



THE BELL

A Monthly Newsletter



A Message from Pastor Mike—

December is full of rich traditions for the church. Our Advent and Christmas celebrations will bring us to the end of the calendar year. We begin a new church year, with a focus in the coming months, on the gospel of Luke. This is the gospel writer who gave us a detailed account of the birth of Jesus, provides insight for us on his life as a child, his ministry in Galilee, and much more. Luke was a historian. The epistle to the Colossians refers to him as a physician. *“Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.”* Col. 4:10-11,14 He is also mentioned in the New Testament Letter to Philemon and in the letter known as II Timothy. We know that he was a follower of Christ, with a strong background in the Jewish scriptures. He probably grew up in Antioch in Syria. Scholars believe that Luke had a copy of Mark’s gospel as he wrote out his own version of events in the life of Jesus. His two-volumes, The Gospel according to Luke, and the Book of Acts, provide us with an excellent window into the birth and growth of the faith.

Although Luke tells us that he wasn’t an eyewitness to Jesus’ earthly ministry, he was an excellent storyteller who provides us with many of the details we know about Jesus’ life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Luke’s gospel account of Jesus’ travels through Galilee and toward Jerusalem paint a dramatic picture for us, helping us understand what was at stake as Jesus suffered and died and rose again. In Acts, the action then moves outward from the city of Jerusalem to the wider world. Luke tells us about the women who followed Jesus and who provided leadership and support to the early ministry efforts of that first generation of Christians. This gospel is full of references to shared meals and meaningful relationships. We have evidence that Luke traveled widely with Paul, and there is also a tradition that he lived to the age of 84.

According to Bible scholar and professor Luke Timothy Johnson, these two books provide us with about 60 years of coverage on a critical era that changed the world. With 24 chapters in Luke and 28 chapters in Acts, the combined work of Luke makes up just over one-fourth of the entire New Testament. The last half of Acts also provides us with some of our best background material on the Apostle Paul. While we will continue to explore Old Testament and epistle texts on Sunday mornings, our gospel focus over the coming year will give us a chance to explore the good news as it was written by Luke. May your time of waiting in Advent be fruitful, and may you and your family have a joyful and a very merry Christmas!

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

Christmas Eve Worship

*15th Avenue Christian Church
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
10:00pm*



Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 22nd, directly after church. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the slate of officers and the proposed budget for 2025. Please plan to stay for the information and vote, and then head downstairs for the Treats & Sweets event.

***** We are still looking for a Vice Chair for 2025. Please see me if you are interested or volunteer yourself at the December 22nd Meeting.



Lisa Hatlett
Board Chair



Music Notes

The holidays will soon be upon us! We have a great lineup of special music this December. I can't wait to share with you special music by Gary Troyer, Pleasant Valley High School Treble Choir, Rev. Dawn Swartz and the Clarinet Choir, the Williamson-Wangelin Memorial Handbell Choir and Steve Swanson on Christmas Eve, and Susan Runyon the Sunday after Christmas. See you in church!

Sheila Doak, Music Director



Christmas Funnies

What did Frosty's girlfriend give him when she was mad at him? The cold shoulder.

Why is everyone thirsty at the North Pole? No well.

What did the snowman say to the aggressive carrot? "Get out of my face."

Why did the Little Drummer Boy put his drum to bed? It was beat.

What is every parent's favorite Christmas song? Silent Night!

How did Joseph and Mary weigh baby Jesus at birth? They had a weigh in the manger.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

DECEMBER 15 & 22, 2023

Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.



Angel Tree

This year we are participating the Angel Tree program. Please select a child's tag from the ribbon around the doorway in the Narthex. The tag will have the child's age and a few gift suggestions. You do not need to buy every item on the tag. Let your own budget be your guide. We can even do the shopping for you! Just put your donation in the offering plate. Please bring your gift to church on **Sunday, December 8th**. You can also drop of your gift to the office Mon-Fri 9am to Noon. The deadline for all gifts is December 12th. Thank you!



A Christmas Letter From Jesus

When you look for me at Christmas,
 You won't need a special star,
 I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
 I'm right here where you are.
 You may not be aware of me amid the
 celebrations
 You'll have to look beyond the stores,
 and all the decorations
 But if you take a moment from your list of
 things to do
 To close your eyes and say a prayer,
 I'm waiting here for you.
 You're the one I want to be with
 You're the reason that I came!
 And you'll find me in the stillness
 When I'm whispering your name.
 by Anonymous

Jesus is the reason for the season

~ Thankful, Grateful, Blessed ~

Thank you so much to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving Food Pantry collection. I do not have a total for the month, (because I honestly forgot to get one before I left church on Sunday,) but I will update you on the total for the year in the January Bell. I am so appreciative of all who open their hearts (and wallets) and give so generously when I ask. Thank you so much. Merry Christmas!

