



HSP PARISH



DECEMBER 2025

A Letter From The Pastor

BY MARK BALDWIN

Christmas: God With Us in Every Season

Every year as December approaches, our homes, towns, and churches begin to shine with the beauty of Christmas lights. But long before we ever strung a single lightbulb, God illuminated the world with the greatest light of all—His Son, Jesus Christ.

The prophet Isaiah gave us this promise centuries before the manger in Bethlehem:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light" (Isaiah 9:2).

At Christmas, we celebrate the fulfillment of that promise. The Light has come, and the darkness cannot overcome it. In a small, quiet town—far from palaces, politics, and power—God stepped into human history. Luke reminds us that Jesus' birth was not an accident or a surprise, but the unfolding of God's long-awaited plan: "And she gave birth to her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger" (Luke 2:7).

A manger. A feed trough.

The King of Kings entering the world in humility and simplicity.

Christmas reminds us that God delights in meeting us where we least expect—sometimes in bright sanctuaries filled with carols, but also in the quiet corners of life where we feel small, tired, or unsure. The message of Bethlehem is that God is not distant. He has come near.

That is why Matthew declares:

"They shall call His name Immanuel—which means, God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

Not "God above us." Not "God beyond us."

But God with us. With us in our joy.

With us in our questions.

With us in our struggles.

With us in our families, our work, our churches, and our community.

This Christmas, may we receive the gift that cannot be wrapped or purchased—the peace

Jesus offers:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors"

(Luke 2:14).

May His peace settle into your homes, your hearts, and your celebrations.

May His hope sustain you.

And may His light guide you into a new year with courage, faith, and joy.

From my family to yours, and from our church family to our community—

Merry Christmas, and may the Light of Christ shine brightly upon you.

In Christ's love,

IN THIS ISSUE

Holiday Schedule

Confirmation

UMW Meetings

Ad-Board Meetings

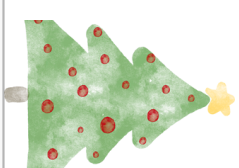
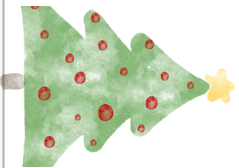
Scriptures to Ponder

Future Events



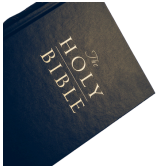




Puzzles



December



2

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 9am S- Prayer Shawl	3 10:30am H- Prayer Shawl 7pm Online Advent Message	4 H- 2pm Methodist Ladies S- 2pm UMW	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 	8	9 9am S- Prayer Shawl 4pm S- Food Pantry 5pm P- Food Pantry	10 10:30am H- Prayer Shawl 7pm Online Advent Message	11	12	13 5-9-11 Cookie Walk 
14  1:30pm S-Confirmation	15	16 9am S- Prayer Shawl	17 10:30am H- Prayer Shawl 5- 7pmCT Youth Group 7pm Online Advent Message	18	19	20
21 P- 9:30am Methodist Ladies S- Potluck after worship	22	23 9am S- Prayer Shawl 4pm S- Food Pantry 5pm P- Food Pantry	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day 10:30amCT Online Message 	26	27
28 	29	30	31 10:30am H- Prayer Shawl New Years Eve 	Christmas Eve Worship Times 4 p.m. CT Hershey Service 5 p.m. MT Paxton Service 7:30 p.m. CT Sutherland and Live Stream		

Pastor Mark Announces his retirement

Greetings congregation and may God's blessings be with you all!

As many of you know I have announced my retirement as your pastor as of July 1st 2026. It was not an easy decision to make but one I needed to do for my health and to spend more time with my family. I have been truly blessed these past ten years to be your pastor and could not have asked for better congregations to share in ministry with. I know change is always difficult but I know you will welcome your new pastor just as you did my family ten years ago.

Prayers and Blessings!

Pastor Mark Baldwin
and Family



Cookie Walk

Sutherland UMC will be hosting their annual cookie walk on December 13th 9am to 11am.

All proceeds will go to the Hershey-Sutherland food pantry.

If you would like donate goodies to sell contact any Sutherland Methodist women for details.



