



# newsletter

Northwest Hills Church  
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[www.northwesthills.com](http://www.northwesthills.com)

Rev. Alex Wolf, Pastor  
 Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator

Vol. 53 No. 1  
 January 6, 2026

Barb Renicker, Music Director  
 Nate & Rita Merriam, Custodians

## HAPPY ★ NEW YEAR

January 4		9:30 AM Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) Epiphany Sunday: Matthew 2:1-12 "The Twelve Days of Christmas" 10:30 AM "Undecorate" the Church
January 11 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE		9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School Baptism of Christ: Matthew 3:13-17 "Fulfilling All Righteousness" 10:30 AM Fellowship Coffee—C (Women's Assoc.)
January 18		9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School Ephesians 4:1-13 "Christian Unity"
January 25		9:30 AM Worship/Sunday School John 1:29-42 "Life With Jesus"



### FAMILY GAMES & SNACKS!

Saturday, January 17th 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!



# THANK YOU

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!



*The dear lady who accepted our donation at the Salvation Army*

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated coats, socks, hats, mittens, scarves and gloves for the Salvation Army Winter Watch Program: so far, we've collected eight huge garbage bags stuffed with coats, three huge garbage bags stuffed with hats, mittens, and gloves, and one huge garbage bag stuffed with socks! Wow! 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 and February.

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. The collection bin is located in the Commons for this year-round support. Thank you for your generosity!

**Thank You!**

## 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 8th. (See collection box in the Commons). Immanuel Fontenelle residents and others truly enjoy being remembered in this special way. Thank you SO much for helping out!



**Newsletter Crew** will meet TWICE this month:

- \*Tuesday, Jan. 6th to process the January Newsletter, and
- \*Tuesday, January 27th to process the February Newsletter.

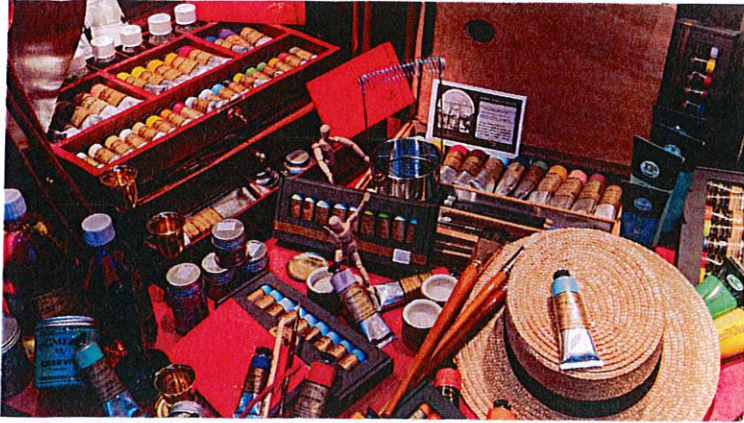
THANK YOU, faithful volunteer newsletter crew!

**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!





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



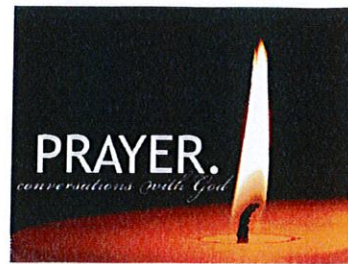
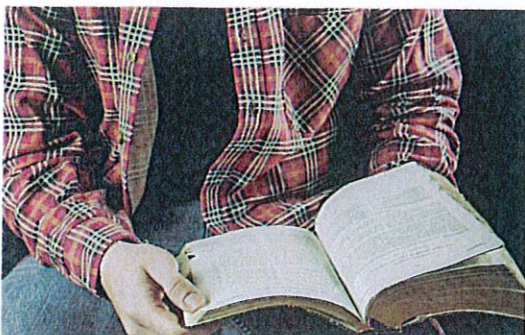
**ALL LADIES GROUPS/CIRCLES** are taking a break during January and February. See you all in March!



**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 7th 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!

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will have a dinner at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall on Thurs., January 8th, followed by a Church Council Meeting at 7:00 PM.

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



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, Nikki Heim, Elaine Jenkins, Cindy Key, Joanne Mears, Vicky (Nikki Heim's daughter); Linda Nelsen, Urban family, Benita Davis, Anusha Ganarajah, Knolan Murray

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, Gary Dutton, Ena Nolan, (Leigh Powell's niece), Bill Owens, Pat Mixan, Sharon (Judy Cratty's sister), Caroline Williams

*"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.

Happy New Year! January is the month for New Year's resolutions. Have you made any? Or are you still trying to figure out what resolutions to make? If you need some suggestions, here are a few:

**Faith:** If you'd like to grow in your faith, make a resolution to pray and read Scripture daily, attend worship as frequently as you can, or serve in the church or in the community.

**Health:** If you'd like to be healthier, make a resolution to eat more nutritious foods, exercise regularly, or see your physician or dentist for a checkup.

**Mind:** If you'd like to keep your mind sharp, make a resolution to read a certain number of books this year, take a class to learn a new skill, or engage daily with word games or mind puzzles.

