

Christmas Pageant

An invitation from Jane R.

On Sunday, December 17, we will have a “no-rehearsal” Christmas Pageant for children, youth, or adults who would like to participate. We ask those who are participating to come between 9:15–9:30 AM that day to choose a costume to become Mary & Joseph, an angel, a shepherd, or a wise one. If anyone knows of a baby to play Jesus that would be spectacular! All participants will gather around the manger to hear the Christmas story and sing some traditional songs of Christmas. We then will adjourn to fellowship hall for Jesus’ birthday party. All kids, grandkids, and adults are invited!

“Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.” –Luke 2:10



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Wyoming United Methodist Church

Messenger



December 2023

Worship Services in December

Anyone who has hosted a Christmas dinner or party can tell you how much preparation goes into hosting such celebrations. Many of us find ourselves doing lots of preparing in this busy season of lights, ornaments and wrapping paper. Yet what are we really preparing for? Who are we really preparing for? This Advent, let’s hear God’s call: “Prepare the way of the Lord.” This month’s sermons are all based on what we need to do to get ready for the Christ Child.

December 3

Prepare: Keep Awake
Mark 13:24-37

December 10

Prepare: Get Ready
Mark 1:1-8

December 17

Prepare: Testify
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 24

Prepare: Be Courageous
Luke 1:26-38

December 31

Ask the Pastor and Christmas Carols by Request
Luke 2:22-40

See You at the Thankquet!

Sunday, December 3, following worship, you are invited to a Thankquet, a “Thank you” banquet from the Aastuen family, in gratitude for the congregation’s support during Pastor Holly’s renewal leave activities (which stretched from the summer of 2020 to her last trip this past August of 2023). We are so grateful for the love and support and work that was done before, during, and after this time of renewal. TST Creative Catering (which owns the Creamery in Scandia) is catering the meal—stuffed pork loin, glazed carrots, mashed potatoes, salad, rolls and butter. And for dessert we’re having Bundtinis from Nothing Bundt Cakes! There will be a kids’ table for doing crafts. You are invited!

Joy Bells

Thanks to all who have been sending or bringing in your donations for Joy Bells. Please bring your Target or Walmart \$25 or \$50 gift cards (brought in person, we don’t want “cash” going through the mail) or your donations (marked “Joy Bells,” checks written to the church) to the church no later than Dec. 3. Thank you for helping make this a Merry Christmas for all!

New Members

We are having new members join our congregation on Sunday, Dec. 17. If you are interested in joining the congregation, please talk to Pastor Holly. We will have a New Member Class on Sunday, Dec. 10 following worship.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

We are having our Christmas Eve service at 4PM again this year as Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Our Christmas Eve 4pm worship service will be a traditional service of Lessons and Carols as together we welcome the Christ Child into our hearts. We will also have special music by soloist, Tyra Ramsey. This is a perfect time to invite friends and family to join you online on our YouTube channel or come with you in person. Come, sing the well-known songs of Christmas and celebrate the one who brought light into the darkness.



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From the Pastor...

Blessed Advent and Christmas to you!

I am looking forward to all we have in store for this month, with the music of Advent and Christmas, the Thankquet and Christmas Pageant activities and the opportunity to welcome new members into our congregation. We've got plenty to be thankful for.

The theme of our Advent worship services is "Prepare," as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. In the midst of the busyness of the season, let us take time to pause and reflect on the true spirit of Christmas.

This time is a season of love, hope, and joy. It is a time to remember and rejoice in the miraculous gift of Jesus, sent by God to redeem us and bring us eternal life. In the gospel of Luke we read, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-22 NRSV)

This is also a season to look for those for whom this time of year may not be as joyful as it was before, who are missing loved ones or who are new to the area and looking for a friend. Let's keep our eyes and ears open to the opportunities we might have to invite someone new to our family celebrations, so that no one may be alone at Christmas. Through simple acts of kindness, we can be vessels of God's love for those in need.

As we journey through this Advent/Christmas season, may our lives be a reflection of the love and grace we have received through Jesus Christ. Let us celebrate his birth with hearts full of gratitude and a commitment to love one another as he first loved us. May this Christmas be a time of spiritual renewal, drawing us closer to the One who is the reason for the season.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Advent/Christmas season filled with God's love.

-Pastor Holly

Many Thanks

Thank you so much for the warm words you all shared with me in October as a part of Pastor/Staff Appreciation month. Your words and cards helped me feel invigorated! I'm grateful for such a supportive and kind community. --Nathan



December Celebrations

Birthdays

- 12-2 Carly K.
- 12-9 Derik I.
- 12-12 Nathan M.
- 12-13 Everyn S.
- 12-22 Lucas P.
- 12-23 Savannah F.
- 12-27 Buck B. Chevelle F.
- 12-28 Jane R. April L.
- 12-31 Dave F. Al J.



Thank You for Turning in Your Estimate of Giving Cards!

To those who turned in Estimate of Giving Cards for 2024, thank you! Your giving to God through the church will help fulfill our mission of Building Bridges to Christ's Love in our church, in our community and in our world. If you haven't turned in an estimate of giving card yet, you can email the church office (office.wyomingumc@gmail.com) with your commitment for the coming year, send your card to the church in the mail (PO Box 247, Wyoming, MN 55092) or bring it to church and put it in the offering plate.

Once again, thank you for your commitment to the ministry of God through this church!

Christmas Offering 2023

The Christmas offering will be split between two charities this year: Strong Missions in Costa Rica and New Pathways shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Cambridge. Dave Freemore and Deb Hoffmeister will not be traveling to Costa Rica this January as they would like to try a new mission experience but the Costa Rica ministry will still welcome our donation! They continue to work on projects making homes livable, repairing churches and schools, and building playgrounds as well as support for food programs, building gardens, and hosting activity programs for youth and children which help in their education and keep them out of gangs.

New Pathways family shelter: we have been hosting families experiencing homelessness for at least 10 years here in our building for New Pathways. We know the pain each family feels every Sunday when they pack their belongings and head to yet ANOTHER church for the coming week. Thankfully, the shelter is now on

the brink of constructing their own facility in Cambridge which will house eight families at a time until they find stable housing of their own. No more moving every Sunday! Each apartment will include a living area, a bedroom (or two), a small kitchenette, and a bathroom (see building plans in the narthex). The new facility will be staffed 24 hours per day, 7 days per week plus there will be staff to counsel and work with the families as needed.

Both of these ministries are in need of our help. What a joy it is to be able to share what we have with others who need us so very much! Please be generous as you make your Christmas offering this year. Pastor Holly is encouraging us to consider donating to the Christmas offering an amount equal to what we spend on Christmas gifts this year. Last year we were able to donate \$3345! Mark your check or envelope with "CHRISTMAS" and place it in the offering plate or in the mail. THANK YOU!



Oh,
holy
night
the
stars
are
brightly
shining