

DECEMBER 2025

The Covenant Chronicle

A publication of Evangelical Covenant Church of Paxton

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As Advent approaches, I am reminded of the themes for each Sunday.

The first Sunday is marked by **Hope**. Primarily, this encourages us to not just think about Jesus' first coming, but also of his Second Coming. For Christians going through difficult times, this can be the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. Whether those difficulties are oppression and persecution, sickness and health, poverty or something else, it is the thought of Jesus' return that gives us hope.

The second Sunday's theme is **Peace**. This shows up in the nativity story at the end of Zechariah's song in Luke 1 and more importantly it is proclaimed by the angels to the Shepherds in Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." In Romans 5:1, Paul tells his readers that "through faith, we have peace with God."

During the third Sunday, we celebrate **Joy**. We are told in Luke 1, that Jesus's cousin John "leaped for joy" in Elizabeth's womb, when she heard Mary's greeting. Also on the night of Jesus' birth, the angel said that he was bringing "good news of great joy for all the people." Of course, numerous Christmas hymns echo the theme of joy.

For the final Sunday, God's **Love** is proclaimed. We are told in John 3:16 that it was because of His love that God sent His Son for us. In Romans 5, we are told that "God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us." This message of God's love permeates the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament.

I hope that this Advent and Christmas season that you will take some time to reflect on these themes and what they mean to you.

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Pastor Keith

Mission Statement

We, the Evangelical Covenant Church of Paxton, Illinois, will seek to bring the people of our community and throughout the world to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ because God calls us to do so. In all we do we will serve Christ through individual talents working together to nurture each other in the faith and in Christian love.

December Ministry Volunteers

Scripture Readers

7 Nikki Foss

14 Tonya Durham

21 Diane Gustafson

28 Alaina Kief

Ushers

7 Matt & Amy Jones, Diane Gustafson

14 Roger Gustafson, Jeff Shaffer

21 Glen Foss, Melanie Harms

28 Jesse Balk, Ahlden Harms



Our children's Christmas program is scheduled for Sunday, December 21 during our Worship service. We hope you all can join us to help our Sunday School classes celebrate the birth of our Savior through song.

Remember our Homebound Members

Paxton:
Accolade
Betty Lesus





FREE CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY MEAL

**December 25, 11am–1pm
at the Paxton Covenant Church
260 S. Union St. Paxton IL**

**We offer delivery, pick up, or dine in!
Menu will include ham, potatoes,
green bean casserole, rolls and a
dessert!**

**Call to reserve a meal!
Amanda 217-415-6376
Church 217-379-3554**

**If you would like to help with prep and/or deliveries, please contact
Amanda Nelson.**

DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 Barb Edwards
Alissa Stafford
3 Carrie Kingston
4 Elaine Shearer
Tim Bushue
5 Jamie Kingston
Mallory Johnson
6 John Johnson
Joie Gallagher
7 Ella Kellerhals
11 Janet Abrahamson
Allie Elson
13 Ethan Perry
14 Barb Busboom
Craig Loschen
16 Dave Burklund
18 Josie Runck
19 Janet Loschen
20 Kailin Gerdes
Kora Kleinsteinber
26 Ronan Moore
28 Lynette Reppert
29 Kase Burnett
30 Janet Saldeen
31 Pat Hansen

1 Kurt & Julie Edwards
31 Bruce & Elaine Shearer



There will be a Men's Breakfast and Bible study on Saturday, December 13 at 8am.



There will be a Candlelight Service Christmas Eve at 7pm



The Youth Group will meet Sunday, December 14 from 3-6pm for caroling and cookie decorating.

Evangelical Covenant Church
260 S. Union Street
Paxton, IL 60957
www.paxcov.org



Jesus
Hope of the World