

Church & Home

December 2025

1901 West Leota Street, North Platte, NE 69101
(308) 532-1083 www.fpcnp.org



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Ned Mack

DEACON

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Hoschouer

Scott Baker

PW

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Dixie Francis

Elders:

Shaina Bassett

Jon Beggs

Amy Cauffman

Shad Connick

Chuck Francis

Dave Glenn

Ned Mack

Deb Weitzel

Kay Wright

Deacons:

Kason Baker

Scott Baker

Janet Hare

Leroy Hare

Sheri

Hoschouer

Ann Jones

Bev Sallee

Cecil Sallee

David Schiel

Joy Schiel

Rich Shaw

June Shaw

OFFICE HOURS

MON-THURS

11-3

I have a confession to make. I have not been as prepared for the Advent season as I would have liked to be or perhaps should be. So I am in crunch time.

I wrote in this space a few years ago that I look forward to the Advent season once the Day of Pentecost has ended. That is true. This year, things are just a little different.

There are some things in life that have kept me preoccupied. There are some educational responsibilities that have kept me preoccupied. But no amount of preoccupation can take away the excitement, wonder, and joy that surround the Advent season.

This season is a time to wait in the excitement that surrounds a birth. It is a time to anticipate with joy the new life. It is a time to wonder about the life that will change the world. This season, we prepare for Christ's birth and his coming ministry. What a great gift for all of us to share in and celebrate together.

Throughout the Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark, and Luke – there are a few overlapping themes for the Advent season. These themes include angels, Bethlehem, Christ's birth, and "call him Jesus." Where do you notice angels, Bethlehem, Christ's birth, and the statement "call him Jesus" during Advent? Do you notice those themes outside of the Advent season? How might you celebrate and focus on those four themes this year?

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In addition to the regular Advent services on the four Sundays of the Advent season, we will host a Christmas Eve service and participate in a new service.

I am thrilled to partner with the Episcopal Church of Our Savior, First Lutheran, and Messiah Lutheran to offer a Blue Christmas service on December 21. The Blue Christmas service is for anyone feeling "blue" during the Advent and Christmas season. Perhaps you are feeling blue because of grief over the loss of a loved one. There are many other reasons that we might feel blue this season. Fear, anxiety, resentment, anger, emotional changes, seasonal changes, betrayal, stuck in a rut, a new situation, or more. This service will be held at the Episcopal Church of Our Savior (203 West Fourth Street) on December 21 at 4 p.m. A soup dinner will follow.

Blue Christmas services are held on December 21 because it is the longest night of the year. This service will provide Psalms of lament and liturgy focused on reflection and consolation. There will be four stations that participants may visit during the service. One station will feature prayer and laying on of hands. Another station will be for lighting candles in recognition of the loss of our loved ones. We will have a station to make ornaments to celebrate the lives of our deceased loved ones. And lastly, there will be a station to offer grief, guilt, fears, shame, emotions, etc., by writing those feelings down and watching them dissolve away in the living water provided only from God.

This evening of Blue Christmas is sure to provide time for reflection and consolation to anyone. I encourage you to attend.

I am looking forward to spending this Advent season with you. Regardless of where you are in life or how you are feeling this season, Advent is four weeks dedicated to angels, Bethlehem, Christ's birth, and calling him Jesus.

"... καὶ ἐκάλεσεν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν."

(... and I call his name Jesus.)

~ Matthew, Greek New Testament

Blessings this Advent season,
Pastor Emily

We can never have too many prayers.

Call the church office to be placed on
our prayer list.

308.532.1083

How can we pray for you?

Prayer Request

Dillard Anderson, Harry Feeney, Lowell Fenster,
Sheri Hoschouer, Cheryl Kurth, Keaton Kloss, Dennis
Lombardi, Louise Steele, Mark McKenzie, Breen Sipes,
Dan Ridgway.

Prayer Emphasis for the month:

For the spark of Advent to shine in everyone's
heart.

Caroling through history

• Dec. 21 • 10 am

• Intergenerational Program

Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight Service with
Holy Communion 7 p.m.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

14 – Cheryl MacDonald
15 – Shaina Bassett
18 – Deb Weitzel
18 – Harper Whitney
20 – Barbara Barr
21 – Connie McCreery
25 – Jim Whitney
26 – Madeline Ochsner
28 – Devon McCreery
30 – Jane McCarthy
30 – Angela Stinman

Anniversaries

Jeff & Susan Petersen **12/23/1988**

James & Martha Orcutt **12/23/2025**

*Happy
Anniversary*

*Christmas
Brunch*

**Dec. 21
after
worship**

Fundraiser for
the Deacons

Blue Christmas communal service

Dec. 21 at 4 pm
Episcopal Church
Soup supper to
follow

Consolation & reflection service.

