



newsletter

Northwest Hills Church
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www.northwesthills.com

Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor
Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 53 No. 11
October 29, 2025

Barb Renicker, Music Director
Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

November 2025

November 2  <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i>	9:30 AM Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) Guest Preacher: Rev. Roberto Ochoa, NE Conference Minister 10:30 AM Ochoa Fellowship—C (Women's Assoc.) 6:30 PM Square Dancing—FH
November 9  <i>Newsletter Deadline!</i> <i>Stewardship Sunday</i>	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY "Generosity Even Amid Hardships" - Ruth 1:6-19 10:30 AM Veteran's Recognition—C (Fellowship Cmte.) 6:30 PM Square Dancing—FH
November 16  <i>Cookie Orders Due!</i>	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "Resurrection Riddle" - Luke 20:27-40 11-1:30 Sock Hop—FH 10:30 History of Thanksgiving—Rm. 128 6:30 PM Square Dancing—FH 
November 23 Reign of Christ/Thanksgiving Sunday  <i>Cookie Order Pick Up!</i>	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "Reigning From A Cross" - Luke 23:33-43 10:30 AM "Hanging of the Greens" with soup lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Square Dancing—FH
November 30 First Sunday of Advent 	9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School "Keep Watch" - Matthew 24:36-44 6:30 PM Square Dancing—FH



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 23rd, following the 9:30 AM service.
Soup luncheon in Fellowship Hall will follow decorating.

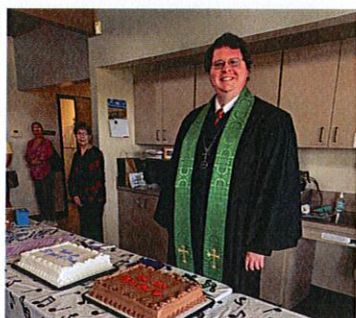
*Deadline for articles/information for the monthly newsletter is usually the second Sunday for the next month's newsletter.
Thank you in advance for your contributions!*



A big **THANK YOU** to my family and friends at Northwest Hills for the **SURPRISE** recognition an party for my 50 years of music service! Thank you for all of the cards, certificate, and well wishes on this special occasion. - Barb Renicker



Thank you, church family, for honoring me on Pastor Appreciation Day, October 12th. The family at Northwest Hills Church is greatly appreciated for their kindness and generosity.—Pastor Alex Wolf



FALL CLEAN UP!

Please join us for our fall all-church "work day" getting the building and grounds ready for the lovely Nebraska winter weather that will soon be upon us! We will meet Saturday, November 8th from 8:30 AM to noon. Even if you can come just for an hour, every little bit helps! Something for everyone to do! For any questions, please contact Building & Ground Co-Chairs Steve Jacobsen and/or Jerry May for details. Thanks in advance for your help!



CRAFTERS! We're taking a break from the Wednesday craft group during the months of November and December, since we've been hard at it leading up to our big craft fair last month. Watch for updates in the bulletins, Newsletter, and Midweek Update email where we will keep you posted as to when we reconvene.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet Tuesday, November 4th in the Commons at 11:00 AM. Dessert provided by Sheri Swift and Cindy Urban.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION will meet Thursday, November 6th at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. Please make every effort to attend, as we will be voting for officers. Devotions by Isobel Taylor. Dessert provided by Nicki O'Neil and Carol Olsen. For questions, please call Kathleen Hammond at 402-981-3630.

SARAH CIRCLE will meet as needed. For any questions, call Terri Burrignt, 402-659-6913. Look for the Thanksgiving Cookie order forms in the Commons and in this Newsletter. Orders are due November 16th; pick up is 9-11 AM on Sunday, November 2nd. Thank you for your support!



HATS GLOVES, MITTENS & SCARVES!

October 19th through November 23rd Sarah Circle will be collecting and donating these items for men, kids, and women served by Open Door/ Lydia House this winter. Look for the display in the Commons. For any questions, please call Terri Burrignt at (402) 659-6913.

BAKE SALES are coming! Mark your calendars for Sarah Circle Bake Sales orders due Nov. 16th (pick up 11-23) and orders due Dec. 14th (pick up 12/21).



MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST: We look forward to getting together on Saturday, November **8th** 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 STUDY: We will continue our Wednesday Bible Studies at 10:00 AM in Room 128! All are invited to come and fellowship around the precious Word of God!

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet Thursday, November 13th at 7:00 PM in Room 128.

