



Welcoming Advent

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from Christ Jesus.

As you read this, we are in the season of Advent, a time of preparation before Christmas, when we anticipate the coming of Christ. One of my favorite descriptions of the mood of Advent is that it is an “expectant longing for hope”. In the season of Advent, we read the words of the prophets, filled with lament and hope, and we read the words of Jesus, reminding us that the old must be cleared away to make room for God to dwell in the world and in us. Advent is about acknowledging where we are; it is about offering our whole selves as a dwelling place for God. It is about the kind of hope that knows the reality of our broken world and promises that God can and will bring healing and life into that brokenness.

Hope. It appears we are short on that these days. Some of you have talked with me about the weariness and hopelessness you feel. The political climate is harsh and uncertain; it feels as though every news report is bad, and people seem to have forgotten what kindness is. Many of you are very because so many people in your life are hurting including you. In so many ways, life feels heavy and dark.

This quote from an essay by Cassie Lynch seems to get at that feeling of hopelessness:

As I sat, I found myself talking to Jesus. "I'm ruining your party," I told him. It was his response in that moment that changed Christmas for me forever. He told me, 'Cassie, I came to that manger as a baby not for those in celebration, but for those in mourning. I came for you. In this moment. Right here...If this year broke you down. Isolated you; left you grieving, or fearful, or hurt. I want you to know that you don't have to muster up cheer. You don't have to feel like a downer during a celebration. You can sit at the feet of a savior who came for you, where you're at right now. That's how Immanuel works. It's God with us in the dirt, giving us hope in the face of despair.

The season of Advent reminds us that it is because of the heavy and dark that Jesus came.

May you welcome this season of Advent with openness. Welcome God into the empty spaces, the open places, and the shadow places where we wait with expectation, longing, and hope.

God, give us Peace that makes us aware of your presence. Faith that finds us when we are lost to ourselves. Joy that perseveres through sorrow and hope that guides us forward. Trusting that You--through your Word made flesh, Jesus—will have the final Word and it will be Life. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jess

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Praying in Holy Darkness

Pray without Ceasing, our weekly prayer service, will become “Praying in Holy Darkness.” Wednesdays in December, we will meet at 6:00pm, in-person and on Zoom, to pray about whatever weighs heavy on our hearts and for a weary world in need of Hope.

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, & 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm.



Crafts and Conversation, Christmas Edition

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 6:30pm.

See article below for more information.

Christmas at Grand Ravine

Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 11:00am.

See article below for more information.



All Congregation Christmas Program

Join us as we tell the story of Christmas in a fun and interactive way!

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 10:00am.

Family Christmas Eve Service

Worship with us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 7:00pm.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAMING BEGINS

A New Sunday School Program Is Starting.



After the Children's Message during the worship service, children will be directed to meet their teachers in the Commons for Sunday School.

Each class will include a lesson, singing songs, and doing a craft.

Come join us this Sunday!

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

October 30, 2025 Blood Drive

We held our third Red Cross Blood Drive at GSLC on October 30, 2025. We set a new record with 26 units of blood collected! Between our drives in June, August, and October, we have been able to collect 66 units of blood. We have also started getting repeat donors from our community who hope to come every couple months to enjoy a pulled pork sandwich and sweet treats. You all make this possible! Thank you for your support!

Here are the next blood drives we have scheduled:

Wednesday, December 31, 2025, 9:00am - 3:00pm

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 11:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday, April 23, 2026 11:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday, June 25, 2026 11:00am - 5:00pm

The Red Cross doesn't hold blood drives on public holidays like New Year's, so we have an early drive New Year's Eve and then the schedule resets.

