First Fruits

December 2026 Volume 32, Number 12

Worship Ministry



MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE
This year we are planning to have one mid-week Advent service on Wednesday evening at First Lutheran December 2nd at 7 PM.



THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM, WILL BE ON DECEMBER 13 DURING THE 9 AM WORSHIP SERVICE AT FIRST LUTHERAN.
Come enjoy the program and fellowship!





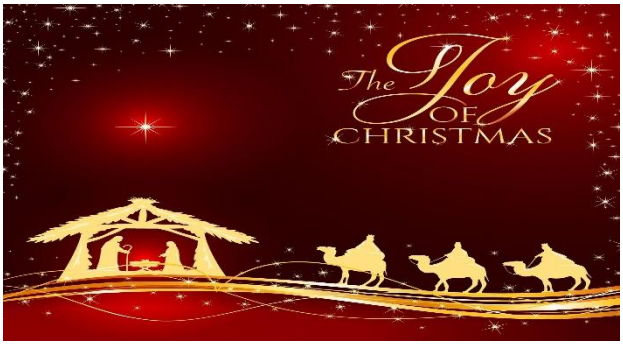
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

4:30 PM – First Lutheran Worship
6:30 PM – Corydon Worship
6:00-7:00 PM – Radio Broadcast

QUILTS FOR THE ALTAR!
Members have been sharing quilts to be displayed on the alter. Thanks you to:
FLC: Amanda Smith and Julie Goetsch
CTS: Ann Sipma and Carolyn Hutton



Discipleship Ministry



RADIO BROADCAST

Ways to listen at 10:30 AM each Sunday morning:
KIIC Radio – 96.7 FM (Albia)
kiicradio.com -- website
(click on the "Listen Live" button)
If you miss the broadcast on Sunday, you can also catch it as a podcast on the church's website.

RADIO BROADCAST SPONSORS NEEDED FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

The cost of a weekly sponsorship is $35. Sponsor a weekly broadcast for any occasion, an anniversary, a birthday, in memory or honor of someone, we invite you to consider giving a gift to sponsor the broadcast. If you would like to sponsor a Sunday morning broadcast, please call the church office. You can also put a check in the offering plate or mail indicating it is for radio sponsorship. Sponsorships are $35.

Broadcast Sponsors:

December 6 Friends in the Des Moines Area
December 13 Rod and Gayle Bortz in honor of Rod's birthday
December 20 John & Arta Harman in honor of their 72nd wedding anniversary
December 27 Daeb Clark in honor of son Michael Clark's birthday



Stewardship Ministry

Annual Meetings and Potluck Dinners

Christ the Servant
Sunday, January 10, 2027
Everyone is welcome to attend the annual meeting for ministry at Christ the Servant in Corydon. The meeting will begin about noon following regular Sunday worship. A potluck meal will be shared after the business portion of the meeting is concluded.

First Lutheran
Sunday, January 17, 2027
On this day, Christ the Servant and First Lutheran will gather for joint worship at Chariton beginning at 9 AM. The business meeting will follow at around 10:15 AM. Following the business items of the day, we will join in the sharing of a potluck meal in the Fireside Room. Those who are able are invited are encouraged to bring a dish to share with others.

DECEMBER IS DENTAL HEALTH MONTH at the Ministries Center.

Examples would be toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, dental floss ect. Please consider help with this ministry! The Ministry Center also needs volunteers!



Ministry Center hours:
Open M/W/F 9:30-11:30 AM
410 S. 7TH ST. – 774-8146

Salvation Army Assistance available during open hours. Don't forget the blessing boxes found around town can use donations, too!

⁘⁘⁘On the Vine

FLC WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE will meet on Tuesday, December 1, at 10 AM.

BREAKFAST GALS will meet at Hardees on Tuesday, December 8, at 8 AM.

CTS BLANKET MAKING will meet on Tuesday, December 8, 9 AM – 3 PM.

THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA will gather at FLC on Thursday, December 10, at 1 PM.

LUTHERAN ADULT FELLOWSHIP (LAF) will meet on Sunday, December 13, at 5 PM. A card game will be played in memory of Ernie Rasmussen. Please bring a white elephant gift. Earl & Linda Comstock will host.

LAPLANDERS QUILT GUILD AT CTS will meet on Monday, December 14, at 2 PM.

