in the year to come through East Side Lutheran.

It is also the name of our congregation’s financial appeal that we are holding to help finish the year strong. I hope you have received the letter in the mail explaining what it is all about.

At its heart, it is a reminder that God has blessed East Side Lutheran with powerful gifts for ministry. As your pastor, I am blessed to see this first hand in you *each and every day* as people come together in this community and make a real positive impact in the lives of someone else. And you smile when you do it! You are amazing. What we need for ministry in this **wonder-full** place is already here in our midst... be that time, talent, or dollars. When we prayerfully turn ourselves over to God, trusting God to work through us, great things happen and we find great **JOY!**

Joy... and Hope

God entering our lives is made new again each **Advent** as we ready ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child in Bethlehem. On Wednesday evenings in Advent we are again using the beautiful Holden Evening Prayer service. I invite you to come and experience these services. I truly believe they are worth your time and will greatly enhance your preparation for the coming of Jesus as *together* we think about, “what draws us to the manger”.

I believe we can all agree that Advent and Christmas are a special time. At this time of year we feel more acutely the gifts with which God has already blessed us, and a human need to share them. The result, as noted above, is an experience of being a part of something bigger than ourselves.

As you prepare for Christmas (*and that is what Advent is really all about Charlie Brown*), I pray you find all kinds of occasions to give of yourself in the name of Jesus in all aspects of your life, and I thank you for the ways you do that right here in your church. May you experience the **Joy, Hope, and Peace** of living in God’s Kingdom.

“**What we need is already here.**” May God bless YOU with a deep sense of peace as you live your faith. And may **Joy, Hope, Peace, and Love...** the gifts of Advent, take on flesh for you this Christmas.

Together in Faith,
Pastor Layne

Celebrate a loved one and brighten our sanctuary this Christmas

The ESL Altar Guild invites you to participate in the purchase of poinsettias by donating \$10 in someone’s honor this Christmas. We have such a beautiful worship space. Names will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

