

# Messenger

## JACKSON PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

ELCA

4535 W Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee WI 53219

# Advent



December 2025

Pastor Fred Thomas-Breitfeld

### Worship Services

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

NO Saturday services this month

Dear Friends,

We have reached the final month of 2025! Time DOES fly when you are having fun! And we continue to have FUN together as we serve the Lord. And that service is fun, it does bring joy to our hearts and souls even as we perform acts of love that touch the hearts and souls of others. And that is truly the Spirit of Christmas, the highlight of this last month of the year.

It has been said many times before, but it is true that there is something magical about Christmas. But it is more than just "magic". It is the power of the Holy Spirit reminding us of what a great gift we have been given in the babe of Bethlehem, in a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Somehow, every year, in this last month of the year, in this chilly December, we are motivated in a greater way to love and serve others. Being reminded of how much God loves us, we want to love others. It comes more easily. We do more, love more, give more. What a great thing it would be if we could do that year round!

All of us develop different family traditions around Christmas. This is what my family did on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as I was growing up. First of all, the church was very important to our family, especially to my father. So, on Christmas Eve, we went to the early Service. Following that, we travelled around to various relatives' homes distributing gifts. We were blessed that many of my aunts and uncles lived right in our area. When done, we went back home and had time to open one present! Then, it was time to go to the midnight Christmas Eve Service. After that, we rushed home, got ready for bed, and TRIED to go to sleep! The excitement of this holy day was sometimes too much, and it would take us a long time to fall asleep! But we always woke up in time to open one other present before going to the Christmas Day Service! Then, after that Service, we went home and had our Christmas celebration under the tree, opening presents and giving presents to other family members. It truly was an exciting time! And one filled with great love! And one that especially focused on the importance of the holy day, the main reason we have it at all, because it was Jesus' birthday! That was truly the focal point. And to be honest, I can not remember very many of the presents received, but I DO remember WHY we did all of this in the first place.

I write all of this to remind ourselves to remember "the reason for the season", and keep Jesus' birthday at the center of our celebrations. Let the warmth of God's act of love motivate all of us to love as well. And this Newsletter is full of ways in which you can do just that! Take advantage of these ways to love and serve others. Help us in our ministry to reach out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. May God bless us in our Christmas celebrations!

Pastor Fred

### Contact Information

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Jackson Park Lutheran Church ELCA



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

### Highlights in this Newsletter

*Faith in Action-  
Thanksgiving Baskets  
and Shoebox Sunday*

*Live Nativity- how can  
you help?*

*Flood Damage  
Restoration*

# FAITH IN ACTION AT JPLC

## **THANK YOU for your help with the Thanksgiving Baskets!**

*With your help we were able to provide TEN Thanksgiving Food Baskets to families in need this holiday season. All were most grateful for this gift. And two of the people who came to pick up their basket helped me pack the other baskets!*

*Our Sunday School students made Christmas cards for Global Refuge's "Hope for the Holidays" program. The cards will be distributed to refugee children who are in camps.*



## **JPLC FOOD PANTRY:**

We have a small food pantry, but it serves a big purpose of helping those who are hungry in our community. And just a reminder, the demand and need for food is a growing issue, and our Food Pantry is still in need of many items! We need: canned meats, spaghetti sauce, all types of pasta, canned vegetables, canned fruit, crackers, cookies, rice, boxed mashed potatoes, and macaroni & cheese.

We DO NOT need any more soups or cereals!! Thank you!

## **LIVE NATIVITY- WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP!**

**SATURDAY Dec. 13th 2-4 PM**

It is less than 2 weeks away! Plan now on ways you can volunteer to help! And ALL of us can begin getting the word out to our friends and neighbors and inviting them to come and enjoy the fun! In addition to being a cast member or cookie baker (or both) We particularly need:

- 1 or 2 people to sell cookie packages and other baked goods at the Live Nativity.
- 1-2 people to help with refreshments during the Live Nativity
- 2-3 people to help with clean-up and moving tables

Please contact either Pastor Fred, Theresa Perry or Gale Kramer if you can give us a hand to help make this community outreach event successful!

**Lawn Signs are now available!**



**Stephanie Schimmels**  
**Shoebox Sunday Memorial Ministry**



We will be collecting shoe boxes and items for the moms and kids at Hope House women's and children's shelter. Small, new toys, stuffed animals, card games, books, activity books, lotion, toiletries, socks, hats, scarfs are all appreciated for the moms, kids and babies. Please bring in your donations to church by **Sunday, Dec. 7th**. Thank you in advance for your support of these families in need!





The Holiday sampler includes 4 (2 oz each) Peaberry, Decaf, Regular and Christmas Traditions

We invite you to purchase some **Mt. Meru Coffee!**

This helps support our partner parish in Tanzania, Makimura Lutheran Church. The Christmas Traditions Blend package, or the Holiday Sample packages make great Christmas gifts!



Please pray for healing for:  
Peggy Rudolph Lisle  
Carol Genrich  
Iris Michelson  
Liz Nowatzki

Please contact Pastor Fred if you have someone that you would like to add to the prayer list.



### Poinsettia Pickup

The Poinsettia plants that were ordered will decorate the chancel area at the Christmas Eve service. Plants can be picked up after the service. If you would like to share the plant with a shut-in and haven't already indicated this, please let Theresa Perry know. Also, please pay Theresa Perry for your order. Checks can be made out to the Church. All proceeds will be donated to the Church's general operating fund.



### Church Dishes Find a New Home and Purpose

On Sunday November 9<sup>th</sup>, a number of people helped with "rehoming" Church dishes that were not being used for the Guest House homeless shelter. Special thanks to Wade and Toni Cranfield, Dave Mork, and the Kirchhoff family who packed eight boxes of very heavy dishes and carried them upstairs and loaded them in the trunk of Pastor Fred's car. He delivered them to the Guest House that afternoon. Thanks to Kari & Jeff Przybylski who delivered two other boxes of the dishes to Serenity Inn.

### Flood Damage Restoration in Progress

#### Thank you to everyone that donated to the Flood Restoration Fund.

We are thankful and grateful to our members that have been working hard to restore areas of our church that were damaged by the August flood. Thanks to Wade Cranfield and his crew of volunteers that put in all new ceiling tiles in the Sanctuary. Painting of the walls where damaged baseboards were removed is in progress. We are looking at possibly replacing those baseboards with a vinyl baseboard material in the future. Special thanks to Harvey Duerr for hauling away truckloads of damaged materials and for reorganizing the maintenance storage room. Please contact Pastor Fred if you can help with painting and/or installing the vinyl baseboards.

Flood Damage (Before) Restored (After)

