

ADVENT PRAYERS TO PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR CHRISTMAS

The term “Advent” comes from the Latin word “arrival.” The holiday’s purpose and meaning are to look ahead to the coming of Christ to Earth, the birth of Jesus.

Advent prayers are a powerful way for Christians to prepare spiritually for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ during the Christmas season. These prayers often reflect on the themes of hope, peace, joy and love, corresponding to the four weeks of Advent.

Use these prayers for each week of Advent as we prepare and look forward to the celebration of Christmas.

1st Week of Advent

Prayer for Hope: Almighty God, grant us the grace to hope in you with unwavering trust. As we begin this season of Advent, may our hearts be filled with the hope that comes from knowing your promises are true. Amen.

2nd Week of Advent

Prayer for Peace: Prince of Peace, in a world filled with turmoil, grant us the tranquility that only your peace can bring. Help us to be instruments of reconciliation and harmony in our relationships and communities. Amen.

3rd Week of Advent

Prayer for Joy: Heavenly Father, fill our hearts with the joy that comes from knowing your love. May we rejoice in the good news of salvation and share that joy with others during this season of Advent. Amen

4th Week of Advent

Prayer for Love: God of love, as we approach the celebration of the birth of your Son,, help us to embody the love that He brought into the world. Teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Amen.





The SENIOR LADIES CHRISTMAS PARTY hosted by the Christian Women’s Fellowship group is Monday, **December 2, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.** All ladies of the church 70 and over are invited. The party will be in the double classroom, so please use the North door to enter.



The first Saturday of each month is DOC Family Game Night. Join us December 7th 6-8:00 p.m. and put your game face on. Bring a friend and/or bring a treat:) CUPC potluck and game night is the second Saturday, Dec. 14th 5-8:00 p.m.



Everyone is invited on December 15th after church for a potluck with a variety of soups and all the good things that go with soup.



After the soup luncheon on December 15th your voices will be warmed up and ready to go caroling to those in care centers or who aren’t able to get out much. Let’s spread some joy!



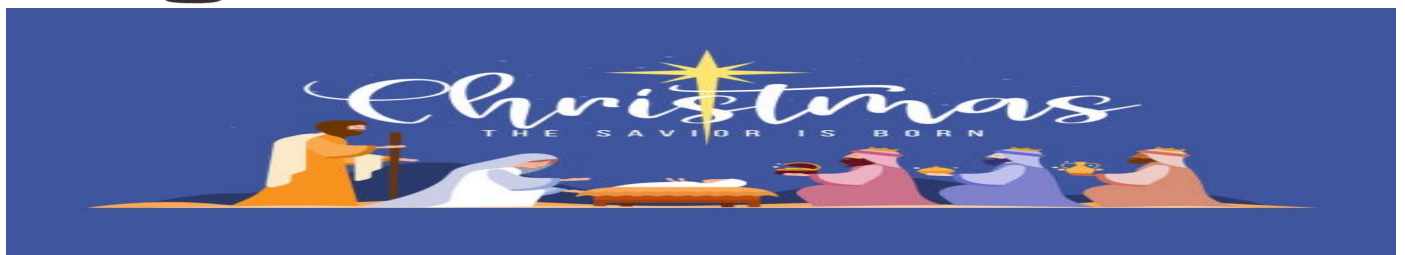
We will be hosting a Blue Christmas evening on Wednesday, December 18th from 4-6:00 p.m. This will be a time of remembrance, prayer and lighting of a candle. You may come come anytime between these hours and stay as long as you wish.



Let’s us come together to worship and rejoice in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Tuesday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m. Spread the news and invite everyone you know and don’t know:)



Carlisle Hometown Pride will be hosting their third annual Festival of Tiny Trees on December 8th . The community is invited to the Carlisle Rec Center at 1220 S. 5th Street from 2-4:00 p.m. to view the decorated trees and place bids on the decorated trees during a silent auction. All proceeds raised from the sale of the trees will be split between the local food pantries serving the Carlisle area. Those attending the Festival are encouraged to bring a non-perishable item to be donated to the food pantries as an “entry fee.”



