

THE HERALD

December 2022

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

Warm Advent Greetings to all of you – both literally and figuratively! We have entered one of the most cherished times of the church year and I look forward to the magical moments we will have together. Looking ahead at the month, we will be ordaining and/or installing our new incoming session members, Lew Sieber and Amanda Miller, on the 11th, celebrating our Christmas Cantata on the 18th, and of course celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior on Saturday Christmas Eve. That service will start at 5:30 and will be preceded by a hymn sing at 4:30 in the Fellowship Hall. We will then be taking Sunday Christmas Day off and we will see you back in person for a small prayer service on January 1st.

I will be on vacation starting on the 25th through the 31st. I will be travelling to Austin to visit some friends and will therefore be unable to handle any crises that come up in person. I will still be available by phone and email, though I will not be checking them regularly.

Friends, as we enter into this holiday season and enjoy time spent with our loved ones, please remember that Covid still spreads among us. We are currently in the yellow portion of the Lincoln Covid Dial but it is a possibility that we could move into orange. Please keep an eye on the statistics, remember to social distance and mask in crowded places, and take care of yourselves and those around you.

May the ever-present miracle that is Christ bless you this Advent and beyond!

Pastor Erica



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

09 – Jenn Dierks
 12 – Jemma Mason
 12 – Piper Mason
 14 – Priscilla Kliewer
 16 – Barbara Shaeffer
 17 – Bev Traudt
 20 – Earl L. Robinett



HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB

Anyone may join or renew their membership in Heritage’s Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) is made to our endowment fund.

THANK YOU to all who donated items for the students of Randolph Elementary School. Twenty-nine pairs of socks, 102 sets of underwear, 13 hats, 7 pairs of gloves and 4 sweatpants were donated.

THANK YOU to all who helped make the Taco Night / Silent Auction a huge success! Over \$1100.00 will be used for projects with Randolph School and other mission projects. Thank you for:

- Donating items for the silent auction
- Your purchase of silent auction items
- Eating tacos!

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

Check out the new Equal Exchange items – great for stocking stuffers!

Coffee – Breakfast Blend, Hazelnut Crème, Toffee Caramel
 Teas –Earl Grey, English Breakfast, Green Tea with Ginger, Chai & Hibiscus
 Don’t forget the dates for holiday baking, mini-chocolates and olive oil!



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

And the Word became Flesh and lived among us. . . – John 1:14

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.**

God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This Offering addresses the support needed by some of our leaders, including supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

HERITAGE FOOD PANTRY

As many will remember prior to the pandemic, our congregation supported two different food pantries – Eastridge and our own in support of Randolph School. While the pandemic and remodeling closed the Eastridge Food Pantry for many months, we switched all our support to the “Randolph” pantry. While both food pantries make an impact on hunger in our community, the mission committee has now made the decision to officially fully support the Heritage Food Pantry and open it to our church family as well as the families of Randolph. If you or someone in your family is facing food insecurity, please reach out to Pastor Erica or Ron Miller for assistance.

Check out the **Christmas tree** ornaments in the narthex to see how you can share the joy of Christmas with two different neighborhood families. Please bring your unwrapped presents to the church by December 17 – gift cards are always welcome if you don’t want to shop! Thank you for your generosity!



ADVENT CHALLENGE

Are you willing to accept the Advent Challenge to donate one food item for each day of Advent (28 items) to the Heritage Food Pantry? It can be any non-perishable item at any price. If accepting the challenge is not possible, any donations will be appreciated by those in our community who face hunger and food insecurity!

DUCS

DUCs will be meeting on Sunday, December 11 following worship for fun & games.

They will not be meeting for Sunday School on December 25th or January 1st.

WATCH OUT FOR SCAMS!

Christmastime is one of the biggest times of the year for scammers to try and take your money. Please remember that no one from Heritage will ask for you to buy gift cards for the church or pastor. Any requests for money will come from official avenues, such as during the offering or an announcement in church. If you come across anything suspicious, please let us know!

MOVIE NIGHT

Join us for our next free family movie night on **Friday, December 9th at 7pm**. Due to colder weather, this movie night will be held in Fellowship Hall. Seating will be available, but feel free to bring blankets and pillows. Snacks will be provided. A free-will donation will go toward Mission projects.



PANDEMIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHURCH AND OUTSIDE GROUPS

General

- Social distancing encouraged
- Offering in the entry ways instead of passed
- Clutter in narthex cleaned up
- Encourage members to stay home if they have symptoms or don't feel comfortable

COVID-19 Risk Dial: Green (Low)

- Business as usual – please stay home or wear a mask if you have symptoms or don't feel well

COVID-19 Risk Dial: Yellow (Moderate)

- Masks recommended (unless required by city directed health measures)
- Social distancing
- Coffee Corner with masks recommended
- Communion – regular
- Potlucks/other communal meals with masks recommended
- Encourage members to stay home if they have symptoms or don't feel comfortable

COVID-19 Risk Dial: Orange (High)

- Masks required
- Signs between pews (social distancing)
- Coffee Corner with masks
- Potlucks/communal meals with masks
- Communion with pre-made packets
- Reduce congregational responses/hymns
- Encourage members to stay home if they do not feel comfortable attending

COVID-19 Risk Dial: Red (Severe)

- Zoom/other online platform church services (including Sunday School and DUC's)
- Choir to meet at the director's discretion (with pastor/session approval). They will follow social distancing and masking rules.
- No potlucks/communal meals
- No Coffee Corner
- Outside groups with more than 5 will not meet without pastor/session approval

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

December 27, 2022

Items received after this
date may not be included!

DECEMBER 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 <i>Boy Scout Troop 39</i>	2 10:30 AM Al-Anon	3
4 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship <i>Piano recitals (Pris)</i>	5 <i>Girl Scouts 20306</i> <i>Piano w/ Sydney Miller</i> <i>Piano recitals (Pris)</i>	6 10:00 AM Circle <i>Girl Scouts 28791</i> <i>Piano recitals (Pris)</i>	7 5:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM Bell Choir	8 <i>Boy Scout Troop 39</i>	9 10:30 AM Al-Anon 7:00 PM Movie Night	10 9:30 - 11:30 Choir Rehearsal <i>Piano recitals (Pris)</i>
11 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship DUCs following worship	12 <i>Piano w/ Sydney Miller</i>	13	14 5:30 PM Choir 7:00 PM Bell Choir	15 5:30 - 8:30 PM Cornhusker Kiwanis Club (Fellowship Hall)	16 10:30 AM Al-Anon <i>Boy Scout Troop 39</i>	17 9:30 - 11:30 Choir Rehearsal
18 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Christmas Cantata Potluck following worship	19 <i>Girl Scouts 20306</i> <i>Piano w/ Sydney Miller</i>	20 <i>Girl Scouts 28791</i>	21	22 <i>Boy Scout Troop 39</i>	23 10:30 AM Al-Anon	24 4:30 PM Hymn Sing 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service w/communion
25 Christ is born! No worship service	26 <i>Piano w/ Sydney Miller</i>	27	28	29 <i>Boy Scout Troop 39</i>	30 10:30 AM Al-Anon	31

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