

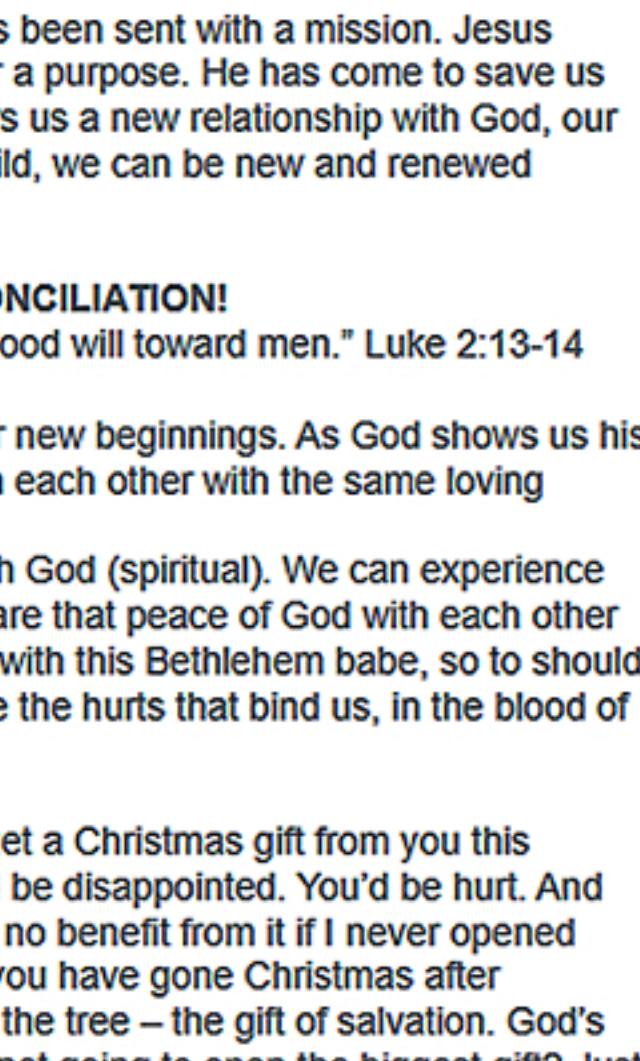


Immanuel-Trinity Lutheran Church

The Beacon December 2025

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

Christmas preparation is upon us. For me, getting into the Christmas spirit, (especially before Thanksgiving) is a challenge. So I began reread Rick Warrens The Purpose of Christmas (Howard Books, 2006) for inspiration. Warren writes, "The fact is – the birth of Jesus Christ is the most significant event in the history of mankind. It split history into A.D. and B.C., and every time you write a check, you're using Jesus Christ as the focus. We're going to look at the purpose of Christmas – why we celebrate it. At the very first Christmas, at the birth of Jesus, an angel announced three things. In those three statements of the angel, we find the three purposes of Christmas. Christmas is a time for celebration. Christmas is a time for salvation. Christmas is a time for reconciliation. We're going to look at how these three words can change your life forever."



THE FIRST PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS CELEBRATION! "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.' Luke 2:8-10 (NIV)
Why do we Celebrate? The bottom line is, Christmas is a party! We celebrate because "God Loves us... Because God is with us... and because God is here for us. The good news is this – God says, "I not only love you. I'm with you all the time, you just need to be aware of it." It means you don't have to face anything by yourself. Christmas is a time for celebration!

THE SECOND PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS SALVATION!

