



ESTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

January 2025 Newsletter

"Knowing Christ – Making Christ Known Through Faith, Hope and Love."

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SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

As we kick off the new year with resolutions and good intentions, may we also have hearts filled with gratitude for time spent with loved ones these past few weeks. I hope you each had a chance to connect with family and friends over the holidays in one way or another. I always feel better after being able to catch up with people I love, but rarely get to see or talk to face-to-face.

As we wrap up the holiday season, sometimes the let-down after the festivities, compounded by the short daylight and long winter nights, can be a depressing time. To keep those blues away, let us embrace it as a time of reflection, a time of quiet, a time of reset, and a time of peace for us to "just be" with God. When I get these moments of peace and quiet with God, it really helps me put things in perspective. During this time I get a chance to think things through, prioritize what REALLY is important to me, and am usually led to some sort of idea formulating that adds to my current "work in progress" – which is actually me – I am a work in progress - and so are you! The Holy Spirit is at work in each of us all the time!

Later this month in worship we will be reading scripture from 1 Corinthians 12: 1-31 where we talk about one body in Christ and how we all bring something to that body by way of our spiritual gifts. I invite you to study and dwell on this reading and come to our next Caring Conversations in Christ on January 19 at 8:45 am to share your thoughts.

As we move into our new year of sharing our spiritual gifts in worship and other volunteer opportunities within our church, please also think of ways you use, or could use, your spiritual gifts beyond the walls of our church. And think about what that could look like if we come together, coordinate our spiritual gifts, and how that coordination could multiply our gifts in our community and in our world. Over the next few months we will have fun identifying and exploring our own, and each other's, spiritual gifts. Stay tuned!

I look forward to learning and growing in faith with each of you this year, and may God richly bless you and your loved ones in 2025!

Jewel

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7



PASTORAL CARE – If you or someone you know would like a visit and for emergency pastoral care, please contact Jewel Townsend at 320-760-2503.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Kristy Fyhrie	Georgia Hart
Scott Hart	Al Pederson
Dick & Luella Thom	Ralph Townsend
Larry Sather	Shelly Hoppe
Chris & Bruce Carter	
Gary Borst – friend of the Andersons	
Barb Burns – sister of Jerry Anderson	
Ivy McKane – friend of Hagens and Guenthers	
Bob & Barb Nelson – sister and brother-in-law of Jim Arvidson	
DeAnne Walz- Niece of Gloria Rosenquist	
Tom Myers – father of Jakki Wehking	
Family and Friends of: Merl Farber, Barb Tvedt, Ernie Hart, Dan Orr, and Cindy Rachuy	

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

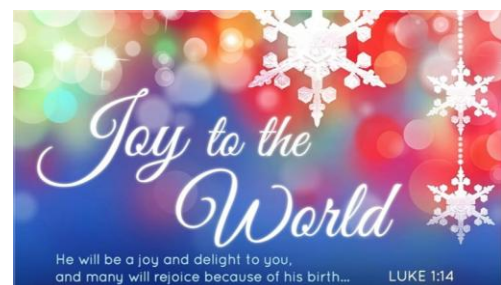
Shauna Nordlund	1/01
Andrea Carlson	1/03
Samuel Krueger	1/03
Elliott Arvidson	1/08
Inez Haase	1/08
Nicholas Aldrich	1/10
Megan Gardner	1/12
Elaine Fyhrie	1/16
Spencer Pomeranz	1/18
Joseph Orsello	1/20
Laney Grinager	1/21
Jace McCarthy	1/23
Clayton Skoglund	1/24
Sawyer Sather	1/26
Stephanie Stueve	1/26
Derek Denny	1/27
Dick Thom	1/30
Delmar Wehking	1/30

SERVING IN JANUARY

Pastor: January 5- Dennis Preston, January 12 – Jewel Townsend, January 19- Greg Billberg, January 26 – Jewel Townsend
Organists: Marcia Guenther, Brad Lambrecht
Altar Care: Donna Pederson
Usher: Jeff Koep & Mark Wehking
Acolyte: NEED VOLUNTEER
Lay Reader: Deb Koep
Communion Assistant: Deb Koep
Birthday Card Sender: Jewel Townsend
Tech Team: Mandy Arvidson, Mike Lage, Jewel Townsend
Birthday Fellowship: Dick & Luella Thom and Larry & Lana Doll



Thank you to our Sunday School children for sharing the story of Jesus' birth! Everyone did a wonderful job! Thank you to our teachers and musicians who work with these students, teaching them about God each week. Also thank you to parents and grandparents who bring these kids to church and Sunday School!





Thank you to our youth for putting on the service on December 15th! We are so blessed to have you!
You all did a fantastic job!

Schedule January & February

January 8: Meal: Autumn Dobratz – Class with picking skits for Lent
January 15: Meal: Laney Grinager – Parts of worship 1
January 22: Meal: Mya Holmquist – Parts for worship 2
January 29: Meal: Cora Schlosser – parts for worship 3
February 5: Meal: Bode Wagner – Class with skit practice
February 12: Meal: Bri Skoglund – Class with skit practice
February 19: Mentor & Student Potluck – class review
February 26: Meal: Jaxon Bosl – Class with skit practice



Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 26th following worship. Please make it a priority to attend.
Everyone's opinion matters!

