

January 2026

THE GRAPEVINE

Our Savior

Bethlehem



Chad Trunkhill, Senior Pastor
Jarryn Wiley-Pearce, DCE
Church Office, Stephanie Hatterman

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dcejarryn@oursaviordenison.com
office@oursaviordenison.com

712-571-9249
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Christmas Program Thank you!

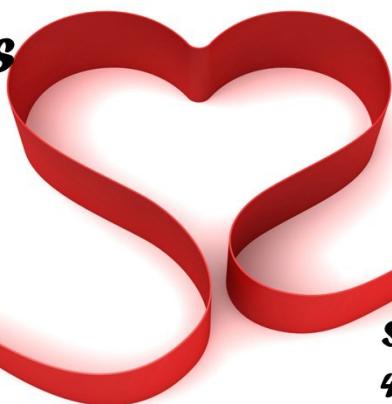
Hello, This is Benjamin C. Pearce, I just wanted to say thanks to everyone that had a hand in putting on this year's Christmas Program. Everyone did an amazing job in the parts they played. This was the most ambitious of the three programs I had already written before we were blessed to be here in this congregation. I would like to give a special thanks to Chuck and Scott, for their help in getting the Stage set, with real big thanks for their work on the manger shed. And their help on getting the new area mic mounted above the stage. The show would not look as wonderfully without their help. I would also like to thank Jayden, Gavin and Roman, for their roles as the three main Shepherds. They are all three incredibly talented young men. And the way they worked so well with the younger cast and Chorus members was amazing. They may not know it but they really influenced the other members of the cast. Cause if the older kids are doing it and think it's cool then the younger will too. So a Really, Really Big Thank You to you as well. I would also like to thank my wife Jarryn for her work in the pro presenter side. She is the one who put it all together and made it look amazing. She did the work in Power Point, and then a thank you to Pastor for converting it to Pro Presenter. Without them we would not have the words for everyone to sing as they all did. Lastly thank you Parents for pushing your children to try new things. Everyone did an amazing job in their respective roles. The parents especially, things would not have run so smoothly without their help in the background. Also, lastly a Big Thanks to Julie for her wonderful voice in singing "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" it's one of the more difficult songs in the Program and she sang it masterfully. Again thank you everyone for your parts in making this the best Christmas Program we have had since I started running them. And Thank you Our Savior Lutheran for allowing me to do this every year it has been stressful but incredibly rewarding. And Lastly, for real this time, thank God for giving us His Son to live, teach, and then to die for our sake and then to rise again to come again when that time comes. God Bless you and Keep You.



YOUTH

Upcoming

Valentines Dinner



Date:

Feb 21, 2026

Set up Feb 20
4 pm to 7 pm

Valentines Dinner Fundraiser

This year we will be hosting a Valentines Dinner! What that means is we will need to pick a theme for decorations, a menu and get the word out. We will need to decorate the room we use and have parents help with the cooking, youth will be serving. If we have youth willing to share their musical talents for the evening that would be a fantastic addition to the evening.

We will also need youth to volunteer to take care of children if the adults wish to have a nice meal with out the rest of the family.

The goal of this is to give families/couples a nice evening out while raising funds for the future youth activities.

Youth Group

Sr. High Connect
Wednesdays @
6:30

Sunday Connect
Sundays @ 4:30
NO Connect Jan 4



Jr. High

Mini Lock-in

Sunday Feb 1
6 pm to Midnight

We will be having a Jr. High Mini—Lock-in the first day of February. We will be playing games, eating snacks and of course there will be devotion time. We ask that you please bring a drink and snack to share. Friends are welcome!



Check the bulletin for more youth activities.

Sunday School

Sundays @ 10:15 am



Elementary

Pre-k—5th Grade Upstairs in the South Classroom

With Two or More we will celebrate how we can help kids to be seen, known, and loved. Just like Jesus taught to a small and large groups, Two or More leads the kids whether it is a small group or large group of kids to share Bible-rich experiences as they grow in faith together.

Youth

6th—12th Grade Downstairs in the Youth Room

We will be starting a new Bible Study called "Best Year Ever" If you're ready to have the BEST YEAR EVER, how you handle your relationships with family and friends will be a huge factor.

Jesus put those people in your life for a reason.

