

December Newsletter 2025



Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Donald Welmer
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Gilbert Pingel
Administrative Assistant	Amy Sandy
Director of Music	Justin Hipp
Organist/Pianist	Anna Hipp
Custodian	Denise Topp
President	Adam Weidman
BCA Principal	David Topp

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

*Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.”*

(Psalm 51:10-12)

In this Psalm of repentance from David, we look to God to remind us of our baptism and to keep us ever in his forgiveness. This is sung on Sunday morning in the Divine Service (Setting 3) during the Offertory. There is a transition in this part of the service where we have just heard the word of God, and now we are preparing our hearts and minds to be in the right spirit to partake in the Holy Supper. Prayer and meditation follow the Offertory to remind us of the peace that we have in Christ Jesus.

The offertory reminds us as well of the fruits (offerings) we have given to the church to be used rightly for the purposes of charity, mission, outreach, caring for the building, etc. We are brought back to know that we should focus on the things of God, rather than on the things of man. This offertory is focused on Psalm 51, but in setting 1 and 2 you will find parts of Psalm 116 directing us to rendering those things to God what are God's. Which then transitions us to the Service of the Sacrament.

Our liturgy in our hymnals do a wonderful job of keeping the flow of our spirit in line with God's grace. There is a rhythm to liturgy. It has been used by the church since Christ's ascension. We are connected to the early church through liturgy.

The offertory reminds us of the superabundance of mercy we have received from the Lord. And now we are ready for the feast above all other feasts – The Lord's Supper.

Think about the words this Sunday when you sing Psalm 51. David

looked to God for his mercy forgiveness, and so do we.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Welmer

2 Timothy 1:7

.. for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control

A growth mindset has been a focus of our BCA team this year. A spirit of power, love and self-control allows us to focus on what can be done if we are in the right spirit, which leads to the right growth mindset. As we set our hearts on the preparation of the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ we should be thankful for His setting aside His power to become a human for us. His example, when we follow it, brings joy and peace to our lives.

As we gather with family and friends I pray that we can look at each other through the lens of what God gives in and through His son and lift each other up. Appreciate effort and encourage growth, even if it is a baby step that's a little wobbly and needs a helping hand.

May your time celebrating Jesus be filled with His power, joy, love and your self-control.

With a growth mindset,

David Topp



Advent Services are at
6:00 on Wednesdays,
December 3, 10 and 17.

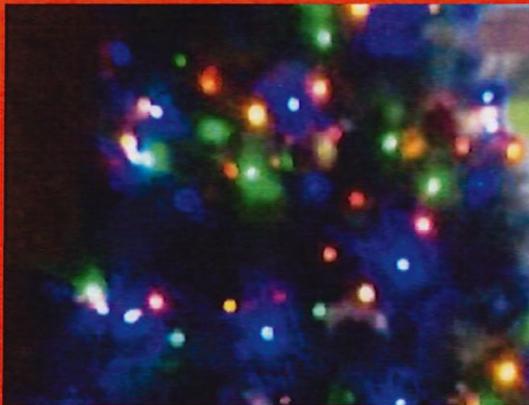
*Advent Supper served at
5:00 in the Fellowship Hall.*



*Children's Christmas Program
Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 6:00*

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service*

*December 24 at
7:00 PM*



Christmas Day
Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.

The Church Office is closed
December 24 & 25,
December 31 & January 1.

December Birthdays

Tina Nance	12/4
Sonja Shamblin	12/6
Lee Smith	12/6
Jordan Halabrin	12/9
Ashley Engel	12/9
Susan Johnson	12/10
Lisa Randall	12/13
Chelsea Miller	12/14
Natalie Alonzo	12/14

Kurt Piepenbrink	12/17
Scarlett Kulisek	12/17
Rachel Schlie	12/18
Beverly Burt	12/18
Rowan Schoneck	12/19
Justin Randall	12/21
Sarah Barber	12/22
Sandy Lowe	12/24
Noelle Beck	12/29

Esther Schlie 12/14
 Steve Kempson 12/15
 Kathleen McMullen 12/16

Sandy Turner 12/30

December Anniversaries

Anniversary	yrs	Date
Kevin & Kelsey Schoneck	9	12/2
Steve & Linda J. Hale	29	12/19