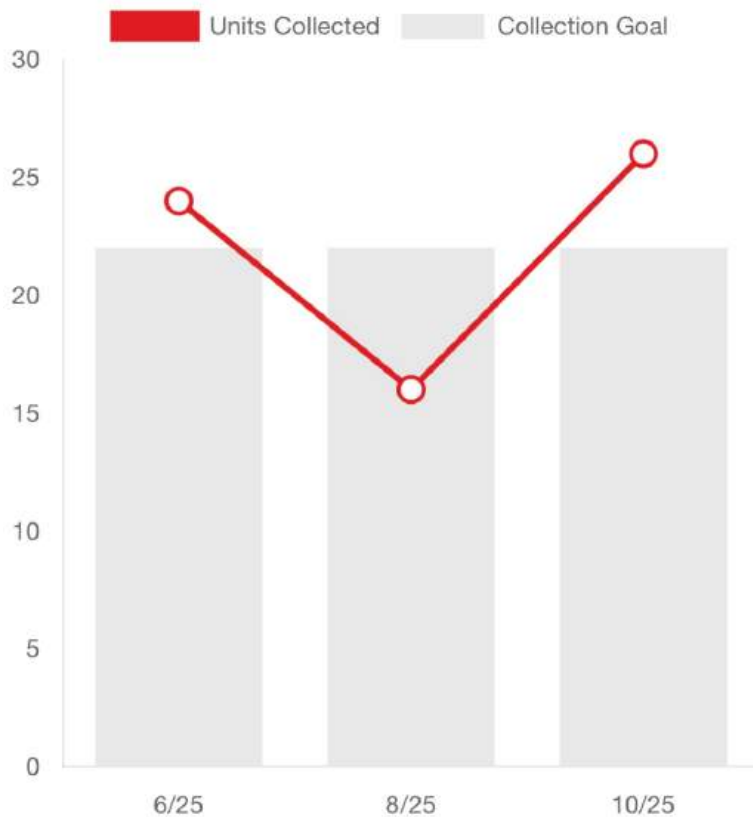
Church Council has also approved new A-frame signs to help us alert the community to events like blood drives. These signs can be weighted with ballast to withstand winds and are easy to change out with new posters to advertise other events. We have had several walk-in blood donors stop because they saw our message board sign. These A-frames are additional outreach tools.

This partnership with the Red Cross helps us connect with community members and save lives. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and delicious snacks to make these drives a success!

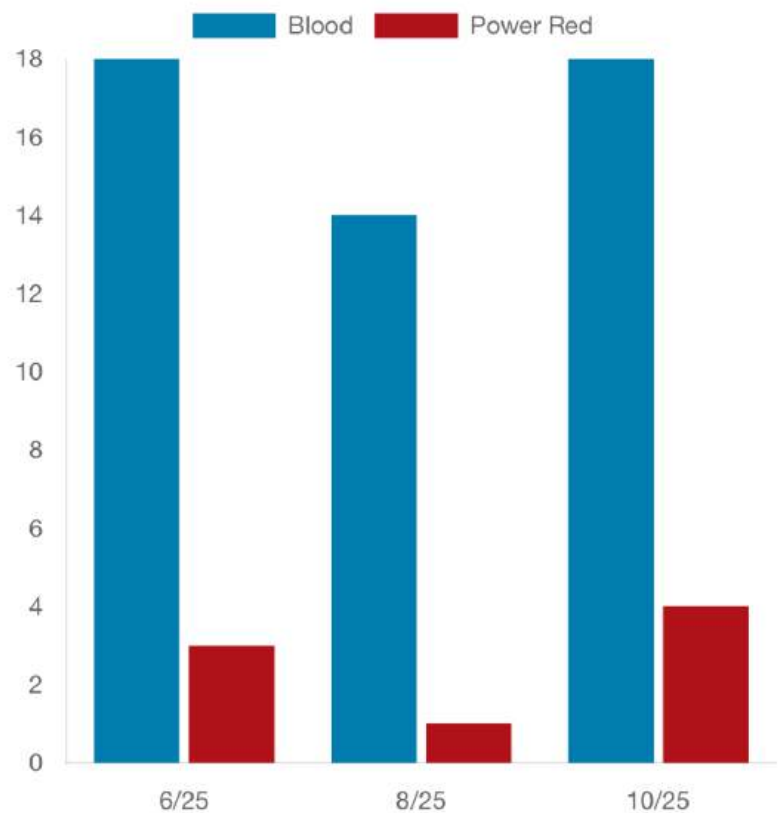
The MET (Membership and Events Team)

OUR BLOOD DRIVE STATISTICS

Registered Donors Per Drive



Registered Donors by Procedure Type



GOOD GIFTS CATALOG



Looking for *good* gifts this year?

