



East Side Lutheran Church  
1300 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796  
www.eastsidelc.org



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Permit No. 1041  
Sioux Falls, SD

**December 2025**



**8:00 am & 10:00 am**

**Sundays**

**5:30 pm**

**Saturdays**

**WORSHIP SERVICES**



*The Voice*

Welcoming All  
Serving Others  
Growing in Faith

**Volume 29 Issue 12**

*of East Side Lutheran Church*

**December 2025**



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

How do you prepare for Christmas?

For many people, December and the time leading up to Christmas can be a wonderful time of the year. The decorations in the stores, the music on the radio, and the lights in people's front yards and in the parks can bring a sense of connectedness and community. In a way they harken back to a simpler time... like in an old holiday movie. Still for others, this time of year can bring with it a sense of heightened loneliness and grief at the thought of spending a holiday without a loved one who has passed. In either account (and both can be true at the same time) there is something *different* about this time of year.

At Christmas we celebrate the gift of Emmanuel, "God with us". This takes preparation and invitation. For us Christians, we call this time of preparation ADVENT. Advent consists of the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas. The word Advent means "coming" or "arrival", and we anticipate Jesus' coming both in the manger at Christmas, AND his second coming at the end of days. Our Christian preparations include things like Advent services on Wednesday evenings, the weekly lighting of an Advent wreath, Children's Christmas programs, caroling, acts of service for those in need, and time in devotion and prayer... *opening ourselves up to receive Christ in our lives.*

God wants to be an active part of your life, all year long. Jump into Advent. Do the things of the season. Go to Wednesday Advent services. Take the steps to prepare yourself. Open yourself up to a new welcoming attitude and to receiving the life transforming power Jesus Christ. Open yourself up to the possibility that... **God is with you, even now!**





# The Voice

This is the monthly newsletter of East Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

It can also be downloaded from our website.

## East Side Lutheran Church

1300 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Sioux Falls SD 57103-1796

(605) 336-3597      [www.eastsidelc.org](http://www.eastsidelc.org)

### Staff

Rev. Layne Nelson . . . . . Lead Pastor  
Rev. Ray Heidenson . . . . . Visitation Pastor  
Wayne Wosje . . . . . Business Manager  
Gayle Lee . . . . . Parish Secretary  
Sue Hart . . . . . Volunteer Coordinator  
Tom Call . . . . . Security  
Nona Bixler. . . . . Newsletter

### Music Ministries

Paul R. Griffith . . . . . Organist  
Dr. Thomas Krause . . . . . Director of Music  
Katrina Mitchell. . . . . Accompanist

### Worship Services

Saturdays

5:30 pm

Sundays

8:00 am      10:00 am

**Radio Broadcast:** KXRB 1140 AM or 100.1 FM

Sundays, 11:00 am

**OnLine:** Facebook and YouTube

Sundays, 8:00 am

## Radio Sponsorships

For 80 years we've received cards, letters, phone calls and e-mails from those who enjoy "being with you" in Sunday morning worship through our radio ministry.



"YOU make this possible! Your sponsorship allows this to happen AND can honor someone or something special in your life... anniversaries, birthdays, the memory of a loved one or simply gratitude of God's love.

11:00am on KXRB Radio

(1140 AM or 100.1 FM)

**Sponsor a radio broadcast**

**\$255/Sunday!**

## Online Sponsorships

Each week there are over 500 individuals who click to view our 8:00 am service on our Facebook page at East Side Lutheran. Many of those individuals are members who are traveling and don't want to miss out on staying connected with the good word. Thank you to those who have sponsored and to those considering a sponsorship

Please consider sponsoring an online worship service to mark an important milestone in your life, and to help us spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Online



The following have been Honored this month to the glory of God through gifts given in their memory or honor to the work and ministry of East Side Lutheran.

Thank you for your generosity.

