

**Good Hope's
Good News
December 2025**



**Good Hope
Lutheran Church**

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Our Mission Statement

*We are the people of God
shaped by Jesus Christ
and transformed by the Holy
Spirit into a community for
others.*

Pastor's Pen

Advent: The Incarnation — God With Us

Advent invites us into a waiting that is neither passive nor sentimental. It is a posture of hope and attention: we watch for the coming of Christ, prepare our hearts, and practice the patience of those who know a promise will be kept. At the center of that promise is the startling claim of our faith: the incarnation — that the eternal Son of God took on human flesh. Advent reminds us that God did not merely send a message or an example; God entered our world—our frailty, hunger, sorrow, and pain—in the person of Jesus.

Why the incarnation matters for our spiritual lives and for weekly worship

- It grounds our hope in reality. We do not wait for an abstract idea but for a Person who endured birth, suffering, joy, and death. That keeps our faith rooted in history and in flesh-and-blood compassion.
- It affirms the dignity of every human life. If God became human, every person bears the image of God (*imago Dei*) and is worthy of reverence. Advent teaches us to see and serve the sacred in our neighbors.
- It shapes our worship. Each Sunday in Advent, we rehearse the story of coming: candlelight, Scripture, prayer. These practices form us into a people who expect God to enter anew — in Word, in sacrament, and in neighborly love.
- It fuels mission and mercy. Because God joined us, we are sent to join others — feeding the hungry, comforting the grieving, and being present where depression and despair hide. Incarnation compels us to embody Christ's love in concrete acts.

A personal note: I used to dismiss Advent as "just a baby story," as if that made it trivial. But sitting with that assumption gave way to a deeper conviction: the baby in Bethlehem is the hinge of our faith. The God who stoops into flesh opens a path for us to be healed, restored, and made whole. This season calls us, more than ever, to be present — in worship, in silence, and in service — and to let the wonder of God-with-us transform how we live together as one family.

A word from the Reformation: Paraphrasing Martin Luther, the incarnation is central to our salvation — God becoming flesh is the foundation of our comfort and hope.

As we gather each week during Advent, may our waiting be active: may we welcome the Word made flesh, care for the image of God in one another, and let the light that comes at Christmas change how we live all year long.

May you have a meaningful Advent. See you in church before Christmas!

Pastor Lew

Financial Corner – for October 2025

Worship Offering (non-designated offerings) vs. Budget:

Our monthly budget requirement is \$14,255 (Annual Budget of \$171,060 / 12 Months).

October's worship offering (non-designated offering):

October offering:	\$ 8,993
30% rental income	\$ 900
Monthly budget:	\$14,255
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than budget:	\$(4,362)

2025 Year to Date:

YTD Offering:	\$119,816
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 9,000
YTD Budget	\$142,550
YTD Offering higher/(lower) than Budget	\$(13,734)

Worship Offering (non-designated offerings) including 30% rental income vs. Expenses

October offering:	\$ 8,993
30% rental income	\$ 900
Oct. expenses	\$(15,044)
Monthly offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$(5,151)

YTD Offering	\$119,816
YTD 30% rental income	\$ 9,000
YTD Expenses	\$(151,927)
YTD offering higher / (lower) than expenses	\$(23,111)

Please note: The above schedule represents budget items and does not include funds collected for dedicated funds (e.g., Food Pantry, Tim Hall Fund, Good Sam, Memorial Funds, or other special offerings) and does not include special and unbudgeted expenses (e.g., furnace or A/C replacement.) It includes 30% of the rental income.

Chase Bank Account (Checking/Savings):

2025 Beginning Balance	\$66,098
Deposits / (Withdrawals)	<u>(27,961)</u>
Ending Balance (10/31/25)	\$38,137

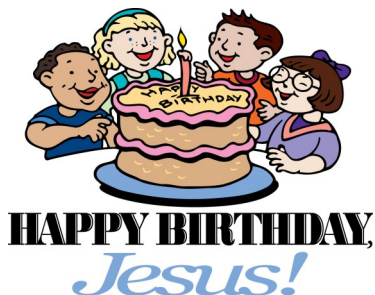




DECEMBER

birthdays

12/05 Jon Mincovsky
 12/14 Bob King
 12/17 Aaron Alholinna
 12/17 Bradley Alholinna
 12/21 Ida Davis
 12/25 Nancy Mincovsky
 12/26 Patty Carlson
 12/27 Bruce Clarey
 12/29 Alexandria Harding
 12/29 William Monson
 12/31 Alise Clarey
 12/31 River King



DECEMBER BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Beth Taylor
 12/14 Julius Owens
 12/16 Rita Harmon
 12/26 Katherine Griwicki
 12/27 Heather Kirsch
 12/27 Lily Kirsch
 12/28 Ida Davis
 12/30 Bob King



If you know the date of your Baptism and would like to be included in the Baptismal birthdays, please let the office know.



