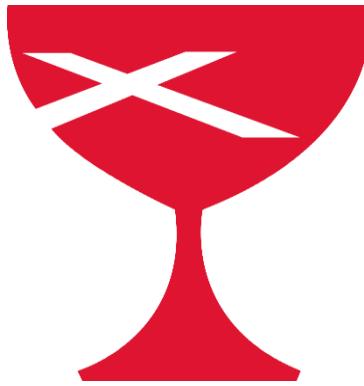


December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Special Offering
(**Violet** is the color of this Day)

Welcome to everyone who is visiting with us today; we pray you will feel blessed as we share the love of Christ.



CARLISLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
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515-989-0176
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Website: carlislechristianchurch.com
FB: Carlisle Christian Church – DOC
Reverend Kristin Pike
Organist: Rebecca Campbell
Greeters: Lou, Bob, Kyle

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, BIRTHDAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Soup potluck** is **TODAY** followed by **caroling**.
2. **TODAY** is the last Sunday to donate to the **regional Christmas Special Offering**. All gifts made stay here in the Upper Midwest, supporting the many ministries of the region, including supporting congregations in transition. Please indicate “Regional Christmas Offering” in the memo line of your check or indicate as such on the offering envelope provided in the pew.
3. Join us **Christmas Eve** at 7:00p for the **candlelight service**.
4. **Pastor Kristin** will be out of the office Dec. 26th through Jan. 3rd.
5. There will be no **Bible Study** Dec. 30th and no **Know Your Bible** on Dec. 31st.
6. **Mitten Tree**-We would like to collect warm mittens, gloves, hats and socks for the Carlisle School District students. These will be donated to the school in mid-January. Items may be placed in the white donation box in the coat room or the back room on the table.
7. **Personal Care Bags** - We will be collecting personal care items to place in bags for the homeless to be donated at the end of January. Items needed include: shampoo, shower gel, soap, shower puff, toothpaste, toothbrush, dental floss, cotton swabs, deodorant, small tissue packs, band-aids, feminine hygiene products, etc. These items may be placed in the white donation box in the coat room or the back room on the table.
8. **Blessing Box** - We are requesting non-food items - personal hygiene items, paper products, cleaning and laundry supplies and will be discontinuing food items at this time. Thank you for your assistance.

BIRTHDAY

Debbie Peters 12/21

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PRAYERS: (Please call the church office (515-989-0176) or contact an Elder/Deacon to add/remove names.)

Our friends in Care Centers: Gordy Kain Joe Lang Patsy Overton

Friends and family members: Cathie Berg Sandee Zirkelbach Randy Skoglund (Sandee Zirkelbach's brother)

REMEMBERING THOSE IN MILITARY SERVICE

Justin Miller (Okinawa)

Tara Wesner (IN)

Joshua Wesner (IN)

COMING UP

Tuesday, Dec 23rd
Wednesday, Dec 24th
Sunday, Dec 28th

Advent Study @ 10:00a CCC; 6:30p CUPC
Christmas Eve Service 7:00p
Sunday School @ 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship @ 10:00 a.m.
Worship @ 10:30 a.m.
Greeters: Diaconate Team #4

**Please stand if you are able

LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER AND PRAISE GOD!

**Hymn of Praise #143

Joy to the World

** Call to Worship

L: We gather together in this place:
P: prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,
L: we who dare to imagine a world renewed;
P: we who dare to dream God's dream.
L: We speak out with Zechariah.
P: God's name be blessed forever!
L: For God has remembered us in mercy,
P: and remained faithful to us in love.
L: Because of God's tender compassion,
P: the dawn from on high will rise over us.
L: Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.
P: We have come to wonder and praise.

**Opening Prayer

God of liberation, your love reaches beyond all boundaries of prejudice and fear. Your tenderness is offered not only to the powerful or deserving, but to all people, according to your infinite compassion. Teach us to love widely and boldly, honoring the dignity of all and trusting your promise that the way of love is the way of life. Amen.

Advent Candle Lighting

Becky Rees and Norman Rice

The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways. Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. The element of the story we focus on changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, and how we experience it. We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold. We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us. And we light the candle of joy because joy sustains us in the midst of uncertainty.

Imagine that what you once thought was impossible has come to fruition. Zechariah, the husband of Elizabeth never believed they would be parents, and now he is holding his infant son, John. Zechariah experiences an unexpected joy that leads to love. A love that reclaims and reorients all who are present toward the possibilities of God. A love that makes the most difficult of situations bearable and all things seem possible, even situations that dehumanize, harm, and belittle. A love that invites a lifelong commitment to mercy, justice, and peace. Today we light the candle of love because love makes the impossible possible.

**Hymn of Gratitude (on the screen)

“While We Are Waiting, Come”

Scripture Reading - Luke 1:57-80

Daphne Sayers

Sermon

Rev. Kristin Pike

Affirmation of Hope

Let us affirm God's gift of bold and liberating love:

We believe in the power of love, a love that not only comforts but liberates. A love constructed with care, compassion, and courage, providing shelter and safety for all God's children. We believe in love's guardrails of grace and mercy. Love does not demand or wait for perfection, but scoops us up in arms of unconditional care, where we are, as we are. We believe, with gratitude, in a legacy of love, a long thread of memory recalling who we are and whose we are, stitching us into its tapestry of belonging. We believe love is not earned. Love is not control. Love is care and connection. We believe love holds no secrets. Love does not shame. Love speaks up. Love makes space. Because God's love doesn't give up on us, we

will not give up on ourselves or each other. We will remember and bless. We will fix what is broken. We will look for the dawn of God's love in and around us.

Joys and Concerns

Moment of Silence for Meditation

Pastoral Prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer (use debts and debtors)

Service of Communion

If you believe Jesus is the Christ, our risen Savior, come to the Table

Communion Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Eric Pike

Prayer for the Elements

Rev. Kristin Pike

Please come forward to collect the elements and return to your seat so we can partake together. If you are unable to come forward, please ask someone to bring the elements to you.

Offering Meditation

Mike Robinson, Elder

****Doxology** (pg 46)

****Prayer for the Gifts**

Mike Robinson, Elder

****Hymn of Invitation (on the screen)**

"There's a Star in the East

****Charge**

Rev. Kristin Pike

To embody love is more than sentiment. It is choosing, every day, to see the worth and good in ourselves, others, and this world. So go forth from this place modeling merciful love, and remember God is love. Though it may be difficult to understand, we see what it means modeled in Jesus. May blessings flow from your mouth as you seek to be love in this world.

****Benediction**

Rev. Kristin Pike

You go nowhere by accident. Wherever you go, God is sending you. Wherever you are, God has put you there. God has a purpose in your being there. Christ lives in you and has something to do through you wherever you are. Believe this and go in the grace, and love, and power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

****Closing (on the screen)**

"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"