[Shop ELCA Good Gifts](#) and choose from more than 60 unique gifts that represent real projects supported by ELCA ministries. When you give in honor of friends and family this Christmas, they'll get a card (mailed or emailed — you choose!), and you'll get the joy that comes with making the world a better place.

Generosity through ELCA Good Gifts makes a tremendous impact, transforming lives in Jesus' name around the world — **one goat, microloan or backpack full of food at a time.**

COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE VOLUNTEER EVENT



l - r, back: Dennis Willaman, Branden Bacon, Karrie & Bill Foster, Kerry Johnson, Eric Mueller with wife Melinda, Carolyn Willaman and Pastor Jess.

Volunteering with Community Action House

A group from Good Shepherd helped with the Community Action House Resale Store. This resale shop is the biggest source of funds for the CAH mission.

Our volunteers helped process clothing donations by sorting, placing on hangers, tagging, pricing, and racking. In our two hours of volunteering, we filled three racks of clothing to go out to the sales floor same day raising about \$1500 for CAH.

CAH contributes to the community in many ways:

- Outreach and Housing Access - Seek out neighbors experiencing homelessness and partner with them to find a safe and secure place to call home.
- Refresh: Hygiene and Hope - Showers for homeless in our community.
- Lakeshore Food Rescue - Reducing waste by redirecting fresh, surplus food to those who need it most.
- Community Kitchen - Serves free hot meals seven days per week.
- Food Club - Offers a membership-based grocery store experience that allows our guests to choose the fresh, healthy foods that their family loves.

We had a great time volunteering with CAH! Thank you to our crew of nine volunteers that made this volunteer event a smashing success!

We hope to find more chances to volunteer with CAH soon!

Your Mission and Outreach Committee

COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE MEAL KITS

Community Action House Meal Kits.

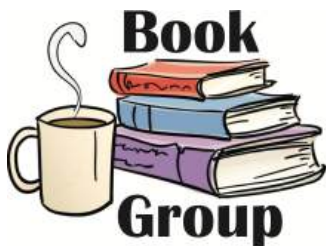


Supplies at food pantries are stretched thin including at the Community Action House so we are collecting meal kits.

- Take a food list in the Commons,
- Pick a meal and purchase the items.
- Pack the items in a paper bag with the food list attached and
- Drop the bag off at church.

The bags are then donated to CAH. Thank you for your generosity this Holiday season.

BOOK GROUP NEWS



No December book group meeting.

Join us in January for

Sold on a Monday by Kristina McMorris

CRAFTS & CONVERSATION

Crafts & Conversation: Christmas Edition



Next meeting: Wednesday December 10, 2025
6:30 - 8:30 pm

Bring your own craft projects or help make gold streamers for the Family Christmas Eve service.

Needed:

3/4" - 1" wide Sparkly gold ribbon, (no wire ribbon please).

The ribbon will be used to make the Family Christmas Eve streamers.



KITCHEN TABLEWARE



We are very well stocked with plastic silverware, and a good selection of large paper plates, paper & plastic cups, and paper napkins at present.

If you are hosting a Sunday fellowship time, please use the supplies on hand.

Thank you to everyone who has donated in the past.

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Friends in Christ,
I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Holiday.

I'd also like to let you know that your Church Council needs to replace two members going into next year. Ideally we would have two volunteers in place by the Congregational Meeting on the last Sunday of February.

Please consider this important service this holiday season. Church Council meets once per month on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm. Meetings average about 2 hours. If you are interested, or you have questions please talk to me or another current Church Council member.

Thank you! Brian Underhill - Church Council President

NOISY OFFERING



November/December Noisy Offering: Samaritas

Our Noisy Offering for November/December is Samaritas. For December we are treating the residents of the Grand Ravine Senior Living Center to a Christmas Party.

Join the Mission & Outreach Committee in bringing Christmas cheer to the residents of Samaritas's Grand Ravine Senior Living Center. We are serving lunch, playing games, making a holiday craft, mixing up hot chocolate, and singing carols celebrating Jesus' birth.