Directory Changes

Called to his Heavenly Home

Michael Landa on November 22, 2025

**Visitation for Michael will take place on
 December 6, 2025 from 2 –8pm
 at Santeiu Funeral Home located at
 1139 Inkster Rd., Garden City, MI**

**A Funeral Service will take place on
 December 7, 2025 at 2pm
 At Good Hope Lutheran Church
 A dessert Social will immediately follow in
 Volkmar Hall**

December 21st at 10am
 Regular Sunday Service

December 21st at 7pm
 Blue Christmas Service

December 24th at 7pm
 Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 11pm
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

News from the Pews

December

(Council Prez. Diane Rinehart [aka Di])

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

As we approach the day of birth of our Savior, let us reflect back on 2025 here at Good Hope Lutheran Church of Garden City. We have so much to be thankful for and so many blessings. Let us not forget all our brothers and sisters in Christ that were called home to their eternal resting place this past year.

We were blessed with several baptisms, a few new members were installed, a partial new roof, new shades in the education rooms, new security cameras installed inside the church (we've had outside for a few years now), we signed new contracts with the 2 churches renting space from us, Bible study on Thursdays continues to grow, a new "Healthy Habit" class was formed, a couple new members added to our Sunday morning worship assistants, Tim Hall distributions continue due to all the support and donations from our wonderful members, homebound communion ministry continues, many fellowship events were enjoyed by all and I'm sure several other projects or fun events that I'm missing. So I would say, all in all, another blessed year at Good Hope.

If there is ever anything you'd like to know about what's happening around our beautiful church, you can always stop me or any of the council members (Aaron Sherman, Russ Juliette, Marissa Buser, Hailey Pedersen, Jenny Smith, me and Pr. Lew) and just ask. Or, feel free to drop a note in the 'ask the council' box, found on the table near the glass windows in the narthex. We are voted in by you, the members of Good Hope, so we'd be happy to assist you in any way we can. We'd love to hear from you!

Just a couple: reminders

- ▶ December 11th: Silver Strings Christmas concert: 7:00pm. The dulcimer players put on a great concert! Open to the public. Come and enjoy and bring a friend.
- ▶ December 13th: Our annual White Elephant party. Be sure to sign up. Always a great time!
- ▶ **December 24th: 2 Christmas Eve services, 7:00pm and 11:00pm**
- ▶ December 28th: our Lessons and Carols service. Come and sing all your favorite Christmas hymns.

From John and I, we wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Peace & Blessings,

Di Rinehart



+ Christian Symbols +



POINSETTIA — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.

Bible Quiz



Who told Mary that her child would be called “the Son of the Most High”?

- A. Zechariah
- B. Gabriel
- C. Simeon
- D. Joseph

Look for answer elsewhere

Youth News

The Goofballs would like to thank everyone for their generous support of the bake sale! We raised enough funds to put together some very special gifts for the shut ins and other folks this holiday season.

We will be meeting on Saturday, December 6th from 12:30-2:30 to work on the gifts, talk about the upcoming gift wrapping fundraiser (see flyer), and plan the holiday visits (December 22nd).

As always, youth in middle or high school are invited and welcome to attend our meetings! Feel free to reach out to Jan Juliette for more details at jan.juliette526@gmail.com.



Christmas Poinsettias

Thank you to all the people who were able to order poinsettias to beautify the chancel area on Christmas Eve

You can pick up your poinsettia plant(s) on Christmas Eve after the 7 or 11pm service.

Flowers for the Altar

Just a reminder that we have vases for altar flowers, just let an altar guild member know if you would like vases to take home and bring back with your flowers, or bring flowers on Saturday by 10am.



Silver Strings Christmas Concert

Thursday – 12/11/25—7pm
Sanctuary

Refreshments in Volkmar Hall after Concert

White Elephant Holiday Party

Saturday 12/13/25 – 5pm
Volkmar Hall

Epiphany Coffee Hour

Sunday 1/4/26 after worship
Volkmar Hall

Please Remember to keep....

*Gilbert Barrett, Kelli Bertl, Margaret Betko,
Kevin Clarey, Geri Daniels, Dennis Dubay,
Lisa Donfried, Beverly Doom, Steve Fritz,
Michael Hicks, Tom Hughs, Donna Kanowski,
Robert Knox, Ken Konsdorf, Vaughn Mattson,
Don McAdam, Shirlee Pakkala, Eleanore
Stirling, Dorothy Sweda, Gail White, Beverly
Wolff, Owen, Alex, Carnetta, Roy, Jodi, Sue,
Norm, Keith, Alannah, Tina & Good
Hope....In your prayers*

If you are in need of prayers call the church
office at **734-427-3660**.



