



# The Mountain Top Echo

Mt. Moriah Lutheran Church, Byron MN

## Reaching Out ... Sharing Christ December 2025

### *Celebrate with Joy*

**Celebrate...**even though the future seems to be bleak and dreary for many people; increasing health insurance, using the food banks, job losses, stores and restaurants closing. We just can't seem to find a reason to celebrate as the world seems to be falling apart and lives spiraling out of control. Have you thought about the reason that brings us together and the reason we celebrate with joy?

**Celebrate...**was what a number of people did last week as they gathered around tables and enjoyed a meal together. We (Karen and I) were among a group of people who served turkey and all the trimmings to a number of people, some we have seen over the years and some others who were new. It was a time to comfort those who were touched by death and others who were blessed by life. It was a time to be thankful and joyful. Yet it was a time to celebrate and be joyful for what God has blessed us with in life. Have you thought about what joy God has blessed you with?

**Celebrate with joy...**is something that we all do as we enjoy one another's company during this season of Christmas. We can't help but be joyful as we enter the stores during this season and hear Christmas music being played over speakers in the stores. We smell the sweet aroma of delicious Christmas cookies being baked and sneak one to eat. We even enjoy looking at the tree in the corner of the room, with all sorts of decorations carefully adorning its branches. It is a reason that we gather together, but is it the real reason that we are so joyful?

**Celebrate with joy...**is what we do because of what God has done for us. Our gracious and loving God sent His Son as the Babe of Bethlehem, to be our Savior from sin, death, and the devil. Our loving God sent Jesus to be the one who gives us peace and hope to lives that are spiraling out of control, to lives that are breaking apart, to lives that need stability in life. God sent His Son to bring eternal life to all who believe in him. We sing with the angel host who brought Good News of Jesus to the Shepherds out in the fields, as they sang: **"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."** (Luke 2:14) What a time this Christmas season is, to give God glory for what He has done for us in the Christ child and what He continues to do through us as we touch the lives of others. We join together to celebrate the real reason of Christmas, God sending His Son Jesus as His gift of life eternal and forgiveness of sins.

**Celebrate with Joy...**as you sing songs of joy this Christmas season, as you address those cards of love that you send to your family and friends, as you cook the special Christmas meals, as you around the gifts of love, and as you worship with your brothers and sisters in Christ giving thanks to God for His indescribable gift of love and life in the Christ child. Celebrate with joy as you sing of a Savior who came as the Babe of Bethlehem and as He reaches out His tiny hand and fingers to touch yours. Celebrate with joy each and every day. Praise be to Christ.

In the Lord's peace,  
Pastor Fiege



“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves” (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. – Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority – St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work – If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly – Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace – This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.



**Electronic Giving:** Our church invites you to consider our electronic giving program as a way to automate your regular weekly offerings. Electronic giving is convenient for you and provides much needed consistency for our church. If you are interested in participating in this program, speak with financial secretary, Tammy Vosberg. You may also contact Tammy with any questions at 507- 289-2850 or via email at [dtvosberg@gmail.com](mailto:dtvosberg@gmail.com)



The next **LWML meeting** will be announced at a later date.

**Prayer Chain:** Ardi Gibbs is our Prayer Chain Leader. Please contact Ardi with your prayer requests or if you would like to join the prayer chain team. (507) 254-6564 / [ardig775@gmail.com](mailto:ardig775@gmail.com)



Olivia Amundson	December 10
Julie Ann Lillestol	December 12
Brian Hahn	December 16
Tristan Naatz	December 17
Hannah Coleman	December 18
Jared Hahn	December 19
Darla Klepel	December 22
Karen Welsh	December 22
Marilyn Wise	December 27
Jill Schuster	December 30



Nathan & Kennedy Lillestol	December 31
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### LWML Update

Angel tree is up with Angels for you to take. Shop for and return unwrapped with Angel attached. Items will be taken to Byron School Social worker on December 8. Our family is a mom, two boys and a girl.

Watch for more fun family activities coming in 2026. Questions contact the Social/ LWML members

### **Christmas Prayer: The True Gift**



Dear Lord,

You have brought us to Christmastime once more. Help us not to get lost in the glitter and the glow, but to see the true glory of the birth of Your only begotten Son. Keep our hearts from clinging too tightly to parties, presents and decorations, and turn our eyes instead to Christ — who bears Your very image and brings us Your message of love and hope.

In the glorious name of Christ, we pray. Amen.



### Special Dates for December 2025

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 7, 2025*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 14, 2025*
- First Day of Winter, *December 21, 2025*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 21, 2025*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2025*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2025*
- New Year's Eve, *December 31, 2025*

I want to thank the congregation of Mount Moriah for the gift given to me for Pastor appreciation month on Oct. 26th.

You have been blessed by our gracious and loving God to be a blessing to others (that includes me). Karen and I have been blessed through the time that we have been here among you.

Thank you once again.

