

Hello everyone,

I send this update with the hopes that everyone is feeling warm. I know that the blankets around our house have gotten to know me well lately! ☺ You will see that the month of December brings lots of exciting opportunities. Including the celebration of Jesus birthday. If you have any questions about the updates below please reach out to me via email or phone. I am also looking at creating a group text for an avenue of communication. Let me know if that would work for you.

I hope to see you all soon.

**Dec. 2 (Sunday)** Continuing our Sunday School series. We will be discussing the topic of the Image of God our lives. We invite you to join us if you feel called. Every Sunday we have come away with a new understanding of how faith works in our lives. We also have many smiles during our time together.

**Dec. 3 (Monday 7 pm)** The youth group will meet at the church. We will be doing some painting in our youth room and decorating our own Christmas Tree in the room. I will be serving hot chocolate and a sweet treat.

**Dec. 8 (Saturday 10 am – 11 am)** The children will be having their rehearsal for the Christmas Program. The craft event in fellowship hall will occur after at 10 am. We will be helping with the craft stations. Julie will have the crafts ready for the children. We will be at the stations to help the children. I have already talked with some that will be at this event. Let me know if you can attend.

**Dec. 9 (Sunday)** This day we will be preparing and serving Advent Dinner. This is a fundraiser for our Mission Trip and other Youth Activities. I encourage you to invite a friend or family member to attend church that day. Please let me know if you will be able to attend to help setup and/or serve the meal. I will be starting the roast meat in the slow cookers the night before. I plan to go to the church around 7 pm.

**Dec. (No Date Set Yet)** An evening or afternoon of a couple hours ringing the bells for the Salvation Army. This is for part of the Red Kettle Campaign. We will gather as a group to ring together. I will be making sure some cookies and hot chocolate are available. J

**Dec. 22 (Saturday) 12pm -3pm** This day we will be going to the Ronald McDonald House. The plan is that we would go around Noon and be done by 3 pm. The idea was brought up to meet somewhere for lunch then go to the house. Let me know if you will be attending or have any questions. This has been a good experience in the past. We have some gift bags to give. We will tour the area and visit.

**Dec. 31 (Monday) This day is the deadline to change our registration numbers for the Youth Mission Trip to Benton Harbor, MI next June. I will be working this month to confirm who will be going. Youth and Adults numbers will be counted. I already have some who have committed to going.**

**Jan. 4-6 (Friday night – Sunday)** The Great Plains Conference Event in Salina, KS. I will need an upfront payment for each person attending of \$25. The registration, lodging, and transportation will be covered by our Youth Funds. **I will be registering our group no later than December 15.** I am looking for 1 female and 1 male adult to attend this event as chaperones. Joyce and I will be going as adults so far. For every adult that is registered the second adult registration is free. I have confirmed that 4 youth will be going to this event. Contact me if you have any questions. We will be leaving on Friday night. I am going to rent a van to drive to the event. The event starts on Saturday and will have lots of opportunities to praise God and have a great time doing it. The event includes many great speakers, musicians, and even comedians. For more information on this event click the following link.

<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/theoneevent>

Grace and peace,

Marc Welander

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