

PRAISE & PRAYER
December 24, 2025
First Mennonite Church

PRAISE:

Father, on this Christmas Eve we thank You for the wonder of sending Your Son on one glorious night to be born of a virgin, to live a perfect life, and to die on a cross for our sins. He chose to dwell among us and walk alongside us in our pain and joy. He experienced the struggles and sorrows of life so He could fully understand our needs. We remain eternally grateful for the gift of Jesus into our world, and we pray that our eyes be opened to the ways in which He continues to be active in our lives, blessing us each and every day.

Pray for our workers of the week: Chuck & Carole.

- **Praise** God that Chuck has been adjusting well in his part-time role with the Ethnologue and, overall, we **praise** God for the big transition that has taken place this past year with the Ethnologue editorial team. We thank God for a new regional editor who will be joining us in the new year. Please continue to **pray** for us as we prepare for the release of the new edition of the Ethnologue coming out in February.
- We **praise** God for a good visit recently with Chuck's neurologist, showing some improvement with his orthostatic tremors. Also, we ask for **prayer** concerning ongoing sleep issues that Chuck has been having for the past couple of months.
- We **praise** God for an SIL team that Carole is now starting to co-coach. The participants are spread across the globe (U.S., Europe, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand) so time zones are a particular challenge for meeting together. **Pray** for good interaction for Carole with the team members who are from a variety of cultures. **Pray** that their team would become especially effective in their specific role within SIL Global, and in the many local language communities around the world they have opportunity to influence.
- We are grateful to be able to meet as a whole family online during this Christmas season.
- And we are SO GRATEFUL for Jesus!

Pray for 4 unspoken requests.

Pray for comfort for Roland (Bud) Lerdal, Mark & Lisa Smith, and other family and friends in the death of Carol Lerdal on Dec. 18.

CHURCH: Pray for Pastor Daniel's church in Haiti as they are having revival services through Dec. 31. **Pray** for safety as they meet, and unity as other churches are invited to be part of this outreach.

Persecuted Church: Pray for protection for the church in Nigeria. **Pray** for those who lost loved ones in attacks last year on Christmas Eve and Christmas day. **Pray** for God's supernatural peace on Nigerian Christians who live with the anxiety of knowing they could be attacked at any time. **Pray** for comfort and strength, and the awareness that they are not alone.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL

Hospital: Matvii, son of Andrii and Inna (at Riley Children's Hospital)

Swiss Village: Jane Velasco (recovering from knee replacement surgery); Twyla Sprunger (recovering from a recent illness; **pray** for strength); Joanne Balyeat (in rehab)

Home: Jack Int' Groen (recovering from hip replacement surgery; pray for no further complications and that the pain would be controlled); Jean Lehman (recovering from gall bladder surgery); Suanne Sprunger (**pray** for strength and healing as she continues treatments)

FOR THOSE WHO ARE A PART OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

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| • Randy & Kenda Amstutz | • Kenneth Richardson |
| • Katie Bluhm | • Don & Jean Lehman |
| • Becky Jackson | • Kent & Becky Lehman |
| • LaDene Lehman | • Jim & Lora Flueckiger |
| • Lindsey Bluhm | • Mark & Jeanene Neuenschwander |

PRAYER:

Lord, in a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that Good News again. This Christmas, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Forgive us for forgetting that Your love never changes, never fades, and that You never abandon the purpose for which You came—to save us from our sins and give us life eternal. You are still our Joy. You are still our Peace. You are no longer a babe in the manger. You are Lord of lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate You as Lord—this Christmas and always.

Please phone Praise & Prayer items to the church office, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., 589-3108; or Jim Schwartz, 525-0124