

THE HERALD

An Abundant Advent:

December 2018

The call of a prophet's voice, dry and parched, croaking in the wilderness like a ram's horn out o'er the dessert always begins Advent. "Come. Prepare ye the way of the Lord!" Isaiah shouts. "Make his paths straight. Lift up the valley and make low the mountain; make Way for the Lord of Hosts to come into your hearts!"

I remember one Christmas Day as I flew 'home' from my pastorate in Pennsylvania to Triangle Ranch to join my family for the holiday. It was a clear afternoon over the southwest and an astonished passenger in the window seat behind me looked down at I – 40 (stretching STRAIGHT from Oklahoma City, to Amarillo, to Tucumcari to Santa Rosa to Albuquerque...and on eventually to Flagstaff) and gasped to his wife seated next to him, "Look at that! It must be no challenge at all to build an Interstate out here!"



I chuckled to myself for of course, there are still tons of earth to move and thousands of cubic yards of asphalt to lay to 'make the path straight'.

Question: **how do you observe Advent?** Is it one, head-long rush to Christmas? Is Christmas mostly plastic and loud, clanging muzak in the stores? A commercial Christmas?

It need not be! **Heavens: God himself is with us,** born this year again as a babe at Bethlehem, laid in a manger.

Come along and join us here at Heritage, your church while we celebrate each Sunday in a different

- The first Sunday we will observe **A Liturgical Christmas**, a sometimes quiet call from amidst the locusts and honey.
- The Second Sunday we enjoy **A Children's Christmas** as our kids lay the Babe to a manger.
- The Third Sunday our choir will present the **Annual Christmas Cantata** (for which they have been rehearsing with added singers for weeks now!)
- The Fourth Sunday we will add to the Advent Wreath and celebrate the penultimate **Songs for the Season** (anticipate beautiful music with added instrumentalists all month).
- Finally, ultimately we will celebrate **Christmas on the Eve of His birth**. Here's how it will play out for us: At 4:30 p.m. we will gather downstairs in Fellowship Hall for hot cocoa and peppermint and 'sing 'round the hearth', lifting Christmas Carols galore. It's a Christmas singalong. Come join your favorite fellas and females in your faith family as we each get the chance to sing our favorite carols and hymns.

Then, at 5:30 we move to the sanctuary for our traditional, Christmas Eve candle lighting worship.



It is for us truly An Abundant Advent. Remember these Sabbaths and keep them holy. Come worship with us and be glad. **Feel the Spirit's presence and apprehend God's Peace.**

Merry Christmas, beloved; come, let us worship the Lord. Amen



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

08 Scott Helvie
09 Jennifer Dierks
12 Jemma Mason
12 Piper Mason
14 Priscilla Kliewer
16 Barbara Shaeffer
17 Bev Traudt
20 Earl Robinett

Please notify the church office if your birthday or anniversary was omitted or incorrect so we can make the necessary changes.



HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Thank you to Vivian Jones for renewing your Birthday Club Membership. Anyone may renew or join Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) are made to our endowment fund.

Thank you!

THANK YOU!

The family of George Neill expresses their thanks to the Heritage families who set up for, as well as to those who furnished delicious desserts, following memorial services on November 2.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Circle will meet December 4 in the Gibson Room at 10:00 a.m. All women are invited to join us in this Bible Study (and tasty treats)! Please note there will not be a Circle meeting in January.

BEST CHOICE



70038 35038

**ONGOING YOUTH FUNDRAISERS
PLEASE SAVE BEST CHOICE UPCS AND USED PRINTER CARTRIDGES**

Please continue to gather Best Choice UPC labels. Each Best Choice UPC nets 3 cents for our youth! Thanks to all who continue to support this program which provides financial assistance to our youth



Every generous act of giving is from above.

James 1:17

The Christmas Joy Offering celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the "perfect gift," as well as the gifts of church leaders – past, present, and future. Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. **A perfect gift from a gracious God.**

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings. The donations from this Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs to retired church workers and to the Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges. The Mission Committee has set a goal of \$600.00, so please give generously and joyously.

HAT, GLOVE, & MITTEN DRIVE



HAT AND MITTIEN DRIVE

Thank you to all who donated the many mittens, gloves, and hats for the children of Randolph Elementary School.

They will help keep the children warm during the cold and snowy winter weather!



EQUAL EXCHANGE

Check out the gift set display using Equal Exchange products in the narthex! Give a gift of tea, coffee or chocolate this year. Do your shopping without going to the stores or malls!



NOCHE DE LOS TACOS

The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who helped make the Fiesta del Taco such a great success – \$1532.50 was raised for various mission committee activities such as the Well Project, PDA cleanup buckets and the backpack program for Randolph. We would especially like to thank those who:

- prepared the food and helped with clean up
- donated items for the silent auction
- purchased auction items
- and/or ATE TACOS!



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias are such a beautiful addition to the Sanctuary during the Christmas Season. If you haven't already filled out an order form, we hope you will consider ordering one or more flowers in memory or in honor of someone special in your life. Oak Creek Plants & Flowers are providing the plants, and the cost per plant is only \$8.25. Your check for the total number of plants ordered should be made payable to Heritage Presbyterian Church, and indicate that it is for poinsettias. You can either place your order form and check in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mail it to the church office. Deadline for ordering is Monday, December 10, 2018. Please call the Church office (402-477-3401) or Karen Minks (402-304-3934) if you have any questions.



DUC'S YOUTH GROUP GRADES 6-12

The DUCs will meet December 2 following Worship. Watch the website or emails for changes.



HEADS UP SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS!

There will be NO Sunday School on either the 23rd or 30th of December.



