

HAVELOCK UMC NEWSLETTER

402-466-6736

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LIFESONG

Thanksgiving is just barely over, and Christmas is upon us! We've already been bombarded with Christmas advertisements, movies, plays fundraising. Our whole culture revolves around Christmas. Think about it. What would happen to our economy if we didn't have Christmas? All our stores, all our churches, all our missions, and ministries, rely on Christmas, on the generosity and good feelings of Christmas to inspire people to give money. If we didn't have Christmas, if we cut off the months of November and December, every business and every church would be bankrupt. We couldn't operate. The majority of American funds flow at Christmas time. Why?

Is it because of all the advertising, the lights, the sounds, the music, the traditions? Or is there something deep inside us that recognizes the coming of Jesus Christ to earth is the most important event in history, is the real reason we're alive today, is the real hope for life tomorrow? What really gets me excited about Christmas is not the colors and sounds and lights or even the Christmas carols and nativity scenes, and plays?

Jesus' birth was nice and it's good to remember, but much more exciting than that is the fact that Jesus is alive today and Jesus is coming again. There is something in our heart of hearts that recognizes this. Life will not continue the way it is, with all the hate and hurt and destruction and sin. Jesus is coming. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. God's way, God's will, will reign on the earth, and it may start today.

In the Christian calendar we call this Advent. Advent usually gets trampled by Christmas. We want to skip over all the hymns about the second

coming of Jesus and get right to those sentimental Christmas carols. But without the Advent, without the second coming, the first coming would have no meaning. Jesus didn't just come 2 thousand years ago and leave us. Jesus is here today and Jesus is coming to the earth to reign, to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I believe this is something worth celebrating and looking forward to. Take a few moments to celebrate the second coming of Christ, and the hope for the future of the world each day this Advent, this December.

We will have very special music in worship services in December including Ignite Praise Band, our Bell Choir, Sunday School Children, My wife and I. Christmas Eve service is at 5 p.m. Every service will be a time to prepare our hearts and lives for Jesus' coming.

Let's sing a life song of Praise for the first and the second coming of Jesus this December.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Todd

HOLIDAY SERVICE PROJECT

The annual mitten, sock and cap tree for children in the Head Start Program here in Lincoln, has already been placed in the narthex. Members and children of the church are asked to hang those items on the tree anytime until Sunday, December 9th.

Mittens, socks and caps may either be for boys or girls and need to be in the 3-4 through 7-8 groups.

POINSETTIAS

Poinsettia orders will now be taken for decorating the sanctuary during Advent and Christmas. The cost is \$8.50 per plant. Buying a poinsettia is a way to honor the memory of a loved one or to honor someone special in your life. Order forms will be in the church bulletin or you may order through the office.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Sunday, November 25th – Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, December 2nd - Lighting of the first Advent candle during worship

Monday, December 24th – 5pm
Christmas Eve celebrated with special music, candlelight and communion. Everyone welcome!

Tuesday, December 25th - Christmas Day Dinner
Dinner will be served from 5:00 – 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome for turkey dinner and all the trimmings that will be shared with the community. Come One, Come All!

BELL CHOIR CONCERT

On Sunday, December 9th at 4:00 pm, the bell choir will give a concert in the sanctuary featuring all your Christmas and seasonal favorites. From time-honored carols to more recent treasures, you'll hear it all! There will be no charge for admission, but a free-will offering will be accepted, going towards the purchase of new bells. Bring your friends and family to an event sure to put everyone into the holiday spirit!

UMCORE RESPONSE

You can donate to UMCOR in response to the fires in California either on line,
https://secure3.convio.net/gbgm/siteSPageNavigator/umcor_donate.html?type=1002project=901670

or through our church. Include the number 901670 on your check. There is a _ between umcor & donate.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

We will be serving our annual Christmas Day Dinner, Tuesday, December 25th.

We invite our friends, neighbors, those in need and those who will be alone to please join us for this special dinner. We will be serving the traditional turkey dinner with dressing, potatoes, corn, green beans and pie. Dinner will be served from 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm.

If you are available to share in the spirit of Christmas and would like to help serve the Christmas Dinner please call Sandy Carlson, 402-464-0420 or the church office, 402-466-6736.

YOUTH NEWS

The youth group will be selling Baker's chocolates and Jet Splash car washes before and after church beginning December 2nd. Please stop by and let them help with your Christmas gift giving!