Mexico Mission Trip – March 14th-20th, 2026

As I do every year I will be headed with a group (they have been going for over 20 years) down to Puerto Penasco, Mexico to build a house through Amor Ministries based out of San Diego, California. We will build an 11x22 home, think of a concrete floor with four walls and one dividing wall inside. The cost of the trip is \$600 and that covers registration, camping, building materials, meals, transportation (unless you choose to fly into Albuquerque or Phoenix), and vehicle insurance. We will stay at St. Lukes on the way down and a hotel on the way back. A \$100 deposit to secure your spot. The house will take 2 and half days to build so we will spend time in the afternoon on the beach as well as at the port for supper that night. If you are interested, talk to Jarryn about the details and any questions.



Our Savior (bold & black)

January 2026

Bethlehem (blue, bold, italicized)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Church Office Hrs.: M – F, 9:00 – 2:00</p> <p>Communion will be served during this service †</p> <p>Update: 12/29/2025</p>				<p>1 Happy New Year! Office Closed</p>		<p>3 5:30 OS Worship †</p>
<p>4 9:00 OS Worship † After Service: Adult BBS & Sunday School <i>9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Beth Worship</i> †</p>	<p>5 9:00 Coffee Crew 9:00 Quilters</p>	<p>6 4:00 CCHF Backpacks</p>	<p>7 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Meal/Snack Time 5:45: Choir 6:00: 7th – 8th grade Confirmation Classes 6:30: Sr. High Connect</p>	<p>8 9:45 BBS @OS</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 1:00 OGT Workday 5:30 OS Worship</p>
<p>11 9:00 OS Worship After Service: Christmas Decoration Removal Adult BBS & Sunday School <i>9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Beth Worship</i> 4:30: Jr. High Connect</p>	<p>12 9:00 Coffee Crew</p>	<p>13 4:00 CCHF Backpacks</p>	<p>14 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Meal/Snack Time 5:45: Choir 6:00: 7th – 8th grade Confirmation Classes 6:30: Sr. High Connect</p>	<p>15 9:45 BBS @ OS</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 5:30 OS Worship †</p>
<p>18 9:00 OS Worship † After Service: Adult BBS & Sunday School <i>9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Beth Worship</i> † 4:30: Jr. High Connect</p>	<p>19 9:00 Coffee Crew 9:00 Quilters</p>	<p>20 CCHF @ Presbyterian Church: 1:00 Preparation 3:00 Distribution 4:00 Backpacks</p>	<p>21 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Meal/Snack Time 5:45: Choir 6:00: 7th – 8th grade Confirmation Classes 6:30: Sr. High Connect</p>	<p>22 9:45 BBS @OS</p>	<p>23 February Grapevine Info Due</p>	<p>24 5:30 OS Worship</p>
<p>25 9:00 OS Worship After Service: Adult BBS & Sunday School <i>9:15 Beth Adult BBS & Sunday School</i> <i>10:30 Beth Worship</i> 4:30: Jr. High Connect</p>	<p>26 6:30 Discipleship Meeting</p>	<p>27 4:00 CCHF Backpacks</p>	<p>28 4:00: WBS 4 yr. old – 3rd grade 4:00: Rock 456 Classes 5:30: Meal/Snack Time 5:45: Choir 6:00: 7th – 8th grade Confirmation Classes 6:30: Sr. High Connect</p>	<p>29 9:45 BBS @OS</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 5:30 OS Worship †</p>

Please contact the office directly if you have a new event/meeting in the next 7 days. If it is in the future, please put it on the large calendar posted in the office or contact the office directly. To make changes, communicate directly to the office. Thank you!

OUR SAVIOR & BETHLEHEM CANTATA



DIRECTORS: JULIE BURHOOP & BENJAMIN SCHAUER

AMBER YOUNG, Marcy Larson, Aubrey Young, Michael Phipps, Andrea Johnson, Michele Mathies, Benjamin Pearce, Mindy Randeris, Brenda Trunkhill, Rebecca Green, Brianne Schillerberg, Roman Bygness, Brooke Lambert, SCOTT WOOLRIDGE, Gary VOLKERT, STACI GALLUP, GAVIN SCHMADEKE, SUE BERGAMO, Gracie Schillerberg, TODD LAUDERBAUGH, Jarryn Wiley-Pearce, Tracie MILLER

STEWARDSHIP – DID YOU KNOW?

