

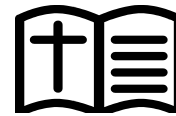
TITONKA, IOWA

VOL. XXXIII No. 12
December 2024

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

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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. 12 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 8th & 22
Mike & Denise Heyer

COMMUNION CLEAN UP

December 8th
Tom & Chelsie Heyer

December 22nd
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 2024 Newsletter

Christmas starts with God. The great gift of Christmas is God's generous love. God saw the world's deepest needs and moved forward to meet that need. Jesus showed up to overcome the deepest hurts of our world—sin, death, and evil. That's the real Christmas story. Forget Santa and the elves. Tinsel, lights, and trees are optional. Christmas starts with Jesus. Period.

As a pastor I've found great joy in Midweek Advent worship—it's great to spend time singing and celebrating the promise of Christmas together. The Good News of Christmas is so simple—but so many other things come along and I get pulled in so many other directions. Taking time on a few Wednesdays before Christmas helps me to remember the story.

This year we'll have 3 words to help us get ready for Christmas. Pause, Prepare, Ponder.

Pause:

The words of Psalm 46 say it the best.

Be still, and know that I am God! Psalm 46:10

Jesus is God's love come to life in flesh and blood to save the world and it's good to just sit still and let hear that promise.

Prepare:

Isaiah called for people to prepare

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord..." Isaiah 40:3

God knows how badly we need to experience his undying love first-hand. It's so simple—and preparing for Christmas might very well mean getting ready to celebrate

Ponder:

An angel came to Mary saying, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

"Mary was perplexed by his words and pondered..." Luke 1:28-29

Pondering is a great gift. God's love is the heart of Christmas and pondering that love, like Jesus mother Mary did, helps let the promises of God's love sift deep inside to all the places where we need God's mercy and grace.

Praise:

There's one more word that fits so well with Pause, Prepare, and Ponder--Praise. On Christmas we'll praise God for the new life Jesus comes to bring to us and all the world. There are just a few weeks between us and Christmas this seems like a good time to remember God's generosity and the need that each and every person has for God's love.

December 2024
10 Minute Bible Study:
Psalm 46

Psalm 46 isn't usually on top of anybody's list of Christmas scriptures.
But the words of the Psalm have so much to say to us as we get ready for Christmas.

Read Psalm 46:1-3

The Psalm starts with promise—a declaration that God is the one who can give us rest. The world and so much that we depend on might shake—but God's promised to let us rest in God's hands.

What does this promise have to do with you?

What in your life has been shaken in the past year?

What does it mean to know that God's love persists?

Read Psalm 46:4-7

This Psalm tells us that God's at work in this work—especially when things seem to be breaking apart at the seams.

What might be tottering in this world?

What does it mean to call God your “refuge”?

Read Psalm 46:8-11

The promise of Christmas is that God has shown up to meet us right here.

What does it mean to be God's people here and now?

What does it mean to “be still” or “pause” in God's care?

*There will be NO
newsletter for the month
of January 2025.
The monthly calendar
will be in your
mailbox in late
December.*

USHERS

Brian Bartelt
Jeff Hofbauer
Cecil Welhousen
Ryan Welhousen

JR. USHERS

Ivan Hanson
Rylan Ricke

ACOLYTES

Karly Lium
Rowan Welhousen

ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wed., December 4th
7:00 p.m. at St. John's

Wed December 11th
7:00 p.m. at Immanuel

Wed., December 18th
7:00 p.m. at Good Hope

Everyone is welcome to attend all three churches!
Confirmation students are EXPECTED to attend!



**Sunday
School**

December Sunday School News

**December Sunday School: Dec. 1st, 8th & 15th*

**Christmas Program Practice: Dec. 14th
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
(all students)*

**Christmas Program: Dec. 15th at 10:30 a.m.
Students will proceed immediately from Sunday School
to the Sanctuary for the Christmas Program*

**No Sunday School on Dec. 22nd or 29th*

**Sunday School resumes on Jan. 5, 2025*

REMEMBERING...

OUR SHUT-INS

Titonka Care Center

Marilyn Heesch

Barbara Tjaden

Diane Fritz

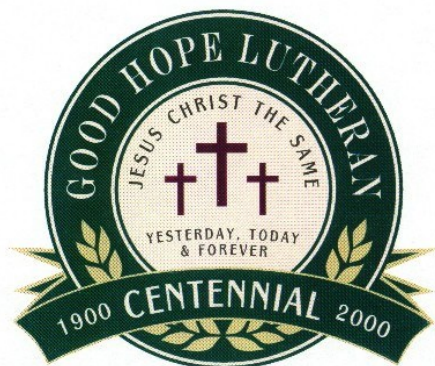
OUR SERVICE MEN

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 & their families
in your prayers this
holiday season!*





TITONKA, IOWA

PASTOR JOHN HEILLE

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