Annual White Elephant Holiday Party

Saturday, December 13th 5:00pm

Volkmar Hall ~ Good Hope Lutheran Church

Hors d'oeuvres and Soft Drinks

Come join us for what is always a fun time for all. There will be munching, gifting, game playing, prizes and caroling...what better way to spend a Saturday afternoon before Christmas!!!

The highlight of the evening will be the White Elephant Gift Exchange. All of those who wish to participate bring a wrapped gift. Please no Gag gifts. The gift can be new or very gently used and should have a value no more than \$25.00. When you arrive, you will leave your gift on the gift table and pick up a number. Later in the evening your number will be called and you will have the opportunity to select a gift from the gift table or take a gift from someone else. If you choose a gift that someone else has, then they will pick another gift from the gift table. If you were the first person to choose then you would have a chance to switch gifts at the end.

Please be sure to sign up in the Narthex. We need to know how many will be attending so we can plan for seating, food and drinks. Also...please bring a Hors d'oeuvre to share. If you have any questions please see Debbie Kupel.



Ramblings from Deb...

Once a month I meet with a group of friends at a local Baptist Church for some crafting time. We call it Eat, Pray and Create. It is a group of ladies that come from different places in life, different religions and different economic standings. We share food and any number of different crafts and most importantly we share our faith. There is a devotion given just after dinner. The devotion always seems to give me things to ponder. This last gathering was our Christmas celebration. The devotion was a simple reading, but it caught my attention and I would like to share it with you. One of our Christmas songs wasn't always a song. During Medieval Times not all Christian faiths were accepted and some had to hide their beliefs. I had not heard this presentation before.

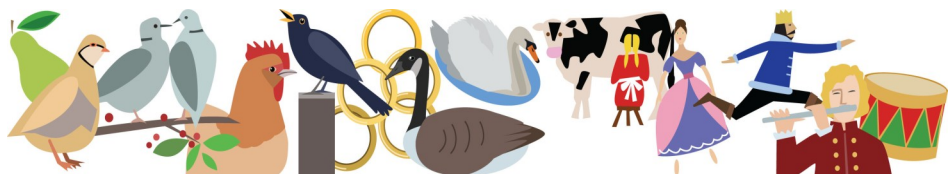
The 12 Days Of Christmas



A Partridge in A Pear Tree is Jesus Christ
Two Turtle Doves are the Old and New Testaments
Three French Hens are Faith, Hope and Charity
Four Calling Blrds are the four Gospels or four Evangelists
Five Golden Rings are the first five Books of the Old Testament
Six Geese A Laying are the six days of creation
Seven Swans A Swimming are the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Issaiah 11:20)
Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel Fortitude/Courage, Knowledge and
Piety/Devotion to God or Religious Practices
Eight Maids A Milking are the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)
Nine Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22)
Love, Joy, Meekness, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Gentleness
and Self Control
Ten Lords A Leaping are the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20)
Eleven Pipers Piping are the Eleven Faithful Apostles
Twelve Drummers Drumming are the Twelve Points of Doctrine in the Apostle's
Creed
I believe in God the Father, Almighty Creator of Heaven and Earth
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son
Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, He was crucified, died and buried
The third day He rose from the dead
He ascended to heaven and he is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty
From there He will come to judge the living and the dead
I believe in the Holy Spirit/Holy Ghost
I believe in the communion of the saints, faithful followers of Christ, living,
dead, past, present and future
I believe in Forgiveness of Sins
I believe in the Resurrection of the Body
I believe in Life Everlasting.

This reaffirms, for me, that there is a story of Christ in everything...even a poem or a song. Sometimes we just need to look for a different meaning...and a different way to remember our Christian beliefs.

Stay safe, have a blessed
Christmas and....see you in
church!!!
Debbie Kupel, Member





GOD'S GOOFBALLS YOUTH GROUP

HOLIDAY GIFT WRAPPING

**DECEMBER 20, 2025
FROM 11:00AM – 3:30PM**

**Good Hope Lutheran Church
28680 Cherry Hill Rd
Garden City, MI 48135**

**Gift wrapping got you stressed? Let us help!
We're offering gift wrapping services by
donation. Come join us for some holiday tunes
and hot cocoa while you wait, or drop off your
packages and pick them up after your errands!**

**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT JAN AT:
JAN.JULIETTE526@GMAIL.COM**

KID'S PAGE

Christmas Card treasures

Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

What you need:

- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)

What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.
— James 1:17 (NIV)



GOOD NEWS TO THE SHEPHERDS

What did the angel of the Lord say to the shepherds?

Directions: Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.

“



”

Luke 2:11, NIV

Answer: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11, NIV