If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy.

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything, and may provide in abundance for every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8

Always remember that nothing we have belongs to us. Receive everything with a grateful heart from the hand of God.

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

If you belong to Christ, it's logical that everything we have belongs to him.

For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. Romans 14:8

Remember: The most important things in life aren't things and the best things in life are always free.

And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8



FROM IOWA DISTRICT WEST—JANUARY MESSENGER



January – “Pro-Life Month”

January is widely considered “Pro-Life Month” due to the anniversary of the passing of *Roe v. Wade*, as well as several significant pro-life events and observances. Despite *Roe v. Wade* being overturned by the Supreme Court of the United States in June 2022, the killing of the unborn remains widespread in America. In fact, the total number of abortions reported nationally has slightly increased since the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

Reasons for this upward trend in abortion volume, despite some states putting strong restrictions in place, are likely due to expanded telehealth capacity and the ability to receive the abortion pill via mail. Telehealth accounts for over 75% of all abortions in Iowa. There is much work to be done despite the good progress made in recent years. God be praised that Iowa has in law the “Heartbeat Bill,” and Planned Parenthood has a diminished presence in our state with only two locations currently open for on-site abortions (Des Moines and Iowa City). The Prenatal Human Development Education Bill for grades 5–12 in public schools was signed into law this past summer. All of these move the ball down the field in the right direction.

Yet there are babies who still need to be defended. In the midst of this culture of death, the Christian church still needs to be engaged in pro-life advocacy and ministry! Let’s continue to pray for and encourage the pregnant mothers in our lives to keep their child. Find ways to support your local pregnancy resource center (find the closest one to you at <https://iowapregnancysupport.com/map/>). Encourage your pastor to attend the LCMS Pastors’ “Day on the Hill” in late January, as there will be an opportunity for him to pray with and speak with our elected public servants concerning life issues.

Keep in mind, the issue of abortion is not first and foremost a political question. It is a theological question. It is an issue of whether God is the giver of life. It is an issue of whether all human life, made in God’s image, has an equal right to life. Because the issue of life is primarily a theological one, pastors, consider the theme of life in your preaching and teaching as you conclude the Christmas Season and

move into the Season of Epiphany. Remember that even as Herod raged and sought to kill the child Jesus, so too the devil seeks to kill little babies who bear the very image of the God the devil hates.

People of God, may your language be formed in the way that the Lord speaks of the life He gives and sustains as a “heritage” (Psalm 127:3). Allow The Litany (LSB pages 288–289) to teach you to pray that all women might be granted children and all mothers with infant children increasing happiness in their blessings. Take advantage of the opportunities this coming month as you continue to defend life in your vocations at home, in your community, and at church.

Upcoming Events

- **Life Week 2026 through Lutherans for Life** – Join Lutherans for Life from Sunday, January 18 through Saturday, January 24 for Life Week 2026. There will be live presentations each day at 8 PM ET, with the exception of Saturday, January 24 at 9 AM ET. Find resources at <https://lutheransforlife.org/life-week-2026/>.
- **Annual March for Life (Washington, D.C.)** – Friday, January 23. You and your youth are invited to the Y4Life Conference and March for Life this year in Washington, D.C. Meet other students and life leaders from across the nation at this mountaintop event! Not only will participants learn more about life issues and take part in the March, but by registering through Y4Life, students also receive discounts on hotel rooms and guided opportunities at the March. Learn more at <https://y4life.org/event/y4life-in-washington-d-c-january-22-24-2026/>.
- **SAVE THE DATE – June 20** – LCMS Life Rally prior to the Iowa March for Life on Saturday, June 20, 2026. The rally, hosted at Trinity Lutheran Church – Des Moines, will begin with a prayer service at 9 AM, followed by a speaker and lunch before moving to the Iowa State Capitol for the organized 2026 Iowa March for Life. Look for more information in the months to come.

Pastor Cory Kroonblawd
District Life Coordinator

LOOKING FOR MORE FROM IOWA DISTRICT WEST? THE ENTIRE MONTHLY MESSENGER IS ON THE WELCOME CENTER FOR YOU TO READ!



