



**Emmanuel
Lutheran**
CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28, 2025
10:00AM BLENDED WORSHIP

OUR VISION: FULLY ENGAGED, BIBLICALLY PASSIONATE, DRIVEN TO SERVE

You Can't Micromanage Salvation



Isaiah 63:7-14

churchoffice@elcsmail.org



(828) 252-1795

www.emmanuellutheran.info

Sunday, December 28, 2025

The Food Pantry is open today 1:00-3:00 pm
Personal Prayer Ministry (after 10am service at the altar)



SIGN UP
FOR
SUNDAY ALTAR
FLOWERS



SCAN QR
CODE



Blooming News for Flower Fans

Hey there, flower enthusiasts! Want to make our altar blossom with beauty in the new year? Here's how you can sprinkle some floral magic:

- **Tech-Savvy Petal Pushers:** Embrace the convenience of signing up online by scanning the QR code above. If you're feeling particularly savvy, you can even complete your payment online. Want to hold off on payment? No problem, choose the "pay later" option. Keep reading to see how to leave a payment.
- **Old School Charmers:** Prefer the classic touch? Slip a check into the mail, or pop your cash into the offering plate on Sunday—just make sure it's cozily wrapped in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers." We promise it won't wilt!
- **Direct Delivery Experts:** For those who fancy a chat, call us at (828)252-1795 or shoot an email to churchoffice@elcsmail.org. If you're feeling adventurous, drop by the church office. We love surprise visits (and not just from the flower kind)!
- **The Mysterious Note Leavers:** If you're the mysterious type, feel free to leave an envelope in my mailbox. I'll find it like a bee to honey!

Remember, we need your name and the purpose of these fabulous flowers and some form of payment for **\$32.10**. Whether you're honoring a loved one who passed away, celebrating a special occasion, or simply sharing the joy of blooms, let's make the altar blossom like never before!

~humorously brought to you by your fabulous church administrative assistant, Anitta Charlson

AS WE GATHER

The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus! God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God’s dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

CALL TO WORSHIP “Glory to You in the Highest”

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG “Light of the World”

VERSE 1

Light of the World,
Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars
in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father,
reach through the darkness,
Shine across the earth,
send the shadows to flight

VERSE 2

Light of the World,
from the beginning
The tragedies of time
were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory
You saw my story
God You entered in
and became one of us

CHORUS

**Sing hallelujah, Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him,
bow down before Him,
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World**

VERSE 3

Light of the world,
crown in a manger,
Born for the cross
to suffer to save
High King of Heaven,
death is the poorer,
We are the richer
by the price that He paid

CHORUS

VERSE 4

Light of the World
soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes,
He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us
straight into glory
And there He shall reign
Forevermore, forever more!

CHORUS

Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash CCLI Song #7163734 | © 2020 Angie Feel Good Songs; Bay19; Capitol CMG Genesis; Capitol CMG Paragon; Scott Cash Publishing Designee; We The Kingdom Music | For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #36114

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, “the fullness of time,” that is not true in our personal lives.

People: Forgive our impatience for taking matters into our own hands, forgive our not trusting that You are in control of all things, and forgive our failing to acknowledge You above all else.

Pastor: We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.

People: Forgive our desire to be in control, forgive our avoiding difficult decisions, and forgive our thinking that we are able to arrange all things for our own benefit.

Pastor: We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.

People: Forgive us for not giving Your leading us “a glorious name,” forgive our failure to ask You for guidance each day, and forgive our seeking to be like everyone else, rather than trusting You.

Pastor: Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, “Abba! Father!” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE LSB 386 “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

1 Now sing we, now rejoice,
Now raise to heav’n our voice;
He from whom joy streameth
Poor in a manger lies;
Not so brightly beameth
The sun in yonder skies.
Thou my Savior art!
Thou my Savior art!

2 Come from on high to me;
I cannot rise to Thee.
Cheer my wearied spirit,
O pure and holy Child;
Through Thy grace and merit,
Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,
Draw me unto Thee!
Draw me unto Thee!

