

December Newsletter 2024



Church
Staff

Pastor	Rev. Donald Welmer
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Gilbert Pingel
Administrative Assistant	Amy Sandy
Director of Choirs	Justin Hipp
Organist/Pianist	Anna Hipp
Custodian	Denise Topp
President	Adam Weidman
BCA Principal	David Topp

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the statutes and rules that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come

and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”

(Malachi 4:4-6)

After the prophet Malachi, God did not speak to his people for 400 years. This is called the intertestamental period. Many things happened during that time. The Persian Empire fell, the Roman Empire began its republic, Alexander the Great conquered much of the known world and Hellenized (incorporating Greek ideals and culture) it, and the Ptolemaic Dynasty in Egypt begins (blending Greek and Egyptian cultures together). The world as we know it at that time became very Greek. Even though God was not speaking to his people, he was still at work. As Isaiah tells us,

*“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”*

(Isaiah 55:10-11)

He told his people to remember the words of Moses, and all the words of the prophets. Even though corruption seeped its way even more into Israel and established a Hellenized Kingdom under Herod, there were still those who remembered the one who would cry out in the wilderness. John the Baptist is the Elijah of the New Testament. He prepared the way of the Lord.

And the Lord did come. God’s purpose would then be fulfilled on the Cross at Golgatha. Christ fulfilled everything the prophets proclaimed

from Malachi down to Moses. Upon Christ's Ascension, we remember his words that he is coming soon.

Over 2000 years have passed since his Ascension. So much has changed in mankind's history, but God has not changed. His Word will not return to him empty. Advent is a special time to remember that. The Word of the Lord lasts forever, and Christ will return in glorification.

Thanks be to God!

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Welmer

Setting Your GPS To the Correct Destination

Luke 23:42-43 ESV

And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Picture the scene of Jesus nailed to the cross and a criminal next to him suffering the same fate because of his actions. The criminal makes this command "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." What a bold ask of the criminal. Jesus instead of rebuking him replies "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." That exchange exemplifies the love and the power of forgiveness from Jesus who did nothing wrong to us who struggle daily to uphold the will of God.

Jesus GPS was dialed into doing the Father's will for us, purchasing our

salvation. That brief conversation should bring comfort to us who are praying for someone or something to intervene in lives of unbelievers. That there would be a softening of the heart and a GPS correction when they are on the wrong road. Christmas is the beginning of the salvation road of Genesis that leads Jesus' GPS to the cross.

What is your spiritual GPS setting? What is the GPS setting for BCA/Lutheran School graduates? This question will take the form of a profile that will encompass what characteristics and accomplishments we want each graduate to develop while in our care. What do we want the profile of a BCA/Lutheran School graduate to look like? We intentionally align this with our vision and mission with specific and measurable benchmarks that will impact our students, their families and our community.

Hoping that your GPS is set to worship Jesus this Christmas season and that you know you will be "in paradise" with Jesus on earth as it is in heaven.

David Topp
Principle, BCA

December Birthdays

Tina Nance	12/4
Sonja Shamblin	12/6
Lee Smith	12/6

Steve Kempson	12/15
Kathleen McMullen	12/16
Rachel Schlie	12/18

Jordan Halabrin 12/9
 Anita Yesipovich 12/9
 Ashley Engel 12/9
 Susan Johnson 12/10
 Lisa Randall 12/13
 Chelsea Miller 12/14
 Natalie Alonzo 12/14
 Esther Schlie 12/14

Beverly Burt 12/18
 Rowan Schoneck 12/19
 Justin Randall 12/21
 Sarah Barber 12/22
 Bj Sherrill 12/23
 Sandy Lowe 12/24
 Noelle Beck 12/29
 Sandy Turner 12/30

December Anniversaries

Kevin & Kelsey Schoneck 8 yrs 12/2
 Steve & Linda J. Hale 28 yrs 12/19

Prayer Requests

Members

Jeff Anderson
 Joan Ashton
 Noelle Beck
 Kathy Dolloff
 Marian Fretwell
 Thompson Guy
 Ingrid Hall
 Carolyn Kempson
 Ida Jane Larson
 Karen Lawson
 Walter Meyer
 Nancy Morkert

Freddie Fryar (Harris)
 Kathy Kreiman (Lewis)
 Austin Martin (Petty)
 Dusty Martin (Petty)
 Lloyd Miller (Uffalussy)
 Avery Morkert (Morkert)
 James O'Connell (Pacenti)
 Tim Stroud (Stroud)
 Jo Vail (Vail)
 Ronnie Walker (Musser)
 Nicholas Wibben (Welmer)

Friends of Members

Peggy Moselage
Judy Nance
Grace Norman
Paul Parker
Teresa Petty
Pastor Pingel
Stan Puterbaugh
David Ratchford
John Savor
Zane Sherrill
Pat Snyder
Pat Stroud
Bonnie Vinson

Family of Members

Bonnie Blair (Nance)
Robbie & Sue Barnes (Hyde)
Thomas Caines (Lowe)
Sheryl Caylor (Lawson)
John Coffelt (Yarman)
Page Dover (Stroud)
Doug Emmer (Emmer)
Sherry Emmer (Emmer)
Bethany Dillard (Johnson)

Jane Amstutz (Streufert)
Cindy & Mason Brewer
(Anderson)
Kayla Carrol (Griffith)
Bailey Deweansbe (Harris)
Marty Dunagan (Slaten)
Gene & Faye Edwards (Tyson)
Ava England (Anderson)
Jon Freese (Gatlin)
Gerdes Family (Welmer)
Charmaine Goines (Petty)
Alta Hook (Schroeder)
Kleinpeter Family (Welmer)
Stella Kuhn (McMullen)
Bern Langley (Bumgardner)
Morgan Family (Nance)
Ollie Reeves (Simmons)
Les Seibert (Anderson)
Kathy Smith (Bumgardner)
Pastor Ralph & Sue Wetzel
Kay Wise (Nance)
Amy Zeleny, Lilly and Tabitha
(Turner)



VOTERS' MEETING POT LUCK LUNCH

Sunday, December 15 at 12:30,
followed by the
Voters' Meeting.
More info coming soon!



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

This year, instead of purchasing live poinsettias, we are asking you to sponsor our beautiful new silk poinsettias. Sponsorship forms are in the narthex.



Advent Services are at
6:00 on Wednesdays,
December 4, 11 & 18

*Advent Supper served at
5:00 in the Fellowship Hall.*



Seniors Annual Christmas Party

*\$10 Gift Exchange Door Prizes
Everyone Is Welcome and
Responsible for their Own Meal.*