DECEMBER 2025 PARISH RECORDS

December Official Acts		
Baptisms:		
Cort Elliot Riessen	Born: September 3, 2025	Baptized: December 6, 2025
Parents: Elijah & Carly Riessen	Pastor Chad Trunkhill	Our Savior
Maverick Joseph Kraft	Born: July 16, 2025	Baptized: December 7, 2025
Parents: Wyatt Kraft & Danielle Malone	Pastor Chad Trunkhill	Bethlehem
Transfer In:		
Wesley, Brooke, William, Everett Nordquist	To: Our Savior, Denison	From: Christ Lutheran, Denison
	Effective: December 5, 2025	
Deaths:		
John (Jack) Jessen	Born: July 9, 1937	Died: December 12, 2025
	Service: December 19, 2025, Our Savior	Pastor Chad Trunkhill

Prayers & Praise

"Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests, while giving thanks." *Philippians 4:6*

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

THOSE WITH VARIOUS HEALTH ISSUES:

Lowell Neumann, Tammy Schurke, Denise Buckholdt, Jerry Blackmore, Gabby Riessen, Doris Neumann, Raven Stone, Pauline Meeves, Sharlene Hansen, Norma Berens, Eli Riessen, Cheryl Rath, Chris Blume, Marlene Giermann, James Bielfeldt.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE SHUT INS

Ruth Blackmore, Jenell Beam, Adlyn Ohl, Mary Jane Petersen.

Our Savior Prayer Chain Co-Captains

Doris: 402-350-3022, Shelly: 263-4376

Bethlehem Prayer Chain Co-Captains

Julie: 269-7715, Sue: 263-9613

REMEMBER THOSE SERVING AS MILITARY PERSONNEL

Cody Vogt – United States Air Force, Creech Air Force Base, Nevada, son of Mike & Lisa Vogt

Tanner Krayneski – United States Marines, Camp Pendleton, Grandson of Byron & Pauline Meeves

Rob Garvey – United States Air Force, Fort Mead, Maryland, son in law of Ron & Catherine Lechtenberg

Alex Wingert – United States Navy, California, nephew of Larry Gittins

Payton Malone – United States Air Force, Grand Fork, North Dakota, Grandson of George & Julie Malone

Hanna Alexander – Marine Base, Quantico, Virginia, Granddaughter of Lynn & Clarence Hoffman

Kaya Auen – United States Navy, Fort Sam, San Antonio, Daughter of Kristin Kastner

Jed Wiley – United States Army, Tacoma, Washington, Brother of Jarryn Wiley-Pearce

Chandler Lee – United States Air Force, Missouri, Grandson of Sam Lee, and nephew of Travis & Rondi Wessel

REMEMBER THOSE WE SUPPORT SERVING AS MISSIONARIES

Benjamin and Ella Goehring – Romania

Rev. Jason and Emily Groth and Family – Belize

Rev. Dr. Thomas Park – Taiwan

Ruth Maita - Puerto Rico

Vicar Gavin Johnson – Dominican Republic

Hannah Hester - Asia Region

Rev. Jonathan Anderson – Panama

Pastor Carl & Chenhsy Li Hanson and Family – Korea

Rev. James and Angela Sharp – Puerto Rico

Zachary Turley – Japan

Eddy & Jamie Bynum – Spain

JANUARY THY STRONG WORD
Tune in Monday through Saturday, 6:25 a.m. KDSN (104.9 FM)
3-4-minute devotions sponsored by the local LCMS congregations.

December 29th–January 3rd

January 5th–January 10th

January 12th–January 17th

January 19–January 24th

January 26th–January 31st

Rev. Merle Mahnken

Rev. Chad Trunkhill

Rev. Richard Merrill

Rev. Nathan Peitsch

Rev. Ted Toreson

Immanuel LC, Schleswig

Our Savior & Bethlehem

Multi-Point, Charter Oak

St. Paul LC, Ute

Christ LC, Denison

To financially support these broadcasts, please send donations to Our Savior and earmark for "Thy Strong Word."

Our Savior's Website
www.oursaviordenison.com

Facebook

Our Savior Lutheran – Denison, IA
Our Savior Denison-Youth Ministries

"The Lutheran Hour"

6:30 a.m. Sundays:

KDSN-FM 104.9 Denison

10:30 a.m. Sundays:

KDSN-AM 1530

"Thy Strong Word"

Every Mon-Sat. 6:25 a.m.