Prayer Requests

Members

Michelle Bumgardner
 Karen Lawson
 Monty Simmons
 Barbara Wright

Family of Members

Carol & Carl Anderson (*J. Anderson*)
 Page Dover (*Stroud*)
 Doug Emmer (*Emmer*)
 Sherry Emmer (*Emmer*)
 Lynn Erke (*Randall*)
 Joshua Falloon (*Turner*)
 Austin Martin (*Petty*)
 Dusty Martin (*Petty*)

Gabe Newbert (*Coulter*)
 James O'Connell (*Pacenti*)
 Tim Stroud (*Stroud*)

Friends of Members

Gene & Faye Edwards (*Tyson*)
 Ava England (*Anderson*)
 Jon Freese (*Gatlin*)
 Charmaine Goines (*Petty*)
 Jeff Hale (*Bumgardner*)
 Stella Kuhn (*McMullen*)
 Jollie Reeves (*Simmons*)
 Amy Turner, Lilly &
 Tabitha (*Turner*)

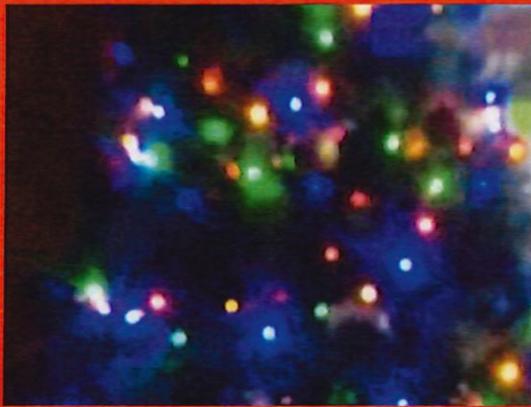
Valerie McMullen (*McMullen*)
Avery Morkert (*Morkert*)

LONG-TERM

Members: Joan Ashton, Mariann Fretwell, Ingrid Hall, Carolyn Kempson, Ida Jane Larson, Walter Meyer, Peggy Moselage, Judy Nance, Paul Parker, Pastor Pingel, Stan Puterbaugh, David Ratchford, Pat Stroud

Non-Members:

Eleanor Aramil (*Piepenbrink*), Robbie & Sue Barnes (*Hyde*), Bonnie Blair (*Nance*), Thomas Caines (*Lowe*), Bethany Dillard (*Johnson*), Kris Hall (*Hall*), Ashley & Jim Koss (*Schlie*), Bern Langley (*Bumgardner*), Mia Marine (*Cox*), Lloyd Miller (*Uffalussy*), Becky Whitfield (*Bumgardner*)



Christmas Day
Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.

The Church Office is closed
December 24 & 25,
December 31 & January 1.



December 4 at 11:00
Golden Corral on
Battlefield Parkway
Fort Oglethorpe

\$10 Gift Exchange Door Prizes
Everyone is welcome.

Sign up in the narthex or contact
Becky Emmer: 414-406-5044



Create a Video Message for Pastor and Brenda Sheets wishing them a wonderful retirement at:

<https://share.vidday.com/e/r-vrdt66>

There is also an option on the video page to give an OPTIONAL monetary gift to Pastor Sheets.

Please submit your video by end of day on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.

* If mailing a card, please address to:

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
ATTENTION: SHEETS RETIREMENT
822 Belvoir Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37412**



The Green Bag is once again in the Breakfast Room for anyone who may want to donate used or new outer wear for the homeless at the Chatt Foundation. Blankets, socks, hats & gloves are also welcome.



Fellowship and Serve:

We will have our

First Monday Fellowship and Serve
on December 1 from 9-12.

We will do some work around the church, cleaning and repairing, have a short devotion and enjoy lunch together. All are welcome.



Church Voters Meeting

Sunday, December 14 after the second service. Parish Fellowship will be serving chicken fingers.

If your last name begins A-K, please bring dessert.

If it begins L-Z, please bring a side dish or salad.



The Giving Tree will be
in the Narthex
after Thanksgiving.
We have 25 seniors' names
from Partnership for Families,
Children and Adults.

Take a card from the tree to
purchase a suggested gift.
Place the gift, unwrapped,
with the card under the tree
by Dec. 14.



