

TITONKA, IOWA

VOL. XXXIII No. 12  
December 2023

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
John Heille, Pastor  
TITONKA, IOWA 50480

PASTOR JOHN'S CELL: (507) 399-3119  
OFFICE PHONE: 928-2282  
PARSONAGE: 928-2552  
KITCHEN: 928-2780  
EMAIL: unlikelyj@icloud.com  
ghsecy@netins.net (Secretary)

## GOOD HOPE WOMEN OF THE ELCA



### CIRCLE NEWS

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Where</u>	<u>Study Leader</u>	<u>Hostess</u>
Morning Circle	Thurs., Dec. 14 9:15 a.m.	Church	Carole Tuecke	Everyone

### ALTAR FLOWERS

December: Sandra Harms

Please let Sandra care for the poinsettias so only one person is watering them. Thank you!

### COMMUNION SET UP

December 10th & 24th  
Mike & Denise Heyer

### COMMUNION CLEAN UP

December 10th  
Tom & Chelsie Heyer

December 24th (morning worship)  
Cecil & Sandy Welhousen



### POINSETTIAS

Please help to beautify our sanctuary this holiday season. We are asking for donations of poinsettia plants.

They add so much to our worship service. Be sure to identify your plant.

If you are giving the poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please get that information to Kelly so it can be noted in the bulletin.

Thank you in advance for your help!

## December 2023 Newsletter Column

Celebrating the light.

I started seeing Christmas lights right after Halloween this year. It feels especially early to me. As a kid, I grew up in a family that decorated just a week or so before Christmas. But this year some people tell me they want to put up lights and their Christmas tree right now. One woman said she realized it's earlier than ever before—but it just seems like the right thing to do this year. It's as if people are responding to the heavy news of our time with a little bit of light. We know the hard news; there's war between Israel and Hamas—and the war between Ukraine and a Russian dictator keeps grinding on into another winter.

In a world like this people really need light.

The thing is what we need has got to be brighter than just Christmas lights and it has to last a whole lot longer than a Christmas tree. And that's where the Good News of Jesus meets us. He is light.

The light comes for us in Jesus most especially in the dark times—if you've ever had a "blue Christmas" you might remember how a little bit of Jesus' light helped you to hold on to a better day.

I believe Jesus is the Light this world needs—and Christmas is all about the light coming and shining bright even in dark times. John started his Gospel, his story about Jesus, talking about the light of God coming into the world.

John 1:4-5 (NRSV)

<sup>4</sup> in him was life,<sup>a</sup> and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There's a promise to hold onto. Light has come for all people.

Hope has come for me and all the world.

Advent Blessings and Merry Christmas

Pastor John Heille

p.s. I want to say thanks to Rachel Kurtzleben for her great work in the office for Parish 3. Rachel's behind the scenes hard work has been a blessing to me and to the people of Immanuel and St. John's. Thanks again.

## 10 Minute Bible Study: John 1

The Gospel of John starts out with a poem about Jesus. John doesn't tell a Christmas story about shepherds and angels. He starts out talking about light that had come into the world. John knew exactly what the world needed and he knew he had known the light--and John wanted to share that peace that he had from knowing the light of Jesus.

### **Read John 1:1-2**

John didn't call his savior by the name Jesus to start. John called Jesus the Word. And John had a whole lot to say about every place that Jesus, the Word, had already been.

What does it mean to hear John say Jesus was with God in the very beginning?

### **Read John 1:3-5**

John knew Jesus as a flesh and blood man. But he also knew Jesus as the one who was they were at the creation part of everything that was made. According to John Jesus is light for all the world.

What does it mean to you this year to hear the promise that God's love keeps shining in Jesus?

### **Read John 1:6-8**

Many other people who were going to be part of the story of God coming into the world. Some people confused the messenger sent to prepare the way with the Light who was really coming.

How are we as Jesus people today called to help make the world ready for the light of Jesus?

### **Read John 1:9-13**

Jesus people live in a brand new name, John says we are "children of the Light".

What does it mean to be a child of God in this age?

### **Read John 1:14**

When Jesus stepped into our life people could see God's glory for the first time and flesh and blood. He lived here, was part of a family, had brothers and sisters, he was God right with us. But some people didn't see it.

How do you see Jesus at work in the world this year as Christmas comes near?