REMINDER: In the closet around the corner from the kitchenette in the Commons, we have a **wide assortment of medical equipment** that you can borrow at any time if needed! Walkers, wheelchairs, ortho boots, canes, straps....about anything you could need. Just sign out what you need, and return when not needed anymore. What a blessing!



This year in preparation for the Thanksgiving meal give-away at Holy Cross Lutheran Church (our food pantry partner we support year-round), Holy Cross is doing something different. Kelli from the Food

Pantry is asking three church partners (Maplewood United Methodist, Lord of Love, and Northwest Hills Church) to each take ONE of their requested items (see letter below) with a goal of collecting 200 of that one items. Northwest Hills Church goal item is BOXED CAKE MIXES. (The two other churches are covering the canned frosting and boxed stuffing.) Let's go! Here is an excerpt from that request letter:

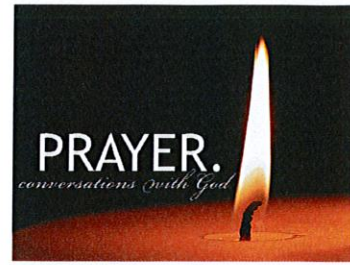
*Hello - my name is Kelli Joseph and I am the co-leader of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church food pantry. We are busy preparing for the Thanksgiving pantry, which is our largest pantry of the year. Last year we served close to 200 families during our Thanksgiving food pantry and expect to see an increase this year. This year we are asking our church partners, who wish to participate, for donations of **boxed stuffing, boxed cake mixes and canned frosting.** Folks coming through the pantry will receive the normal pantry sacks along with a turkey, bag of potatoes, green beans, boxed stuffing, cake mix and frosting....donations are needed by November 10.*

Thank you in advance for your faithfulness over the years in helping us serve and feed the hungry in our community!

*Kelli Joseph
Holy Cross Lutheran Food Pantry*



P.S. As always, we will continue to accept any and all non-perishable food items year round, including during this special drive to collect boxed cake mixes. ALL donations are always greatly appreciated as we collaborate with other churches to alleviate food insecurity in our community by feeding the hungry.



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, 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, Benita Davis (Deb Hahn's mother), Anusha Ganarajah

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

"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

**HE HEALED THE ONE
WHO ARRESTED HIM,
SERVED THE ONE WHO
BETRAYED HIM, AND
LOVED THE WORLD
WHO CRUCIFIED HIM
THAT'S MY JESUS**



FROM PASTOR ALEX WOLF

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

Stories are the heartbeat of our faith. The sacred stories of Scripture give us understanding of who God is and how God shows up in the world. The stories of our own lives are powerful reminders of how we have been shaped by God's Spirit and Christ's church.

Our stories also bear witness to the ministry we share here at Northwest Hills Church. And that ministry happens because of all the ways our people give, whether it be time, talents, or financial resources. For all the ways you have given to the work of the church, I thank you so much!

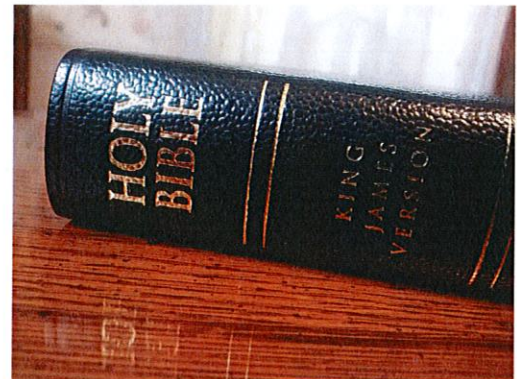
As we come closer to the end of 2025, may we begin thinking about what God is calling us to do in 2026. I encourage everyone in our congregation to prayerfully consider their passions and priorities. For people of faith, what we give to God through the church is a reflection of our values. Likewise, how our church stewards its resources is a reflection of who we believe God is calling us to be.

I am beyond grateful for how God is at work through our church's ministries, such as our choir's cantatas, our Bible study groups, our women's circles, our gifts and donations to the Open Door Mission and the food pantry at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, and our outreach events like Trunk or Treat. All of these ministries allow us to share the light of Christ with one another and others.