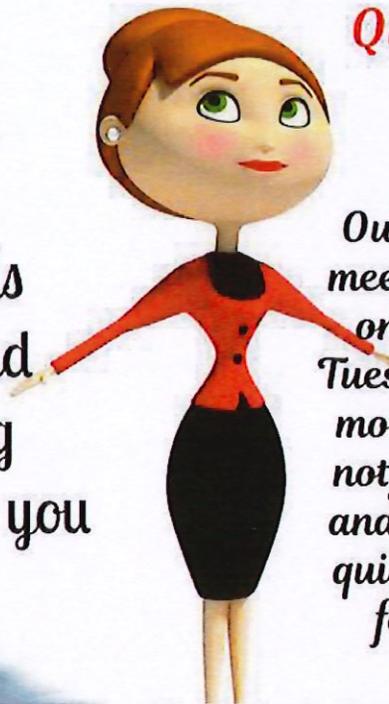
Volunteers to run the AV equipment
for Sunday morning services are
needed immediately. If you can help,
please contact Adam Weidman.

ELDER GROUP LIST

Wonder who your Elder is?

Check the notice board in the Coffee Room!

In my
dream
world,
fabric is
free and
quilting
makes you
thin!



Quilting!

*Our quilters
meet at 10:00
on the 3rd
Tuesday of the
month. Why
not join them
and see what
quilting does
for you!*

BCA



FUNDRAISER

Fundraiser for 7th/8th Grade Washington D.C. next April!

April will be here before we know it, and our 7th and 8th graders are already working on raising funds to help with their trip costs to Washington D.C.!

It's been a few years since our students have been able to take this trip, but we are super happy we can provide this opportunity once again! BUT, they need your help to send them on their way!

How You Can Help!

Choose your favorite Chicken Salad Chick flavor from attached order form.

Pay by Venmo, cash/check to BCA, or BCA families may pay on the PraxiStore.

Share the order form with family and friends!

You may also purchase directly from a BCA student in 5th - 8th grade.

We are asking 5/6th grade to help the 7th/8th graders make their way to Washington D.C. If we, collectively, sell enough, the TWO TOP SELLING 5th - 8th GRADE STUDENTS WILL WIN \$100, AND THEIR FAMILY WILL WIN A YEAR OF FREE CHICKEN SALAD CHICK!

Contact BCA Parent, text Sandy Melton, 423-653-3304 for more information.

Christmas Cookie Palooza

to thank our BCA staff

The BCA School Board would like to give each staff member at BCA a dozen cookies at Christmas! We are needing congregation members to make 2 dozen or more Christmas cookies. There are many staff members so we are needing 100 dozen cookies. Each staff member will be able to choose their dozen cookies from the cookies donated!



*If you would like to provide cookies,
contact Konnie McKown at
423-413-2637 or kmckown66@gmail.com*



**Bring your cookies to church on
Sunday, Dec. 14**

(Please no slice and bake cookies.)



*Christmas Cookie Palooza
will take place
Monday, Dec. 15th*



BCA December Dates to Remember

Dec. 8 – 12 – BCA Candy Cane Shop

Dec. 18 – Christmas program – 6 p.m. at BCA for K – 8th Grade.
Families and churches invited!

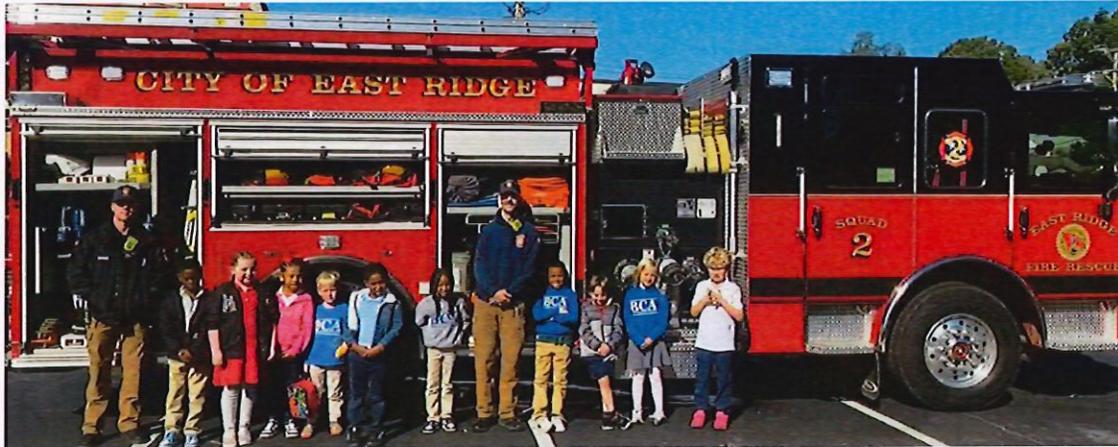
Dec. 19 – 9:40 chapel, 11 a.m. dismissal for K – 8th grade for
Christmas break. Students return Jan. 6, 2026. Infants – Pre-K4
closed Dec. 23 – 26 and Dec. 31 – Jan. 2.