3 Now through His Son doth shine
The Father’s grace divine.
Death was reigning o’er us
Through sin and vanity
Till He opened for us
A bright eternity.
May we praise Him there!
May we praise Him there!

4 Oh, where shall joy be found?
Where but on heav’nly ground?
Where the angels singing
With all His saints unite,
Sweetest praises bringing
In heav’nly joy and light.
Oh, that we were there!
Oh, that we were there!

Text: Public domain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature.

People: **Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 63:7–14

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore, he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE Galatians 4:4–7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 2:13–23

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

When [the wise men] had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more.” But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child’s life are dead.” And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Kim Noel

SERMON HYMN LSB 388 “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

REFRAIN

**Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev’rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

REFRAIN

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior’s birth.

REFRAIN

Down in a lonely manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

REFRAIN

Text: Public domain

SERMON "You Can't Micromanage Salvation"

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG "What Child is This?"

VERSE 1

What Child is this who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping

CHORUS

**This this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe the Son of Mary**

VERSE 2

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh,
come peasant king to own Him
The King of kings, salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone Him

CHORUS

**Raise, raise the song on high
The Virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born
The Babe the Son of Mary**

CHORUS

**Nails spear shall pierce Him through,
the cross He bore for me for you
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe the Son of Mary**

CHORUS

**This this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe the Son of Mary
The babe, the Son of Mary.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth;

People: blessed are You, heavenly Father.

Pastor: With repentant joy we receive the salvation Christ accomplished by His all-availing sacrifice on the cross.

People: Grant us strong faith and joy in our hearts until that day we gather with all the faithful at the feast of the Lamb, our Savior and Brother.

Pastor: To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 369 "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt"

1 Where shepherds lately knelt
and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief,
a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room
and welcome there for me,
But there is room
and welcome there for me.

2 In that unlikely place
I find Him as they said:
Sweet newborn babe, how frail!
And in a manger bed:
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

3 How should I not have known Isaiah
would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled?
With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

4 Can I, will I forget how Love was born,
and burned
Its way into my heart—
unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?

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LSB 374 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined,
To the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place,
Can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.
- 2 Angels sang about His birth,
Wise Men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.

- Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

Text: Public Domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- Pastor: Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through
this gracious gift.
- People: Strengthen us through it that we may live each day in faith toward You and
in fervent love toward one another;**
- Pastor: through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- People: Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- People: Amen.**

CLOSING SONG "He Shall Reign Forevermore"

VERSE 1

In the bleak mid-winter,
all creation groans
For a world in darkness,
frozen like a stone
Light is breaking,
in a stable for a throne

CHORUS

**And He shall reign forevermore,
forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore,
forevermore
Unto us a Child is born,
the King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore,
forevermore**

VERSE 2

If I were a wise man,
I would travel far
If I were a shepherd,
I would do my part
But poor as I am,
I will give to Him my heart

CHORUS

BRIDGE

Here within a manger lies,
the One who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice;
Christ the Messiah
Into our hopes into our fears,
the Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years;
Christ the Messiah

CHORUS

**He shall reign forevermore,
forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore,
forevermore!
He shall reign forevermore,
forevermore
And He shall reign forevermore,
forevermore
Unto us a Child is born,
the King of kings and Lord of lords
And He shall reign forevermore,
forevermore**

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thank be to God!**

	10:00 am	<p><u>Prayer Support Team:</u> Pastor Art & Kathy Gillespie</p> <p><u>Sound & Tech Crew:</u> Justin P. & Peter L.</p> <p><u>December Altar Guild:</u> 8:30am Deb Reiling 11:00am Kathy Gillespie & Carolyn Salsieder</p> <p><u>December Offering Counters:</u> Joel & Jeanine Helms</p>
Elder	Susan Roby	
Acolyte	Jacob Kanelos	
Ushers	Mark Salsieder	
Communion	Susan Roby Doug Piercy	
Lector	Peter Renner	