Lisa Hatlett
Outreach Chair

From the Personnel Chair

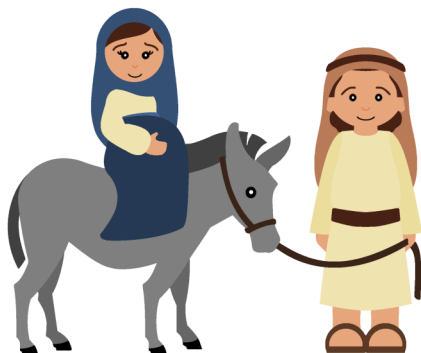
Each year we show our staff our **gratitude** during the season of giving. We are collecting your donations for our staff Christmas Bonuses. Please indicate Staff Bonus on your check or cash donation.

Our deadline for donations is December 22nd 2024.

Thank you,
David Popp

November Attendance

November 3	40
November 10	38
November 17	44
November 24	43



COLOR CHANGE

On December 24th the color changes to white and stays to Epiphany. Symbolizing the purity of the Christ Child, holiness, glory and joy.

Profit & Loss Report

Income	\$8446.60
Expenses	\$8431.72
Net Income	\$14.88

Anniversaries

31 Don & Sandy
Wentler

Birthdays

5 Gene Bartosh
7 Don Young
8 James Ducey
21 Bert Mayne
30 Edward Grindley

*If cold December gave
you birth, the month of
snow and ice and mirth,
place on your hand a tur-
quoise blue, success will
bless whatever you do.*

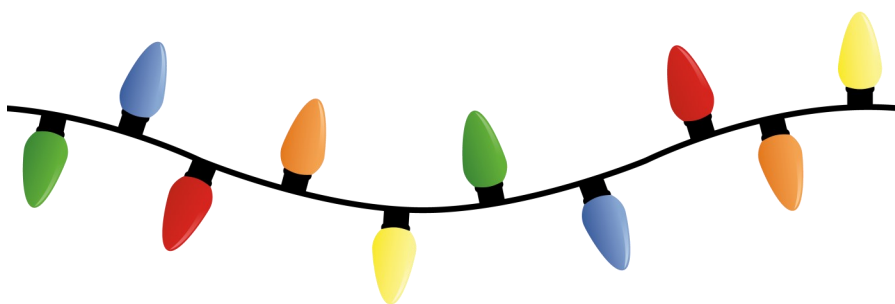


If you missed the Thanksgiving potluck you missed a delicious meal! Many thanks to all who brought food to share - especially to Lynne & Steve, Dave & Helen, and Judie & Bill for providing the meat! Everything was tasty! Also, thank you to everyone who helped set-up or clean up afterwards. It was definitely a team effort!

BRUNCH-OUT

On October 20th, we had 15 people enjoy the food and fellowship at Fresh Kitchen in East Moline. The restaurant was very busy that day, but we still enjoyed our time together. November 17th many of us enjoyed the Church Potluck. For our next event, we will travel across the river. On Sunday, December 8th, we will meet after our church service at Pizza Ranch, 880 Lincoln Road (next to Burlington Coat Factory store) in Davenport. We have the Cowpoke Room reserved for our Holiday meal and time together. I Hope you will make plans to join us for good food and a fun time!

Sally Bartosh



Holiday Treats & Sweets

Membership Nurture is hosting a Holiday Treats & Sweets this year! On Sunday, December 22nd, bring your favorite holiday treat or sweet to share potluck style. Membership Nurture will provide plates, napkins, and beverages. Stop down after church to enjoy some yummy delights and enjoy a time of fellowship.

Free Christmas Concerts

*St. John's United Methodist Church
109 E. 14th Street
Davenport, Iowa*

*Friday, December 13; 7:00pm
Saturday, December 14; 2:00pm*

*More information at
riverbendbronze.org
facebook.com/riverbendbronze/*

***RiverBend Bronze
Handbell Ensemble***

Elders Prayer

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful," Colossians 4:2

*Elders have been holding these family, friends and neighbors in their daily prayers,
Send a card, a call on the phone or a visit. Let them know they are not forgotten.*

Dena recovering from heart surgery (cousin to Annie B.)

