

# Newsletter December 2023



Bremen-Bethel Presbyterian Church  
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Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoffmann; Clerk: Dee Mowry



## FROM THE PASTOR: Rev. Larry Hoffmann

Dear Friends,

From time-to-time it is good to have our memories jogged as to the significance of December's two liturgical seasons, Advent and Christmas, as we worship together.

Advent is a season where the church awakens to a sense of expectation: "God is about to do something good among us." Hope, peace, joy, and love are acts of God we search for. We listen for God's prophetic Word to us that will clarify the church's mission.

In Christmas we discover a completely unexpected gift that is given in response to our preparation and search. A wonderful and celebratory moment, where we praise God for the unexpected and undeserved Gift.

At the highest moment of celebration, we hear God's call to us: "GO make disciples. TEACH all that I have commanded. FEED someone who is hungry. GIVE water to a stranger. BE a friend to a stranger. PROVIDE a coat to someone. TAKE care of the sick. REMEMBER those who are in prison.

Norman Shawchuck writes that "Christmas is the energizing event which thrusts the congregation forward from the season of preparation (Advent) into the season of call and ministry (Epiphany)."

May God touch your mind, heart, and spirit with a deeper awareness of the presence of Christ in our midst as we journey together through the liturgical seasons.

Grace and peace to you,  
Larry

## FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE CHAIR: Cindy Cullumber

Just a friendly reminder that we will be having the Christmas Joy offering during the Advent season. Thank you, Cindy

We are making changes to the prayer chain communication. We would also like to update the list to include anyone else who would like to receive an automated call. Please write your name on the list on the table in the back of the sanctuary or contact me at 740-503-6227. Cindy

*Merry  
Christmas*



## FROM THE CLERK OF SESSION: Dee Mowry

November is a very busy month for your session, busier than usual this month with the sale of the Manse. There is a buyer, and the deal is to be completed very soon. I am sure there are mixed feelings about the sale, but in the long run, it was a good decision. Presbytery has a policy about housing allowances for ministers. From the information I am receiving, ministers today are not too much interested in living in a manse. My guess is that the manse, and it was built as a manse, was built about that same time as the church, circa 1907-8, although I am not sure. The church operations committee did an OUTSTANDING job of much of the work needed at the manse in preparation for the sale. The committee consists of Corey Riley, Chair, Sue Henwood and George Shreyer.

This committee, as well as the other committees and the treasurer, are responsible for the proforma budget each year. The budget is the spending plan for the upcoming year. The session also receives the report of the nominating committee, which is made up two retiring session members, one of which will chair the committee, and three elected congregational members. The nominating committee this year consisted of Ron and Cindy Cullumber (Chair) from the session and Scott Bergreen, Gene McCandlish and Ray Schmidt, congregational representatives. Paid personnel, the secretary and the custodian, are interviewed by the personnel committee, consisting of the 4 standing session committee chairs (or their reps) and your congregational representative, Judy Turner. Their job is to interview the candidates, listen to any concerns, and make a recommendation as to salaries. Rev. Hoffmann is employed by the session on a supply minister yearly basis. The mission committee is also tasked with the job of the annual review of the church roll. Some members just 'disappear' and cannot be found, some pass away, others just stop coming. This is not a very 'fun' task but is a Book of Order mandated task. In addition, there is a cost factor...(your clerk's first degree from Ohio State was in economics and corporate finance.) As a result, I look at finances as well as other factors. Our per capita cost, which is what we pay for each member to the higher ad judicatories, is \$40.00+ per member each year!!!!!!!!!!

In addition to the above, year-end activities are planned to include the congregational meeting scheduled for December 10 for budget affirmation and elections and the Children's program on December 17.

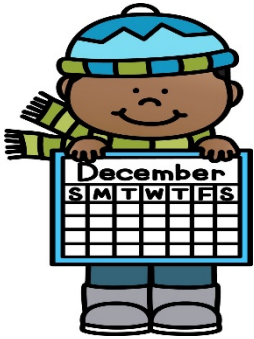
## FROM THE TREASURER: Kathy Mowry

There are currently 13 households participating in our Kroger Community Rewards. For the quarter of August through October, we received \$41.03. The session has designated the income to the **Breakfast to Go** program.

## FROM THE SERVICE COMMITTEE CHAIR: Cinda Keller

Dish cloths and wash cloths are needed for the Christmas Food Baskets.





- Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** - Zeta Alpha will meet at 9:30 am in the church basement.
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** – Congregational Meeting – election of officers to the Class of 2027 & presentation and affirmation of 2024 Budget
- Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** – Children’s Program
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** - Session will meet after the worship service.
- Dec 25<sup>th</sup>** - Christmas Day



- Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** - Twyla Baker
- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>** - David Mowry
- Dec 5<sup>th</sup>** - Carol Hilyard
- Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** - Pat Davis
- Dec 14<sup>th</sup>** - Danielle Burdett
- Dec 28<sup>th</sup>** - Kathy Mowry
- Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** - Karen Bergreen



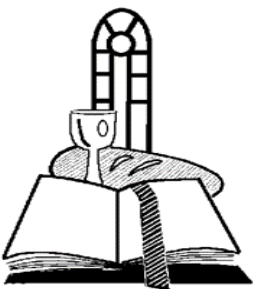
- Dec 30<sup>th</sup>** - Andy and Joanie Ray
- Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** - Bill and Ann Nutter



