



newsletter

Northwest Hills Church
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Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor
Suzy Parsons, CE Director
Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 53 No. 1
January 7, 2025

Barb Renicker, Music Director
Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

January 2025



<p>January 5</p> 	<p>9:30 AM Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) 10:30 AM “Undecorate” the Church 6:30-8:30 PM Square Dancing—FH</p>
<p>January 12 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> 	<p>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School 10:30 AM Fellowship—C (Fellowship Cmte.) 10:30 AM Kid’s Quest Mtg.—Rm. 19A (downstairs) 10:30 AM Ladies’ Mahoney Retreat Planning Mtg-128 6:30-8:30 PM Square Dancing—FH</p>
<p>January 19</p> 	<p>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School 6:30-8:30 PM Square Dancing—FH</p>
<p>January 26</p> 	<p>9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School 6:30-8:30 PM Square Dancing—FH</p>



FAMILY GAMES & SNACKS!

Saturday, January 18th at 2:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall!

All ages invited!



*Come bring one-and-all of your friends and family to our “Games & Snacks” get-together!
Bring your favorite board games and favorite snacks to share.*



Questions? Please contact Kathleen Hammond at 402-981-3630.

Deadline for articles/information for the monthly newsletter is usually the second Sunday for the next month's newsletter. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Northwest Hills Church family,



I would like to thank the people of Northwest Hills Church for sending me the monthly Newsletters and Cheryl's "funnies" page. It is nice to hear from friends I volunteered alongside at the church: Wayne Bennett, Dean, Ralph, and others. At the time, I had just retired and it gave me something to do to keep busy. I liked working on what was the "new" part of the building.

I am doing just fine: just have "old age" problems: we have to go along with what Mother Nature has in store for us. Now, I use a "rollator" to get around with. I gave up driving my car when I was 94 years old. Mother Nature said it was time to quit!

My daughter lives just two apartments from me. I still do my own work in my apartment, feed myself, and keep my apartment clean.

I would also like to thank the ladies of the church for sending me the seasonal cards.

In most churches, I would have been "taken out" of the registry by now. But you — my Northwest Hills Church family — have not done that, and I want to say thank you. Love you all!

God bless you all!

Willard "Wayne" Miller

THANK YOU to the kids who participated in the Christmas program! A special thank you to parents and grandparents for making sure their kids were at practices!

THANK YOU for everyone who donated to Alex' gift. We were able to surprise him with a gift certificate to Omaha Performing Arts for \$1,500 AND gift certificates for a couple of restaurants for \$300. He can make a very nice night out with dinner and a play. NW Hills people are very generous people. Thank you so much!

I can't thank the Northwest Hills congregation enough for all the love you have shown me, most recently in the wonderful Omaha theater gift card. I am so honored and blessed to serve as your pastor. I love you all. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

In Christ's love, Pastor Alex Wolf

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated coats for the Salvation Army Winter Watch Program: we collected 20 children's coats, 14 women's coats and 11 men's



coats. We also collected a huge garbage bag of hats, gloves, scarves and some snowpants. These will be so appreciated by our homeless community members as they receive these warming gifts distributed by the Salvation Army during their Night Watch rounds in January.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY MISSION & SERVICE PROJECT

We will be creating hand-made Valentines again this year for those in care facilities in our community! It was such a well-received and appreciated kindness. Our "Valentine's Box" will be out again starting this month to collect your hand-made cards to share God's love with others.



We will be collecting home-made Valentine Day cards from January 1st through February 2nd. (See collection box in the Commons). If anyone has suggestions as to where we can deliver them and a contact person at the facility, please let me know. We will be delivering again to Immanuel Fontenelle on February 10th as the residents truly enjoy being remembered in this special way. Thank you SO much for helping out!
— Kath Caito, Chair

***Parents/Grandparents: on Sunday, January 12th at 10:30 AM (right after church service), plan to attend a Kid's Quest meeting to be held in the Sunday School Room downstairs (Room 19A).**

This meeting will give you information on how to engage your kids in the church service so they can participate and enjoy church services.

Newsletter Crew will meet TWICE this month: Tues., Jan. 7th to process the January Newsletter, and Tues., Jan. 28th to process the February Newsletter.

POP TABS: Our pop tab collection was so successful that we've decided to make this a year-round project! Now you can bring your pop tabs to church at your convenience so they don't accumulate in a pile at your home! Look for the big jar in the Commons. Thank you for your participation with our community partners — Ronald McDonald House and the Shriners!



CONGRATULATIONS to Alondra Vincent for placing 3rd in the Girls Suburban Wrestling Conference in her weight class!