A sign-up sheet is in the Commons.

Please Note:

Gifts for the Christmas Wish 2025 program must be dropped off by Tuesday, December 9 since we drop off gifts at Samaritas on Friday December 12.



SNACKS AND SERVICE

Snacks and Service

Help spruce up the church and perform small maintenance tasks, Saturday, December 6, 2025, starting at 9:00am.

Sign-up sheet is in the Commons.



BREEZE IS AVAILABLE ON YOUR PHONE



Breeze

Available on Your Phone

For those of you who would like to have access to Breeze wherever you go, there is a Breeze app that can be downloaded to your phone (Android or iPhone). No papers needed to take all of the information with you. Go to your app store or wherever your apps are located and search Breeze ChMS (this stands for Church Management Software). The icon will be blue with a white lower case b that has a gap in the left part of the circle. The first time you will be asked for our church subdomain which is gslchollandmi. After the first time you should go directly to our page when you click on the icon.

You will use the same login and password to access Breeze anywhere whether on a computer, tablet or phone. It will look slightly different because of the size of your screen but all of the information is still there. If you would like a demo or have a question, reach out to Vicki any time at church or by email (vicki0528@gmail.com).

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

The Measure of Our Love

Computers connected via internet = Families

Total Sunday Attendance: 211

Families: 8

Average Sunday Attendance: 53



SUNDAY SERVANTS

Sunday Servants Needed for December

Please help us fill the spaces. Volunteer to be a Sunday Servant

Use the form in the Commons or contact Deb in the office.

616.772.4075 or gslc.office@icloud.com

Date	Worship Leader/ Communion Assistant	Reader(s)	Usher	Communion Set-Up/ Clean-Up
December 7 2nd Sunday of Advent	WL- CA- Mary Sue Dawsey	Melinda Mueller		Mary Sue Dawsey
December 14 3rd Sunday of Advent	WL - CA-	Branden Bacon		
December 21 4th Sunday of Advent	WL - CA -	Eric Mueller		
December 28 1st Sunday of Christmas	WL - CA -			
Christmas Eve				Deb Ludwig

FELLOWSHIP SIGN-UP — DECEMBER

Fellowship Sign-up.



Treats and Set Up & Clean Up	
December 7, 2025	
December 14, 2025	Bacons
December 21, 2025	
December 28, 2025	

DECEMBER

Birthdays

Becca Dixon 2
Dave Wendt 13
Michael Russell 23
Branden Bacon 25
Ron Meyer 31



Anniversaries

Chan & Som Vixayphone 24

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Sunday Services are also on-line.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87525508195?pwd=MmtjVENGaUg3ODFuaXhhUHR1TVR3Zz09>

Meeting ID: 875 2550 8195

Passcode: 022399

Sunday Services, 10:00 -11:00 am, also available via Zoom.
Choir Rehearsals, Mondays at 6:30 pm, September - May.
Quilter's Meet, Tuesdays, 11:00 am on site. No Quilting in December.
Women's Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:30 am, September - May.
Pray Without Ceasing weekly prayer service, Wednesdays, 6:00 pm.
Book Group, 3rd Wednesday of the month, 4:30 pm. September - May.

PASTOR JESS' SCHEDULE



Pastor Jessica is available Monday - Thursday
via phone, text, email and Facebook messenger.

Phone: (616) 403-4660

Email: pj.gslc@gmail.com

To view Pastor's weekly in-office hours, look on the Breeze
calendar on our website at goodshepherdhollandmi.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Church Council Members:

Branden Bacon (VP)	(920) 889-8707, branden.bacon@gmail.com
Dylana Eisaman	(616) 953-0603, dylana.pinter@gmail.com
Michael Russell	(616) 283-6723 miker163@yahoo.com
Brian Underhill (Pres)	(616) 292-7194, underhillbrian@yahoo.com
Pastor Jess	(616) 403-4660, pj.gslc@gmail.com

IN OUR NOVEMBER PRAYERS

In Our November Prayers...