My prayer is that we continue to support these ministries as well as discern what other ways of sharing Christ's light God has dreamed for us and our church. Through our commitment and resources, let us continue telling the story of what God is doing here at Northwest Hills Church.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Alex



Sermon Topics and Scriptures for November

November 2025 Sermons

November 2—Guest Preacher: Rev. Roberto Ochoa, Nebraska Conference Minister

November 9—Stewardship Sunday "Generosity Even Amid Hardships" Ruth 1:6-19

November 16—"Resurrection Riddle" Luke 20:27-40

November 23—"Reigning From A Cross" Luke 23:33-43

November 30 "Keep Watch" Matthew 24:36-44



2025 Sarah Circle Thanksgiving Cookie Orders**Orders Due-November 16****Pickup Date-Sunday, November 23**

9:00-11am in Commons Area

Checks Payable to Sarah Circle

Can be submitted by email to trumpetvinecraft@aol.com

Questions/orders - Call Terri Burright (402)659-6913

or Jan Jacobsen (402)660-4718

13505 N. 108th St.

Omaha, NE 68142

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Price- \$6.50 per dozen, \$3.25 per 1/2 dozen

	Dozen	Half Dozen	Total
Almond Joy Cookies (Almonds & Coconut)			
Apple Cider Caramel Cookies			
Chocolate Chip Cookies			
Coconut Macaroon Cookies			
Cranberry Pistachio Sables			
Gingersnap Cookies			
Lemon Bars			
M & M Fall Cookies			
Monster Cookies			
Oatmeal Raisin Cookies			
Peanut Butter Bonbons			
Peanut Butter Cookies			
Peanut Butter Kiss Cookies			
Pecan Pie Bars			
Pumpkin Bars w/Cream Cheese Frosting			
Salted Nut Roll Bars			
Scotcheroos (Rice Krispie Bars)			
Snickerdoodles Cookies			
White Chocolate Macadamia Nut Cookies			
Variety Pack(Our Pick)			

Cranberry Bread (5" x 9" pan)-\$5.00		
Peanut Brittle (1/4 lb.)-\$2.50		

Total Owed			
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Special Requests: _____

Thank You!

Adult Learning Opportunities

Please join us on Sunday, November 16th at 10:30 AM in Room 128 as Pastor Alex presents the "History of Thanksgiving." All are welcome!



The CANASTA CLUB will meet

On Thursday, November 20th in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your own lunch. Dessert will be provided by Team #8 (Dee Cantu and Marilyn Walton). 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 at 402-999-1052 or ddshafer@outlook.com. We still need subs (men or women). Please contact Ardell Reuter at 1-918-703-1068



We had a wonderful turn out for our Annual Pet Blessing Saturday, October 4th! We had an assortment of pups (Thug, Poppy, Honey-Bun, and Markie, to name a few), a



parrot named Caesar, and even two rats with very fancy names! (Dazai (nick-named Smokey) and Fyodor (nick-named Opal).....



Here at Northwest Hills we sure do love our animals! And it

is scriptural to do so! *"The Bible emphasizes the importance of caring for animals, highlighting that "a righteous man has regard for the life of his beast" (Proverbs 12:10) and that God cares for all His creatures, as seen in Matthew 6:26, where it states that God feeds the birds of the air. Additionally, Psalm 36:6 mentions that the Lord preserves both people and animals, showing His love and concern for all living beings."* (retrieved 10.16.2025 from an Internet search).

Not to play favorites, but we do kind of have a four-footed celebrity that frequently trots around the church during various functions. For those of you who haven't met him yet, "Markie" is a 10+ year old Shih Poo (Shih Tzu/Poodle mix) who is the loving companion of Nicki O'Neil. Markie is full of personality. He joins us for most activities at the church (except for Sunday services). As our groups gather for Bible study or meetings, -> -> ->



SPOTLIGHT:

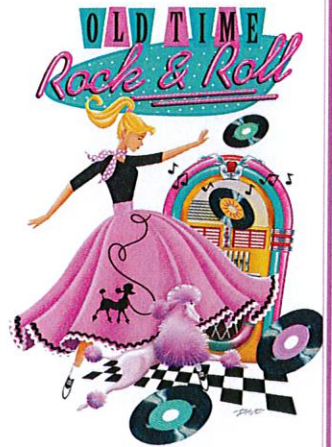
Northwest Hills Preschool

As we enter the Thanksgiving season, my heart is full of gratitude. The Lord has indeed blessed our little school this year. Not only are we at capacity, but it has been such a smooth year so far. The children mesh so incredibly well and really seem to have settled into our routine. It is such a joy to see! Also, the continued donations have truly been a blessing to us as well. THANK YOU! If you are interested in subbing, please contact me (Jacque) and I can get the process started. Our November verse is "Enter His courts with thanksgiving and His courts with praise." Psalms 100:4. Please keep our students and staff in your prayers as we enter cold and flu season! Prayers for health would be greatly coveted! LOL

Enjoy your Thanksgiving season!