Also, congrats to James Vincent



for sweeping up blue Ribbons at his swim meets!



Our church family will continue

to collect non-perishable food donations for the Holy Cross Church Food Pantry. Our faithful contributions are blessing those in need who experience food insecurity in our immediate neighborhoods and community. Your selfless acts of sharing food with our neighbors makes a lasting impact in ways we may never know on this side of heaven. The bin for collections is located in the Commons for this year-round support. Thank you for your generosity!

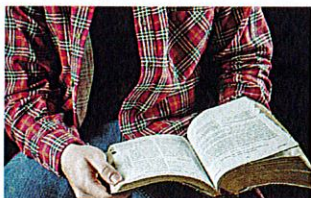


CRAFTERS! We're taking a break from the Wednesday craft group during January, with plans to reconvene in February.

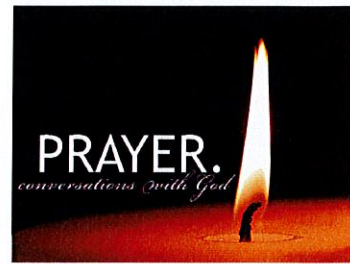
ALL LADIES GROUPS/CIRCLES are taking a break during January and February. See you all in March!

MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST: We are also taking a break during the winter months of January and February, and look forward to resuming on Saturday, March 1st at 9:00 AM in the Commons. It is a BYOB: "Bring Your Own Breakfast." All men of the church are invited for this great time of fellowship!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDIES are taking a break during the months of January and February. We will see everyone again in March!



CHURCH COUNCIL will have a dinner at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday, January 9th, followed by a Church Council Meeting at 7:00 PM.



Prayer chain requests can be called to Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068 or the church office at (402) 572-8392.

Thank you for your kind responses regarding updating our prayer list. We are always encouraged to hear when our loved ones are much improved. Please continue to let us know of any changes so that we can update our list and assure that the prayers going out weekly are the most current and urgent needs expressed. Thank you in advance. The ongoing list is below:

Continued Prayer Requests: Sandy Christopherson, Dianne Hasch (Dianna Cupps' friend), Jeff Walton, Susie Ryan, Cierra Ervin, Kyle Hurt & Jacoby, Marchelle Conrad, Peg Hawkins (friend of Annie Kuti), Steve Swift, Jerrie Wilcox, Tom Vincent, Nikki Heim, Elaine Jenkins, Cindy Key, Joanne Mears, Vicky (Nikki Heim's daughter); Suzy Salonen, Linda Nelsen, Urban family

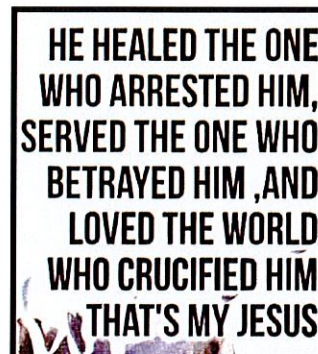
On-Going Cancer Treatment: Mike Lambert, Mary Larson, Patricia Gename (Mary Hinman's daughter), Gail Schroeder, Dave Merriam, Sue Day, Robert Baker, Sharon McNutt (Ruth Negus' friend's sister), Betty Benskin, Judy Intlekofer, Gail Formanack (friend of Bev Ambrosius), Gary Dutton, Vicki Nolan, (Leigh Powell's sister), Ena Nolan, (Leigh Powell's niece), Bill Owens, Maxine

"He sent His Word, and healed them"

— Psalm 107:20

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

— Isaiah 53:5



FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

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

Christmas has come and gone. In what seemed like a flash, we decorated, we shopped, we baked, we cooked, we wrapped, we unwrapped, and we enjoyed the company of family and friends. But now, as we clean up and put away, as the squeals of joy quiet down, we look to what's next.

But what is next? After the month-plus long build up to the birth of Christ, what are we supposed to do now? After the trees and the manger scenes are safely stored away until next Christmas, we move back into the season known as "ordinary time." The liturgical color is green, the color of new life and growth. Ordinary time usually comes after a big event like Christmas or Easter. It reminds us that after an exciting act of God, transformation begins.

While it is certainly one of the high points, Jesus' birth was not the culmination of God's work. The Incarnation was just the beginning of something special that God was doing in Christ.

Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader, summarizes this idea well in his poem, "The Work of Christmas":

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

As we move forward from the grand celebration of Christmas, we are now to embody the good news announced with the birth of Christ. May God bless us as we do the work of Christmas in this upcoming year.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Alex



Sermon Topics and Scriptures for January

January 2025 Sermons

January 5 (Epiphany Sunday) – Matthew 2:1-12, "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

January 12 (Baptism of Christ) – Luke 3:15-22, "Oh Yeah, and Jesus Got Baptized..."

January 19 – John 2:1-11, "Life of the Party"

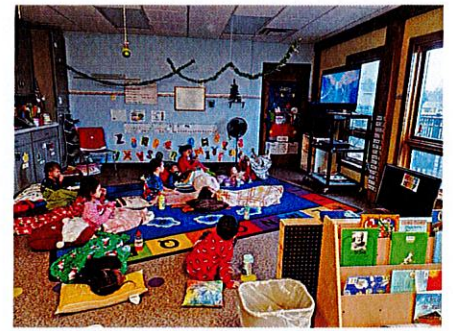
January 26 – Holy Conversation with Kathleen Hammond





From our Northwest Hills Preschool...

Happy New Year from the preschool crew! We hope you and your families were able to enjoy the Christmas season and were able to make a lot of great memories! The preschool students had a month filled with everything Christmas! They enjoyed having their families attend a gingerbread house decorating event and then again at their Christmas program. Before we let out for our Christmas break, they even enjoyed a pajama day and watched *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* How fun! We start classes back up on January 7th. Please pray that we have a smooth transition back into the school routine! Our verse for January is "God so loved that world that He gave His only son" John 3:16a. As we start this new year, it is our continued prayer that we can show Christ's love to these children! Thank you for your support and prayers for our little school!



Happy 2025 to you all! — Jacque, Lori, and Robin

Here are some photos from the Preschool's Christmas Program on December 18th. The kids did a great job, and everyone's families came! A joyous occasion! (More photos can be seen on the bulletin board display in the Commons.)





The CANASTA CLUB will meet on Thursday, January 16th in the Fellowship Hall. Dessert will be provided by Team #12 (Molly and Mary Alice). Plan to arrive in time to start playing by 10:00 AM. If you have any questions, or would like to join, please contact Deb Shafer (ddshafer@outlook.com or cell 402-999-1052). We still need subs (men or women). Please contact Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068.

The remaining 2025 Giving envelopes are available for pick up in the Commons (alpha by last name). If you have not been assigned a set and would like one, please see Leigh Powell. Thank you for your faithfulness.



BAD WEATHER

Should very severe weather (dangerous travel and/or frigid temperatures) cause Northwest Hills to cancel a Sunday service, there will be three sources used to communicate a closure to you by 8:00 AM that morning: 1) The three major local television channels (WOWT NBC-6, KMTV-CBS-3, and KETV ABC-7) will have a continually updating scroll of closures at the bottom of the screen. Look for Northwest Hills under "church closures" 2) Facebook post and 3) Email.

Although we would love to see you and fellowship with you at church, please always choose caution and personal safety regarding attendance, even if services are NOT cancelled. If there is a concern regarding walking and driving in the white stuff and frozen patches, we'd rather you be safe and snuggled up at home rather than taking a chance of a fall or accident. We love you and care about you!



LADIES MAHONEY WINTER RETREAT

Thursday, January 30th
through
Sunday, February 2nd

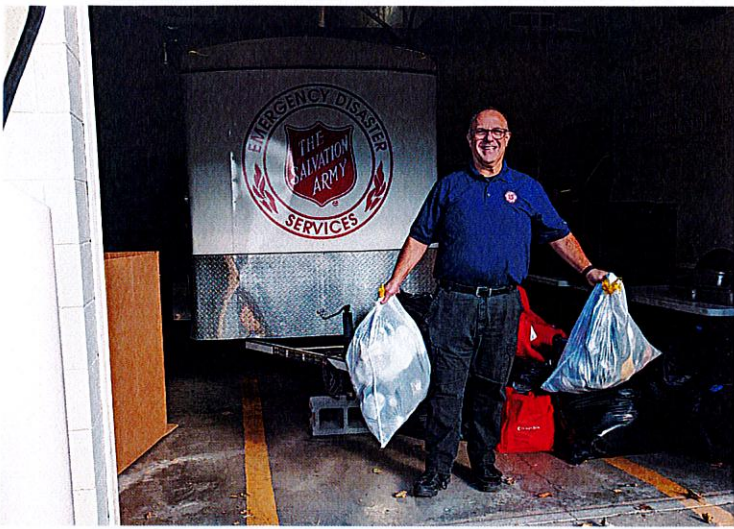
All women of the church are welcome for a fun and relaxing weekend at Mahoney State Park. Call Terri Burrigat at (402) 659-6913 or Jan Jacobsen (402) 660-4718 to make your reservation or if you have any questions.



