



What a joy it is to celebrate Advent and Christmas in the church each year!

Advent is to be a time of waiting, a spiritual discipline of slowing down to notice God's presence in the still small voice within a violent and hurried world. **"Be still, and know that I am God!"** the Psalmist reminds us in Psalm 46:10.

We can get so caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas that we forget the reason we are celebrating. Waiting for something that has already happened is a curious practice. The Advent season plays with our notion of time. **The church gathers in the present, to ponder the past, for a future hope.**

Make attending church part of your family's Christmas plans – there is no greater gift you can give yourself or them.

If you will be in the area on Christmas Eve let your family know how much it would mean to you for them to attend worship with you.

Plan your family Christmas Eve celebration to begin with, be filled in the middle with or end with, 3:30 pm worship at Dent United Methodist or 5:30 at Vergas United Methodist – make welcoming the Christ child more important than Santa or a meal.



Blessings and See You In Church!
Pastor Joyce <><



Daily Advent devotions: Hope, peace, joy, and love: Rev. Tiffany McDonald, an elder in the Minnesota Conference, has written a series of Advent devotions that is featured on The United Methodist Church website. Find inspiration and new insights each day of the Advent season through Scripture, poetry, music, reflection, and prayer. Take time to center yourself and prepare for the birth of Christ, and share these devotions with your congregation. [Access daily devotions](#)



[12/1 Christmas Hymn Sing & History](#)

Dent led by Lyndon Maasjo & Don Garber / Vergas led by Rick Nelson

Hymns: This Is the Day, Advent Song, O Come All Ye Faithful, It Came upon the Midnight Clear, What Child Is This, Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, O Holy Night, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

12/8 “Reviving Isaiah” Luke 3:1-6 Communion

What would Isaiah tell us if he were around today? God is with us; God's word is meant to help us; and Jesus is our salvation. Hymns: This Is the Day, Advent Song, People, Look East, There's a Song in the Air, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

12/15 “The Produce Section” Luke 3:7-18

On Gaudete Sunday, John the Baptist has very simple guidelines that will help us recover the joy and simplicity of Christmas. Hymns: This Is the Day, Advent Song, Angels from the Realms of Glory, Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

12/22 “Why Not Me?” Luke 1:39-55

Mary, even at a young and tender age, seems to know that life itself is a gift from God, and that God is good to us even amid personal struggles. Hymns: This Is the Day, Advent Song, O Little Town of Bethlehem, He Is Born, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

12/24 “Royal Births” Luke 2:1-20 Christmas Eve Dent 3:30 & Vergas 5:30

Like many royal births, Jesus came into the world in a very public way! Hymns: O Come, All Ye Faithful, Away in a Manger, Angels We Have Heard on High, The First Noel, Joy to the World, Silent Night.

12/29 “Put On Your Christian Pants” Colossians 3:12-17

There are times we may not feel like exemplary Christians. It's the perfect time to go to the store and try on a new outfit. Hymns: This Is the Day, Advent Song. Infant Holy, Infant Lowly, Go, Tell It on the Mountain.



A SUGGESTION FOR CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS MORNING

Gather around the tree before you open gifts and have someone **read this portion of the Christmas story** from Luke 2:1-7:

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



Have someone **read this message about sharing:**

This is a season of sharing: we share our time, our most beloved traditions, our favorite recipes. We share stories and memories, music and moments of worship. And we share Christmas presents, which we will open in a few minutes. These gifts are not love in themselves, but they are simple reflections of the love we have for one another and they are given in honor of a greater love – God’s love for us in giving us Jesus. So we open these presents with thankfulness for Jesus and to celebrate his birthday.



Have someone **pray this prayer:**

God of Heaven, it is You, we know, who has gathered us around this tree to share with one another the treasures that are hidden in these brightly colored wrappings...to share with one another your good gift of time together. We know you are with us too, dear Lord, sharing this time even as you shared your own dear Son that we might all be your children. For all of these gifts, we thank you and praise you. Amen.