Pastor Scott Fiege



**Advent Supper:** There is still one open Advent Evening Dinner in December at 6:15 p.m. before the 7:00 Worship.  
Weds., Dec. 3 (Amundsons)  
Weds., Dec. 10 (LWML)  
Weds., Dec. 17 (open)

**There is a Sign-Up Sheet on the double doors.**

Worship Assistant Schedule for December 2025	Altar Guild for Month of Dec. --- Kim Amundson
<b>12/3/2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Weds. in Advent</b> Dinner 6:15 Worship 7:00 p.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder</b> – Shane Amundson <b>Reader</b> – Kristie Hahn <b>Music</b> – Justin Hahn
<b>12/7/2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> Adult Bible Study 8:30; Fellowship 9:30; Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder</b> – Brant Klepel <b>Reader</b> – Shelley Arett <b>Music</b> – Dave Welsh
<b>12/10/2025 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds. in Advent</b> Dinner 6:15 Worship 7:00 p.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder</b> – Don Vosberg <b>Reader</b> -- Dennis Karst <b>Music</b> – Margaret Karst
<b>12/14/2025 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> Adult Bible Study 8:30; Fellowship 9:30; Worship– 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder</b> – Shane Amundson <b>Reader</b> – Kristie Hahn <b>Music</b> – Justin Hahn
<b>12/17/2025 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds. in Advent</b> Dinner 6:15 Worship 7:00 p.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder</b> – Brant Klepel <b>Reader</b> -- Dave Welsh <b>Music</b> – Dave Welsh
<b>12/21/2025 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> Adult Bible Study 8:30; Fellowship 9:30; Worship w/Communion – 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder</b> – Shane Amundson <b>Reader</b> -- Kim Amundson <b>Music</b> – Margaret Karst
<b>12/24/2025 – Christmas Eve.</b> Worship w/Communion – 7:00	<b>Elder</b> – Don Vosberg <b>Reader</b> -- Dennis Karst <b>Music</b> – Margaret Karst
<b>12/28/2025 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas</b> Adult Bible Study 8:30; Fellowship 9:30; Worship– 10:00 a.m. <b>Pastor Fiege</b>	<b>Elder</b> – N/A <b>Reader</b> -- Kristie Hahn <b>Music</b> – Justin Hahn



# Christmas Word Scramble

1. TOH IERCD \_\_\_\_\_
2. ILAASWS \_\_\_\_\_
3. OCOSGRE \_\_\_\_\_
4. ECREIEV \_\_\_\_\_
5. EEILOMTTS \_\_\_\_\_
6. NEOKLFAWS \_\_\_\_\_
7. WHEIT ENHTELAP \_\_\_\_\_
8. OLLFNWSA \_\_\_\_\_
9. WAUNPR \_\_\_\_\_
10. ULPSUGMRA \_\_\_\_\_
11. EEVILBE \_\_\_\_\_
12. OLCATHCOE \_\_\_\_\_
13. LODLWOGI \_\_\_\_\_
14. SNTIA NLAHCOSI \_\_\_\_\_
15. TRNHO OELP \_\_\_\_\_

SNOWFLAKE CHOCOLATE RECEIVE  
 NORTH POLE BELIEVE UNWRAP  
 MISTLETOE GOODWILL SNOWFALL  
 WHITE ELEPHANT HOT CIDER WASSAIL  
 SUGARPLUM SCROOGE SAINT NICHOLAS



# Christmas Word Search

E F L K A E L R T E B M H D M  
 R S Q L H N Y B K Y S A Y P F  
 I K N C I E J A S N T X T A O  
 Q T E E N W C O O U U L L R P  
 E R M M C T D W D U N R I T G  
 C W I I I N F O I Q T E A R P  
 D H T U S L I W O T S J S I E  
 C V R U A T X K I G E O S D D  
 Y F Z K R F L Z N Z H I A G I  
 E V E R G R E E N A C C W E T  
 G A R L A N D X T L R E Y I E  
 M U L P R A G U S O G F G D L  
 S G N I D I T A N O E Y T D U  
 E D I T S A M T S I R H C N Y  
 W V S N V E E G Y M B O U G H

BOUGH CHESTNUTS CHIMNEY  
 CHRISTMASTIDE CRECHE EVERGREEN  
 FRANKINCENSE FRUITCAKE GARLAND  
 GOODWILL MISTLETOE PARTRIDGE  
 REJOICE SNOWFLAKE SUGARPLUM  
 TIDINGS WASSAIL YULETIDE

## Christian symbol



**POINSETTIA** — This shrub, native to Mexico, is at the heart of legend about a poor girl who wanted to bring Baby Jesus a gift one Christmas Eve. As she walked to church, she gathered a bouquet of weeds — which Jesus miraculously transformed into lovely red flowers. Thus the poinsettia (named for Joel Poinsett, the U.S. ambassador to Mexico who first brought the plant to America) is known in Mexico as la flor de la Nochebuena (flower of the Holy Night). The poinsettia is also an ideal Christmas symbol because its leaves turn red when deprived of sunlight and its flowers (the red inner buds) bloom in December.



**Have a  
Blessed  
Christmas**



### **Mount Moriah Lutheran Church**

923 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NW, Byron, MN 55920

Phone: 507-775-2460

Web Site: [www.mtmoriahluth.org](http://www.mtmoriahluth.org)

[www.facebook.com/mtmoriahluth](https://www.facebook.com/mtmoriahluth)