**Relationships:** If you'd like to be more social, make a resolution to make new friendships or deepen existing ones, whether it be family, friends, or even co-workers.

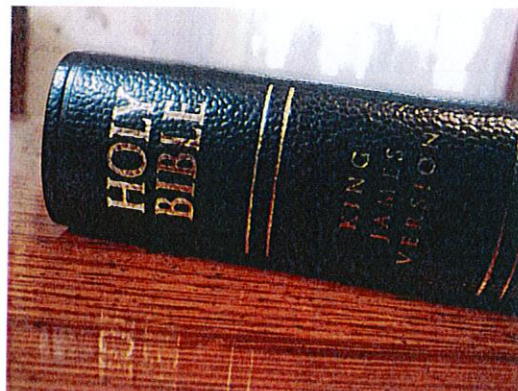
**Fun:** If you'd like to have more fun this year, make a resolution to take a vacation to somewhere you've never been, find a new hobby, or go to an event.

**Finances:** If you'd like to have a better financial situation, make a resolution to make and keep a monthly budget, reduce or pay off a debt, or make a monthly deposit into a savings or retirement account.

Whatever resolution(s) you decide to make, may you also pray for God's help and encouragement in keeping them. May God bless you in 2026!

In Christ's Love,

*Pastor Alex*



## Sermon Topics and Scriptures for January

### January 2026 Sermons

January 4 (Epiphany Sunday) – Matthew 2:1-12, “The Twelve Days of Christmas”

January 11 (Baptism of Christ) – Matthew 3:13-17, “Fulfilling All Righteousness”

January 18 – Ephesians 4:1-13, “Christian Unity”

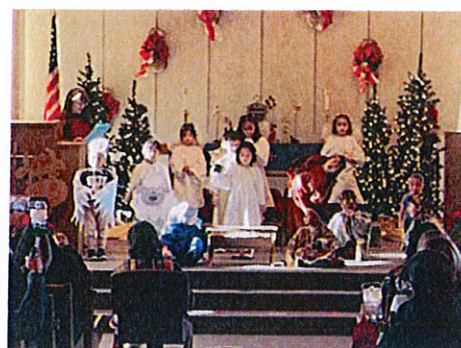
January 25 – John 1:29-42, “Life with Jesus”







*Here are some photos from the Preschool's Christmas Program on December 19th. The kids did a great job...a joyous occasion!*



THANKS to the generosity of our Northwest Hills Church Family, our partner, Holy Cross Food Pantry was able to provide 197 Thanksgiving meals PLUS meals for an additional 32 “walk ins” during their 2025 Thanksgiving Meal Giveaway, for a grand total of 229 families served! Well done, family! What a blessing!







The CANASTA CLUB will meet Thurs., Jan. 15th in the Fellowship Hall. Dessert will be provided by Team #10 (Cathy Volkart and Jo Morton). 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 2026 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 29th  
through  
Sunday, February 1st

All women of the church are welcome for a fun and relaxing weekend at Mahoney State Park.

Call Terri Burright at (402) 659-6913 or Jan Jacobsen (402) 660-4718 to make your reservation or if you have any questions.

Look what you are missing! Come join us!



(December 18, 2025 Canasta Pot Luck)

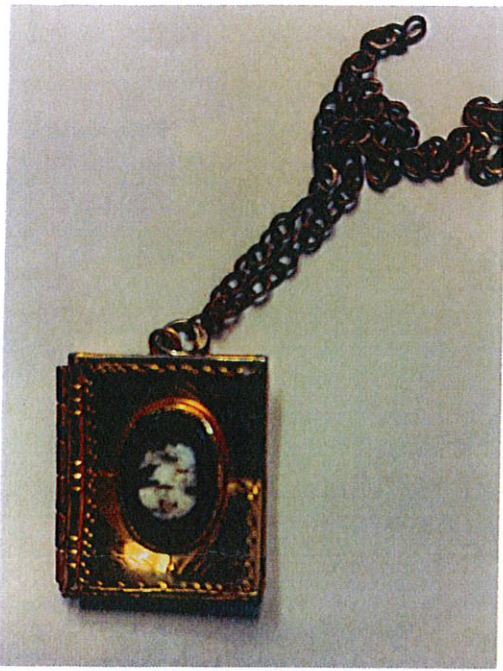
\*\* (see next page)

St. Anthony is the patron saint of the poor and a Doctor of the Church. Some believe offering prayers to St. Anthony result in finding lost items.



## Our very own.....Northwest Hills Church Christmas miracle!

*Written by Cheryl Morehouse, Office Administrator*



Northwest Hills Church family, our great God is still in the miracle-working business! The great adventure actually started before Christmas: on Monday December 22nd. About mid-morning I received a call from Sue Slowik. She was distraught because a necklace she had worn to church the day before (on the 21st) was missing, and she was hoping that perhaps it had fallen off her person somewhere in the church. I told her that I had just picked up the entire sanctuary, but would go check again, and also check the Commons area, where Sue would normally hang her coat.