Poinsettias

Order forms in bulletins
\$15 each
Deadline is Dec. 15

CHOIR PRACTICE

SUNDAYS
AT 9 AM

STARTING
NOV. 16



Installation & Ordination

January 25 – 10 am service



Thanksgiving offering

Designated to Grace Ministries Food Pantry

Collected Nov. 23-30

Anonymous donor will match offering up to \$1,000!

Annual meeting

Jan. 11 after
worship

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING

Designated for Grace
Ministries Food Pantry
& Episcopal Church
Wednesday dinners



Thank you for submitting your pledges! This helps us plan for the future of our Church!:)

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving offering. The pantry will use the money to feed hungry people. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Pictures from Trunk or Treat 2025

Thank you to all who donated candy and to those who decorated a table for Trunk or Treat. It was a fun event!



Grace Ministries Food Pantry

December 2025



DONATIONS

From First Presbyterian :

Cash & Amy Cauffman x2
Jim Whitney
Bev Sallee
First Presbyterian collection box

From The Community :

Gale & Debra Luenenborg
Charles & Kathleen Huebner
Pete & Rachel Torrez
NP Sunrise Rotary Club x2
Ed Beran
Sioux Lookout DAR
Kathy & Gordon Reifschneider
BPOE Lodge 985 Elks
NPHS Student Council Annual Food Drive
Jane Ann Allen
Kathy Seacrest
Platte River Off-Road
First United Methodist Church
North Platte Rotary Club
Union Pacific Employee Club No. 8

October figures:

Households served: **158**
Individuals in those households: **409**
Pounds of food given out **10,119**
New families: **32**
Families with children under 18: **60**
Emergency assistance: **6**

WE CAN USE: Cloth reusable shopping bags, such as you get at Walmart, Menards, etc. We use these to give food to our homeless and emergency customers. PLEASE

NOTE: If these bags have come from a smoking environment, we cannot use them and they will be disposed of. They must be from **non-smoking homes** or businesses.

THANK YOU!!

Our community has reached out to help in **AMAZING** ways! Our hearts and our shelves are **FULL**, at least for a while! Each and every gift has been very much appreciated, and our customers have been very thankful to receive a bit extra food these past days. Hopefully we can continue that into December. The Food Bank for the Heartland came through with some decent amounts of beef and chicken, with instructions that it be in addition to what we already give.

A fabulous food drive came in from the NPHS Student Council, staff, students and their parents. We received 4,770 pounds of food from their drive, which really stretched our volunteers thin. We were thankful for a warm and dry day. Those of us old enough to remember the 'right-before-Christmas' NPHS food drives, recall picking up large quantities of food in zero degree weather, often with snow and ice!

Our friends at First Methodist had a drive for Grace Ministries and the Salvation Army together. We received 875 pounds of excellent food items!

Cash gifts are **ALWAYS** welcome as well, as we are able to latch on to some good sales price at Fresh Foods. Donations have been plentiful and we are thankful for each and every one of them! With SNAP benefits being stopped during the shutdown, we had some pretty frantic customers. Our shelves are full right now, at least!

Grace Ministries Food Pantry operates at 114 East C St.

PHONE NUMBER : 308-520-7458 (Answering during operating hours only)

We are open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1-3pm, except holidays.

Co-Directors :

Tammy Miller 530-8406
Francine Mckenzie 530-0436
Leigh Henline 530-2601



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10am In-Church Worship with communion Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	8 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	9	10 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	11 10am Morning fellowship 6:30pm Evening Spirits	12	13
14 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	15 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	16	17 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion	18	19	20
21 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org Intergenerational Program 10am Deacon Brunch Blue Christmas communal service Episcopal Church @4pm	22 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE! 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC 12:15pm Online Devotion Office closing at Noon! Candlelight service with Holy Communion @7pm	25 CHRISTMAS! Office closed	26 Office closed	27
28 10am In-Church Worship Live Streaming at www.fpcnp.org	29 9am Ladies Sewing 6pm Scouts	30	31 9am Men's Coffee @ FPC	1 Office closed		

In Church Worship Service on Sundays at 10am

