

Creekside Church of the Brethren Connection

December 2024



*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
Praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven!" Luke 2:13-14a*

Advent is the season when the Church anticipates and prepares for the coming of Jesus as a baby born to a Jewish couple in the city of Bethlehem. This year at Creekside our Advent theme will be **Gloria**. We have purchased copies of the Brethren Press Advent devotional by Laura Stone, titled *Sing Gloria!* Here is a portion of her introduction:

When . . . scriptures and songs resonate, they hit particular spiritual frequencies that vibrate through each one of us differently. When they resonate through a community of Jesus-followers, or down through the generations, they vibrate with all kinds of spiritual frequencies that create a depth, fullness, and power that rings with a beautiful kind of magic God has crafted into creation.

This is one reason why we sing so much at Christmas, why we return again and again to the old stories, and why these stories and songs are so important to us. We have been created in such a way that we resonate with them. These stories and songs are keyed to resonate through our lives and amplify our faith and our life together, even as we amplify their meaning into the world.

In addition to the songs and stories of Advent and Christmas, our worship services will focus on the spiritual frequency of joy: not only how often it happens, but where it comes from, how we recognize it, and how it resonates within us when our hearts and lives are in tune. The children's messages will focus on various characters in the Christmas story and how they might have experienced joy. You will be invited to join your voices with the angels who proclaimed "Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

I love Laura's phrase, "the beautiful kind of magic God has crafted into creation." My prayer is that each of us would seek and find that kind of magic as we prepare for Christmas. Whether it is the joy of distant starlight or a quiet snowfall, the joy of gathering for worship with your church family, or the joy of welcoming a new baby to your family, these are all ways which we can resonate with God's joy and celebrate the joy of Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you and your family for this Christmas season. May you repeat the sounding joy of Christ's birth wherever you go.

In Christ,
Pastor Rosanna

PASTOR'S REPORT

As we approach the month of December, it is well to take some moments for reflection and gratitude. It has been a bittersweet year, with the passing of some beloved members of Creekside Church, and a member of the McFadden family. We also have much to celebrate in the ways that our ministries continue and that you continue to demonstrate what it means to be the body of Christ. Thank you for your hours of service, your imagination and creativity for Creekside programs, and your generous financial support. We have tried some new things this year, like the Family Jamboree, and have continued to serve our neighbors with fresh vegetables and local honey, with hygiene kits, clean-up buckets, and baking opportunities.

November has been a busy month for me with Advent planning and preparation. Many thanks to Worship Team members, Property Team helpers, and to Tim Morphew and Maryann Zerbe who contributed their woodworking and sewing skills for our worship supplies; it takes a lot of preparation to get ready to prepare! It was a joy to be part of a baby shower for Mark Garcia and Tiara Marcin on November 3, and to receive new members on November 17. I am thankful for those of you who were able to contribute to our congregational meeting that day; I am part of a team which will be working on a contract with Elim Ministry and sharing those details with you in early 2025.

Tim and I will spend Thanksgiving with family in Indiana, and will be leaving on December 26 for a week with family in California. My mom will turn 94 on January 2, 2025, and our children and grandchildren will join us to celebrate that day with her. Steve Ganger will be filling the pulpit at Creekside on December 29.

Blessings for all your preparation for the Christmas season, and thank you for the ways you have been part of the body of Christ at Creekside in 2024.

Pastor Rosanna

FROM THE CHURCH BOARD:

Greetings from Church Board! It's been another busy month for the board working through the budget and other items in preparation for the fall Congregational Business meeting. Thank you all for your participation and sharing during that meeting; thank you to the team leaders for their team reports and a special thanks to Emilie Blough for her leadership. As I enter my final year on church board I am excited about welcoming the new board members Mike Kaufman and Karen Snyder and grateful for the 6 years of service from Becky Miller and Larry Ford. It's awesome to see this kind of commitment and truly reflects our theme "everybody for the body".

As promised during the fall meeting and previously discussed, the board has assembled a team to work directly with the folks from Elim Ministries. Deana Ward, Mike & Deb Kaufman and Pastor Rosanna will draft a building use agreement to be presented to the board and Elim and I'm confident that this will be done with great thoughtfulness and care. More news to come as we formalize our agreement with this ministry.