**Jim Buckneberg** given by

- Carol Thomsen
- Family & friends

**Madeline Hatlestad** given by

- Jerry & Cheryl Larson

**Janet Wilcox** given by

- Greg & Beth Wilcox

**Donna Rieder** given by

- Judi Elisaon
- Nancy Renner
- Judy Adler

- Marv & Laurie McNelly

**Harlan Hohn** given by

- Kay Dammer
- Dee Black

**Don Jensen** given by

- Merlin & Barb Goehring
- Jim & Judy Vollmer
- Judi Eliason

(gifts given as of November 25<sup>th</sup>)

## HOLIDAY WORSHIPS

Dec 3, 10, 17 at 7:00 pm

**Holden Evening Prayer**

Dec 24 **Candlelight Worship**

at 4:00 and 5:30 pm

**Candlelight Worship with**

**Holy Communion** at 11 pm

Dec 31 5:00-6:30 pm stop in for

**Silent Communion**

## Upcoming Events

Dec 9	Caroling & Cheer (adults)
Dec 13	WELCA Luncheon—12noon
Dec 28	Pavillion & Imax (MX/HS)
Feb 1	Roller Skating
Feb 22	BINGO 2-4pm
March 15	Cribbage Tournament 1-3pm

Ice Ice Baby!

THANK YOU to the East Side Lutheran Rummage Sale team for providing the funds for the new church **ice machine**.

And thank you to ESL new member **Laird Raschke** for installing it. "*Raschke to the rescue!*"

It was a great project all the way around. Now we can once again enjoy a cool beverage without the risk of botulism. Cheers!



## St. Lucia Festival

### St. Mark's Lutheran Church

St. Mark's 50th anniversary St. Lucia Festival will be held on **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 AT 7:00 PM AND SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 AT 7:00 PM** at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 2001 S. Elmwood Ave, Sioux Falls. Doors open one hour prior to the performances.

Enjoy Swedish treats, Swedish egg coffee, dancers, and Lucia wearing her crown of candles. The freewill offering this year will benefit Pueblo de Dios in Sioux Falls. Please join us and invite your family and friends!



## TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



The boiler conversion to forced air project in the sanctuary has now been completed and was fully funded by monies set aside in our capital savings account. Recently, the decision was made that the boiler will officially end its useful life, so other areas in the original building will need to have new heating systems. Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, East Side Lutheran had a successful rummage sale and will be able to fund two new heating units.

As of October 31, 2025, stewardship offerings are up \$34,181 or 8.34% over last year. This is great! Looking at the November/December time period, our normal budget pattern is that revenues exceed expenses. This year for Nov/Dec we need \$56,000 more revenue than expense to meet our financial commitment. In November, our \$30,000 endowment distribution was taken as planned. In addition, the total contributions needed are \$149,500. [Please prayerfully](#) consider your fall giving so that we can end the year on solid ground.

The complete year-to-date budget is posted on the bulletin board. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



### 2025 Christmas Program - Joy To The World

It's that time of the year for our Sunday School Christmas Program! We began practicing songs in November, speaking parts were assigned and scripts have been sent home to practice and bring back each Sunday for those children with speaking parts.

During the "Joy To The World" program you will be serenaded with Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem, Away In A Manger, Hark The Herald Angels Sing & Joy To The World.

Rehearsal for the program will be on Saturday, December 20th at 9:00 am at the church.

The Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 21st during the 10:00 am church service. We are wanting the children at the church by 9:15 am so that we can get them into their costumes and prepare them for the program.

After the 10:00 am service we invite all to our annual Cookie Fellowship in the fellowship hall. Punch and cookies will be served and the children will be there to greet everyone.

We are looking for donations of Christmas cookies for this event and will have a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas

And  
a Happy New Year!



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT — RAY SCHUT



### Are You Telling The Truth?

I bet you aren't! You're probably just like everyone else and tell people what they want to hear or you tell them something that will get you out of a deep conversation. I'm not pointing fingers, I do it too.

I'm asked questions daily such as; "How are you?" "How's it going?" or "Did you enjoy your weekend?" What's my answer? "I'm good", "It's going good" or "Yeah, it was a nice weekend". That's not always the truth but, what am I supposed to say? Do you really want to know how it's going? I don't think you have enough time in your day for that.

