



# THE HARBINGER

South Side Christian Church



December 2025

Issue 12

## Kevin's Korner

This December many will celebrate a Christmas tradition called Advent. Advent is a Latin word meaning "The coming," and is a tradition celebrated by many churches throughout the world. It officially started in the sixth century and is still observed during the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Its purpose has been to help Christians focus on the coming of Jesus. Christians were to reflect on the coming of Jesus in the manger, into their hearts, and on His ultimate return. Thus, making the Christmas holiday a time of reflection on Jesus and our love for Him.

Throughout history the church has implemented many various ways to celebrate advent. Wreaths and candles have often been the most common method used. One practice employed was to mark the time of advent by burning one big candle. Four notches were marked on the candle and each week the candle would be lit allowing it to burn down to the next notch. On Christmas Eve the last of the candle would be burned ushering in Christmas Day. However, it was the Vikings who began the use of a Christmas wreath in their advent celebration. Eventually wreaths and candles made way for special calendars referred to as "Advent Calendars."

The Advent calendar many use today had its origins in nineteenth century Germany. "...In many German homes an Advent wreath was hung, but instead of candles, twenty-four tiny bags were placed in the wreath" (*Stories behind the Great Traditions of Christmas* (Collins), pg 5.). Beginning on December 1st the kids would open one bag each day with a treat inside.

However, it was Gerhard Lang who would eventually turn this tradition into an actual calendar. While growing up, his mother had taken a large pre-numbered board and hung twenty-four bags, each with a piece of candy in it; one next to the number for each day of the month. Each day Gerhard opened up a bag and received his treat.

As an adult Gerhard became a partner in a printing firm and it was there that he took his childhood practice and presented it to the public. "He printed and sold twenty-four tiny pictures that could be glued to any large calendar. The concept quickly became popular, and by 1908 Lang was producing calendars that had doors or windows that could be opened. Inside each door was the drawing of a piece of candy, a toy, or a Christmas decoration." (*Stories behind the Great Traditions of Christmas* (Collins), pg 6). This became known as the "Munich Christmas Calendar" and it grew in popularity, not only in Germany, but eventually throughout Europe, and then after WWII it made its way over to America.

Advent may have multiple ways to be celebrated, but its importance is in helping us gain perspective on the true meaning of Christmas. Today, with so much emphasis being on gifts we can tend to forget the greatest gift given, Jesus. This Christmas season I would encourage each of us to develop some tradition at home to focus our hearts on Jesus, because as the saying goes, *Jesus is the reason for the season*.

Kevin W. Soben

## From The Elders:

Merry Christmas to one and all at South Side!!

Being Christians, we all realize that the Christmas Season has become so commercial, that retailers begin advertising for Christmas somewhere around Halloween (or earlier!!) and it ends a week before December 25, when the Valentine's Day candy fills the shelves. Being followers of Christ, we also realize that without Christ, there is no Christ-mas. Every Sunday, we in the Christian Churches of the Restoration Movement, remember Christ's death, burial, and resurrection as we celebrate by renewing our commitment to follow Him with the taking of Communion. It is ONLY through Christ that we are able to gain access to our God's grace, mercy, and salvation. We know the true reason that we celebrate during this Christmas Season, because we have received the greatest gift of all in Christ, God's one and only Son!!

As we are reminded of gifts, please remember that we are collecting for the South Side staff gifts during these next few weeks and will present those gifts on Sunday, December 21, 2025. If you are participating in this gift giving, please do so by using a church envelope marked "STAFF" and depositing it in the one of the offering boxes. If you are writing a check, please make it out to South Side Christian Church. Thanks in advance to all who participate.

**ENVELOPES!!** If you wish to worship with your offering and would like church envelopes, please see Ellen Haag to obtain your box. Please remember, if you would like an annual giving statement and you use cash for your offering, you will need to put your number on your envelope, since they are blank. As for your annual giving statements, Pam Jostes will have those available sometime in mid-January, well before tax season.