KDSN-FM 104.9

Iowa District West

www.idwlcms.org

Camp Okoboji

www.campokoboji.org

Mission Central

www.missioncentral.us

Lutheran Family Services

www.lfisiowa.org

Crossroads of Crawford County

www.crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.com

3707 Timberline Dr., Denison

712-263-9950

Director@Crossroadsofcrawfordcounty.org

FCC (Family Crisis Center)

712-449-7196

michellej@familycrisiscenters.org

Additional online resources:

Lutheran Hour Ministries: www.lhm.org

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod: www.lcms.org

Lutheran Women's Missionary League:

www.lwml.org

Men's Network: www.lhmmen.com

Online Bible: www.biblegateway.com

Concordia Publishing House: www.CPH.org

Rightnow Media: www.rightnowmedia.org

let's Connect!

CHURCH MAILBOXES

Don't forget to check your church mailbox. Located in the gathering area.

If you do not currently have a church mailbox and would like one, or if you have any name corrections you need made, please contact Stephanie at the church office, as I plan to re-do name labels on the mailboxes soon.

Happening in January

Temporary Aid Program (T.A.P.) Collection at Bethlehem in January

Bethlehem will collect for T.A.P. during January. Especially welcome are paper products, personal care products and Laundry detergent. Other items needed: sugar, flour, peanut butter, soups, crackers, cooking oil, tuna, tuna helper, complete pancake mix, canned tomatoes, hamburger helper, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce, macaroni, tomato juice etc. Donations can be left at the back of the Bethlehem church.

Cash donations are also helpful. Check should be made out to Temporary Aid Program. Send them to P.O. Box 121, Denison, IA 51442.



2026 Contribution Envelopes

Contribution envelopes for 2026 are in your church mailboxes. Be sure to pick yours up. If you didn't receive envelopes and would like to use them, please contact the office.

LOST AND FOUND

We have set up a lost and found table in the Narthex. Please check the table for any items you might have lost throughout the year. Any items left unclaimed after this weekend will be donated to make room in the coat closet. Pans can also be found on the table. Thanks!



Our Savior 2025 Annual Report

We will soon begin to put together the 2025 Annual Report. If you are the head of a church board, committee or group, please turn in your 2025 report information to the office by February 16th, or sooner. Thank you for your help to prepare this document on time for the congregation.

Wednesday Youth activities will resume, Wednesday, January 7th.

4:00: WBS, 4 yr. old – 3rd grade

4:00: Rock 4,5,6 Classes

6:00: 7th – 8th grade Confirmation classes

6:30: Sr. High Connect

OUR SAVIOR CHRISTMAS DECORATION REMOVAL

VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME & VERY MUCH APPRECIATED

Christmas decorations will be taken down
Sunday, January 11th
Immediately after the 9:00 am service.

Any and all volunteers are welcome and needed to complete this transition.

Thank you!

Orphan Grain Train Workday

Please join us for Our Savior's workday at Orphan Grain Train in Ida Grove on January 10th from 1:00pm to 3:30pm. If you would like a ride contact a mission board member.

Discipleship

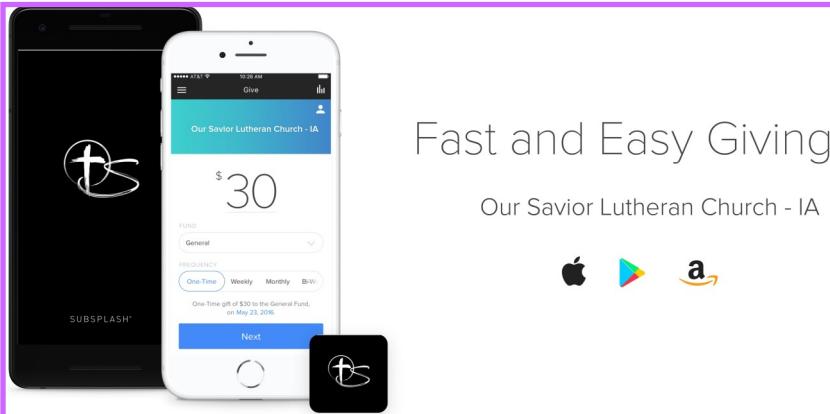
Advent meal & ornament making



Discipleship is
living everyday to the glory
of God in front of other
people and inviting them to join you on
the journey.