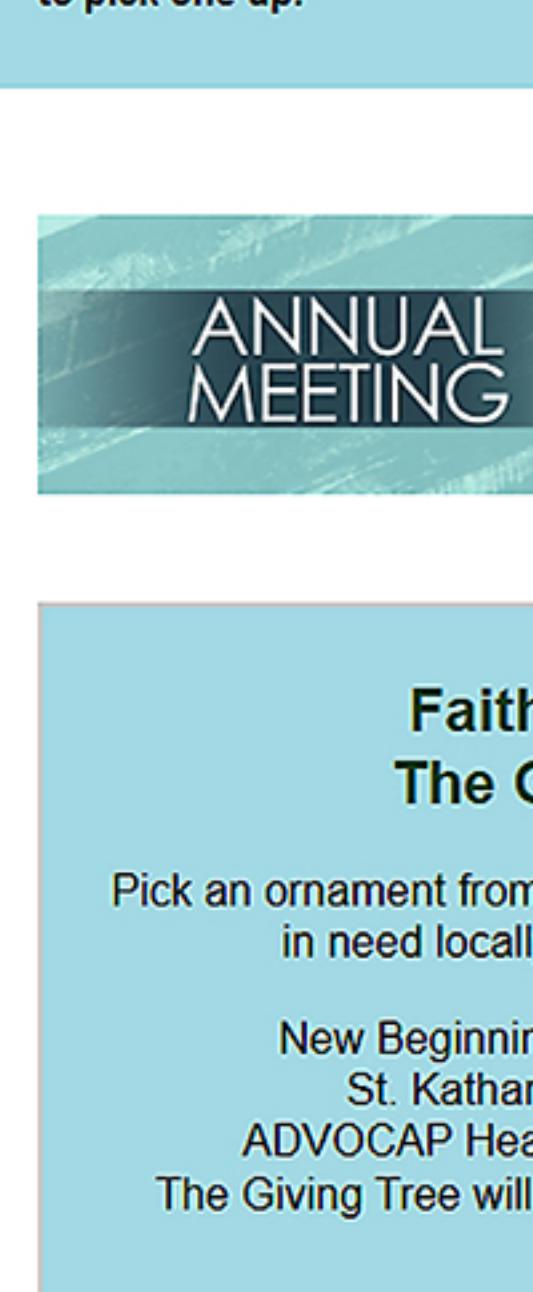
"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born for you; He is Christ the Lord!" Luke 2:11
The Christ Child comes with God's purpose. He has been sent with a mission. Jesus saves us from our sins. He has come to save us for a purpose. He has come to save us by God's grace. Each of these salvific actions allows us a new relationship with God, our neighbors and with world. Because of the Christ child, we can be new and renewed people, confident in faith.

THE THIRD PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS IS RECONCILIATION!

"Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:13-14 (KJV)
Rick Warren reminds us that Christmas is a time for new beginnings. As God shows us his unfathomable love for us, it inspires us to look upon each other with the same loving forgiveness.
Because of Jesus, we can deepen in our peace with God (spiritual). We can experience the Peace of God (emotional). And we can then share that peace of God with each other (relational). As God reconciled the sin of the world with this Bethlehem babe, so to should we, his followers confess to, repent to and reconcile the hurts that bind us, in the blood of Jesus Christ.

As he concludes, Warren reminds us, "If I were to get a Christmas gift from you this Christmas, and I never opened it... One, you would be disappointed. You'd be hurt. And two, it would be a worthless gift because I received no benefit from it if I never opened it. Jesus Christ is God's Christmas gift to you. Yet, you have gone Christmas after Christmas and never opened the biggest gift under the tree – the gift of salvation. God's gift to you. Why even celebrate Christmas if you're not going to open the biggest gift? Just get on with it. It doesn't make sense to leave the gift of your past forgiven, a purpose for living, and a home in heaven. Who would ever leave that gift unwrapped?" My Prayer is that we prepare ourselves as Christ's followers to accept his gift to us this year. My Jesus truly be the reason for our Christmas season. Merry Christmas.