We met for WELCA, Sunday, December 8, at 8:30. There were 5 ladies present. Jewel did devotions for us. We have \$1,362.52 in our checking account, and \$7,654.25 in the savings/memorial fund.

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR 2025 WORSHIP TASKS ARE ON THE NARTHEX TABLE

There were 5 ladies that went to Kathy Mittag's to make tree top pots. They made 21 of them. We want to do this again next year. If you have decorations you are going to get rid of, we would like to take them for next year.



Church council met Thursday, January 2nd. Approved a new online giving platform called Vanco. Annual meeting will be held January 26th following worship.

To make a fun event, 7 ladies got together on November 30th to make treats to put in the freezer for our fellowship times before and after church. Jewel has been supplying all of them and we wanted to help out. By doing it together, it made it a fun event. They are in the freezer so they can be taken out as needed.

We are still looking for two members to take the place of Scott Hart & Jewel Townsend. Please contact any council member if interested or if you have any questions. Council Members are Mike Lage, Jewel Townsend, Becky Arvidson, Jim Arvidson, Dennis Rosenquist, Rodney Peterson, Lana Doll, and Amy Stanley.

March 1st is Spring Conference at Calvary Lutheran. More information to follow.

We donated \$100 to the Parkers Ambulance Fund.

It was a short meeting, so we had time to visit with each other to discuss upcoming Christmas plans everyone had. Next meeting is January 12th at 8:30. Hope you can join us. Luella Thom, President



Caring Conversations in Christ
Will be held Sunday, January 19th at 8:45 by the church offices.

LUTHER CREST SUMMER CAMP 2025 SCHEDULE
Early bird registrations runs through February 14th.
Remember our Camp and Spiritual Growth Fund will cover all but the registration fee. Go to <https://luthercrest.org> for more information.

	Elementary	Middle School	High School	Intergenerational
Week 1 June 15-20			Keeper Training	
Week 2 June 22-27	Onsite DC Leapers	Witnesses	Blazers	Women's Week Magi
Half-Week June 29-July 2	Leapers	Witnesses		Family & All People Camp
Week 3 July 6-11	Explorers Seekers Leapers	Witnesses Xtreme	Blazers	Magi
Week 4 Jul 13-18	Onsite DC Explorers Seekers Leapers	Witnesses Xtreme	Blazers	Magi
Week 5 July 20-25	Onsite DC Explorers Seekers Leapers	Witnesses		Magi Bible Study Camp
80th Anniversary Weekend! Jul 25-27				Alumni Reunion Summerfest and Auction
Week 6 July 27-Aug 1	Onsite DC Explorers Seekers Leapers	Witnesses Wet & Wilderness	Blazers	Magi Family & All People Camp
Weekend Aug 1-3				Family & All People Camp
Week 7 Aug 3-8	Onsite DC Explorers Seekers Leapers	Witnesses	Proclaimers	Magi Family & All People Camp

*Prayer For
The New Year*

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the year that has passed and the many blessings You have showered us in time.

We beg your pardon in our many failings and trespasses and we pray that the coming year be a more fruitful one.

We earnestly pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit and we call upon our Lord Jesus Christ for His intercessions, His guidance and His light to shine our path.

CHRISTMAS HIGHLIGHTS





Join us for a time of fellowship each week before and after worship! Come early and/or stay after to catch up with friends and meet new ones. Coffee, juice and treats provided.

If you would like to be on our email list, please contact secretary@estherlutheran.net

Visit our website at estherlutheran.com

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/estherlutheran/

We encourage you to keep up on the happenings of our synod and the ELCA, along with our partner ministries, by going to our website www.estherlutheran.com and clicking on the "Faith Formation Resources" tab to find many great resources waiting for you to explore, including our synod newsletter "Northern Lights".

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Council 6 pm	3	4
5 <u>Second Sunday of Christmas</u> 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Pastor Preston 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	6	7	8 <u>Confirmation</u> 6 pm: Meal: Autumn Dobratz	9	10	11
12 <u>Third Sunday of Christmas</u> 8:30 am – WELCA 9 am – Sunday School 10 am – Worship led by Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	13	14	15 <u>Confirmation</u> 6 pm: Meal: Laney Grinager	16	17	18
19 <u>Fourth Sunday of Christmas</u> 8:45 am – Caring Conversations in Christ 9 am – Sunday School 9:30 am – Birthday Fellowship 10 am – Worship with Holy Communion led by Greg Billberg 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	20	21	22 <u>Confirmation</u> 6 pm: Meal: Mya Holmquist	23	24	25
26 <u>Fifth Sunday of Christmas</u> 9 am- Sunday School 10 am – Worship led by Jewel Townsend 2 pm – Worship at St. William’s	27	28	29 <u>Confirmation</u> 6 pm: Meal: Cora Schlosser	30	31	

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