A little back story: The necklace was very precious to Sue. It was actually an old locket, with pictures of Sue's mom's (Gerry Conry) parents, Addie and Paul Taylor. Sue didn't know when the picture was taken, but her mom had kept it all these years. Sue didn't know her mom had it until she found it while cleaning out her mom's house after cleaning it out about a year ago to get ready to sell. Gerry's father had died when Gerry was 13 years old. He was waiting to board a streetcar downtown in 1945 when he was killed by a hit-and-run driver. Sue has a newspaper article Gerry had kept about the sad and tragic event.

Sue had worn the necklace for the first time on Sunday, December 21st. Afterwards, she went to the cemetery to place Christmas flowers at her mom, step-dad and dad's resting places. Sue didn't realize the necklace had come off until she was driving back home. It was not in her car or purse. So Sue called the church Monday morning. Jo Morton also called, and offered to meet Sue at the church to keep looking. (I had to run home and let my Christmas present from my kids — a 6 month old Goldendoodle puppy — out to potty — when I returned, Sue and Pastor Alex were out in the front parking lot, having just scoured the outdoors as well). Jo Morton came to the church to pick up Sue and accompany her to the cemetery, to see if by ANY chance it was there. Sue was not very hopeful: outdoors, it could have been ANYWHERE, and with the terrific winds we've been having here in Omaha. Jo drove Sue to the cemetery to check. Sue was convinced it was lost, but Jo kept reassuring her, "it will be found" and said that she was praying to St. Anthony\*\* (see previous page if you are not familiar with this saint). Sue and Jo looked, but didn't find the locket. As they were leaving the cemetery, they stopped by the office: Sue was hoping they'd take her information just in case the locket was found.

The ladies headed back to the church. Just a couple minutes after leaving the exit, Sue received a phone call from the gentleman in the cemetery office: he said he believed her necklace had just been turned in by an employee who had found it that morning! The girls turned around and went back immediately. When he showed it to Sue, she was overjoyed and tearful: so grateful and blessed that the necklace she lost at the cemetery the day before was found by an employee, turned in to the office and returned the next day! Sue says "thank you, Jesus!" and thanks to her dear friend, Jo Morton.



# JANUARY 2026



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



**JANUARY 4**      **No Kid's Quest**

**JANUARY 11**      **"In the Beginning..."**

**JANUARY 18**      **"The Test"**

**JANUARY 25**      **"Jacob and Esau"**

*We hope you enjoyed our Christmas skit "The Little Shepherd."*

*Your donations at the coffee hour allowed us to purchase a Dream Basket (a heifer, sheep, goat, rabbits and flock of chicks) from Heifer International.*

*Since our donation is being matched by a donor, our gift increases to \$625!*

*—Thank you for your generosity! NWH Kids Quest.*

**Be watching for.....**

**DR. WERNER P. JENSEN SCHOLARSHIPS:** Scholarships up to \$2500.00 are available for members of Northwest Hills Church who are pursuing a certificate or diploma from an institution of higher learning. This scholarship will be paid directly to the institution of education. Completed applications should be returned to the church. Hard copies will be available beginning March 1st, or via email. There will be two different applications: one for new applicants and another for re-applicants.

### **Criteria for Consideration:**

- New applicants must have participated in church activities at Northwest Hills Church
- Exhibiting an active commitment of faith
- Application to an institution of higher learning
- Completed written application
- Completed recommendation letter(s) (see application form)
- Interview with committee
- Priority will be given to applicant not previously awarded this scholarship

**DEADLINE:** The **application** deadline is April 30th. **Recommendation forms** are also due April 30th. All documents must be returned to Northwest Hills Church, 9334 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134, Attn: Scholarship Committee.



# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office Closed	2 Church Office Closed for New Year's Holiday	3 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D
4 9:30 Worship/Communion (No Sunday School) 10:30 Undecorate Church	5 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	6 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	7 6:30 PM Choir	8 Church Council 6 PM Dinner—FH 7 PM Church Council Meeting—FH	9	10 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D
11 9:30 Worship/Sunday School 10:30 Fellowship Coffee—C (Women's Association)	12 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	13 7 PM Scouts-FH	14 6:30 PM Choir	15 10-2 Canasta—FH	16 6-10 PM Old Dominion Dancers—FH	17 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group—19D 2 PM Family Game Day in Fellowship Hall!
18 9:30 Worship/Sunday School	19 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	20 7 PM Scouts-FH	21 6:30 PM Choir	22	23	24 9-11 AM Lambert Prayer Group-19D
25 9:30 Worship/Sunday School	26 6:45 PM AA Mtg-FH	27 9 AM Newsletter Crew—C 7 PM Scouts-FH	28 6:30 PM Choir	29 Ladies Mahoney Park Winter Retreat	30	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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U S POSTAGE  
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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 Marilyn Walton	28 James Vincent
6 Jaime Barker	14 Ed Perley	25 Terry Markuson	31 Bob Dean
8 Adam Johnson	16 Annette Carlin	26 Trent Beal	31 Catherine McIntosh
9 Dennis Burright	18 Sharon Larson	27 Julie Dean	
9 Jim Vincent	19 Dennis Ressett		

## NO JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