More Information to Share



Fast and Easy Giving

Our Savior Lutheran Church - IA

App icons: Apple, Google Play, Amazon



Cost: \$600
Check bulletin for more information or speak to Jarryn if you are interested.

Come Build Home Mexico Mission Trip March 14-20, 2026



2026 Signups for Ushers & Communion Helpers

Thank you so much to all who have signed up so far!

The Signup sheets for Communion Helpers and Ushers are on the Welcome Center. As has been done in the past, the Ushers sheet assignments remain the same as 2025 unless a notation is made to make a change. There are still months open for ushering.

Please consider volunteering for a month of service. Thank you!

ADULT BIBLE STUDIES Everyone is Welcome!

SUNDAYS

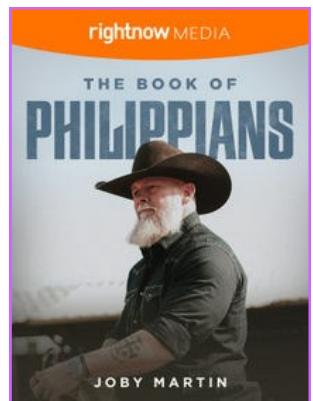
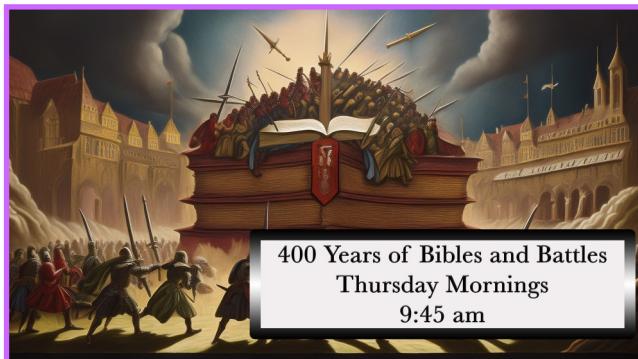
9:15 am Bethlehem
Bible Study & Sunday school
10:15 am Our Savior
Bible Study & Sunday school

THURSDAYS

9:45 am Bible Study

@ Our Savior

CURRENT STUDY SERIES:



2026 Offering Envelopes in Church Mailboxes

Contribution envelopes for 2026 have been placed in your church mailboxes. Those of you who contribute via online giving will not receive envelopes unless you specifically request them. If you did not receive offering envelopes and you would like them, or if you would like to begin using online giving, please contact the office.

Reminders:

Elders Meeting: 1/5 @7:00

Women's Guild Meeting:

1/12 @2:00

Council Meeting: 1/13 @7:00

Bethlehem Leadership

Meeting: 1/19 @7:00

Discipleship Meeting: 1/26
@6:30

Notes & Letters Received

Christmas decorating, thank you!

Thank you to Jake & Shirley Ahrenholtz, Michael Phipps, Scott Woolridge, Ryan Hennings, Nick & Cassandra Bradley, Pastor Chad and Rod & Nancy Bradley for taking time out of their Saturday morning to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season and a big thank you to Rex Lechtenberg for setting up outdoor lighted Nativity decorations. Their time, talents and service are very much appreciated!



Thank you to the women's guild for the \$200 donation toward kitchen needs. Replacement lids for coffee carafes, a few additional carafes, and narrower serving spatulas for desserts have been purchased. These are a great addition to our kitchen.