Do you plan on joining other South Siders in reading the entire Bible in 2026? The church staff and leadership would like to encourage everyone to find a program that you are comfortable with and read through the Bible!! The last page of each month's newsletter has a page of dedicated readings for that month. If you like this plan, by all means follow it! If you want a digital plan, try "YouVersion Bible". It is a downloadable APP for use on your phone, tablet, or computer that has a number of different plans from which to choose for reading (some of us use this and have it read to us!!). Whatever the plan you choose (yes, you could even start with Genesis 1 and read straight through to Revelation 22), we encourage and support each and everyone's efforts to grow Spiritually.

With January 1, 2026, just around the corner, we are winding up our financial year for 2025 and preparing the budget for the 2026 financial year. A budget is defined as "an estimate of the amount of income and expenditures for a given period of time". Our budgeted expenses for the church are frequently greater than the income from the tithes and offering, earned interest, and contributions from all sources; but to date, for the 2025 financial year, the church is up-to-date on all of our expenses incurred through November 2025. If at any time you have any questions regarding the church's finances, please see one of the elders to get an answer. The church finances are "open books", so to speak. All congregation members are able to see the books.

Please continue to pray for your government at all levels, your church leadership and staff, your fellow South Siders and Christians world-wide, and of course, for your friends and family as we all celebrate the Christmas and New Year holidays!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!!

Jeff, Dan, and Orlando



# *Kidz and Youth*

This year's youth group Progressive Dinner will be Sunday December 14th from 5-9 PM. We will meet at church by 5 PM and will be travelling to 3 separate houses for food, fellowship, and games! This is always a great opportunity for the congregation and youth to connect and share a fun time just before the holidays. Please plan to invite friends and bring a \$5 white elephant gift for a gift exchange at the final house. See you there!

Our elementary class will be learning about the birth of Jesus this month through a mix of prophecies and the Christmas story. Please pray that our eyes will be opened to understand more about the greatest Christmas gift of all time: Jesus!

Youth group will be on break on Sunday December 21st and 28th due to the holidays. We will resume on Sunday January 4th from 5:30-7 PM.

*John Helton*



*Thank You!*

We want to thank our entire church family for your incredible generosity and support in making Operation Christmas Child such a wonderful success this year! Together, we thought we had packed 330 shoeboxes, but when we arrived at the collection center, the final count was 402! What a surprise and an amazing blessing for everyone!

We still don't know exactly how it happened, but we rejoice in God's abundance. Each of those 402 shoeboxes represents a child who will receive joy, hope, and the love of Jesus this Christmas. Your prayers, donations, and helping hands made this possible.

Thank you for sharing your hearts, for your faithfulness, and for coming together as a family to be part of this beautiful ministry!





## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

On Sunday, December 7, the Kara Ladies will be providing coffee and an assortment of delicious treats.

Our time of fellowship will take place from 10:00 to 10:25 AM, giving everyone a wonderful opportunity to gather, connect, and enjoy a warm moment together before the morning service begins.

We hope you'll join us and share in this time of friendship and togetherness.



## Senior Saints — News for You!

On November 11th, Mother Nature did not cooperate so we had to cancel our meeting. Our main concern was that we wanted everyone to be safe.

We will meet on December 9th and celebrate the Christmas season. Jimboo's will cater our holiday luncheon, the cost will be \$10.00. I'm looking forward to his delicious food. We will still need desserts.

Adam Gawlikowski will entertain us. He is a great singer who also plays the guitar. He is very personable, we always enjoy having him. He will play Christmas carols and we will sing along to many of them. It will be a fun and festive afternoon, so plan to join us on December 9th at noon.

*Donna Abercrombie*

SOUTH SIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24TH @ 6 PM  
1000 BROADMOOR AVE. MUNSTER, IN 46321



# Visit the Kara Krafters Boutique This Christmas!

Our Kara Krafters Boutique is open in Rooms 12 and 13! Come explore handmade Christmas decorations, seasonal decor and unique gifts, perfect for adding holiday cheer to your home.

All proceeds support our church missions

You are welcome to visit on Sundays or during the week. Just call the church office at 219-836-2110 to arrange a time.