Sacred Communion Values

As baptized Christians, having received instruction in the Holy Sacrament; our precious Savior and Lord Jesus Christ invites us to His Holy Meal in which we receive the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. Before we receive the Holy Sacrament, we should:

- a) Examine our relationship with God & others according to the Ten Commandments;
- b) Truly repent of our sins and seek forgiveness in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord;
- c) Faithfully believe God's Word which teaches us that in, with, and under the bread and wine we receive the true body and blood of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ;
- d) By the working of the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, commit our life as a redeemed disciple of Jesus Christ through thought, word, and deed.



**Emmanuel
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CHURCH & SCHOOL
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Scott Hausman (*Chair Rep.*), **Rojeanous Rush** (*V-Chair/Music & Worship*),
Steve Ude (*Parish*), **Deb DeBerry** (*School*),
Neil Pursley (*Outreach & Family*), **Ed Lopez** (*Secretary & Youth*),
Peter Renner (EMT), **Eugene Edwards & Rich Bair**

Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 29

Tuesday, December 30

Wednesday, December 31

12:00pm Midweek Worship Service

Thursday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Friday, January 2

6:00pm Pickleball in the gym

Saturday, January 3

Sunday, January 4

8:30m Traditional Worship Service

9:45am Sunday school

9:45am Adult Bible Study

11:00am Blended Worship Service

Post-Service Prayer Ministry Support (Altar)

Food Pantry is closed

5:00pm High School Youth Group

Upcoming Member Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS:

12/28 Amy Skopak

12/29 Richard Clough

12/29 Eli Allen

12/30 Hans Meulenberg

12/31 Mindy Stackhouse

1/1 Janet Hollar

1/4 Deb Herman

ANNIVERSARIES:

12/28 James & Judy Stoltenberg

12/30 Daniel & Jamie Leyva

Last Sunday's Attendance & Stats

In-person

Services: 8:30am - 53

11:00am - 98

Online

Website: 24

FB: 9

Previous Week's Offerings

General Offering Received: \$ 50,519.39

Building Funds Received: \$ 25.00

***Weekly Offering Budget: \$ (12817.31)**

CHURCH STAFF:

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Skopak

Director of Christian Education: Alexi Lundquist

Parish Administrator: Dirk Wilmoth

Business Administrator: Gail Thomas

Finance Asst.: Leigh Horsley

Office Asst. Church & ECE, Benefits Mgr: Amy Skopak

Admin. Asst.: Anitta Charlson

Church Music and Sound Director: Heather Meulenberg

Organist: Lula Meulenberg;

Digital Media : Peter Linton

Hospitality Ministry: Shirley Parker

Facilities Mgmt: Neil Seidler, Mike Rush, Neil Pursley

SCHOOL K-8:

Principal/STEAM: Mark Edmiston

Admin. Assistant: Shari Reaves

Asst. Principal/MS English: Denise Ball

Director of Admissions: Emily Leatherwood

Kindergarten: Kim Noel & Jamie Wertham

First Grade: Kerry Stead /Mackenzie Knapp

Second Grade: Leigh Weaver

Third Grade/Curriculum Coordinator: Kiara Studer

Fourth Grade: Chelsey Towery

Fifth Grade: Emily Lundquist

MS Science: Leigh Conner

MS Math: Jenelle Lanham

MS Social Studies: Mindy Stackhouse

PE/Athletic Director: Jennifer Jenkins "Coach J"

Art: Tammy Reilly

Music & Spanish: A.L. Brown

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:

Director: Nicole Loria

Admin Assist: Carolyn Mashburn

Younger Infants: Paula Jones and Rachel Bishop

Older Infants: Becky Swatzell & Hydeia Beck

Toddlers 1: Lindsey Smathers & Mikayla Gulbrand

Toddler2: Neesie Castillo

PS2: Veronica Milner

PS-2/3: Amy Bair and Julia Sherman

PS3: Madison McDonald and Jasmine Riddle

PS3/4: Robin Rutherford & DeAsia Little

PreK-1: Madison Peach & Cleo Green

PreK-2: Faith Noell & Crystal McCormick

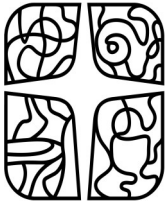
Floating Aid: Felicia Norton

Cafeteria: Kristen Warren and Mikaela Bennett

ELC Grab-N-Go Sunday Food Pantry

Sunday 11/09

149 Households, 598 Individuals served



Emmanuel Lutheran Prayer List December 28, 2025

These are people in need of prayers this week.

“Lord Jesus we commend into Your hands the needs of people that go through challenges of many kinds. You know their joys, troubles, illnesses, and fears. We now commend them to You.”

Prayers for good health, swift healing, & favor:

- * **George Banjak - Had surgery on a fractured hip and is now in rehab**
- * **Pastor Dan and Rachel Kelm and family - Daughter Lydia passed away Dec 20th**
- * Parker’s and extended family - Bill’s cousin, Gary Jones, passed away Dec. 18th after a long cancer battle
- * Renners & extended family - Dave Boudreau, FIL of Marty Renner passed away suddenly
- Jacob Spears, from L. Baldwin’s sister’s church, released from hospital after Brown U. Shooting needs PT to help with walking. Please pray for his continued physical & mental healing. He found out that the friend who was shot with him died
- Ann Bolinsky - (Bair’s BIL’s mom) 85yo with dementia recently fell and is struggling with rehab
- Gary Pursley - (N.Pursley’s brother) pray for God to soften his heart toward Jesus and for his salvation
- * John Jennejahn– prayers for healing after knee and stomach surgery
- Barbara Clark - Healing prayers after a fall
- * Sarah Nix—(Hufnagle’s daughter) - prayers as she continues to heal from 2 strokes.
- * Keith Novak - Prayers for his kidney issues
- * Rick Herman - Healing and recovery after quadruple bypass
- Craig Dayton (Parker family) had a stroke recently and in a 2-year battle with cancer
- Linda & Ken Tilley - (DGordon’s parents) mom is recovering from cancer and dad is losing sight
- * Tylaine Williams (S.Ude friend) diagnosed w/cancer starting chemo
- Patty & Newt Etheridge (D.Meyer friends) cancer
- * Eugene Edwards - kidney issues
- * Camille Sawyer (friend of S.Edwards) auto-immune deficiency issue
- Carol and family caregivers - (B. Sullivan’s niece) recuperating at home after hospital stay
- Jonah Lewis - healing after stroke
- * Sharon Norris - physical therapy for injured back
- Jennie Buckner - (C.Cline friend) Colon cancer & copd
- McKenzie - (Samantha Parker’s daughter) for health & well-being
- Rev. Dr. John Groh - (D.Groh’s bro.) had a stroke/cannot talk
- Nicole - (S. Rauschenplat niece of BIL) Aggressive breast cancer
- Barbara Haseley - (I.Lopez Grandmother) Breast Cancer
- Ron Gill - (D.Meyer friend) Cancer
- Alice & Dawn -(J.Kearley friends) both have breast cancer
- Zeb Dowdle (N. Black, best friend) Needs kidney transplant
- * = *Emmanuel Lutheran Church Members*