Christmas Crusade for Children

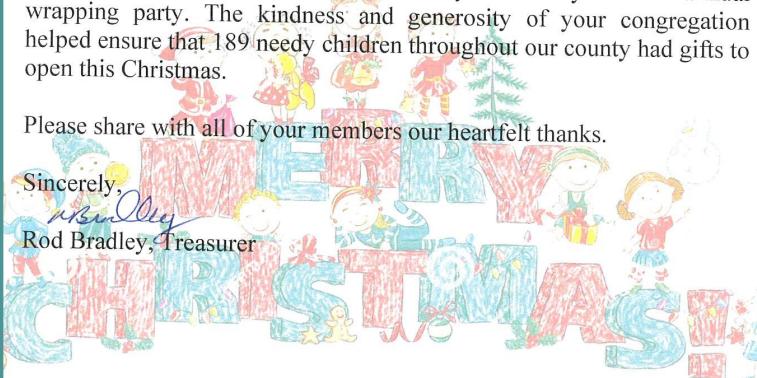
December 15, 2025

Our Savior Lutheran Church
500 N. 24th Street
Denison, Iowa 51442

On behalf of the Christmas Crusade for Children I would like to thank you for once again allowing us to use your facility for our annual wrapping party. The kindness and generosity of your congregation helped ensure that 189 needy children throughout our county had gifts to open this Christmas.

Please share with all of your members our heartfelt thanks.

Sincerely,
Rod Bradley
Rod Bradley, Treasurer



"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40 NIV

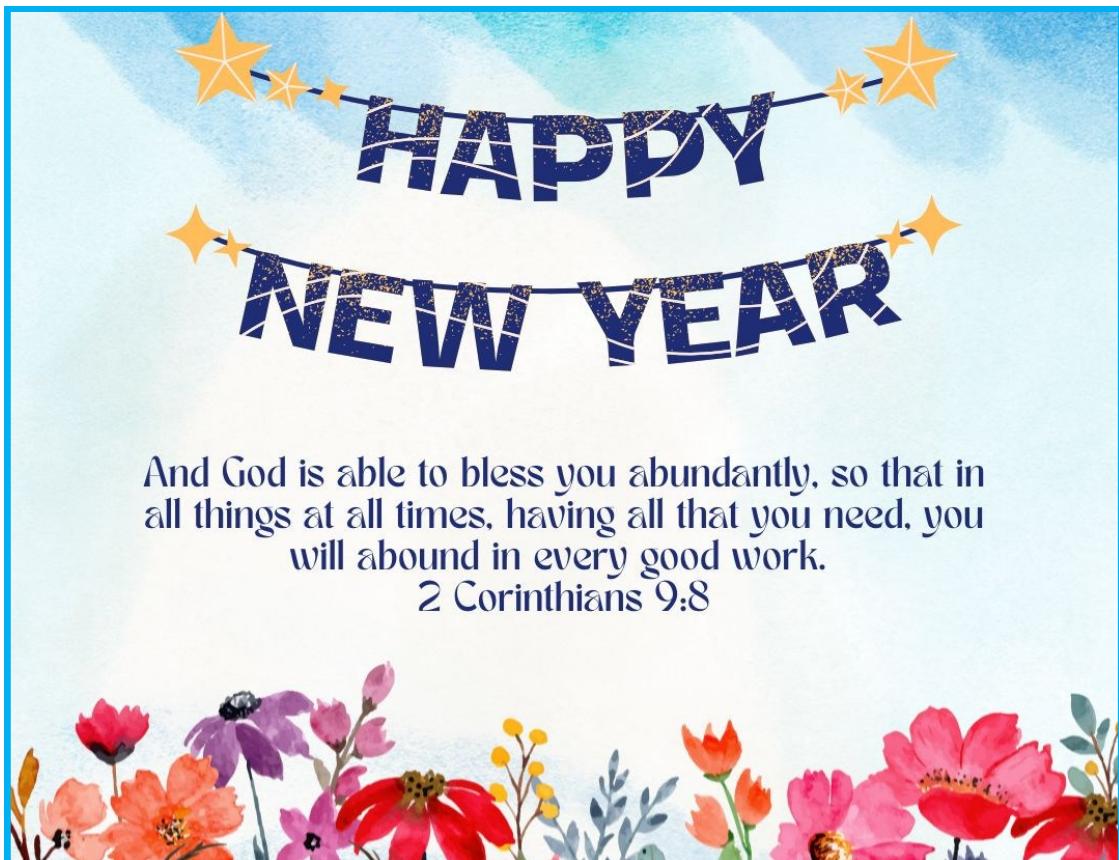


The angel said to them, "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."

Celebrating Jesus' birth with you,

Iowa District West Staff





Our Savior Lutheran Church
500 N 24th Street
Denison, Iowa 51442

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