## Down Under Ministry

SSCC is partnering with Love INC to provide clothing essentials to families in our community throughout the year. Help us bless those in need!

We are currently collecting boys' underwear (sizes 2 to XL), girls' underwear (sizes 6, 10, 12, 14), women's underwear (sizes S, M, L), men's underwear (sizes S, M), and socks for men (sizes 6-12). Please drop your donations in the bin outside the office. Thank you for your generosity and for making a difference!



## The Salvation Army

We are collecting nonperishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank to support individuals and families in need within our community.

Your donations make a real difference! Please place items in the bin located just outside the office door. Every contribution big or small helps bring hope and relief. Thank you for your ongoing generosity and care.

# Eyeglass Collection

for Medical Missions Outreach



Bring your gently used  
eyeglasses to the  
Welcome Center drop-box  
for donation



### Disciple-Makers Class - Sunday School Class

We are studying the life and ministry of Jesus from a chronological perspective. You are welcomed to join us each Sunday.

Kevin Groben (219) 276-0538

### The Christian Friendship Sunday School Class

We would love to have you join us on any Sunday morning. We are discussion oriented, and welcome people of all ages.

We study from the Christian Standard lesson.

Jeff Hayden (219) 730-2635

### Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets on Monday's at 6:30PM. Contact Jason Newhuis at (708) 825-3345 for information.

### Wednesday Sisters in Christ Bible Study

Begins at 10 am, we take prayer requests from 11:30 to 12:00. Throughout the week we support one another with calls, texting, and prayers. Contact Carol Joza at 708-955-1257 for information.

### Wednesday Kevin's Bible Study

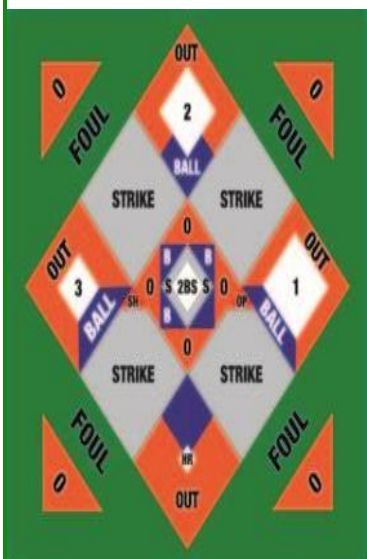
Afternoon Session 1:00 - 2:00 pm

Evening Session 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Same lesson both session.

Kevin Groben (219) 276-0538

### Ladies Dartball



Ladies, join us for an exciting evening of Dartball with women from various churches on **Monday, December 8** at church from 6 to 9 PM.

No experience needed, just come for fun, friendly competition, and great fellowship! Snacks will be provided. We can't wait to see you there!

### Kara Ladies Group

Join us on **Thursday, December 4**, at noon at Cheryl Martin's home for a lovely time of fellowship. Bring your lunch and enjoy a joyful afternoon as we celebrate the Christmas season together.

Jam making will be on **Monday, December 8**, at 9:00 a.m. Come be part of a fun and friendly morning as we prepare homemade jam to share and sell in support of our ministries.



We always welcome new members, come join the fun!

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3-Dec	Merry Funston
5-Dec	Ellen Haag
6-Dec	Denise Bates
7-Dec	Glenna Chapman
13-Dec	Pam Jostes
15-Dec	Cheryl Martin
16-Dec	Timothy Fordyce
20-Dec	Ray Dawson
20-Dec	John Garcia
20-Dec	Richard Garcia
25-Dec	Fred Hall
27-Dec	Glenn Haag