I could tell you that I'm not really feeling that well, that I'm struggling at work and I'm worried about the future. That'd be the truth some days but, that's probably not what you want to hear. Those are the struggles that are for me to carry around, I don't need to bother you with them. Besides, you didn't sign up to be my counselor, you were just being polite by asking me those questions.

You'd be surprised at what lurks behind the eyes of the folks that you come in contact with. We never really know what's going on in their lives and most of the time, we don't have a strong enough relationship to do a deep dive and give them an outlet to air some of their fears and concerns. In some cases, folks don't have anyone to talk to about what bothers them, so they keep it bottled up and soldier on.

I work with a person who was really nasty to me a few weeks ago. It's not like them to be like that. My first reaction was to be nasty right back at them until I stopped and asked myself..."I wonder what's going on in their life that would make them say something like that?" I found out later that one of their dogs was very sick and it was throwing them for a loop. I'm glad I didn't say what I wanted to say, it would have ruined our relationship.

Our congregation is a close knit group, one of the reasons I love East Side but, we still keep certain things private...and rightly so. I would encourage you, during this hectic holiday season, to react with grace, be kind, show care and concern toward everyone...because you never know what's happening in their lives.

## WELCA HAPPENINGS

The annual Christmas WELCA Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 12noon.

All are welcome to attend this festive luncheon and bring your family and friends. We are asked to bring a fruit or vegetable salad to be shared. Sign up sheet is by the office.

After the luncheon a sing-a-long of Christmas songs will be sung with all in attendance.





COUNCIL MINUTES — KIM TRAVERS

East Side Lutheran Church Council Meeting - November 15, 2025

Present: Ray Schut, Carla Middleden, Brian Ensberg, Brenda Schut, Gwen Oakland, Jon Cisar, Kimberly Travers, and Pastor Layne Nelson. Excused absence: Todd Brower, Danielle Champa

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 1:15pm. Carla Midden moved to accept the agenda without changes. Gwen Oakland seconded. Motion carried.

Opening Devotions – Brenda Schut read devotions from Galatians, Chapter 6.

Secretary's Report: Gwen Oakland moved to accept the October 19, 2025 Council meeting minutes as presented. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

**President's Report:** President Schut expressed appreciation for the work and dedication of the Church Council members. The second annual Cribbage Tournament is scheduled for March 15, 2026 in the afternoon. It will be single elimination, and prizes will be custom-made Cribbage boards. President Schut will offer Cribbage lessons in January 2026 between the 8 AM and 10AM services.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Layne Nelson said temporary office volunteer(s) are needed December 8 - 19, 2025. Those interested should contact Wayne in the office. There have been two weddings and no funerals or baptisms since the last Council meeting. The "Beer and Theology" Bible Study began at Monk's in October 2025. The Bible Study takes place at 7PM on the last Tuesday of each month. There were 568 Trunk or Treaters and 16 trunks in October 2025. 11 Students were confirmed in October 2025. The big bell was rung 36 times on All Saints Sunday. Thanksgiving Eve worship this year will be held in the Fellowship Hall with pie afterwards, and attendees are invited to bring canned good donations. The ESLC Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2026.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Brian Ensberg reported offerings through October 2025 are up over the last ten months compared to last year. Stewardship for 2025 is up 8.24%. Budget is on track for October. \$30,000 was received from the Endowment Fund in November 2025. Work continues on the 2026 budget. The ESLC Rummage Sale in 2025 raised \$22,591. \$10,000 of the Rummage Sale proceeds is available to purchase 2 wall heaters, and \$9,362 will be put into the general fund. The Capital Savings Money Market balance is \$84,047.38. Jon Cisar motioned to move forward with purchasing two wall heaters with exact locations to be decided. Carla Midden seconded. Motion passed. Carla Midden moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Brenda Schut seconded. Motion carried.