ONGOING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Free Breakfast: Middle River Friends Church
1st Saturday each month
8:00-9:30 a.m.

Carlisle Area Historical Society Breakfast
Randleman House Adults \$10
2nd Saturday each month
8:00 -10:00 a.m.

Free Breakfast: Masonic Lodge, Hartford
3rd Saturday each month
7:00-10:00 a.m.

ONGOING FOOD PANTRIES

Middle Rvr Friends Church, 4057 S 23 Hwy
Mon & Wed 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1100 Market St
2nd & 4th Tues, 4-5:30 p.m.

School Food Pantry, 430 School St.
1st & 3rd Thurs, 4-5:30 p.m.

CCA Blessing Box, Carlisle Christian Church
305 Market St., North side of bldg
Open 24/7 (toiletries, deodorants,
batteries, laundry items, etc.)

CARLISLE COMMUNITY BUILDING EVENTS

A meal is served M-F at 11:00 a.m. (You may also request the meal be delivered to you.) 515-989-4367 for more details. If the Carlisle Community School District is closed due to weather, no meals will be delivered.

Most days activities begin around 10:00 a.m. and sometimes sooner:

- Mondays: cards and games
- Tuesdays: band starts between 9-9:30 a.m. --- cards/games after lunch
- Wednesdays: Bingo 10-11:00 a.m.
- Thursdays and Fridays: cards and games

REGIONAL NEWS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN THE UPPER MIDWEST

2024 Regional Calendar

Dec 5 Praying Together - 9:30a
Dec 15 & 22 Christmas Special Offering
Dec 24-Jan 1 Regional Office and CCC Closed for Christmas

Praying Together

Join with Regional Minister Josh Patty for fifteen minutes of prayer on Thursday, December 5 at 9:30 am via [YouTube](#) or Facebook. pages.

Christmas Special Offering Dec 15 & 22

The Christmas Special Offering gifts stay with the Upper Midwest and support the ministries of the region.

Every year the Christian Conference Center does an annual fund drive that we call the "Year End Letter Campaign". This campaign is vital to our continued operation and an important way that we fund ministry. When you [give a gift](#) to this funding campaign, or when you choose to volunteer your time in one of our programs, you support our mission to connect Disciples and rental guests to God, creation, and each other.



2025 Camp Schedule



For more information, scan the QR code

Another Way

- May 30-June 1 – Family Camp
- June 16-21 – ADAM Camp
- June 16-21 – Junior Camp 1
- June 21-22 – Grand Camp 1
- June 23-28 – Chi Rho Camp 1
- June 23-28 – CYF Camp 1
- June 30-July 5 – Junior Camp 2
- July 7-9 – Beginner Camp
- July 19-20 – Grand Camp 2
- July 21-26 – Chi Rho Camp 2
- July 21-26 – CYF Camp 2
- July 28-Aug 2 – Adventure Camp
- Aug 4-9 – Junior Camp 3

Save the date!

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Greetings Church Family!

It has been a while since I have written for the Newsletter. I hope this finds you well and excited for the coming birth of our Savior!

This marks my last month serving as Board Chair. I am looking forward to handing the mantle to Dan Crum after three years.

Serving the Church in this role has been an amazing opportunity. I have had so many chances to grow in my faith in our mighty God and lean on our Savior Jesus Christ. Experiencing the ups and downs of leading people and trying to achieve God's will for His Church has some stressful moments, and Jesus has been there with me through it. I am deeply grateful for all of you during these times as well. Each of you has supported me in many ways through these years. Trying new ideas, embracing the changes we have gone through, and sharing your thoughts. Although not everything got done or went as planned I have enjoyed all of the

I am excited to continue on as Treasurer and help support the church and Dan in that way. I am grateful for all the ways I have been able to grow serving God in this role and others. I encourage you to get involved and grow your Faith in new ways.

