



*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.  
~John Fitzgerald Kennedy*

**The church office will be closed on November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

**WILLMAR AREA FOOD SHELF:** Volunteers Needed!! (624 Pacific Ave SW, Willmar)  
Shopping Assistants: Teach clients to walk thru and fill their own orders, assist clients that are unable to shop by themselves.  
Receiving/Back Room: Help take in donations, stock shelves.  
Volunteer Janitor: Light cleaning.  
Volunteer Donation Pick Up Drivers: Pick up donations at local retailers in the mornings or afternoons. Days needed: Monday-Friday.  
 Call or see Laura Jorgenson at 235-2641

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COMMUNITY WIDE MESSIAH SING-ALONG:** Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> at 4PM at Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar. Handel's Messiah is one of the most beloved works of all time. Vinje is hosting a community sing-along for anyone who would like to participate. SINGERS should arrive at 2PM for a rehearsal. Please invite everyone you know to join together in signing this famous work! A free will offering will be received to defray the costs of the event.

**LUTEFISK & MEALBALL DINNER:** Green Lake Bible Camp in Spicer on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4-6:30PM. Meal includes lutefisk, meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn glorified rice, romeogrot, lefse, flatbread, rosettes, milk and coffee. Adults- \$13.00, children ages 5-12 -\$6.00.

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH- 52<sup>nd</sup> ADVENT FESTIVAL:** Enjoy refreshments and meet new friends and old, Friday-December 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-7PM and Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-5PM at 302 Olena Ave in Willmar. For more information go to [www.calvarylutheranchurch.com](http://www.calvarylutheranchurch.com).

**O HOLY NIGHT!** First Reformed Church Christmas Cantata at First Reformed Church-1237 15<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Willmar. December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7PM. Free will offering.

**LUCIA DAY FESTIVAL:** 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Lucia Day Festival-Bethel Lutheran Church-*Share A Cup of Christmas*. Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 8AM-11AM. Coffee and festivities-Join Us!

**THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES**

Sunday, November 20 .....	8:45 a.m.	Adult Ed.
.....	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Program Practice in JKH
.....	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
.....	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Fellowship</b>
Tuesday, November 22.....	6:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
.....	3:15 p.m.	Girl Scouts
Wednesday, November 23 .....		No Children or Youth Activities
.....	6:30 p.m.	Bells
Thursday, November 24 .....		HAPPY THANKSGIVING! (Office Closed)
Friday, November 25 .....		Office Closed
Sunday, November 27 .....		No Adult Ed. OR Sunday School
.....	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
.....	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Fellowship</b>

<b>Ushers:</b> Aaron & Rosa Eddy	<b>Greeters:</b> Bev Donley, Sharon Bakker
<b>Projectionist:</b> Kirsten Tebben	<b>Pulpit Assistant:</b> Darcy Forkrud
<b>Pianist:</b> Jill Boeyink	<b>Coffee:</b> Michele & Mel Odens

**LAST SUNDAY:** 107 members and visitors gathered for worship. 47 adults and children gathered for Sunday School.

**PRAYER REQUEST FORMS** are on the stand at the back of the sanctuary-please give to the ushers. We also ask for prayer requests at the time of congregational prayers.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Terry Fernholz and the passing of his father; Diann Anderson; Virginia Molitor and the passing of her mother; Bob Clark; Julie Ruter; Bonnie Fritze; Ersie Quimby.

**FAMILY MEMBERS SERVING ELSEWHERE:** Rob Grunwald, U.S. Coast Guard – Lake Michigan in Two Rivers, Wisconsin; Jon Underdahl-Peirce – Peace Corps, Burkina Faso West Africa, Jeffrey Johnson, Army National Guard – Afghanistan; Steph Ourada, Army – Afghanistan

**DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS/ADVENT:** After the worship service today we will be decorating the sanctuary and hallway for Advent/Christmas! You are invited to get something to eat and drink downstairs, and then come back up and help us decorate-the more the merrier (and quicker)!

**SALVATION ARMY:** Our mission envelopes, in the pew racks, are to be used in November for the local Salvation Army, for their emergency help of those in need. The Salvation Army serves as a major clearing house for emergency needs in our community, and our church works through them whenever we can. Please give to this important emergency fund that helps our local community!

**MITTEN TREE MISSION:** A Mitten Tree Mission for the Salvation Army will take place in our church through December 17<sup>th</sup>. Hand knit mittens, scarves and hats for all ages, especially teens are needed. If you don't knit you may purchase items or provide yarn.