Prayers for those with long-term illnesses & conditions:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Harold Neuenkirchen * Ken Treadway * Lorenzo Lopez * Peg Hardesty * Jim Clark * Steve Taylor * Mary Hufnagle * Sharon Pruett * Emily Nieting * Cynthia Cline * Helen Cline * Marjorie Locke * Julia Kearley * C.J. Reece * Mike Fastenau * Ray Bailey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Poppenhagen Rev. Mark Spelzhausen (J. Gibney, friend) Donna Logeman (E.Lundquist, mother) Nancy Hutchins (G. Bailey, friend) Ann Downs (K. Emory, mother) Ann Melious (McCarthy family) Carol Harris (S.Ude’s friend) Robin Worley (J.Kearley’s friend) Chris Alstrin (L.Schulhof, friend) Ron Riddle (B. King, friend) Erin Y. (J. Thomas, friend) Ralph Ector, Jr & Sr (S.Edwards, family) Tyrone Ayres (S. Edwards, friend) Lynn White (S. Edwards, cousin) Randy Booker (J. Kearley, brother-in-law) Todd Sluder (C. Piercy, friend) Mary Walker (D. Meyer, aunt) Brandon Talofuse, Newton Crave (E.Bailey) Cynthia Bright - (C.Brucker’s friend) |
|--|---|

PRAYERS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBER BROTHERS & SISTERS

◇ K. Ray Bailey	◇ Carol Cook	◇ Isabelle Hempel
◇ Teenie Smathers	◇ Marjorie Locke	◇ Andre & Lori Benson
◇ Ken & Carol Treadway	◇ Helen Cline	◇ Gerry & Peg Hardesty
◇ Jim & Judy Clark	◇ Clela McCall	

Healing Scripture and Prayer for this week:

"Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God." (Colossians 4:2)

Holy Spirit, You are the Lord and Giver of life, and You have worked a faith relationship with Jesus within us, the Jesus who is the Resurrection and the Life. Come to those who mourn the loss of loved ones. Help them to remember the tears Jesus shed at the grave of His good friend Lazarus, and the hope of everlasting life where You will wipe away every tear from our eyes. Stay close to them now and in the time ahead and in the heartache they are experiencing. Wrap them in the strong arms of Your love and in the promise that You will never leave them or forsake them. We pray in the Name of the living Lord Jesus, Amen.

December 28, 2025
You Can't Micromanage Salvation
Isaiah 63:7-14

*He started at the _____ position our world knows - as a baby.
He was born in the _____ place imaginable - in a cattle stall.
In spite of these "weaknesses" this baby became our _____*

- I. He Has to do the Work of _____
 - A. The Prophet Isaiah covers several periods of Israel's _____
 - 1. The first _____ chapters call down God's judgment on Israel in preparation for the Babylonian captivity
 - 2. The last _____ chapters give comfort to a people who were then suffering the results of their sin
 - a. _____ years of captivity
 - b. And then chapter _____ comes along - a reminder
 - B. A reminder of how the Israelites were delivered from _____ circumstances in the past
 - 1. Not by a _____ or an _____ - but by His own presence
 - a. In His _____ and _____ He redeemed them
 - b. Exodus _____
 - 2. There are certain things - impossible things - _____ things - that God does allow to be "micro-managed" in a certain type of way
 - a. Although an angel attended to Jesus after the temptation in the wilderness, and the angel _____ told Mary she would have a child, there are some things so important that only God himself will handle them
 - b. And what is that? The _____ of the World
- II. He is Motivated by _____ and _____
 - A. God knew we could not accomplish our own _____
 - 1. And so we celebrate the _____ of _____

2. God didn't redeem His people because He thought they would be _____

- a. Isaiah _____
- b. The people would praise God for His _____

- B. God feels _____ for us
 - 1. Like a mother who has _____ for her infant child
 - 2. His compassion is _____ and sincere
 - 3. He gave Jesus in the manger because He _____ you and wants to see you in Heaven

- III. He is Worthy of _____ Others About
 - A. Consider what are your favorite Christmas _____
 - 1. What do they do? They _____ the story
 - 2. A story of _____ and _____
 - B. This love and compassion of God comes to us today in the _____ and _____
 - 1. No matter how our Christmas measured up, we can always look to the _____ and see God's love for you
 - 2. Boundless, limitless, _____ and salvation for the world!

*The message of Christmas is
that we have a
_____ and kind
Lord who began to
manage our salvation in the
_____*