And finally, look elsewhere in this Connection issue for an update on the Raise the Roof campaign. There's exciting news about timing, contractors, cost and the latest donation totals that were shared in this month's board meeting.

Scott Harney, Church Board chair

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who have kept me in your thoughts and prayers during this year, and for all the cards.
Doris McFarren



Calling all cookie bakers, candy and treat makers:

We are on the home stretch! Creekside's annual **Cookie-Candy Walk** is almost here!

Saturday, December 7 from 8:00 am - noon

Here are a few reminders:

- Invite people to come!
- Keep baking/making your holiday cookies, candy or treats. Consider making an extra item this year!
- Bring your items to Creekside on **Friday, Dec. 6 (9-12 or 3-6) or by 7:15 am on Saturday, Dec. 7.**
 - Please label your container with the name of the treat as well as an ingredient list, **especially if there are nuts of any kind.**
 - Make sure your name is on your containers
 - Please let us know if you need packaging for specialty items; we have bakery boxes of varying sizes and treat bags.
- **Cookie-Candy Walk Set-up** is Friday, December 6 from 9 am - noon.
 - We will be frosting and packaging buttermilk cookies as well as setting up the Gathering Area.
- **Day of event:** if you are helping with the early shift, plan to arrive by 7:30 am.

Above all, hold the people and the many details of the Cookie-Candy Walk in your prayers; may we be a blessing to our guests and to each other.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of this event!

Let's make this the best Cookie-Candy Walk ever!

Diane Lund and Deb Kauffman



OUTREACH HAT & MITTEN TREE

Outreach Team is requesting winter hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves to be donated to children and adults in our community. Hang donations on or place them under the tree inside the doors of the Gathering Area beginning **Sunday, December 1.**

Thank you for sharing with our neighbors in this way. God bless you—

Pastor Rosanna, for Outreach Team

'TITHE OF TIME' COOKIE-MAKING WITH SPA

We have invited you to consider a "tithe of time," rather than a financial donation to outreach this year. Creekside members have already volunteered at Soup of Success and Susanna's Kitchen in Elkhart. On **Monday, December 9**, ladies from SPA Ministries will come to Creekside to bake and assemble cookie platters for their family and friends. You are invited to come between 1 and 4 pm to help that day; come as you are able, even if you cannot stay for the entire three hours.

Thanks to Deana Ward from Outreach Team for her planning—sign up in the Gathering Area or talk to Deana if you can help. Ingredients for the cookies are being purchased with funds from the Doris Walters memorial. We are blessed to honor Doris and serve our neighbors in this way.

Pastor Rosanna, for Outreach

SINGERS ALOUD!

You are invited to participate in choir for Christmas Eve! We have some great anthems chosen, and Diane Lund has graciously agreed to accompany us. A daytime rehearsal allows for the greatest participation from folks who have sung in choir before. If you would love to sing but can't make the rehearsals listed below, please talk to Pastor Rosanna. If you will *not* be available on December 24, let me know. You do not have to be present at every rehearsal in order to sing with us. The schedule is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, December 10 | 10-11:30 am |
| Friday, December 13 | 10-11:30 am |
| Sing Sunday, Dec. 15 | practice at 8:45 that morning |
| Tuesday December 17 | 10-11:30 am |
| [Wed, Dec 18, if needed] | |
| Sing Tues, December 24 | Service begins at 7, practice at 6 pm |

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Creekside's Christmas Eve service will be at 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 24th. The service includes scripture readings, singing, candlelighting, and bread and cup communion. A time of fellowship will follow.

You are warmly encouraged to invite friends and family to celebrate with us at Creekside. Childcare for pre-school age children will be provided.

Pastor Rosanna, for Worship Team



CAMP MACK CORNER

Upcoming Events:

December 7 Wreaths and Swags Get-A-Way Day: Make a traditional Williamsburg Wreath, Christmas wreath, or a swag using greens and fresh fruit to grace your door this Christmas season. 9a–12p. Ulrich basement. \$35 (includes lunch and all materials). Bring gloves.