Luke 2:11

“For unto you is born this day... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

Meaning: Jesus came personally for you—God's gift of salvation to every heart.

Matthew 1:23

“They shall call His name Immanuel... God with us.”
Meaning: At Christmas we celebrate that God is not distant—He is right here with us.

Confirmation Class

Pastor Mark's 2nd Confirmation Class will be December 14th at 1:30 p.m. CT at the Sutherland United Methodist Church for more information call Pastor Mark at 308-289-2141

Confirmation

Please Continue Your Support
For Our Churches Give Online

<https://www.hspparish.com/online-giving>

Hershey UMC
PO Box 207
Hershey, NE 69143

Sutherland UMC
PO Box 337
Sutherland, NE 69165

Paxton UMC
PO Box 335
Paxton, NE 69155





Parish Bible Study

We will take a break for advent
and we will resume Bible Study on
January 7th 2026
9 a.m. MT Paxton UMC
7 p.m. CT HSP Parish Website

John 1:14

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

**Meaning: Jesus came to live among us so we could
know God’s love firsthand.**

Matthew 1:23

“They shall call His name
Immanuel... God with us.”
Meaning: At Christmas we
celebrate that God is not
distant—
He is right here with us.



Luke 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest...
and on earth peace.”
Meaning: Jesus brings
peace—peace with God,
peace in our hearts,
and peace in our world.

December Birthday & Anniversaries



1st Alexa Green(S)
3rd Eddie Guynan (P)
4th Patti Brunz (S)
Doug Babbitt (P)
Vila Tjaden (S)
6th Bill Arnett (H)
8th Jessica Krajewski (S)
Dale Refior (S)
10th James Copeland (S)
13th Linda Harms (P)
Patty Hafer (S)
23rd Haven Schuster (S)
24th Paulette Worley (P)
25th **Jesus Christ (HSP)**
Greg Dyas (P)
Martin Keller (P)
26th Brittney Paulsen (S)
31st Libby Gleason (S)



8th Joe & Cheri Kneifel (H)
18th Jim & Teresa Rotert (S)
27th Doug & Kay Downs (H)

MEETINGS

Hershey Ladies
December 4th

Sutherland Ladies
December 4th

Paxton Ladies
December 21st

NO December
Ad-Board Meetings



Holiday Schedule



Online Advent Messages

December 3rd

December 10th

December 17th

7 p.m. CT

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Hershey United Methodist Church 4 p.m. CT Service

Paxton United Methodist Church 5 p.m. MT Service

Sutherland United Methodist Church 7:30 p.m. CT

Live Stream of Sutherland Worship Service will be available on our website



Online Christmas Day Message

Thursday December 25th 10:30 AM CT

One Worship Sunday
Sunday December 28th at
10:30amCT Sutherland UMC



All Holiday Messages will be live streamed on our website
www.hspparish.com



Name: _____ Date: _____

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the
vocabulary words
in the grid. Look
for them in all
directions including
backwards and
diagonally.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Word Search



ADVENT CALENDAR
ANGEL
BALLS
CANDLE
CHRISTMAS TREE
FAKE SNOW
FIGURINES
GARLAND
HOLIDAY LINENS
LIGHTS
MINI TREE
MISTLETOE
NATIVITY SCENE
NUTCRACKER
ORNAMENT
PINECONE
POINSETTIA
RED BOW
REINDEER
SNOWFLAKE
STAR
STOCKINGS
TINSEL
TREE SKIRT
TREE STAND
WREATH



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In a world that often feels
unsteady, Jesus steps into our
darkness with steady light. In
times when our strength feels
thin, He comes as the Savior
who lifts us. And in seasons
when life feels overwhelming, He
is Emmanuel—God with us.
This Christmas, take a moment
to breathe in that truth:
Christ the Lord was born for
you.

Not because you earned it, not
because you had everything
together, but because God loves
you that deeply.

May His peace fill your heart
and His joy brighten your path
as you welcome Him again this
Christmas.

