

HAVELOCK UMC NEWSLETTER

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LIFESONG

Dear Friends in Christ,
Thanksgiving isn't here yet, and Christmas is upon us! We're 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, and 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, Adult Choir, flute solo & more.. 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 lifesong of Praise for the first and the second coming of Jesus this December.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Todd

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

The Christmas Eve service will be at 5 p.m. It will be a candlelight worship service with communion, carols and choirs. We will be using new flameless candles rather than the old wax candles near the end of the service and will close with singing "Silent Night, Holy Night.

"Somehow, not only for Christmas
But all the long year through
The joy that you give to others
Is the joy that comes back to you."

John Greenleaf Whittier

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 1st.

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

YOUTH NEWS

The youth group will be selling Baker's chocolates and Jet Splash car washes before and after church beginning December 1st. Please stop by and let them help with your Christmas gift giving!

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

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.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

We will be serving our annual Christmas Day Dinner, Wednesday, 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 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

BELL CHOIR UPDATES

On Sunday, December 15th at 4:00 p.m., 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!

There will also be another opportunity to hear the bell choir in concert this season. Thanksgiving weekend, Saturday, November 30th at 9:00 a.m., the bell choir will be joining the entertainment at the Starry Nights Gala, a fundraiser for the People's City Mission held at Speedway Village, 345 Speedway Cr. Admission is \$7 per person with a cap of \$25 per immediate family. There will be fun activities for children as well as an auction of designer Christmas trees.

Join us for these events this holiday season and share in a bit of Christmas cheer! From the bell choir to you, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

CARLSON'S OPEN HOUSE

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

Please stop in and share in refreshments & fellowship.

LINCOLN CONTINENTALS CHORUS CHRISTMAS SHOW

December 8th at 3 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 7130 Kentwell Lane, Lincoln, NE, and your pastor is going to be singing with the Lincoln Continentals in their Christmas show. You will be entertained and inspired by fun and traditional Christmas songs.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO ...

The congregation extends its Christian love and sincere sympathy to the families of Mary Jean Forst, Hazel Tenopir and Billie Krause.

Mary Jean passed away on October 28th. Hazel passed away on October 29th. Her funeral service was held on November 2nd. Billie passed away on November 5th. Her memorial service was held on November 9th in the sanctuary.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

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

DECEMBER

- 1 9:00 Fellowship Coffee
9:00 Sunday School Adults & Youth
10:00 Morning Worship
10:00 Sunday School for Children
- 2 7:00 AA
- 3 5:00 FoodNet
- 4 6:00 Handbells
7:00 Trustees
- 5 8:30 Priscilla Circle
- 6
- 7
- 8 9:00 Fellowship Coffee
9:00 Sunday School Adults & Youth
10:00 Morning Worship
10:00 Sunday School for Children
11:15 Outreach
4:00 – 8:00 Carlson Open House
- 9 7:00 AA
- 10 5:00 FoodNet
- 11 6:00 Handbells
7:00 Committee on Finance
- 12 10:00 Ruth Circle
- 13
- 14
- 15 9:00 Fellowship Coffee
9:00 Sunday School Adults & Children
10:00 Morning Worship
10:00 Sunday School for Children
4:00 Handbell Christmas Program
- 16 9:30 Deadline for News
7:00 AA
- 17 5:00 FoodNet
- 18 6:00 Handbells
7:00 Administrative Council
- 19
- 20

- 21 8:30 Esther Circle
- 22 9:00 Fellowship Coffee
9:00 Sunday School Adult & Children
10:00 Morning Worship
10:00 Sunday School for Children
- 23 7:00 AA
- 24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
5:00 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS
5:00-6:30 Christmas Dinner
- 26
- 27
- 28
- 29 9:00 Fellowship Coffee
9:00 Sunday School Adults & Children
10:00 Morning Worship
10:00 Sunday School for Children
2:00 OVER
- 30 7:00 AA
- 31