Jacque, Lori & Robin, The Preschool Staff

SOCK HOP! Sunday, Nov. 16th from 11 AM -1:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. For questions, contact Co-Chairs of Ruth Circle, April Newhouse or Kathleen Hammond. Be there or be square!



->Markie calmly walks around from person to person, giving each his full attention....just a quiet, calming ambassador. The little guy battles congestive heart failure, so his time with us is limited. Although he still runs around like a puppy when he's at church, activity is becoming more challenging. His mommy (Nicki) needs prayers for peace, and she asks prayers for comfort for Markie. We all just continue to make his time with us as joyous as can be. He certainly brightens everyone's day when he is at NWH. Nicki tells the story of how Markie came to be part of her family: "The day before leaving on our annual trip to Napa, CA to see my brother, I saw this most precious looking Shih Poo posted on Hearts United for Animals website (located in Auburn, NE). HUA was one of the first "no kill shelters" in Nebraska and I had adopted 4 dogs from them in the past. Although Markie looked like a young pup, his story indicated otherwise. An aging couple had adopted him as a puppy

MISSION & SERVICE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER PROJECT

Once again we are supporting our community partner, the Salvation Army, through their Winter Night Watch Program. Hats, gloves, scarves and especially warm COATS are distributed to the homeless living on the streets of Omaha in the coldest of bitter winter months.

Our Northwest Hills Church family has been so generous to donate their gently-used, or even new coats to this cause. We are collecting for women, children, and men. A great need is for the larger sizes, XL and up.



Look for the collection boxes in the Commons. Your kindness will truly make a lasting impact on the most unfortunate in our community.



SAVE THE DATE: 2025 ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, December 14th

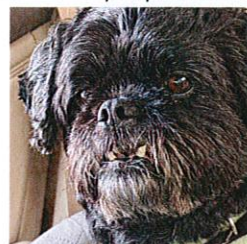
Save the date! This year's annual congregational meeting will be in person after the worship service on Sunday, December 14th. Please plan on attending. Your voice and vote are important.

-> 9-1/2 yrs. earlier from HUA. The wife became ill and passed away 12/2023, so the man took Markie back to HUA stating "he was my wife's dog." His story broke my heart. I contacted HUA, but a young family had already applied. Although disappointed, I was glad the old guy would have a family to love him. The day after I arrived back home I received an email asking if I was still interested! Apparently the family had changed their mind. I made the run to Auburn and the rest is history! Markie goes to the vet for x-rays, blood pressure checks and exams every six months, and is on heart meds. Keeping Markie relaxed and calm is the key to keeping his heart stable. I am grateful to Pastor Alex for allowing him to come with me." Enjoy these pictures of our "unofficial" Church Mascot, Markie!



Some of his favorite people...

You can always tell when Markie is truly "smiling"...you get to see BOTH teeth!



MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND HEALTH PLAN OPEN ENROLLMENT

It's that time again – the Medicare Prescription Drug and Health Plans Annual Open Enrollment Period starts OCTOBER 15 and ends DECEMBER 7! The 2026 plans' information will be on the Medicare website and the best way to determine how the changes will affect you and determine which plan will be best for you next year is to use Medicare's Plan Finder at www.medicare.gov.

VAS (Volunteers Assisting Seniors) are once again meeting in person with our seniors to help them navigate the system and choose the most appropriate coverage for their respective needs. The VAS will be accepting appointments at Northwest Hills on November 3rd and November 10th from 1-4 PM. The number to call is 402-444-6617: leave a message and be sure to let them know you are a member of Northwest Hills. If you miss the cut off, there are fliers with other dates and locations around the city where you can come and meet with a VAS representative in person.

LADIES MAHONEY WINTER RETREAT

Thursday, January 29th
through
Sunday, February 1st

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.



At the Pet Blessing with "gramma"...



Markie's first tailgate...always winning people over....



It's tough being a celebrity...



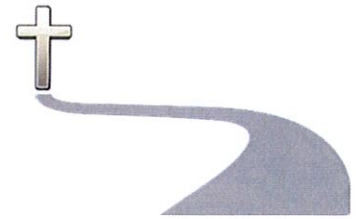
Such a great hugger....look at that face!



