

THE JOURNAL JOURNEY OF HOPE

December 2022 | Vol. 29

“A voice of one calling: In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” Isaiah 40:3, NIV

FROM THE DESK OF YOUR PASTOR

Advent is a season of expectation and anticipation. It is a season of waiting, longing, and preparing. As I reflect on Mary and Joseph, journeying to Bethlehem for that important birth, I think of the preparation that took place. What did they pack, who did they tell, which donkey did they take? All questions that any first century resident would need to ask on a journey of that length. Certainly, when we plan a vacation or even just a day trip away from home, we spend a good amount of time preparing for that trip. We might need to buy new clothes, new suitcases, travel size toiletries, and most definitely snacks. We prepare, because we know something is coming, something exciting, and we want to be prepared for our vacation.

We also do this when we have family or friends visiting, even if just a short time. We clean the house, purchase food, arrange seating, and maybe even invite some others to join in the fun. I think you probably understand this, especially with the holidays upon us. We prepare for this special visit. Should we not do the same as we spend this time of Advent, preparing the way for Jesus' birth?

So many of the passages in Isaiah point to the coming of Jesus.

Many of these messages are about preparing the way, getting things ready, or just looking ahead to something special. Can we do the same this year? Can we truly engage in some preparations as we wait with anticipation for the coming Christ child?

“

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”

I wonder how you have done this in the past. Many times, especially when our kids were growing up, we would hang an advent calendar on the wall, opening the doors as the days would get closer. We also have a felt calendar which is hung around the kitchen with a little Santa that we move from one day to the next. We prepare as this little happy fellow gets closer and closer to the 25th of December. You might have even joined in the preparations during our COVID year as we lit Advent candle wreaths in our homes while worshipping online.

(Cont. on page 5)

JOURNEY OF HOPE TO GIVE AWAY CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Over the course of the year, we at Journey of Hope have released so many funds into our local community as well as regional areas for missional purposes. But God continues to call us to even greater things. Last year, we blessed Interfaith Food Pantry and Redbird Mission in Kentucky with our Christmas Eve offering, totaling \$4,505!

We are attempting to top that amount this year, offering our gifts to PADS of Elgin as well as Spirit Lake Ministry Center in North Dakota.

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CHRISTMAS

AT JOURNEY OF HOPE

Caroling - Saturday, Dec 17 @ 1pm

Sweet Treat Sunday - Sunday, Dec 18

Blue Christmas - Wednesday, Dec 21 @ 6pm

Christmas Eve - Saturday, Dec 24

7pm & 11pm

Christmas Day - Sunday, Dec 25 @ 9:15am

Pajama Day

MINISTRY TEAMS

CHURCH COUNCIL

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INTERESTED IN SERVING
ON A TEAM?

Contact Pastor Jarrod or
Team Chair.

CHILI COOK OFF RESULTS

Our 2nd annual Chili Cook Off was a huge success raising \$512 for Spirit Lake. The winner of this year's Golden Spoon went to Andy Lindstrom. Thank you to everyone who braved the wind and cold to support this event.



United Women in Faith will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, December 15, at 1pm in M5. This will be a social Christmas celebration. COME HUNGRY as food and treats will be provided. All attendees are asked to bring a new unwrapped present to bring to the Crisis Center.

END OF YEAR OFFERINGS

Tax deductible contributions must be claimed in the year they are delivered to Journey of Hope. To make sure your gifts are counted towards your 2022 offering statement please:

- MAIL: postmarked on or before December 31, 2022.
- BY HAND: received by the church office no later than December 23, 2022 or given during worship by December 25, 2022.
- ONLINE: give your gift online at anytime but no later than December 31, 2022.

DECEMBER

SUNDAY

Worship
 S & FB Live @ 9:15am
Fellowship Time
 CR @ 10:15am
Group Studies
 M3, M5, U1, U5 @ 10:30am
Confirmation
 10:30am
Explorer Kids
 L3 @ 10:30am

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study
 SR @ 6:30am

WEDNESDAY

Panera Bible Study
 SE Panera @ 6am
Pathways Worship
 S & FB Live @ 6pm
Choir Practice
 S @ 7pm

THURSDAY

Prayer Service
 SR & FB Live @ 7am
Coffee w/ the Pastor
 SR @ 7:30am
Stitches of Hope
 M5 @ 1pm
Disciple Bible Study
 U1 @ 7-9pm

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

				1	2	3
4 Manna Orders Studio 10 Concert, 3pm PADS, 5pm	5	6 Care Team, 1pm Trustees, 7pm	7 Community of Hope, 12:30pm	8 Soup Kettle, 5pm	9 Game Night, 7pm	10
11 Manna Orders	12	13	14	15 UWF, 1pm	16	17 Caroling, 1pm
18 Manna Orders Mission Team Mtg, 8am Sweet Treat Sunday, 10:15am	19 Food for Greater Elgin, 5pm	20 Soup Kettle, 4:30pm	21 Blue Christmas, 6pm	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 7pm & 11pm
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! Crisis Center Meal, 5pm	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 NEW YEARS EVE