In Service to Christ,
Pastor Tom

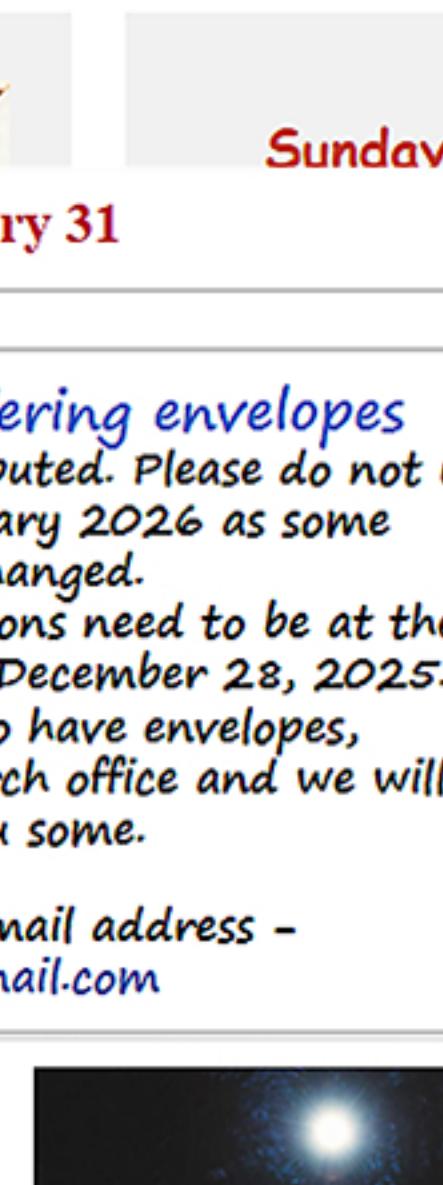


Join us for These Special Advent Services

Wednesday mornings and evenings:
12/3; 12/10; 12/17

10:30a Advent Worship

6:00p Advent Worship



**3:30pm and 5:30pm
Christmas Eve Service**

**9:30am Christmas Day
Service w/Communion**



Our Thanksgiving meal was a huge success again this year. We met our goal of 800 meals prepared but had some leftovers that were distributed the next day at Broken Bread.

Thank you again to **EVERYONE** that helped out by donating time, money or items. The blessings that you have given us is truly amazing!

We know this will continue to grow every year. We truly pray that everyone that was involved had as much enjoyment helping out as we did.

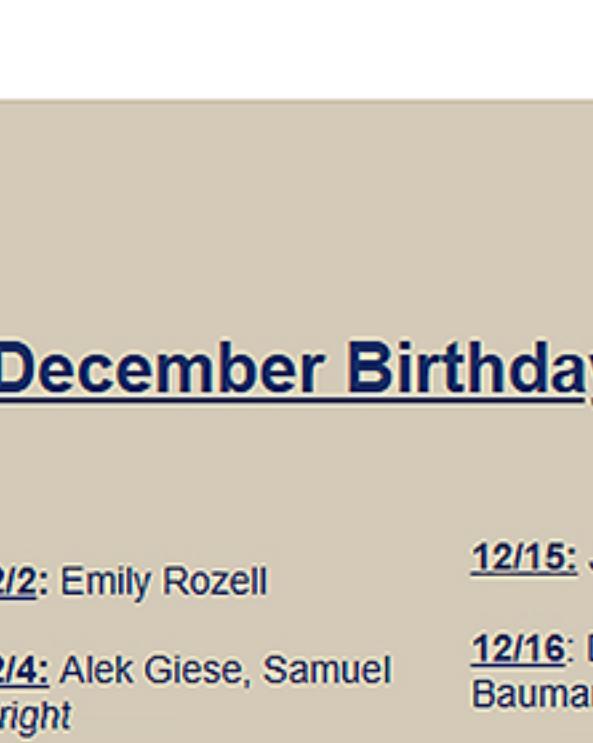
This year's donors were:

J. F. Lopez Roofing
Alsum Foods
Seneca Foods
Boda's Restaurant
Kay w/Taycheedah DOC Kitchen
Culver's Restaurant
Joe Klopp, Ctme Chair Troop 701
Festival Foods/Turkey Trot Runners/Boys and Girls Club
James Simmers, Consultant w/MPTC Culinary Arts Dept
Church of Peace Bakers for 450 Pumpkin Bars
Hoff's Meat Market
Loaves and Fishes
Kwik Trip

Also our partners/volunteers from other churches and the community:
Church of Peace, Pilgrim Church and Broken Bread

Absolutely blessed to be part of God's plan!!