NOVEMBER 2025



**KIDS QUEST!!
EPIC Youth
PK-High School**



NOVEMBER 2

No Sunday School: enjoy the service with your family!

NOVEMBER 9

“Paul and the Shipwreck”

NOVEMBER 16

MISSION PROJECT

NOVEMBER 23

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

NOVEMBER 30

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

Calling all child actors and actresses! The annual Christmas Program presented by the Sunday School kiddos will be on Sunday, December 21st! Practices will be on Sundays during Sunday School on November 23rd and 30th, December 7th and 14th, with dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 20th from 10-11 AM. It's important to be at the majority of Sunday practices AND dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 20th. Sign up with Margaret Scofield or Coleen Vincent!

THANK YOU! “Your generosity at the annual LEMONADE STAND resulted in \$338! After studying the list and researching how the animals would be helpful to a family in economic distress, the Sunday School kiddos decided to purchase—through Heifer International—a hive of honey bees, tree seedlings, Guinea pigs, a heifer, goat, sheep, flock of chicks, rabbits, a water buffalo, and worms as well as resources and education to nurture each animal. We combined your donation with one from the Women’s Association and added funds from our Church School account for a total donation of \$500! It was a unanimous decision that we make this our focus for next year’s Sunday School Mission. Thank you, thank you, thank you!”

— The Northwest Hills Church Sunday School Kids & Teachers



NOVEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						¹ 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group—19D
² 9:30 Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) Rev. Ochoa, Guest Speaker 10:30 Fellowship—C (W/A) 6:30 Square Dancing—FH	³ 1-4 VAS Medicare-C 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	⁴ 11 AM Ruth Circle Meeting—C 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Scouts-FH	⁵ 10 Bible Study-128 6:30 Choir	⁶ 12 Women's Assoc. Mtg—FH (vote on officers)	⁷ Boy Scout Camp Out overnight in Fellowship Hall	⁸ 8:30-12 noon Fall Clean Up! 9 Men's BYOB—C Boy Scout Cooking Thanksgiving Dinner in Fellowship Hall
⁹ 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Veteran's Recognition-C (Fellowship Cmte.) 6:30 Square Dancing—FH	¹⁰ 1-4 VAS Medicare-C 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	¹¹ 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Scouts-FH	¹² 10 Bible Study-128 6:30 Choir	¹³ 7 Church Council— Rm. 128	¹⁴ 6-10 Old Dominion Dancers—FH	¹⁵ 9-11 Lambert Prayer- 19D
¹⁶ 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 History of Thanksgiving-128 11-1:30 Sock Hop! FH 6:30 Square Dancing—FH November Cookie Orders Due!	¹⁷ 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	¹⁸ 6:30 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Scouts-FH	¹⁹ 10 Bible Study—128 6:30 Choir	²⁰ 10-2 Canasta—FH	²¹ 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D	²² 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D
²³ 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Hanging of the Greens 6:30 Square Dancing—FH Nov. Cookie Order Pick Up!	²⁴ 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	²⁵ 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	²⁶	²⁷ THANKSGIVING DAY (Church Office Closed) Smolsky Family -FH	²⁸ Church Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday	²⁹ 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D
³⁰ 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 6:30 Square Dancing—FH						S: Sanctuary C: Commons L: Library FH: Fellowship Hall

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON PROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
OMAHA NE
PERMIT NO 369**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2	Tanner Hurt	10	Dave Jacobsen	19	Emilie Tracy
2	Jim Wozny	10	Jack Williams	20	Margaret Scofield
3	Linda Chandler	12	Virgil Beaty	24	Charles McIntosh
4	Ken Evitts	12	Cindy Ervin	24	Nan Schwerts
5	Aaron Woods	13	Dan Jacobsen	25	Chris Scofield
5	Ethan Woods	14	Stephanie Bertch	28	Tim Brusnahan
6	Susan Higginson	15	Sherry Mitchell	28	Duane White
7	Mary Ellen Fields	18	Gail Allbery	30	Melissa Brusnahan
9	Michelle Hultman	18	Brenda Taylor		
9	Adalyn Volmer	19	Judy Cratty		

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

15	Chris and Courtney Scofield	22	Jim & Charlene Wozny
22	David & Susan Higginson	24	Richard & Sondra Putzstuck