SMALL GROUPS / BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY

"We'll Accept You", M3 @ 10:30am

"Angels of Christmas", U1 @ 10:30am

"Current Events", M5 @ 10:30am

MONDAY

Walking Bible Study, Sonrise Room @ 6:30am

WEDNESDAY

Morning Bible Study, S. Elgin Panera Bread @ 6am

THURSDAY

Stitches of Hope, M5 @ 1pm

Disciple Bible Study, U1 @ 7pm

THIS CHRISTMAS, MAKE A DIFFERENCE WHILE YOU SHOP

With Christmas season upon us, many of us may decide to do our Christmas shopping online to avoid long lines in stores or inclement weather. If so, please consider the using either (or both) of the following:

Manna Orders

Consider purchasing your holiday gift cards through MANNA. You pay face value for the card and Journey of Hope receives a percentage of that price back. There is a huge variety of gift cards to choose from. Pick up an order form at the Welcome Center today or [download](#) your copy today. Turn in your order form on any Sunday until December 18th and you will receive your order the following Sunday. Questions? Ask Carole Burriss at carolejb0677@gmail.com or 847/436-3246.

Smile Amazon

If you find yourself shopping on Amazon, consider supporting Journey of Hope by shopping through smile.amazon.com and choosing "Journey of Hope" as your charity of choice. Login using your same Amazon credentials and Amazon will donate a percentage of your eligible purchases to Journey of Hope at no additional cost to you! Shopping on your smart phone? Activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone (found under settings on your app).

FROM THE DESK ... (cont from page 1)

I wonder if there are other ways you have prepared during this season. Do you join with Journey of Hope as we sing carols for people? (The date is December 17th, by the way.) Do you bake cookies and candy, or possibly create greeting cards or other craft items to signify the Christmas season? What are those traditions you have within your family that help in your preparations?

This holiday season, I want to encourage you to spend some time reflecting on what this season means for you. I would love for you to look for new ways to prepare the way for Jesus' arrival. We will certainly be looking at this as we share in our Advent series "Prepare the Way," but I feel there should be more. We need to anticipate the coming King in our lives today. This is not something that just happened over 2000 years ago. This happens each and every year as we reach the end of our anticipation and expectation. What are you preparing for? What do you expect to find in the manger this year?

Merry Christmas,
Pastor Jarrod



CLARA MIDRULA BISWAS

Our December Mission Links will go to support Clara Midrula Biswas. Clara serves as Director of Street Children Ministry in Cambodia. She works with the "poorest of the poor", mostly children, in slum areas and garbage dumps to facilitate their transfers to relocation and rehabilitation centers.

To contribute to Mission Links, simply drop your donation into the offering basket on Sunday during worship or mail your check to the office. Please designate checks "Mission Links". You may also use our online giving platform; please select "Mission Links" fund.



WE WILL BE CLOSED

Monday, December 26 - Friday, December 30.
We will reopen on Monday, January 2nd.



SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

PADS MEAL

Sunday, December 4 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651

SOUP KETTLE

Thursday, December 8 @ 5pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
Tuesday, December 20 @ 4:30pm
Zion Lutheran Church

FOOD FOR GREATER ELGIN

Monday, December 19 @ 5:30pm

CRISIS CENTER MEAL

Sunday, December 25 @ 5pm
Contact Janina Hoffman at 847.894.8651



CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS RETURN!

Our Christmas season collections provide a different way for Journey of Hope friends and family to help several organizations we support through out the year. Donations may be placed on our giving tree or, for larger items, in the nearby collection bins.

HATS & GLOVES TREE

Supports local schools and the Crisis Center.

WINTER COATS

PADS of Elgin is in need of gently used winter coats for kids and adults. All sizes are being collected, but adult L and XL are most needed. Coats will be collected throughout the season.

PAJAMAS

We are collecting pajamas of all sizes (newborn - adult) for the Salvation Army to distribute to our local community. Donate now through December 16th.

CRISIS CENTER

Needs for clients of women and children who will be staying at the center on Christmas. [Download](#) the recommended list of needed items or pick up a copy at the Welcome Center.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING (cont from page 1)

Maybe in 2023, we can add an international mission to the recipients of this special offering.

On Christmas Eve, during both services, we will be collecting an offering which is not at all unusual. However, not a single penny will be going to the general fund of the church. Every penny from those two services will be going directly to those two missions.

We want to let you know well ahead of time so that you are prepared for opening the floodgates of generosity and blessing two deserving ministries who are following through with loving God and loving our neighbors. Will you consider your gift this year in light of the blessings God has provided for you?



JOURNEY OF HOPE
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