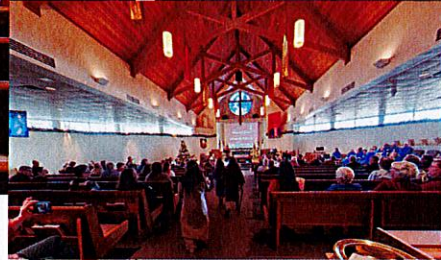
Hannah Circle ladies had their final Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 17th at the Keystone Café. A lovely time was had by all, as the food and fellowship was wonderful. Hannah Circle dissolved at the conclusion of 2024.

It is always bittersweet when a season comes to a close. Please keep the wonderful ladies who were involved with Hannah Circle in your prayers for the Lord's guidance as they journey into a new chapter. We look forward to seeing how their story will continue to weave a new pattern in the beautiful tapestry of the Northwest Hills Church family.

Pictures from the December 22nd "A Simple Kidz Christmas" Performance! Great job, everyone!



Ruth Circle "sock delivery" to the Salvation Army! Thank you, Northwest Hills Church family, for all of your generous donations to keep toes warm this winter!



JANUARY 2025



KIDS QUEST!!
EPIC Youth
PK-High School

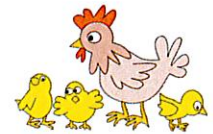
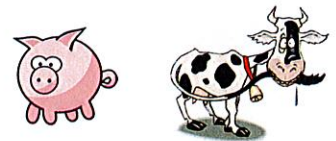


JANUARY 5 **No Kid's Quest**

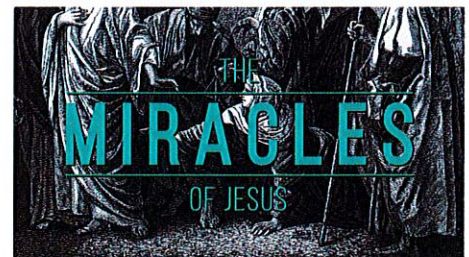
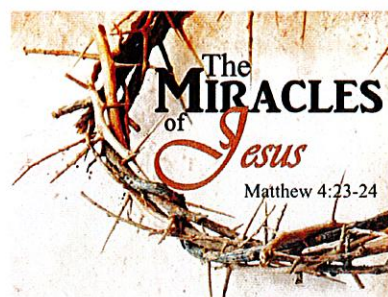
JANUARY 12* **Kid's Quest Mission:**
Making Valentines!
10:30 Special Parent/
Grandparent meeting in the
Sunday School Room. Please
plan to attend!



JANUARY 19 **Heifer International**
Animal choice day!



JANUARY 26 **Miracles of Jesus**



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office Closed	2	3	4 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D
5 9:30 Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) 10:30 Undecorate Church	6 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	7 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	8 6:30 PM Choir	9 Church Council 6 PM Dinner—FH 7 PM Church Council Meeting—FH	10	11 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D 2-4 Ed Perley 80th Bday Open House—C
12 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship—C 10:30 Parent/Grandparent Mtg in Rm. 19A (downstairs) 10:30 Women's Retreat Planning Mtg—128 6:30-8:30 PM Sq Dancing-FH	13 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	14 7 PM Scouts-FH	15 6:30 PM Choir	16 10-2 Canasta—FH	17	18 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group—19D 2 PM Family Game Day in Fellowship Hall!
19 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 6:30-8:30 PM Sq Dancing—FH	20 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	21 7 PM Scouts-FH	22 6:30 PM Choir	23	24	25 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D
26 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship—C 6:30-8:30 PM Sq Dancing-FH	27 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	28 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	29 6:30 PM Choir	30 Ladies Mahoney Park Winter Retreat	31	S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall ----->

**NORTHWEST HILLS CHURCH
9334 FORT STREET
OMAHA NE 68134**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Elaine Jones	10	Barb May	18	Peter Massa	27	Riley Svacina
4	Lawrence Buckley	13	Roger Schwers	21	Jean Murch	28	James Vincent
6	Jaime Barker	14	Ed Perley	22	Marilyn Walton	31	Bob Dean
8	Adam Johnson	16	Annette Carlin	25	Terry Markuson	31	Catherine McIntosh
9	Dennis Burreight	18	Sharon Larson	26	Trent Beal		
9	Jim Vincent	19	Dennis Ressett	27	Julie Dean		

NO JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

