

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Winter has arrived in full force with snow, frigid temps, and hats, gloves, boots, and coats. While I missed having you all in the sanctuary last Sunday, I'm grateful that we have the technology to still connect, worship, and hear God's Word proclaimed online without worry of anyone having to travel to church in conditions that were still less than ideal still Sunday morning. (Living close to the church and having 4-wheel drive was helpful for and my Tech Team and I to make it to church safely to live stream to you all from the sanctuary!)

I hope you have the opportunity to make it to Christmas Traditions this Saturday! It's a day of cookies, and candies, and pies, OH MY! And, so much more! This is an endeavor that the entire church pours itself into for 11 months out of the year. Your support of this event helps support local missions, our community, camp scholarships, mission trips, VBS, and more! I made sure to pre-order some items for our family, and I'm looking forward to having a couple of chicken casseroles in my freezer for an easy, cozy, delicious dinner.

Last week in worship, we talked about Vigilant Hope and how even though the vision of Isaiah was not fulfilled in his lifetime, Jesus encourages us to wait well because **hope is still relevant!** We wait well by loving God, loving others, and by imagining and embodying ways to make our communities less violent, more compassionate, and kinder.

Let's gather together this week for our second week of "The Will to Dream," where we will explore Prophetic Peace.

See you in worship!

Pastor Becky

### **Ways to share LOVE with those experiencing Food Insecurity**

**Donate Items for the Upper Rock Island County Food Pantry located at Messiah Lutheran Church.** Immediate needs: Cereal, Pancake Mix, Syrup, Ketchup, and Ranch Dressing. Long-Term/Ongoing: Side dishes like Rice-a-Roni, Noodle Roni, or Microwavable Rice Packets Small bottles of cooking oil (Dollar General does sell), Meat, eggs, and dairy. ***Be sure that your donations are within the "best by/best use" expiration date and that the item has not been opened. The food pantry cannot accept items that are expired.*** Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry!

### **Support places that support the people with your prayers, presence, or gifts:**

Two Rivers UMC Weekly Meal Sight [Service – Two Rivers Church](#)

Cafe on Vine [Building Community One Meal At A Time | Café On Vine](#)

NEST Cafe [NEST](#)

### **Ways to share LOVE with our neighbors at Whispering Hills**

**Items for Mission Welcome Kits:** The Mission Committee is preparing ongoing Welcome Kits for new residents at Whispering Hills. The following items are needed: shampoo, body soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dish soap, small laundry detergent, cleaning wipes, small all-purpose cleaner, single-roll paper towels, and a 4-pack of toilet paper. Thank you for your donations and support of this local mission!

### **Ways to share LOVE with victims of Hurricane Melissa**

**UMCOR International Disaster Response** (Advance # 982450) <https://igrc.brtapp.com/page/donate/umcor-international>  
**Midwest Mission Hurricane Relief** (Advance # 6620) <https://give.midwestmission.org/donate/hurricanerelief>

### **Ways to share LOVE with the Leesman Family**

**Prayers: Pray! Pray! Pray!** Please continue to PRAY!

**Meals or monetary donations:** If you would like to donate a meal, please contact Kathy. Monetary donations towards fuel for Erin and/or takeout meals while she and the kids travel to Peoria can also be made. Please let any of us know, and we will make sure she receives it.

**Child care:** If you would enjoy spending some time with Lewis and Wesley, Please let us know if this interests you.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**If you need anything church related, please contact Pastor Becky, Nikki, or Kathy until further notice.**

Pastor Becky: 309-292-2287  
Nikki Stuart: 309-738-8099  
Kathy Mahraun: 646-729-3919

**If you would like to schedule an event at the church,** contact Steph at 309-848-4050 or [portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com). She will provide you with the building agreement, policies, and forms to book the date on the church calendar.

**Steph's Office Hours:** Wednesday 8 am-12 pm, Thursdays 8-10 am

**Every Wednesday-** GROW: a faith community for youth in grades 6-12. Doors open at 6:30 pm, Dinner is at 7:00 pm, and Discipleship Activities 7:30-8:30 pm.

**Every Sunday-** Discipleship Groups for PreK-12th Grade 9:30 am-10:15 am

We're excited to announce our **2026 Summer Youth Service Trip to Detroit, Michigan**, to partner with **Motown Mission** as we serve and learn more about city and our neighbors who live

there. We have 20 youth spots reserved for students in grades 8-12 for the week of July 19-25, 2026. See Pastor Becky for more information! Deposits and paperwork are due by February 1<sup>st</sup>. Incentives for those who register early!

### **Coming Up-**

\*If you/your family/your friend would like to be an Advent reader, please let Pastor Becky know!

#### **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Traditions 9-noon!

Tiny Tour of Homes-Create a gingerbread house based on your favorite storybook to be put on display!

Christmas Traditions Home Tour 10 am-1 pm.

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**-Communion Sunday during worship

**Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**-P3 2-4:30 pm

**Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**-Angel Tree gifts due back to the church

**Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**-SPRC Meeting

**Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**-Pastor Becky attends Upper Rock Island County Ministerial Association Lunch Meeting, noon at The Brothers

**Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**-Children collect Noisy Offering for Missions after Children's Moment

**Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**-Christmas Eve Celebration Service 7 pm. We will have a time of fellowship following the service.

If the 7 pm time does not work for you, or you prefer a quieter, more reflective Christmas Eve, the Sanctuary will be open and available until 10 pm for anyone to come and sit in the presence of God in that place, surrounded by the lights all aglow.