Merry Christmas from the youth group! They are grateful for your support!

LINCOLN CONTINENTALS CHORUS MUSICAL CHRISTMAS STORY

December 7th at 7 p.m. at Seward High School, 532 Northern Heights Dr., Seward, NE, and December 8th at 3 p.m. at St Marks United Methodist Church, 8550 Pioneers Boulevard, Lincoln, NE, and your pastor is going to be singing with the Lincoln Continentals in "A Musical Christmas Story". You will be entertained and inspired by fun and traditional Christmas songs, along with fun Christmas Characters who will act out the story.

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT IN OUR CHURCH

The men and women of NEBRASKA CHRISTIAN CHORUS will present their annual Christmas concert at HUMC on Thursday evening, December 20th, at 7:00 p.m. This free event will feature traditional Christian and seasonal secular pieces. The Christian men's and women's choruses have been performing in the greater Lincoln area for 25 years. Refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall following the program. Please mark your calendar for this special holiday event.

CARLSON'S OPEN HOUSE

Members and friends of the church are invited to the home of Ken and Sandy Carlson on Sunday, December 16th. The Carlson's home, 4841 Sherwood Drive will be open from 4:00-8:00 pm.

Please stop in and share in refreshments & fellowship.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY OF TREES SPONSERED BY HERITAGE LEAGUE

The event this year is being held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2110 Sheridan Blvd.

Thursday, November 29th - 10 am to 8 pm
Friday, November 30th - 10 am to 7 pm

Admission tickets are \$1.00 per person. This year's admission proceeds will go to OVER - Operation Veterans Encouraging Recovery. This nonprofit organization is comprised of veterans helping veterans establish and maintain long term independence from alcohol and /or drugs.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO ...

The congregation extends its Christian love and sincere sympathy to the families of Betty Gage & Ruth Newbury.

Betty passed away on October 21st. Her funeral service was held in the sanctuary on October 26th. Ruth passed away on November 9th. Her graveside service was held on November 12th in Winterset, Iowa.

THANK YOU

The Halloween Committee would like to thank the congregation for their donations and help with the Trunk or Treat Party. With every one's help it was a big success.

Thank you Havelock UMC for your kind words of appreciation and generous gift!

Pastor Todd

To all who helped at our mother's lunch following her service last week. We can't tell you how much we appreciated the delicious food and all the hard work it took to feed our friends and family. We feel so blessed from your support and kindness!

Linda Maly, Steve Gage, Cheryl Gage

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

Join us for coffee and refreshments before worship on Sunday mornings in room #4.

DIAPER DEPOT

The first Sunday of each month we will be collecting diapers, wipes and Desitin ointment for Diaper Depot. The box will be placed in the narthex on Sunday, December 2nd. Also, monetary donations are welcome.

DECEMBER

- 1 12:00 Holy Spirit Encounter Planning Meeting
7:00 Coffee & Conversation – Karges Home
- 2 9:30 Fellowship Coffee
9:30 Sunday School – Adult & Youth
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School - Children
- 3 7:00 AA
- 4 5:00 FoodNet
- 5 6:00 Handbells
7:00 Trustees
- 6 8:30 Priscilla Circle
- 7
- 8
- 9 9:30 Fellowship Coffee
9:30 Sunday School – Adult & Youth
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School – Children
4:00 Bell Concert
- 10 7:00 AA
- 11 10:00 Ruth Circle
5:00 FoodNet
- 12 12:00 Handbells
7:00 Finance
- 13
- 14
- 15 8:30 Esther Circle
- 16 9:30 Fellowship Coffee
9:30 Sunday School – Adult & Youth
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School – Children
4:00-8:00 Carlson Christmas Open House
- 17 9:30 Deadline For News
6:00-10:00 Nebraska Chorus Rehearsal
7:00 AA
- 18 5:00 FoodNet
- 19 1:30 Hav-O-Gram Issued
6:00 Handbells
7:00 Administrative Board
- 20 7:00 Nebraska Chorus Concert
- 21
- 22
- 23 9:30 Fellowship Coffee
9:30 Sunday School – Adult & Children
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School - Children
- 24 **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**
5:00 Christmas Eve Service
7:00 AA

25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

- 5:00 – 6:30 Christmas Dinner Served
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30 9:30 Fellowship Coffee
9:30 Sunday School – Adult & Children
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School – Children
2:00 OVER
- 31 7:00 AA