RANDOLPH BACKPACK PROGRAM

Fourteen backpacks were delivered to Randolph School for students to take home for the Thanksgiving school break – thank you for

donating tuna, pasta, mashed potatoes, granola bars and canned fruit!

Next up is the Christmas school break. We need 14 sets of the following to fill the backpacks:

- ✓ cereal
- ✓ pudding
- ✓ canned vegetables
- ✓ canned soup
- ✓ canned fruit

Please bring donations to the church by December 16 for delivery later that week.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE THANKS YOU!

Thank you to all who continue to donate items for the Eastridge Food Pantry – it is one of our most important mission projects!



Check out the Christmas tree ornaments in the narthex to see how you can share the joy of Christmas with three families here in Lincoln and others around the world! Just pick an ornament, purchase the item(s) and then bring it back to the church by Sunday, December 16.

Our gift recipients are two neighborhood families and a church family all needing a little help this holiday season. If you don't have the time or don't like to shop, gift cards will be accepted.

World mission ideas are from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog – chickens, seeds, farm tools – all things to assist people around the world better their lives in their own communities.



WINTER WEATHER HAPPENS

Please check:
<http://www.kfornow.com/weather-closings/> or local TV stations to see if Worship will be cancelled due to inclement weather. They will have information by 8:00 AM Sundays.





December 8: Children's program rehearsal/lunch
December 9: Children's Christmas Program
December 15: Choir Cantata rehearsal/pizza party
December 16: Choir Cantata, December Birthday Bash
December 24: Christmas Carols & Christmas Eve Service with Communion
December 23: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
December 30: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
January 1: Office Closed
January 20: Annual Soup Supper

THE HERALD

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Heritage Presbyterian Church
880 South 35th Street
Lincoln, NE 68510-3499
402-477-3401
www.HeritagePres.org

DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD

December 26
Items received after
this date may
not be included!

Heritage Presbyterian
880 South 35th Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
402-477-3401



2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM: DUCs meet	26 6:00 PM Girl Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall	27 10:00 AM Circle meets in Gibson Room 6:00 PM Session meets at Pastor Hopsons	28 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	29	30	1 10:00 AM Al-Anon in Gibson Room 10:00 AM Children's Program rehearsal/lunch 2:00 PM LAD Holiday Dinner
9 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship & Children's Program 11:30 PM Santa visits	10 Poinsettia orders due 6:00 PM Girl Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall	11	12 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal	13 6:00 PM Boy Scouts Pack 39 Dens in FH & Gibson Room	14 10:00 AM Al-Anon in Gibson Room	15 12:00 PM LDC in Fellowship Hall 3:00 PM Choir Cantata rehearsal/pizza party
16 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship & Choir Cantata 12:00 PM December Birthday Bash 1:00 PM P. Kliewer recital	17 6:00 PM Girl Scouts meet in Fellowship Hall	18 3:30 PM P. Kliewer recital	19	20 6:00 PM Boy Scouts Pack 39 Dens in FH	21 10:00 AM Al-Anon in Gibson Room	22
23 No Sunday School 10:30 Worship	24 4:30 PM Christmas Carols in Fellowship Hall 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service & Communion	25 Christmas-Office closed 	26	27	28 10:00 AM Al-Anon in Gibson Room	29
30 No Sunday School 10:30 Worship	31	1 New Years-Office Closed	2	3	4 10:00 AM Al-Anon in Gibson Room	5

Please refer to the online calendar or weekly insert for updated/changed events.



WE'RE CELEBRATING YOUR BIRTHDAY

The ❤️eam would like to invite everyone to join them in celebrating

birthdays monthly with a potluck. Cake will be provided so please bring your favorite dish to share. December birthdays will be celebrated on December 16 following the Choir Cantata.



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM REHEARSAL

The Children will be having a rehearsal on December 8 at 10:00 AM. Please join us as we prepare for the Children's Program which will take place during Worship on December 9. Lunch will be served immediately following rehearsal.



COOKIES ARE NEEDED!

Please consider donating cookies for our visit from Santa Sunday, December 9 following the Children's Program. Cookies do not have to be homemade, we will accept them all!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jan – November 2018 Income	\$119,585.76
Jan – November 2018 Expenses	\$118,670.94
Net income 2018	\$914.82

Jan – November 2017 Income	\$104,341.84
Jan – November 2017 Expenses	\$135,922.06
Net income (loss) 2017	(\$31,580.22)

LET'S HELP THOSE WHO NEED IT AND FILL THE FOOD PANTRY/FOOD BANK!

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A FOOD BANK.

December 1 - box of cereal
 December 2 - peanut butter
 December 3 - stuffing mix
 December 4 - boxed potatoes
 December 5 - macaroni and cheese
 December 6 - canned fruit
 December 7 - canned tomatoes
 December 8 - canned tuna
 December 9 - dessert mix
 December 10 - jar of applesauce
 December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
 December 12 - cranberry sauce
 December 13 - canned beans
 December 14 - box of crackers
 December 15 - package of rice
 December 16 - package of oatmeal
 December 17 - package pasta
 December 18 - spaghetti sauce
 December 19 - chicken noodle soup
 December 20 - tomato soup
 December 21 - can corn
 December 22 - can mixed vegetables
 December 23 - can carrots
 December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM

*This idea was borrowed from a Facebook post and can also be found Heritage's Facebook page.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

CHOIR MEMBER INFORMATION

Saturday, December 15 at 3:00 PM we will have a Choir Cantata rehearsal. Following that we will have Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza will be provided but we ask that you please

bring a side dish or dessert to share. Choir rehearsal will not be held December 19, 26, or January 2. Chancel Choir will sing January 6. Please be ready to rehearse at 9:30 AM that morning.