- **Praise & Thanksgiving:** Annie & Brent Havalka (Laurie Schuldt's niece & husband) wish to thank everyone for their prayers over the past months. Brent is steadily improving, regaining much of his muscle control and working again despite lingering symptoms. Our hope is that he continues to improve on his long journey of recovery. Kindi (Kris Norvell's niece) was declared cancer free on Nov. 20 after tumor surgery and is now eating soft foods. In Kris' words, "I am literally weeping for joy... Thank the Lord!"
- **Our Sympathies:** to Dennis, Carolyn & Dennis' sister Laurie Franz, on the death of their father Wally Willaman, aged 103, Monday, Nov. 3, 2025; and to wife, Christine, mom, Pam, family & friends on the death of Christopher Wentzloff, (friend of Naomi Wahl).
- **Ministries of the Month, November:** Samaritas and Tapestry.
- **Healing/Peace:** Barton Family (friends of Julie Bolton, Corinne Becker, breast cancer, Zach Bergland (Beckers' nephew), Jake Bird, cancer treatment (Corinne's son-in-law), Greg Bolton, (brother-in-law of Julie Bolton), Patricia Bradfield, Mary & Wayne Cagle (friends of Sally Ponstein) Wayne diagnosed with lung cancer, Mark DeGraaf, stage 4 cancer, Diane (close friend of Kris Norvell) cancer diagnosis, Sheila Dixon, concussion, Nan Ehrsam, (Julie Bolton's sister-in-law), cancer diagnosis, Shawn Felgenhaur (Kerry Johnson's sister) prayers for continued healing, Jayce Genzinger (Tammy Walter's step-niece's son) born preemie in July, Jessie George (Deb P-G's daughter), Tessa Hurt (out-of-town member) diagnosed with Myelofibrosis, Jan (Cathy Sytsma's sister), Holly Johnson, (Steve & Kerry's daughter), Kindi (Kris Norvell's neice) cancer surgery Nov. 17, Connie Lentz (friend of Kathy Shoup), Tiffany Letourneau, being treated for breast cancer, Ellen Lichtman, Iris Mears, (PJ's godmother), Ron Meyer, Kris Norvell, neck surgery Nov. 7, Pat Ponstein (Sally's sister-in-law) is in the hospital, Rick, (Brian Dixon's dad) undergoing treatment for sepsis, Elizabeth Russell (Mike & Vicki's niece), recovery from brain surgery, Greg & Janice Russell (Mike's brother & sister in law) injured in a car accident, Janice Russell (Mike & Vicki's sister-in-law) healing prayers, Katherine Slee (friend of Beckers), Claire Smith (Norvell's grandniece) recovery from transplant surgery, Stella, 7 yrs old, (Sally Ponstein's friend's grdaughter) prayers for non-rejection of transplant, Russ Taylor, (Julie Bolton's father) surgery recovery, Sara Thompson (Corinne's friend) cancer diagnosis, Chuck Thor, seriously injured in fall, Tim Wahl, (Naomi's brother) recovering from back surgery on 10/30, Julia Wentz, chemotherapy treatments, Dennis Willaman.
- **Healthy Pregnancy:** Naomi & Sam's daughter, Haley Norvell, (Floyd & Kris' grdaughter) is expecting twins.
- **Assisted Living/Nursing Home/Homebound:** Christopher St. John (Son of Bonita Zielke), Susan Straith, Bonita Zielke,
- **Serving Our Country:** John Bounthapanya (Som's nephew), Ryan Felgenhauer, William Felgenhauer, and Evan Felgenhauer (great-nephews of Kerry Johnson), Cortney and Konstantin Ivanov (Gigi Howard's daughter and son-in-law), Mitchell Johnson (Parrott's nephew), Koa Rosally (Grossman's grandson), Zachery Wiesner (Gigi Howard's son-in-law).
- **Prayer Partners:** Grace Lutheran Church, Rev. Bryan Schneider-Thomas, Lansing; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rev. Janice Hite, Lansing; Emanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Domingo Shriver, Ludington; Victory Lutheran, Rev. ron Iris, Ludington; Trinity Lutheran Church, Rev. Rosanne Anderson, Manton.