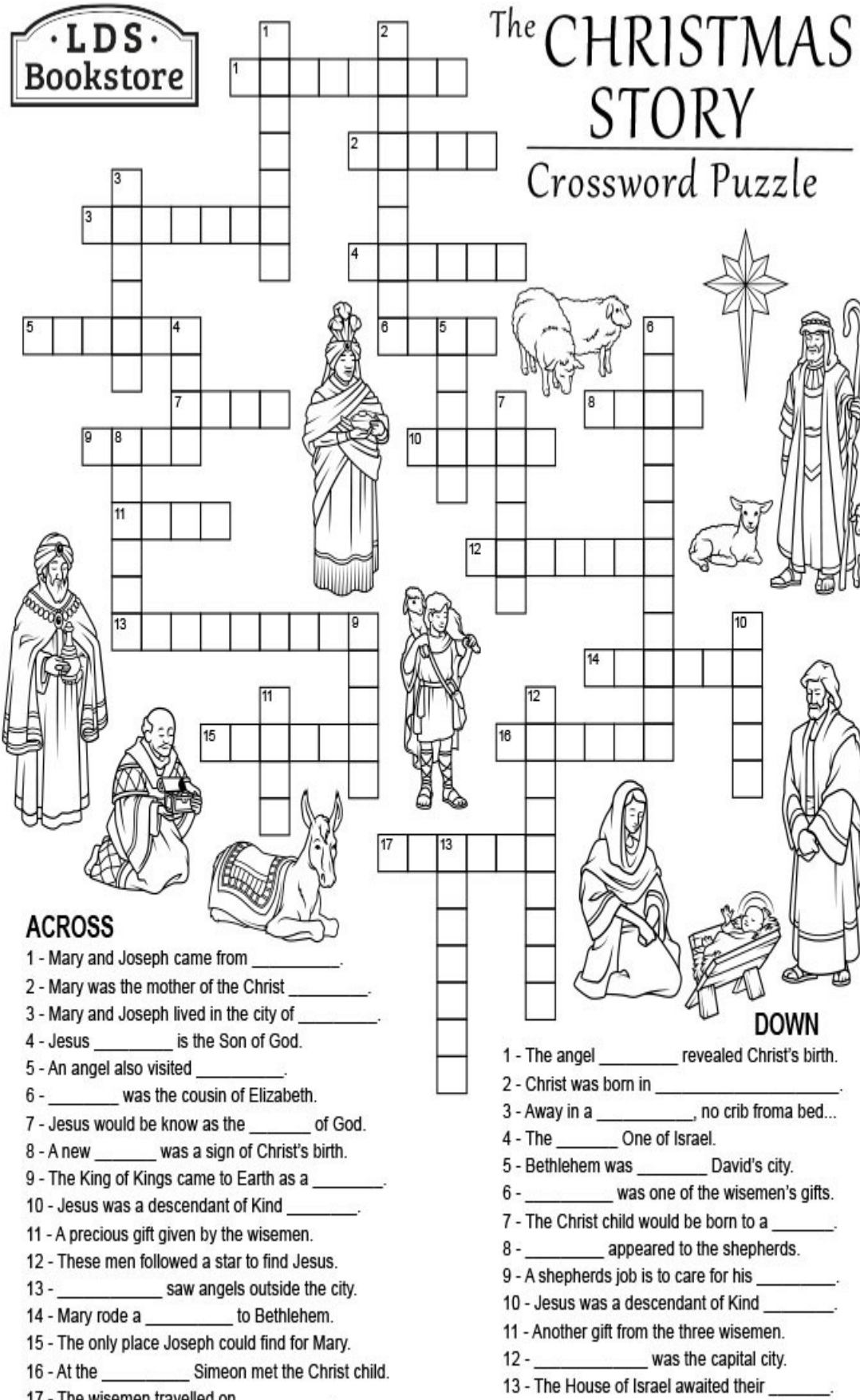
## Council Committee and Task Force Reports

Outreach Committee – Danielle Champa reported the following:

- 1) East Side served 150 families on November 6, 2025 for The Mobile Food Pantry. ESLC has a large number of volunteers present.
- 2) Hope Harbor will give a temple talk at both services on December 6, 2025. A table will be set up for brochures, and they will answer questions between services. Change jars will be set out to collect donations for them.
- 3) Tags for the thankful tree at the Thanks for Giving meal have been ordered, along with a larger photo backdrop. This new backdrop is taller and should work better for group photos.