I pray each of you have a wonderful Christmas with family and friends; and a New Year filled with gratitude.

God Bless,

Kyle Nordyke Board Chair

WORSHIP, Judy Watkins, Chair

We had a wonderful "Hanging of the Green" service on November 24th. Many scriptures and lessons were read, candles lit, and the congregation participated in placing chrismons on the tree.

We are hosting a **Blue Christmas** evening on **December 18th 4-6:00 p.m.** Please come and go as you wish and light a candle for a loved one. There will be no singing or sermon; just a quiet time of reflection.

Our **Christmas Eve Service** is Tuesday, **December 24th at 5:00 p.m.** Join other friends and family in celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior.

EVANGELISM Kayla Price, Chair

Stuff-a-Stocking -Please select a stocking (from the coat room or call the church at 515-989-0176 to receive one) to stuff for an adult member of the community for our CCA "Spirit of Christmas" program. Please sign the sign-out form, stuff your stocking, and return by Sunday, **December 8th.** Thank you!

Our congregation will be **adopting four families** for the CCA "Spirit of Christmas" program. Gift cards will be purchased for groceries and gifts. If you would like to donate, you may write a check to the church and list "Christmas families" on the memo line or make a donation to Kayla Price if you wish. Donations are needed by Sunday, **December 15th.** Thank you!

We are also collecting **new, unwrapped toys or gift items** for children through age 18 for the CCA "Spirit of Christmas" program. Please bring unwrapped gifts by Sunday, **December 15th.** These items may be placed in the white collection box in the coat room. Thank you!

What about our annual "**Mitten Tree?**" - After discussion with Carlisle Community School District Counseling Team, they always appreciate warm, waterproof gloves and mittens, hats, etc. However, they also have other important needs - children's underwear, socks, sweatpants, leggings, snowpants, etc. We would like to do this collection **during January** so please keep this in mind if you see great sale prices! More details a little later. Thank you!

Please contact Kayla Price (515 -250-2231) if you have any questions. Thank you!

COMMUNITY LIFE, Louanna Pezzetti, Chair

The **hearts of kindness** are in the coat room to be taken and hid around the community. Whoever finds one is welcome to keep it or share it with someone as an act of kindness. If you just wish to give it to a friend that's fine, too. The heart can be left on a park bench, benches at a ball game, on a tree branch, restroom or anywhere someone would see it.

We will have our **soup** potluck lunch after church on **December 15th**. We'll be going Christmas **caroling** to our home bound friends following lunch.

Game night is Saturday, **December 7th 6-8:00 p.m.** in fellowship hall. Bring a friend and a snack to share.

EDUCATION, Emily Nordyke, Chair

Wednesday **December 4th at 5:30 p.m.**, we will be watching **The Chosen Christmas episode**.

On **December 11th at 5:30 p.m.** we will be painting **Christmas ornaments** at the **Kiln Room**.

December 18th 4-6:00 p.m. is a special **Blue Christmas** evening. Please come and go as you wish.

Reverend Bob Zirkelbach will be teaching **Adult Sunday school** featuring denominational distinctives this December. Join everyone at **9:00 a.m.** each Sunday.

Worship & Education meet **1st Monday** of every month. Please come and share ideas of what you'd like to see/hear/ or study in the coming new year.

PROPERTY, Craig Price, Chair

We will be doing some pricing for the possibility of an addition for a new ground floor fellowship hall and an elevator for access to the basement. Both projects will be expensive, but there seems to be a lot of interest in pursuing the possibilities. Once we have an idea of the costs involved, we can make informed decisions as to which direction we want to pursue.

There is a new motion light at the back West entrance. This should be an improvement over leaving the old light on all of the time.

We will be removing the sliding door in the double classroom soon. This will allow for more freedom of movement in this room and less congestion.