## December

### ***New Testament***

#### ► JOHN

- 1. ☐ 14:1-14
- 2. ☐ 14:15-21
- 3. ☐ 14:22-31
- 4. ☐ 15:1-8
- 5. ☐ 15:9-17

- 6. ☐ 15:18-27
- 7. ☐ 16:1-11

- 8. ☐ 16:12-24
- 9. ☐ 16:25-33
- 10. ☐ 17:1-5
- 11. ☐ 17:6-19

- 12. ☐ 17:20-26

- 13. ☐ 18:1-18

- 14. ☐ 18:19-27
- 15. ☐ 18:28-40
- 16. ☐ 19:1-16

- 17. ☐ 19:17-27

- 18. ☐ 19:28-37

- 19. ☐ 19:38-42
- 20. ☐ 20:1-9

- 21. ☐ 20:10-18

- 22. ☐ 20:19-23
- 23. ☐ 20:24-31
- 24. ☐ 21:1-14

- 25. ☐ 21:15-25

#### ► REVELATION

- ☐ 1:1-8
- ☐ 1:9-20
- ☐ 2:1-17
- ☐ 2:18-29
- ☐ 3:1-13

- ☐ 3:14-22
- ☐ 4

- ☐ 5
- ☐ 6
- ☐ 7
- ☐ 8

- ☐ 9

- ☐ 10

- ☐ 11
- ☐ 12
- ☐ 13

- ☐ 14

- ☐ 15

- ☐ 16
- ☐ 17

- ☐ 18

- ☐ 19
- ☐ 20
- ☐ 21

- ☐ 22

### ***Old Testament***

#### ► JOB

- ☐ 23
- ☐ 24
- ☐ 25-26
- ☐ 27
- ☐ 28

- ☐ 29
- ☐ 30

- ☐ 31:1-23
- ☐ 31:24-40
- ☐ 32
- ☐ 33:1-11

- ☐ 33:12-33

- ☐ 34:1-20

- ☐ 34:21-37
- ☐ 35
- ☐ 36:1-15

- ☐ 36:16-33

- ☐ 37

- ☐ 38:1-21
- ☐ 38:22-41

- ☐ 39

- ☐ 40
- ☐ 41:1-11
- ☐ 41:12-34

- ☐ 42

#### ► HOSEA

- ☐ 1-3
- ☐ 4-6
- ☐ 7-8
- ☐ 9-12
- ☐ 13-14

#### ► JOEL

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2-3

#### ► AMOS

- ☐ 1-2
- ☐ 3-4
- ☐ 5-6
- ☐ 7-9

#### ► OBADIAH

- ☐ 1-21

#### ► JONAH

- ☐ 1-4

#### ► MICAH

- ☐ 1-3
- ☐ 4-5
- ☐ 6-7

#### ► NAHUM

- ☐ 1-3

#### ► HABAKKUK

- ☐ 1-3

#### ► ZEPHANIAH

- ☐ 1-2
- ☐ 3

#### ► HAGGAI

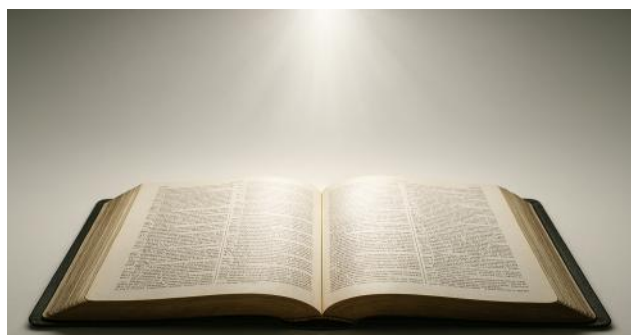
- ☐ 1-2

#### ► ZECHARIAH

- ☐ 1-5
- ☐ 6-9
- ☐ 10-14

#### ► MALACHI

- ☐ 1-4





*Loving  
Father,*

help us remember  
the **birth of Jesus**  
that we may share in

the *song of the angels*,  
the gladness of the shepherds,  
and the *worship of the wise men*.

Close the door of hate and

*open the door of love* all over the

**world**. Let kindness come with every gift and  
good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from  
evil by the *blessing which Christ brings*, and teach us

to *be merry with clear hearts*. May the Christmas morning  
make us happy to be *Thy children*, and the **Christmas**  
evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,

*forgiving and forgiven,*

for Jesus' sake.

Amen.