**Stewardship & Visioning** – Jon Cisar reported the Stewardship Task Force met via Zoom with the GSB consultant on November 4, 2025. Next steps for completion of the annual Stewardship campaign were discussed. Consecration Sunday occurred the weekend of November 8 – 9, 2025, and commitment cards were collected from the congregation.

(minutes continued on page 5)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	<b>3</b> 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper - BBQ Sandwich 7:00 Advent Worship 7:45 pm Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  5:30 pm Worship
<b>7</b> 8:00 & 10:00 Worship 11:15 Education Task Force	<b>8</b> 9:00 am Quilters— Lower Level	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn  6:00 Charis	<b>10</b> 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper Pork Loin 7:00 Advent Worship 7:45 pm Choir	<b>11</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7pm Caroling &	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 Choir Practice 12:00 WELCA Christmas Luncheon  5:30 pm Worship
<b>14</b> 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	<b>15</b>  <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	<b>17</b> 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 Supper 7:00 Advent Worship 7:45 pm Choir	<b>18</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  5:30 pm Worship
<b>21</b> 8:00 & 10:00 Worship 10:00 Christmas Program 11:15 Council	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <b>Worships</b> <b>4:00 pm</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> <b>11:00pm (w/ Holy Communion)</b>		<b>26</b>  Church Office Closed	<b>27</b>  5:30 pm Worship
<b>28</b> 8:00 & 10:00 Worship	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Quilters— Lower Level	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	<b>31</b> 5:00-6:30 pm <b>Silent Communion Worship</b>  <b>New Year Eve</b>			

(Church Council Minutes continued...)

An update email was sent to the congregation, and an update will be shared at worship services on November 15th and 16th.

Education – Gwen Oakland reported that Confirmation is going well. Concentration this year is on the Bible. A rock-climbing event is scheduled for November 30, 2025. Anyone is welcome to attend, and the cost is \$10 / person. The 2025 Sunday School Christmas Program will be held at the 10am Service on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

Evangelism – Brenda Schut reported a good response to the posting of confirmands’ faith statements on social media.

Facebook stats for last 28 days:

views are up 12%

visits up 4.6%

most viewed in last 7 days was the photo of the aurora borealis

Brenda has been in contact with the Sioux Falls Stampede regarding hockey events – Nov 29th Charlie Brown Christmas theme with tickets at \$10 for a group rate. Another opportunity is Faith and Family Night on February 15, 2026.

Fellowship – Carla Midden said Washington High School is requesting men’s and women’s sweatshirts for the students. Brenda Schut will establish a collection point at church, and Carla will take the donated sweatshirts to the school. Preparing and serving breakfast for the confirmands in October 2025 was well received. A similar event will be held for graduates in 2026.

Bingo is scheduled for February 22, 2026, and donated prizes are needed.

Property – Treasurer Ensberg reported the boiler is non-functional. The sanctuary is now on forced air. To assist with heat, two wall heaters will be purchased at a cost of \$10,000 to heat other areas of the Church.

Old Business –

Cell Tower: Treasurer Ensberg presented three options regarding the cell tower to the Council and asked for feedback before the December 2025 Council meeting. The Council will vote for a recommendation at the December 2025 meeting, which will then be presented to the Congregation at the February 2026 Annual Meeting. Initial discussion of the three cell tower options led to President Schut requesting additional price negotiation with American Cell Tower.

New Business –

Organist Search: Pastor Layne requested a search committee be formed to find a replacement primary organist. President Schut volunteered, and several other names were suggested.

2026 Stewardship Appeal Update and Follow-Up: Jon Cisar met with the GSB consultant on November 4, 2025. The GSB consultant is available through March 2026. Handwritten Thank You cards will be given to those who have turned in commitment cards. The Task Force will meet on November 18, 2025 at 6pm to place phone calls to those on the Church roster who have not yet engaged in the Stewardship campaign. A “Thanks for Giving” meal will be held November 23rd to thank the congregation for the last year and to encourage engagement in the Stewardship campaign. The Task Force will meet in January 2026 with the GSB consultant.