*There will be NO  
newsletter for the month  
of January 2024.  
The monthly calendar  
will be in your  
mailbox in late  
December.*

**USHERS**

Brian Bartelt  
Jeff Hofbauer  
Cecil Welhousen  
Ryan Welhousen

**JR. USHER**

Remy Welhousen

**ACOLYTES**

Rowan Welhousen  
Jeremiah Trunkhill

**ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Wed., December 6th

At Noon and again at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's

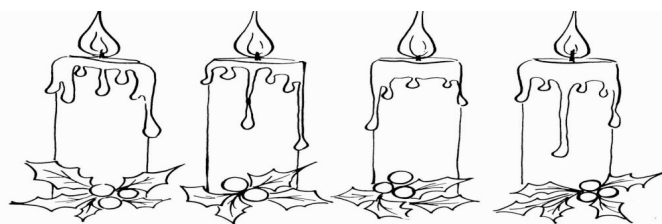
Wed December 13<sup>th</sup>

At Noon and again at 7:30 p.m. at Good Hope

Wed., December 20th

At Noon and again at 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel

Everyone is welcome to attend at all three churches!



**Sunday School Christmas Program**

The Sunday School Christmas Program is Sun., Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m. at Good Hope. Parish Ed will be serving refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the program. **Children should arrive at 6:15 p.m. for the program.**

**Sunday School Christmas Program Practice**

Practice for the Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Saturday morning, December 2nd from 10:00-11:30 a.m. for ALL kids!

**Sunday school Schedule**

**Sunday, Dec. 10,** is the last day of Sunday school until after the holidays. **There will not be any Sunday school on Dec. 17, Dec. 24, or Dec. 31**

Sunday school will resume on **Sun., Jan. 8, 2023.**  
Students will be working on a service project.

*REMEMBERING...*

**OUR SHUT-INS**

**Titonka Care Center**

Marilyn Heesch

Barbara Tjaden

**OUR SERVICE MEN**

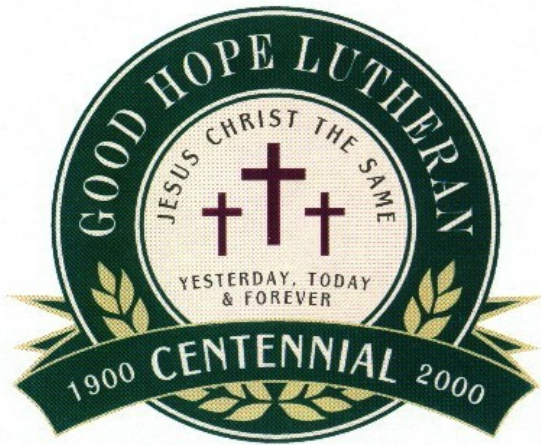
Brandon Bengtson  
Emma & Paxton  
15 6th Ave. NW  
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

Seth Green  
Titonka, IA 50480

**Please keep all of our shut-ins  
and our servicemen  
and their families in your prayers this  
holiday season!**



PASTOR JOHN HEILLE



TITO

GOOD HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
P.O. BOX 351  
TITONKA, IA 50480

Return Service Requested

IT  
CAME  
TO PASS  
IN THOSE  
DAYS THAT  
THERE WENT  
OUT A DECREE  
FROM CAESAR  
AUGUSTUS THAT ALL  
THE WORLD SHOULD  
BE TAXED; AND THIS  
TAXING WAS FIRST MADE  
WHEN CYRENIUS WAS GOV-  
ERNOR OF SYRIA. AND ALL  
WENT TO BE TAXED EVERY ONE  
INTO HIS OWN CITY. AND JOSEPH  
ALSO WENT UP FROM GALILEE, OUT  
OF THE CITY OF NAZARETH, INTO JU-  
DEA, UNTO THE CITY OF DAVID WHICH  
IS CALLED BETHLEHEM. BECAUSE HE WAS  
OF THE HOUSE AND LINEAGE OF DAVID, TO  
BE TAXED WITH MARY HIS ESPOUSED WIFE,  
BEING GREAT WITH CHILD. AND SO IT WAS  
THAT WHILE THEY WERE THERE, THE DAYS WERE  
ACCOMPLISHED THAT SHE SHOULD BE DELIVERED  
AND SHE BROUGHT FORTH HER FIRST-BORN SON  
AND WRAPPED HIM IN SWADDLING CLOTHES, AND  
LAID HIM IN A MANGER BECAUSE THERE WAS  
NO ROOM FOR THEM IN  
THE  
INN  
LUKE 2:1-7