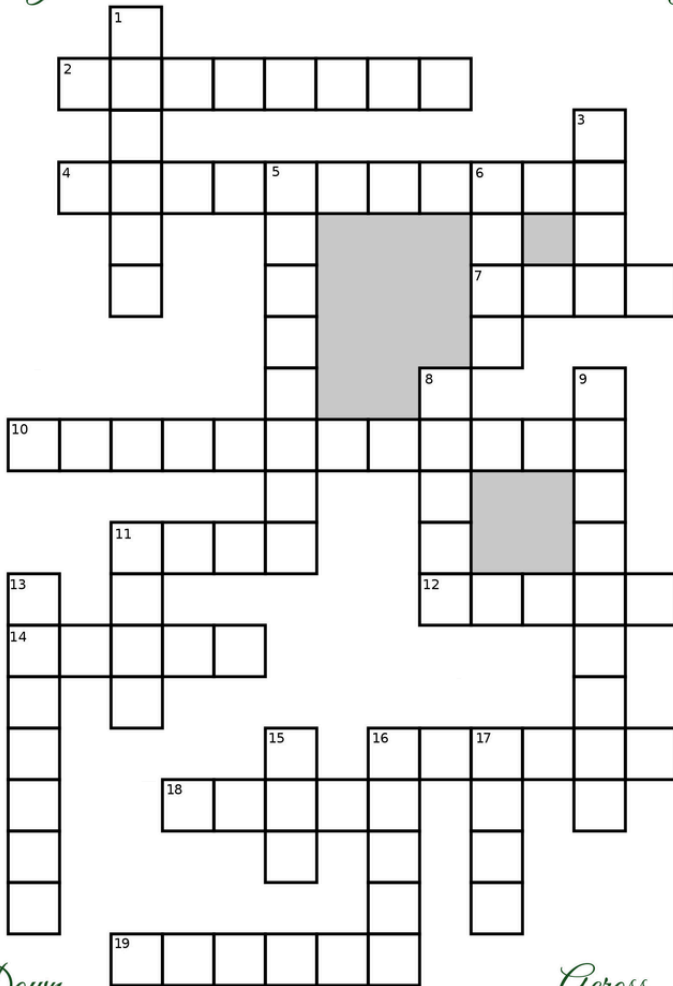


MERRY CHRISTMAS





Religious Christmas Crossword Puzzle



Down

1. The coming of _____
3. The Wise Men followed a _____
5. The birth scene of Jesus
6. One of the Three Wise Men's gifts
8. Mary's baby
9. The town where Jesus was born
13. The Angel who visited Mary
15. Jesus is the son of _____
16. One of the Three Wise Men's gifts
17. Christmas refrain

Across

2. Those tending their flock in the field
4. _____, Holy Night (2 words)
7. Jesus, _____ and Savior
10. One of the Three Wise Men's gifts
11. The mother of Jesus
12. Jesus came to save our _____
14. A heavenly messenger
16. Baby Jesus slept in a _____
18. "For the _____ of God"
19. Mary's husband

www.FreePrintable.net - 100% Easy, 100% Fun.

A Christmas Prayer

Gracious and Loving God, In this holy season, we pause to remember the miracle of Your Son's birth. As the angel proclaimed good news of great joy, fill our hearts once again with wonder, peace, and gratitude. Shine Your light into our homes, our families, and our community, and help us share Christ's love with all we meet. May the hope of Bethlehem guide our steps, and may the joy of the Christ Child rest upon us this Christmas and always. Amen.



The HSP Newsletter will continue to be published monthly. If you have newsletter articles, pictures or any special news you would like to share with the parish please submit them to Pastor Mark, or the tech team by the 25th of each month. Items can be emailed to the following:
hsp.umc@gmail.com





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Tyrel Fear

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PO Box 337, Sutherland, NE 69165
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hsp.videotech@gmail.com



HERSHEY UMC
220 S. Lincoln St.,
PO Box 207
Hershey, NE 69143
Phone: 308-368-5682

Sunday Worship: 9:00 a.m. CT



SUTHERLAND UMC
631 Pine St.
PO Box 337
Sutherland, NE 69165
Phone: 308-386-4664

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. CT



PAXTON UMC
310 N. Oak St.
PO Box 335
Paxton, NE 69155
Phone: 308-239-4649

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. MT