Thanks-for-Giving Meal Preparations: President Schut has completed the menu. Carla Midden will help coordinate the serving and clean up, volunteers are needed. Brenda Schut will coordinate decorating.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm. The next meeting will be held December 19, 2025, at 11:15 am.



## FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS — CARLA MIDDLEN



The Fellowship Committee served brunch for the Confirmation Day. We will also be serving brunch for our graduating seniors and their families in May.

Other events scheduled for the year include BINGO on February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2-4pm and assisting the Education Committee by serving breakfast at the Eggstravaganza on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

Currently we are in need of prizes for BINGO Day. Items can be new or gently used and can be for people of all ages. Prizes can be brought to the church office. Gift cards are always popular prizes and you can purchase those right at East Side.

If you are interested in being part of the Fellowship Committee please contact Carla Midden at 605-360-6767) or drop a note in my church mailbox. **We would love to have you join us!**

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC TOM KRAUSE



Glory to God in the Highest (Gloria in excelsis Deo)

Part of our Lutheran liturgy is the Gloria. All of our Sunday morning musical settings have one. For centuries this was the only “Hymn of Praise” after the Kyrie that people would use every week. Luther kept the Gloria, like the Kyrie, as part of the service from Catholicism. Now we also have the option of singing “This is the Feast” when communion is served. The text of the Gloria is:

Glory to God in the Highest, And peace to God’s people on earth.

We praise You. We bless You. We worship You. We glorify You.

We give thanks to You according to Your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.

Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the

Father. You take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

You take away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you only are holy, you only are the Lord. You only are the most high, Jesus

Christ. With the Holy Ghost in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Gloria has been composed by almost every composer in every age. For Lessons & Carols Sunday the choir will sing the “Gloria” composed by Antonio Vivaldi. Vivaldi was a red-headed Italian priest that composed most of his music for a female orphanage orchestra and choir. Many of you might be familiar with his most famous work “The Four Seasons” (the “Gloria” is probably his second most famous).

The Gloria begins with the famous words of the angels in Luke 2. This year the text of the Gloria will be wrapped around our Christmas thoughts.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - SUE HART



Sue Hart and her husband Wayne joined East Side Lutheran 17 years ago. Sue states “We didn’t volunteer in the beginning as we were both busy working”. Her husband Wayne was more involved as he counts money for the church once a month on Mondays and attends Bible study Thursday mornings.

While Sue is still working full time as a manager for a radiology sales team, she also finds time to volunteer at East Side Lutheran. She is the new member coordinator and also does all of the recruiting for volunteers who serve at the 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday worship services.

As the new member coordinator Sue is in contact with those who may be interested in joining East Side. She coordinates the new membership classes which are held twice a year and enjoys meeting new people. Calling the service teams started off by her working at the church office. After about 6 months Sue requested to make the calls from home as it was easier for individuals to call her back. Each month she makes many calls to individuals to secure Lectors, communion servers, greeters and coffee servers for each Sunday. This is no small task as each month her list has 40+ members that she calls to recruit. Some individuals say yes right away, some she needs to call two or three times and others she is unable to get ahold of. Sue states “our church is like a “little city” and everyone has a story and I enjoy getting to know members through our conversations”. She also feels that she does some ministering during the calls that she makes as well. Many times people will share their story with me or sometimes they just need someone to talk to and because she is a caring and compassionate person she listens to each person during their call together. “I love people and I love that I have the opportunity to visit with so many of the members at East Side Lutheran with both my volunteer roles”, says Sue.

When I asked Sue about retirement she shared that she likes being busy and loves being with people so she doesn’t see retirement in her near future.

Each one of us as members of East Side Lutheran are assigned a service team and have the opportunity to serve on Sundays. So when your phone rings and you hear a sweet voice on the other line saying “Hello, this is Sue from East Side Lutheran” consider saying YES!



During the Christmas season the **Altar Guild** are asking you to help enhance our worship experience by participating in the purchase of **poinsettias** and other décor by donating \$10 in memory or honor of someone near and dear to you. The names will then be listed in the Christmas bulletin. Forms will be available each Sunday in the bulletins or you can stop by the church office and pick one up. Yay!