Another project coming soon will be removing two of the long pews at the front of the sanctuary; one from each side and then moving the short pews back to allow less constricted area for wheelchairs.

ELDERS, Mike Robinson, Chair

The Elders of the church continue to focus on visitation with shut ins and the support of their families. Visits were made to members who now reside in facilities in Indianola, Ankeny, Carlisle, and Des Moines.

Communion was served to those visited as well as readings from the Bible.

The elders also provided words of reflection and prayers as part of the communion portion of Sunday services. The theme for reflection this month was gratitude and thankfulness for the presence of God in our lives.

CWF, Linda Robinson, President

CWF (Christian Women's Fellowship) met at the church on November 11th at 1:00 PM. Ruby Warren did devotions based on God's assurances in our daily lives, with appropriate Bible verses. Our beef sale was held on Saturday, November 2nd. Our next event is the **Senior Ladies Christmas Party** for women over 70, hosted by Kayla Price on Monday, **December 2nd**. As a reminder, canned chicken and beef are available all year around for purchase (\$8 each). The **next meeting** will be **January 13th** at the church.

December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
First Sunday of Advent	CWF Senior Ladies Christmas Party 1:30 at the Church Worship & Educational Meeting 5:30 p.m.		The Chosen Christmas Episode @ 5:30 p.m. Bulletin Items due	Last GriefShare Meeting		Game Night 6-8:00 pm
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. Care Center @ 1:00	Resource and Property Mtgs @ 5:30 p.m. Elders 6:30 p.m.		The Kiln Room 5:30 p.m. Bulletin Items due		Boy Scout Lock-In	CUPC potluck-game night 5-8:00 pm Boy Scout Lock-In
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Christmas Special Offering Potluck Caroling	Evangelism and Community Life Meeting 5:30 p.m.		Blue Christmas 4-6:00 p.m. Bulletin Items due Newsletter Items due			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Christmas Special Offering	Bulletin Items due	Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00 p.m.	MERRY CHRISTMAS!			
29	30	31				
		New Year's Eve				

24 Day Gospel of Luke Challenge

Read One Chapter Per Day for 24 Days

- Luke 1
- Luke 2
- Luke 3
- Luke 4
- Luke 5
- Luke 6
- Luke 7
- Luke 8
- Luke 9
- Luke 10
- Luke 11
- Luke 12
- Luke 13
- Luke 14
- Luke 15
- Luke 16
- Luke 17
- Luke 18
- Luke 19
- Luke 20
- Luke 21
- Luke 22
- Luke 23
- Luke 24

Download Free Printable at CourageousChristianFather.com/24-day-gospel-of-luke-challenge/

The Prophecy

- Day 1: Isaiah 9:2-7
- Day 2: Isaiah 11:1-5
- Day 3: Isaiah 7:10-14
- Day 4: Micah 5:1-5
- Day 5: 2 Samuel 7:12-16

The Messiah is Born

- Day 6: Luke 1:26-33
- Day 7: Luke 1:34-38
- Day 8: Luke 1:46-55
- Day 9: Matthew 1:18-25
- Day 10: Luke 2:1-7
- Day 11: Luke 2:8-12
- Day 12: Luke 2:13-20
- Day 13: Matthew 1:1-17

A Season of Advent Reading Plan

The Gift of Salvation

- Day 14: Romans 6:20-23
- Day 15: Galatians 4:1-7
- Day 16: 1 Timothy 1:15-17
- Day 17: Titus 3:3-7
- Day 18: Philippians 2:6-8

The Messiah Will Return

- Day 19: John 14:1-6
- Day 20: Daniel 7:13-14
- Day 21: Revelation 1:4-7
- Day 22: Revelation 3:20-22
- Day 23: Revelation 22:12-13
- Day 24: Revelation 22:16-17
- Day 25: Revelation 22:20

Bible Study Printables



MERRY CHRISTMAS



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