*Anyone wanting to add a birthday or anniversary to the list, please send an email or call the church office.*



**December Lay Readers, Communion Servers and Ushers:**



- Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Cinda Keller: Lay Reader & Usher  
Linda Embrey: Usher
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** – Susan Henwood: Lay Reader & Usher  
Susan Hoffmann: Usher
- Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** – Sharon Ankrom: Lay Reader & Usher  
Tom Ankrom: Usher
- Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** – Judy Turner: Lay Reader, Communion Server & Usher  
Linda Shreyer: Communion Server & Usher
- Dec 31<sup>st</sup>** – Mark & Tracy Embrey: Ushers  
Cinda Keller: Lay Reader







# Kids' Page



## Nativity Word Scramble

1. STRA      -----
2. MAGREN    -----
3. MYAR      -----
4. SEPHE     -----
5. DOEYKN    -----
6. AEGLN     -----
7. JPHOES    -----
8. JSSEU     -----
9. KIGSN     -----
10. STBALE   -----

All these words come from the Christmas story. Can you unscramble them?

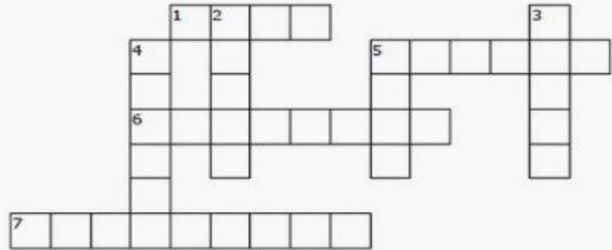


www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

## The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and laid him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



### ACROSS

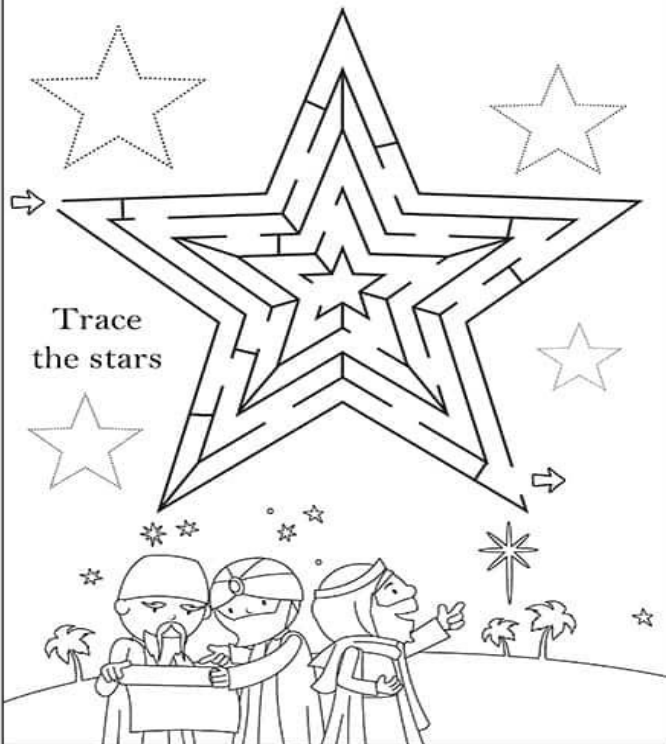
1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

### DOWN

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER

## Christmas Star Maze

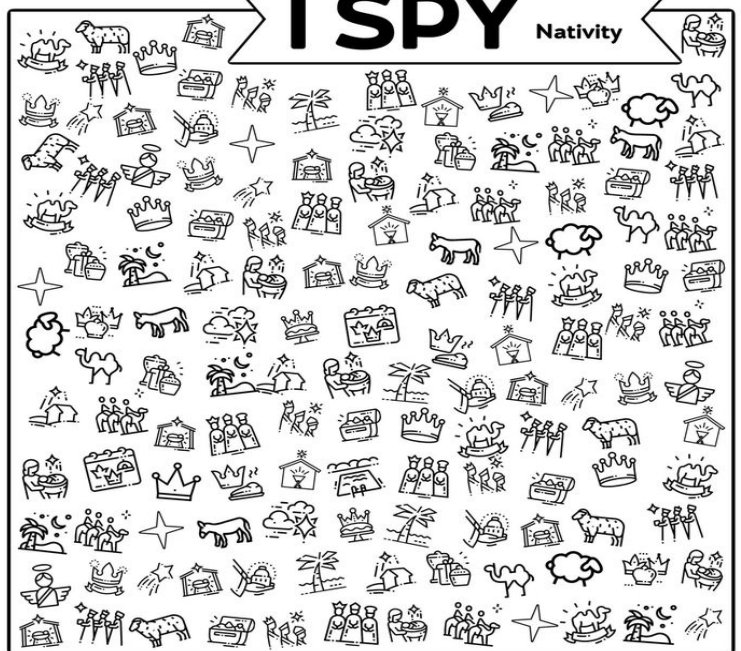


Trace the stars

www.BrainyMaze.com

Images: (c) Disney + Clipart & Font Bundles

## ISPY Nativity



- |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 2 |  | 4 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 4 |  | 5 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 5 |  |
| 1 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 1 |  | 3 |  | 6 |  | 7 |  | 4 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  |
| 3 |  | 3 |  | 4 |  | 6 |  | 2 |  | 7 |  | 5 |  | 9 |  | 6 |  | 3 |  |

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