The Magic of
Christmas
is not in the presents
but in *His*
presence



Keep your
faith
and kindness
this Christmas.

**Merry
Christmas**





A family-friendly Christmas Eve Services, gifts for children & guests, and concludes with a candle-light singing of Silent Night,

3:30 @ Dent / 5:30 @ Vergas.



A New Opportunity to gather in person for prayer

Prayer Circle – meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 am in Dent or Thursday mornings at 11:00 in Vergas in the Sanctuary.

If you would like to be a part of a group that gathers weekly to pray in-person – then we have a wonderful opportunity for you! We gather at the above listed times and places to listen to a short devotional or scripture, then we join together in prayer for our church, our community, our family & friends, and for whatever prayer needs there might be. A candle is lit for each prayer need and people are free to either pray out loud or silently. Let Pastor Joyce know if you'd like to be a part of this in-person prayer group.



Dent UMC Annual Rudolph's Closet



From 8am to 12 noon Saturday, Dec 14th, same day as Dent's Santa Day. The community children are invited to come and shop for Christmas gifts for their family members. They will be assisted with shopping, all gifts will be wrapped and refreshments will be available....



Buy an Angel in memory of Loved ones or to Honor a special someone or family in your life.



Angels will be for sale Sunday, Dec 1st and Dec 8th for \$5 each. See Sheri to get an Angel for the tree

On Sunday, Dec 15th we will hang the Angels on the tree with a special Dedication. You may take your Angel(s) home on Christmas Eve





The Church Ladies have had a very successful year with raising nearly \$4000 to give to charities. The Good Stuff Sale earned over \$700 so thank you to all who attended and purchased items. We appreciate your support! It was so great to have the Band of Faith and friends from the Dent Church join us for music, food, and fun. We are already planning for November 9, 2025!



Our next meeting will be December 17th at Pastor Joyce's to have a little celebration for another successful year.

We wrote checks totaling \$3600 to Relay for Life, Churches United, Hospice of the Red River Valley, Samaritan's Purse, Young Life, Boys and Girls Club, Lakes Crisis Center, and Firefly Fields.

We sent 50 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child along with \$500 to help with postage.



Sunday, Dec 22nd
wear your Ugly Christmas sweater to church, or a nice Christmas sweater if

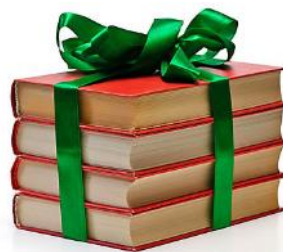


Sunday, Dec 15th we will be randomly passing out the Pay it Forward envelopes for



DENT
DEC 11TH
AT 3PM

VERGAS
DEC 18TH
AT 6:30PM



BOOK CLUB

Next Meeting
Tues, Dec 3rd 12:30pm at Monarch Coffee House in Frazee

Books:
"If You Tell ~ The Unbreakable Bond of Sisterhood"



Church Missions October / November / December

Vergas Quarterly Mission ~ Local Food



The Mission of the Quarter (October, November, December) is the local Food Shelves. The Food Shelves in Detroit Lakes, Perham, and Pelican Rapids are supported by this quarter's giving by the congregation plus the budgeted \$600. Help people to have a holiday season with enough food on the table for their families. All these food shelves need extra support during this time of year.

Vergas Local Outreach

The Local Mission dollars \$300 will be used to fill the "Living Faith by Giving" envelopes with \$50 each that will be distributed at church on December 15th.

Please let the Ad Council know of any local needs you may know of. Thank You!

Dent Mission of the Quarter is Salvation Army



The Salvation Army has been helping people in need for more than 150 years. We have seen many changes since then, but one thing remains constant: God calls us to serve those who are most vulnerable. Today, The Salvation Army provides emergency services, including food, clothing, shelter, a safe space, and a hopeful word to everyone who needs it regardless of religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, or political affiliation. For many, making ends meet is a daily challenge, forcing people to choose between things like heating their homes and putting food on the table. We understand the stress these situations put on families and are here to help. With utility assistance, our goal is to provide resources that will help families stay in their homes.



DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS LISTS

December Ushers
Lyndon & Peggy M.

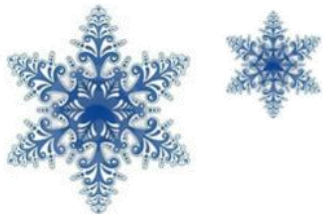
Dec Liturgist
Darlene H.

Dec	Fellowship
1st	Toni & Lowell L
8th	Dorothy W. / Ivy M.
15th	Michelle & Kelvin S
22th	Peggy & Lyndon M.
29th	Karen & Richard J.

Dec	Vergas Liturgist	Vergas Ushers	Fellowship
1st	Tonya J.	David & Carla R.	Lana J.
8th	Margy N.	Byron & Connie Z	Margy N.
15th	Bev F	Rick & Margy N	Faye C.
22nd	NEEDED	Faye & Tonya	Christmas Goodies
24th	TBD	Byron & Connie Z	No fellowship
29th	Rick N.	NEEDED	NEEDED



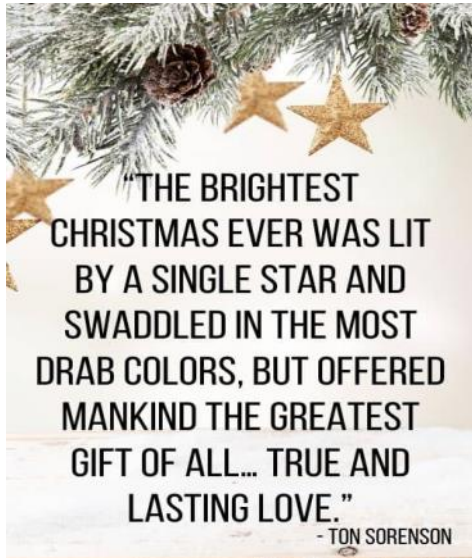
If you are unable to be there on a Sunday, please find a substitute to fill in for you. Thank You!



Vergas Birthdays	
18th	Neil Strawhorn
21st	Tonya Johnson
28th	Ken Schwarzrock

Dent Birthday's	
15th	Gretchen Dorenbush
17th	Austin Holtz
28th	Ivy Mickelson
30th	Lyndon Maasjo





Let us
WORSHIP
Together

“Worship Times”

Dent UMC

8:30am Pre Fellowship
9am Worship Service

Vergas UMC

9:30am Adult Sunday School (Sep thru May)
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am Coffee Fellowship



Livestream Service begins at 10:30am on the [Vergas Facebook page](#)



Recorded Service will be posted on YouTube and dentvergasumc.org

Click on the icon or link to go to the site

Are there things you would like to see each month in your newsletter? Would you like to write an article? Submit photographs? Share a recipe? Please let us know and we will do our best to include it here. Also, If you want your Newsletter delivered by email. Please let Sheri Schoenberger know at sheri.Lschoenberger@gmail.com or call her at 218-329-7465

Additions to the newsletter, **deadline for January 2025 is December 26, 2024.**

We will be sending out the newsletter on the first or second Sunday of each month, if possible. To defray costs the newsletter will be offered in the following formats:

Email - Website - In person pick up at church - 1st or 2nd Sunday of the month.

US Mail - Remaining newsletters will be mailed on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month.



Church Secretary / Newsletter editor

Sheri Schoenberger

Phone or text: 218-329-7465

email: sheri.lschoenberger@gmail.com

December 2024 / January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 12:30pm Book Club Monarch Coffee House Frazee	4 9am Dent Breakfast Club	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Ad Council 3pm Dent	12	13	14 8am - noon Rudolph's Closet Dent UMC
15 Pay It Forward ~~~~~ Angel Tree Dedication	16	17 12:30pm Church Ladies at Pastor Joyce's Apt	18 Ad Council 6:30pm Vergas	19	20	21
22 Wear your Ugly Christmas Sweater to	23	24	25 	26	27	28
29	30	31		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 12:30pm Book Club	14	15	16	17