



## LET'S CALL UPON THE LORD, TOGETHER

We humans live by seasons. God, in his wisdom, created the lights in the heavens for us to set apart sacred times so that we would trust and worship him.

The New Year is a time for us as a church to reflect on our past year and consider how the Spirit is directing us in the year to come. The celebration of the Advent has reminded us of the goodness of God and his love for us. It has also reminded us that we are to wait with a purpose.

We will begin the year with a renewed commitment to pray for the Spirit's guidance, empowerment, and personal and corporate restoration. Scripture tells us that this is not only wise but necessary.

The fear and insecurity that surround us in this world is the way of the evil one. Our way is to call upon the Lord and respond to him with courage and conviction. We do this because we love him and we love people.

*"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long." (Psalm 25:4-5 NIV)*

This New Year, there will be several opportunities to pray in small groups and as a congregation. We will pray for renewed hearts and faith in our one King and Savior, Jesus.

~ Pastor Tom

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

During the Sunday morning service on December 21, the children presented a Christmas program, telling the story of Jesus' birth through songs and Scripture readings. Twenty-one kids bravely took the stage in costumes representing Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, animals and wise men.

As with all programs involving children, there were a few unexpected surprises, but it was all wonderfully meaningful and filled with innocence and joy. It was a true gift to watch and hear the kids present the Nativity story in a fresh way with their radiant smiles — some with exuberance and some with quiet shyness — all with beautiful voices.



Special thanks to Zeke Goodrick for producing and directing, to Vera Hallman for coordinating, to Jennifer Miles for costume management, and to several others who helped the kids rehearse, gain confidence, and do their best for Jesus. Thank you also to the parents who encouraged their kids and provided transportation!

~ Connie Crandall



## HOME TO HEAVEN



Donald West  
June 1934 to  
December 2025



Ray Lubeck  
May 1954 to  
December 2025

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

BLOCKED FOR  
PRIVACY

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

BLOCKED FOR  
PRIVACY

## LAS POSADAS

A beautiful event celebrating the birth of Jesus was attended by over 50 people from the community on December 19.

We heard a moving testimony about the power of Christ in one man's life, shared prayers for a hurting and mistreated community, and expressed a special shared love despite language barriers.

It was incredibly encouraging to hear our community convey that when they walk into WVBC, they "feel like they are home."

Huge thanks to Maria Hererra and Katie Wardle for preparing a delicious dinner and for those who served the meal.

~ Connie Crandall



## TOY GIVEAWAY

This year we helped host the 3rd annual Making Spirits Bright toy giveaway! With the help of over 60 volunteers, we were able to give gifts to



280 East County families. That equaled over 1100 toys given away.

Something super special about this event that I love is seeing all levels of community member coming to be part of the event and that we as a church get to share the love of Jesus through words and actions. It is amazing to see people ranging from the local DA to high schoolers interacting to bless our local community. We are thankful for the relationships we continue to build with the different sectors of East County and the city of Wood Village!

I pray we continue to have this opportunity to bless families again next year and be able to share Jesus and his love in our generosity and service!



~ Vera Hallman

## SILENT AUCTION



A silent auction doesn't come together by accident. It grows out of countless conversations, donations, shared laughter and willing hands.

Effort comes in many forms — gathering donations, organizing items, assembling baskets, publicity, signage, strategic room setup, creating bid sheets, thinking up names for 300 items, providing breakfast, checkout and cleanup — it sounds overwhelming! But when we do it together and we do

it for Jesus, it doesn't feel like work at all! There is joy in serving together and it becomes much more than a fundraiser; it becomes a living picture of the church.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped us raise \$5400 to offset of cost of the Women's Retreat. We are truly grateful for the Lord's provision and for his willing workers!

~ Connie Crandall