If you have any questions please contact Dorothy Caine or Sally Packer. Thank-you!

**ACTS OF RANDOM KINDNESS:** Remember to share your Acts of Random Kindness stories in the ARK located on the counter of the kitchenette in the Narthex. There are paper/pencils for you to write down an act of kindness you have done or witnessed, and place it in the slot on the top of the ARK. All of these stories will be printed in the January/February edition of the VOICE Newsletter.

**“FAITH TALK OF THE WEEK”:** “If you had \$100,000 to spend on others, how would you use it? Why?” Discuss this at home or with friends!

**Healing the world-your planned giving at work! “A church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning.” (Emil Brunner)**

**SUNDAY ADULT ED CLASSES:** November 27<sup>th</sup>-No Adult Class; December 4-Connie & Becky on their Haiti experience; December 11<sup>th</sup>-Jon Gubrud on Parenting in a Text Messaging World; December 18<sup>th</sup>-Sheila on Advent.

**ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS TABLE:** Our Alternative Christmas Table is set up in the hallway near the main entrance to the Sanctuary. Buy or donate a Christmas gift that helps make a difference in the world! Buy Chico bags as a reusable shopping bag to help the environment; buy olivewood carvings that help support a Christian coop in Bethlehem, Palestine; or buy Equal Exchange coffee to help third world farmers. Give a donation in someone's name to the Willmar Area Food Shelf, Heifer Project, the local Habitat For Humanity, or Presbyterian Clearwater Forest.

**THE PEW BAGS ARE READY!** The pew bags are ready and are for sale. Displays are set up in the hallway. Act quickly or you will lose out, because when they are gone, they're gone.

**SAFE AVENUES WOMEN'S SHELTER:** Please consider donating gently used or new toys, books, children's items, etc., or make a monetary donation to the Jr. & Sr. High youth to purchase items to wrap and deliver to the Safe Avenues Women's Shelter on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Youth are invited to meet at the church at 6PM that evening to travel to Wal-Mart, purchase gifts, return to the church to wrap their items and eat pizza and later deliver the gifts to Safe Avenues.

Once the gifts are delivered, we'll return back to church for popcorn and a Christmas movie. Please bring \$2 to help with the cost of food, and you may invite one friend. Parents may pick you up at 11PM. Please sign up in the Narthex.



**Congratulations to Rob & Korin Grunwald** on the birth of their son, Kacen Charles Grunwald. He was born on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. He weighed 7lbs/6oz and is 20 inches long. Everybody's doing great! Thanks for all of the prayers and support!

**WE DID IT!!** Thanks to everyone who brought in food items and/or monetary donations to support the Jr. and Sr High Youth in their food drive for the Willmar Area Food Shelf. We exceeded our 500lb./cash total by 45 lbs./\$. Thank-you, Thank-you!!

**REMINDER:** There will be NO Gospel Rock, Confirmation or Sr. High Youth Group on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, or Sunday School/Adult Ed. on November 27<sup>th</sup> because of Thanksgiving.

**VACATION:** CEYM Director Jill Boeyink will be on un-paid vacation this week, November 21-25<sup>th</sup>.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Our Annual Children's Christmas Program is scheduled for Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the 10AM Worship Service. The N&F Committee will be hosting a meal following the service in JKH. Food and drink will be provided. There will be a free will donation.

**“CALLING ALL SAVERS”** The Visual Arts Team is looking to you! Somewhere in a folder, file, a drawer, a box, a photo album... in your attic, basement or garage... is something related to First Presbyterian Church from yesterday/yesteryear! It may not even look important, but who knows-your memories may be our treasures! It may be a photo of your son as one of the Three Kings; it may be a wedding photo showing the chancel area of our old church; it may be a photo of session members from the 1940's; it may be a youth event program; it may be a brochure from the Stewardship Committee telling how the church will spend your contribution to the building fund; a thank-you from a community service project; it may be a long-lost banner featuring our new church; it may be a piece of furniture or a brick from the old church building...who knows what you may find in your “collections”??

Please look. We don't know what we want, we may not be able to use all that you find, but we want to consider all possibilities as we begin our work in planning a “First Presbyterian Heritage Corner/Room” display. We will log all items that come into the office. It would be helpful if you could jot down the year and the story about the item(s). Please consider gifting your items to the church to have them preserved and just think-these items will no longer be taking up space in your collection!

We'll be looking forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please contact one of us. ~Linda Jans, Sally Packer, or Mark & Nancy Chamberlain.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONS BOOKLETS** are available to pick up on the table in the Narthex and on the table in the back of the sanctuary.