December 7&8 Christmas Cookies Get-A-Way Day: Camp provides ingredients, measuring utensils, and mixing bowls. You bring the family and friends, mix the dough, and decorate cookies. Camp cleans up the mess! Choose 4 batches of cookies (each makes about 3 dozen). Saturday 9a–1p or 12p–4p. Sunday 12p–4p. *The Saturday morning session is currently full.* \$55 (1 lunch and all baking materials included; option to add additional meals and batches of cookies). Bring an apron and containers to take home your cookies. Leader: Jess Kreider. Choose from chocolate chip, chocolate crinkles, gingersnaps, sugar, monster, oatmeal raisin, peanut butter, snickerdoodles, snowballs, or butter cookies (pre-baked and ready to decorate).

December 21 Summer Staff Reunion!

Dec 30–Jan 3 Winter Break Day Camp: Spend your school breaks with Camp Mack. Your day will be filled with fun exploring nature, doing crafts, enjoying free play, making new friends, playing games, and enjoying what camp has to offer. Adult to child ratio, 1:10. Grades: Kindergarten–5th grade. \$150 with additional fees for before and after care. Some scholarships may be available. 8:30a–3:30p with options for before and after care.

Thank you for your continued support! We are sincerely grateful that you volunteer, donate, and pray.

Prayer Request: Please pray for positive guest experiences throughout retreat season. We continue to have an open position of an evening closing kitchen supervisor.



Raise the Roof!

The Raise the Roof total as of November 18 is \$43,505.65. Your generous response to this campaign to raise \$50,000 by April 2025 has allowed our Property Team to negotiate 2024 prices for the work to be done in May of 2025. We cannot say "Thank you" often enough; your response as a congregation has been inspiring.

The campaign is not completed: if we reach (and exceed!) our goal of \$50,000, we may not need to use any funds from the William Pletcher memorial. We will still need to replenish our "rainy day" Capital Improvements fund for future repairs. 100% of donations to Raise the Roof! will be added to the Capital Improvement Fund. Thank you for investing in future needs at Creekside.

Pastor Rosanna, for the Church Board

A NOTE FROM EVERENCE

End of year reminder – Everence provides creative giving tools: As we enter the season of giving, Everence offers a number of ways to increase your charitable impact.

Open up new roads of generosity with gifts of a range of assets, and Everence can help you coordinate, manage and administer those gifts into real and lasting impact.

Consider gifts beyond cash – securities, real estate, life insurances, farm commodities, collectibles and more.

Remember to make qualified charitable distributions (QCD) from your taxable IRA before the end of 2024.

Qualified charitable distributions are made directly to the eligible charity and don't increase taxable income.

Create a charitable giving plan with an Everence professional. Learn more at everence.com/charitable-giving.

Larry Ford, Everence Advocate



DECEMBER

| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fri | Sat |
|----|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | | | | |

BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Ellis, Donald
- 10 Metcalf, Bryce
- 12 De Pue, Stephen
- 12 Kauffman, Deb
- 16 Hostetler, Doris
- 22 Neal, Roger
- 25 Bollinger, Grace
- 29 Stutsman, Mike

ANNIVERSARIES

- 15 Kauffman, Mike & Deb
- 20 Foland, Ted & Lynne
- 28 Rodgers, Rick & Valerie

EVENTS

- 1 Nicodemus Deacon Group lunch
- 6 Cookie Walk set-up, 9-12
Cookie drop off, 9-12 & 3-6 pm
- 7 Cookie/Candy Walk, 8-12
- 8 Church reserved, 1-5 pm
- 9 Cookie baking with SPA, 1-4 pm
- 10 Choir, 10-11:30 am
Brunch at Angel's, 10:45 am
- 13 Choir, 10-11:30 am
Game Night, 7:00 pm
- 15 Choir, 8:45 am
- 17 Choir, 10-11:30 am
- 21 Church reserved, noon-2 pm
- 24 Choir, 6:00 pm
Christmas Eve service, 7:00 pm

The Creekside Connection

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The Creekside Connection is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the people of Creekside Church.