BCA Honors Veterans

BCA appreciated being able to host several current and retired service men and women for a special Veterans Day lunch! They bravely and graciously

served our country and deserve much appreciation and recognition, though they never ask for either. While this was just a small way to honor all that they have done, we hope they know how much they are truly appreciated. Please pray for those who have served and continue to serve the United States in one of the military branches.



BCA's annual visit from the East Ridge Fire Department

This group of men have been so gracious over the years in visiting BCA and other area schools to share more about what they do to keep East Ridge families safe! We appreciate all that you do every day!

December Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9-12 First Monday Fellowship & Serve w/lunch	2 9-2 Food Pantry 1:30 Bible Class 6:30 Christian Ed Meeting	3 5:00 Advent Meal 6:00 Advent Service	4 11:00 Senior's Christmas Party 12:00 Evangelism Meeting at Armando's, N. Lee Hwy	5	6 9:00 Altar Guild Decorating
7 2nd Sunday in Advent LWML Afte Box 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	8 6:00 BCA Board	9 9-2 Food Pantry 1:30 Bible Class	10 5:00 Advent Meal 6:00 Advent Service	11 10:00 LWML Christmas Lunch	12	13 9-3 Camp Workday
14 3rd Sunday in Advent 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service Pot Luck Lunch followed by Voters Meeting after second service	15 Newsletter & Calendar Deadline	16 9-2 Food Pantry 1:30 Bible Class	17 5:00 Advent Meal 6:00 Advent Service with Children's Christmas Program 	18 6:00 BCA Christmas Program	19	20
21 4th Sunday in Advent Food Pantry Offering 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	22	23 9-2 Food Pantry	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 7:00 p.m. Service	25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed 9:30 a.m. Divine Service	26	27
28 Holy Innocents/Martyrs Food Pantry Offering 8:30 Divine Service 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service	29	30	31 Office Closed	January 1, 2026 Office Closed		

DECEMBER 2025

December Worship Assistants

December 7 8:30

Organist Anna Hipp
 Assistants Frank Streufert
 Jeff Anderson
 Ushers David Topp
 Kurt Piepenbrink
 Altar Guild Ralph Meissner

December 7 11:00

Organist Anna Hipp
 Live Stream Charlie Simmons
 Assistants Barber Team
 Ushers Townley Team
 Altar Guild Jodie Hyde
 Acolyte Ruthie Vinson

December 14 8:30

December 14 11:00

Organist	Anna Hipp
Assistants	Frank Streufert Jeff Anderson
Ushers	Chris Douglas Tony Seiberlich
Altar Guild	Patty Chewning

Organist	Anna Hipp
Live Stream	Vacant
Assistants	Barber Team
Ushers	Townley Team
Altar Guild	Carla Brooks
Acolyte	Shiloh Miller

December 21 8:30

Organist	Anna Hipp
Assistants	David Topp Kurt Piepenbrink
Ushers	Ralph Meissner Jim Post
Altar Guild	Ralph Meissner

December 21 11:00

Organist	Anna Hipp
Live Stream	Eric Turner
Assistants	Barber Team
Ushers	Townley Team
Altar Guild	Marie Townley
Acolyte	Ruthie Vinson
Crucifer	Eradesa

December 24 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve

Organist	Anna Hipp
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December 25 9:30 a.m.

Organist	Anna Hipp
Live Stream	Adam Weidman
Assistants	Barber Team
Ushers	Townley Team
Altar Guild	Marie Townley
Acolyte	Colin Hipp

December 28 8:30

Organist	Anna Hipp
Assistants	Ralph Meissner Jim Post
Ushers	Chris Douglas

December 28 11:00

Organist	Anna Hipp
Live Stream	Adam Weidman
Assistants	Barber Team
Ushers	Townley Team

Tony Seiberlich
Altar Team Sandy Turner

Altar Team Patty Chewning
Acolyte Audrey Hipp
Crucifer Colin Hipp

 Website

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