Forrest (5) has pneumonia & CF (Matt, Stephanie and River)

Joe Joe your girl has heart problems (family)

Diane Butcher (family) Peter Collinson was in hospital (Jacob, Ed & family)

a young boy, MS, had cardiac arrest (family)

Don Young was in the hospital but home now, (Sherry & family)

Barb (Nancy) Merle (friend of Weston's) Daughter Melanie (Diane Block)

Mike, heart surgery. (Denny, Bridget and family)

Marilyn Mix having cancer treatments (family)

Bill Holmer had more treatment for skin cancer (Judie & family)

Edward Gridley (Jacob) Jackie Adams, is in Hope Creek (Dolores and Dick Frybarger)

Matt (Karen Hitchcock) Kim Poleing (Karen)

Granddaughter Caitlin (Karen Hitchcock) Kenny (Karen Hitchcock)

Sally -cancer (friend of Weston's) Gibson (friend of Weston's)

Bob & Annie Bloomer (family) Roland, Cancer (friend of Weston's)

Patty R. (Rick & family) Blake (Jeanie) / Emma (Jeanie) / Hunter (family)

Mona Mlekush (family & Alice) Carla / Rosalie / Molly/ Mary/ Nickie (Family)

Kaylee Walker (Karen & family) Melba Andereck (Jesse & family)

Nancy G, cancer (family) JD UAW Chaplins (Jeannie)

Juliana going into college and for Hector to finish his senior year.(Jeanie Kirgan)

Gavin ,Mike Rushing, Connie (Karen & family)

Julie (cancer) Brenda O. (family) Dawn F. (family) Cara (friend of Diane B.)

Jessica Borland (Swanson's) Vickie (Jesse & Melba)

Beverly Ducey (Jim & family)

Kent Christensen (Kathy, Don and family) Angie (Don & family)

Roy Morley is at home. (Jan & family)

15th Avenue Christian Church



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 HOPE SUNDAY 8:30am Elders Mtg 9:30am Worship	2 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	3 6pm River- Bend Bronze	4	5	6	7
8 PEACE SUNDAY 9:30am Worship Food Pantry	9 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	10 6pm River- Bend Bronze	11	12	13	14
15 JOY SUNDAY 9:30am Worship Christmas Offering	16 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	17 6pm River- Bend Bronze	18	19	20	21
22 LOVE SUNDAY 9:30am Worship Christmas Offering Treats and Sweets CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	23 6:30pm 15th Ave Bell Practice	24 10:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 9:30am Worship	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE				

Serving Elders 1 Steve Swanson 8 Sally Bartosh 15 Judie Holmer 22 Annie Bloomer 29 Helen Popp Visiting Elder Helen Popp and Mable Carlson	Serving Deacons HD Steve Sheese, Lynne Sheese, Rose Deibert, Jackie Flemming Preparing Deacon Lynne Swanson	Fellowship Time 1 8 15 22 29 Treats and Sweets	Flowers 1 8 15 22 29 Kathy Weston Barb Hansen Lisa Hatlett Marty Larson
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A Christmas Story December



- Day 1: Micah 5:2
- Day 2: Isaiah 7:14
- Day 3: Psalm 72:9-11
- Day 4: Jeremiah 31:15
- Day 5: Numbers 24:17
- Day 6: Isaiah 11:1-2
- Day 7: Luke 1:26-28
- Day 8: Luke 1:29-31
- Day 9: Luke 1:32-33
- Day 10: Luke 1:34-35
- Day 11: Luke 1:37-38
- Day 12: Luke 1:46-48
- Day 13: Luke 1:49-50
- Day 14: Luke 1:51-52
- Day 15: Luke 1:53-55
- Day 16: Luke 1:67-69
- Day 17: Luke 2:7
- Day 18: Luke 2:8-9
- Day 19: Luke 2:10-11
- Day 20: Luke 2:13-14
- Day 21: Luke 2:29-32
- Day 22: Luke 2:33-35
- Day 23: Matthew 2:1-2
- Day 24: Matthew 2:10-11
- Day 25: Matthew 2:16-18
- Day 26: John 1:1
- Day 27: John 1:4-5
- Day 28: John 1:14
- Day 29: John 1:15-16
- Day 30: 1 John 5:1
- Day 31: Romans 8:2-3