Becky Bast-Skorik and Tess Schwartz, FAITH In Action



Loaves & Fishes 2026 Schedule

I-T in conjunction with Our Saviors

Lutheran Church will be serving on

the following dates:

February 23

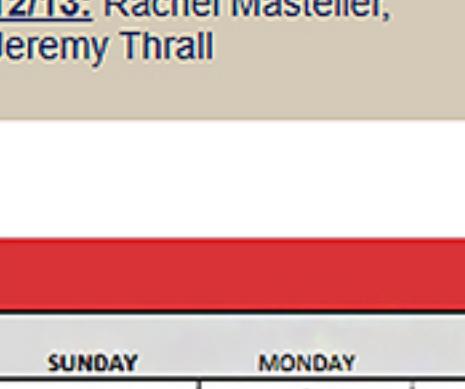
March 30

October 12

December 7

Mark your calendars!!!

Women of the ELCA



WELCA News December 2025

The donation tree for Baby Care Kits and (new this year) Dorcas Circle Quilting Supplies is available. Donations to Dorcas Circle will be used to purchase quilt batting, which is quite expensive. Please see the list below for baby care kit items, if you wish to shop, or donate to either cause. Your donations last year allowed WELCA to increase the number of kits we sent.

The boxes of quilts and kits were picked up Friday, October 3rd. The totals for this year:

Quilts - 37 quilts, 9 boxes
Personal Care Kits - 130 kits, 16 boxes
Baby Care Kits - 47 kits, 11 boxes

Total = 518 lbs. 36 boxes

Thank you to Amy and Rich for the wonderful job they are doing to pack and ship our quilts and kits. Amy and Rich "want to share these numbers along with their appreciation for the incredible work you all did in creating quilts and baby care kits for those in need. Your dedication is a beautiful reflection of Christ's love in action. Every stitch and every item you assembled carries not just warmth and comfort but also hope and dignity to families who may be facing unimaginable hardship. It's inspiring to see how so many hands and hearts have come together to serve others so selflessly." Thank you for being such a shining example of grace and service. Please pass this along to all the others who have contributed to this amazing mission.

New from Lutheran World Relief: All items MUST be new starting Jan. 1, 2026, or in like-new pristine condition - except all towels and socks must be used. Homemade items are still acceptable - blankets and sweaters, even knitted socks are ok. The T-shirt diapers are okay also. Onesies must be made into t-shirts and feet must still be removed from sleepers.

Items used in each Babys Care Kit (without TWO): lightweight cotton-blanks, TWO long-weight cotton-blankets, or FLCR, or cloth diapers, flat weight preferred. ONE jacket, sweater, sweatshirt or cap recommended. TWO or include a bath-size bar of gentle soap, ONE hand towel, dark color recommended, TWO or more hotel-size bars of soap, TWO diaper pins or large safety pins.

December Birthdays

12/2: Emily Rozell
12/15: Julie Dey
12/24: Beth Krause

12/4: Alek Giese, Samuel
12/16: Daniel Fox, Ruby
12/26: Ruth Auchtung, Drennan, Susan Ringer

12/5: Deanna Jacobs
12/17: Melody Masteller, Samuel Skorik, Missy Seider
12/27: Samson

12/7: Rachel Schreeder, Jeffrey Wolff
12/18: Kathy Brost
12/28: Lauren Kellar, Michael Nanna

12/11: Roger Belling
12/19: Greg Belling, Linda
12/29: Jackson Waldschmidt

12/12: Dan Brosi, Mitchell
12/20: Ashley Hall, Jacob
12/30: Gail Gosdeck

Triatic
12/21: Rachel Masteller, Jeremy Thrall
12/22: Coblie Dalton, Jacob
12/31: Stephanie Fox

12/13: Julie Dey
12/23: Daniel Fox, Ruby
12/24: Samson

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