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Monday, December 14, at 6:30 PM.

As we enjoy the Advent and Christmas season together, please note that there will be **no Adult Bible Study at First Lutheran during December** and **no Confirmation Classes during December.**





NOISY OFFERINGS!! Please consider bringing your loose change to church on Sundays and "noisily" depositing it in the pot! Offering December through March at First Lutheran will go to Tuesday Together. Offerings December – 2027 at Christ the Servant will go to Counting Sheep.



THE SNOW REMOVAL SCHEDULE is now posted on the bulletin board in the Fireside Room. Please check your schedule to see when you may be able to help with this ministry and sign up on the posted schedule. If you prefer, you can call the church office (641-774-4875) and have Tracy put you on the schedule. Please consider helping with this important ministry.





CINNAMON ROLL SUNDAY

The youth are raising money for future activities. The third Sunday of the month cinnamon rolls will be available after church for a free will donation. Mark your calendars for the third Sunday of the month – the youth will be happy to serve you.

MARDI GRAS DINNER



Join us for an evening of good food, fellowship, and fun! First Lutheran will host a Mardi Gras Dinner on February 3 at 5:30 p.m. for all members of First Lutheran and Christ the Servant. Everyone is welcome as we gather around the table to enjoy a catered meal and time together. A sign-up sheet will be available.

Pastoral Pondering . . . . . .

"For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress…. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear." *(Isa. 65:17-24)*

When the prophet Isaiah wrote these beautiful words, he was speaking at a time of great upheaval. Isaiah was speaking to the faithful remnant of followers who had returned to Jerusalem, after 40 years in exile, only to find their temple in ruins. These were the words spoken in the midst of fear and despair. They grieved a future that was not supposed to be.

Our nation just experienced a significant change in national leadership, prices for food, gas, and utilities are high, tension remains between the United States and a number of foreign countries, corporations are laying off employees, and families are experiencing significant tension. For some, they are looking forward with excitement, while others are looking forward in fear and trepidation. The future of our nation is uncertain. But as Isaiah so beautifully described, God's future is not uncertain. God is already at work, redeeming what is and creating what will be. We already know how the story will turn out.

We in the church remember that God holds our future. God's future is not hateful or dismissive or confused. God's vision is creative, participatory, and filled with joy.

That is the future we claim and the future we build upon, with God's help, here at First Lutheran and Christ the Servant Lutheran Churches.

So, as we enter Advent and Christmas moving forward, let us do so with hope and with joy, keeping our eyes and hearts fixed on God's vision. Let us be faithful to the work before us, as we participate in God's story for all humanity.

To us **"***A child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon*
His shoulders,
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne
of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this: *(Isa.9:6f)*

May the wonderful blessings of Christ's birth fill your days with wonder and joy, comfort and assurance.

Pastor Dick

Re:Newed

Baptismal Anniversaries

During December, we remember and give thanks for the baptisms of:

12/4	Alex Kuball	12/16	Angelynne Coleman
12/5	Joanne Fletcher	12/16	Callen Coleman
12/6	Arta Harman	12/18	Christine Atwell
12/6	Monte Brown	12/22	Devon Brown
12/9	Rob Johansen	12/23	Kim Francisco
12/16	Marissa Coleman	12/25	Deb Clark
12/16	Wesley Coleman		

Thanks be to Jesus for the saving waters of baptism!

(In baptism, we all are made one in Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, neither male nor female, neither Chariton nor Corydon! Are we missing your baptismal anniversary? Let us know! Tell us the story of your baptism!)





DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

CORYDON ANNIVERSARIES

12/19	John & Arta Harman
12/31	Jean & Shorty Wilson

CHARITON ANNIVERSARIES

12/10	Kent & Cameron Storm
12/28	Dave & Lana Kuball





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

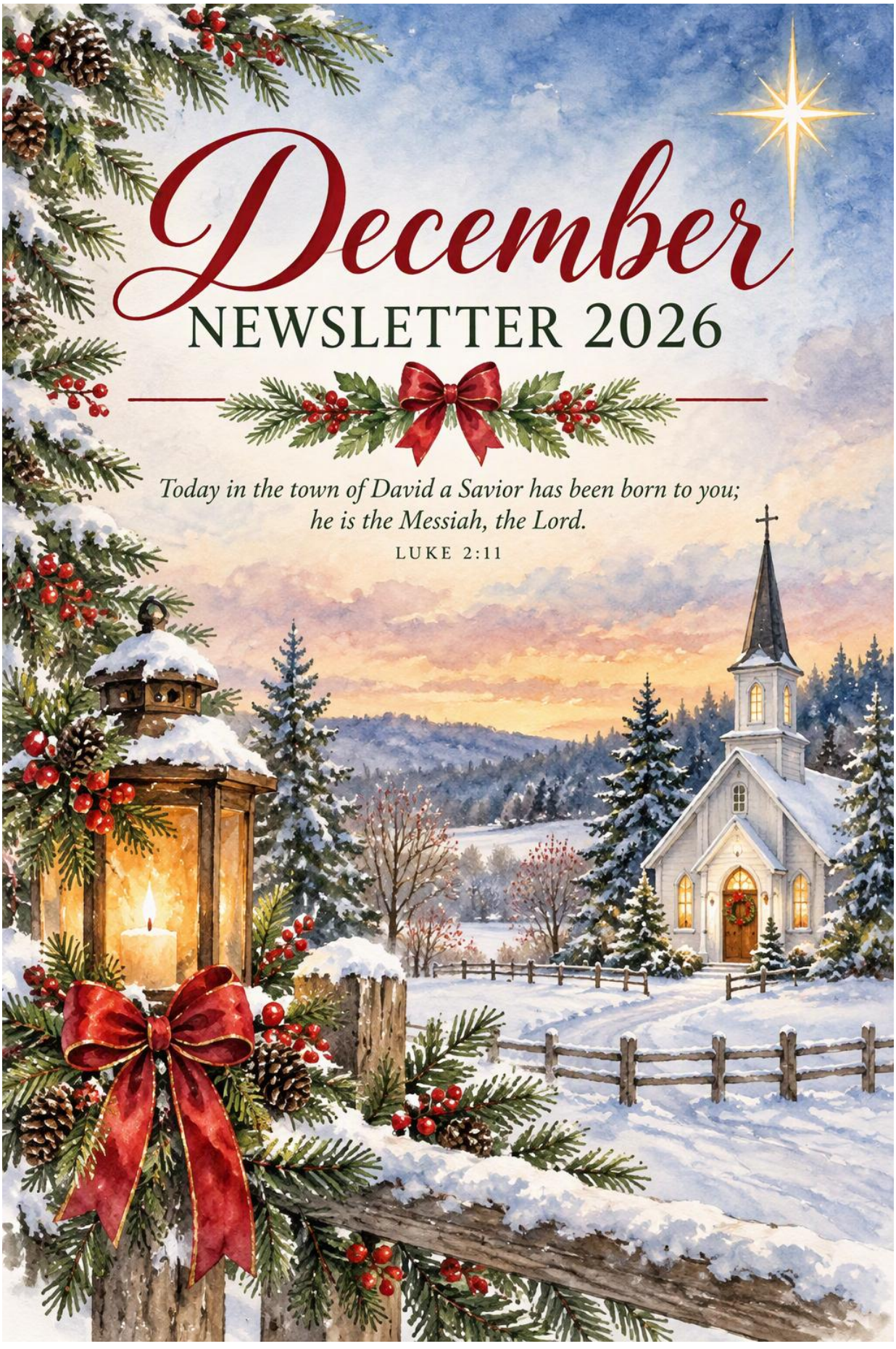
CORYDON BIRTHDAYS

12/8	Bill Miller
12/10	Wendy Foster
12/11	Becky Allen

CHARITON BIRTHDAYS

12/1	Mark White
12/3	Devon Brown
12/5	Alena Umbenhower
12/7	Jaxson Mehlert
12/11	Rhonda White
12/12	Zachary Fisher
12/14	Del Kray
12/15	Tim McGee
12/16	Christina Umbenhower
12/17	Amanda Buckalew
12/19	Rod Bortz
12/21	Tanner Duey
12/28	Chris Kuball
12/31	Nicki Brown

Please contact Tracy in the office at (641) 774-4875 or email flccharition@iowatelecom.net if you have any corrections to the directory. An updated directory will be published in 2027.


December
NEWSLETTER 2026
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is the Messiah, the Lord.
LUKE 2:11