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PRAYER & WORSHIP

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THE SIGHTS & SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM



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GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

At Christmas, we gather with friends and family in celebration. We know that Christmas is a time of joy, festivity, and generosity. For those of the Christian faith, we remember the source of this joy: the coming of Jesus into the world, the time when God took on flesh and dwelled among us.

In Luke's Gospel, we know that heaven cannot contain heaven's excitement when Christ was born. An angel comes to shepherds in a field as they watch their flocks. While they are initially terrified, the angel says, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). Shortly after this encounter, the heavens are filled with angels praising God. Joy reaches even into heaven as the angels celebrate the coming of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. This good news of great joy echoes down throughout the ages and continues to sustain our

own gatherings of joy and festivity. Because Christ has come, we know good news of great joy.

Yet, we know that this is not true for everyone at Christmas time. We know that there are those who are not gathering in joy and mirth this year. There are those who have a hard time recognizing either good news or great joy in this world. One of my favorite Christmas albums, The Gift: A Christmas Compilation by 116, has a song on it called "Joy" that speaks to this issue. In the first verse, we hear:

I ain't tryna throw no shade/

But its like joy's on slow-mo

Good news, I can't tell where you at (Huh?)

Looking to the heavens tryna yell where you at (Where you at?)

Why pain gotta chain us? (Huh?)

Will the unjust ever have to pay up?

We can wonder why we see such pain and injustice in the world. We can hear this proclamation of good news and wonder

if we missed something. We may think it would have been easier if we lived back then and got to see the angels come. Even if we had, I think it would have been difficult to continue to trust in this message of good news and great joy. The Gospel of Matthew tells us of great pain and injustice that shortly follows Jesus' birth as Herod, in fear of someone eventually usurping him, orders the death of all the children in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16-18). Surely, the shepherds who saw the angels that night had to wonder, in the midst of such circumstances, if they could trust in the message that was proclaimed. Could they trust that their Savior had come when such awful, senseless violence and injustice had just happened?

We may wrestle with

these questions as well this Christmas season. We may see pain, suffering, and injustice in this world, wondering all the while when we will experience this good news of great joy for ourselves. We may be wondering if this One who was born in Bethlehem all those years ago could truly be our Savior now. If we have such wonderings, then I am sure our questions, doubts, and uncertainties are joined with those shepherds when they experienced the tragedy Herod perpetrates.

Yet, we are invited to recognize that it is for this very reason that Christ has come. God took on flesh to enter into this chaotic world alongside us. God knows well the injustices and sufferings in this world. God does not address them from afar, but enters fully into this

world to walk alongside us. We know that Herod's action at his birth is not the last time Jesus will be near injustice. The good news of great joy is that Christ came to defeat these forces once and for all. Heaven is glad because, in Christ, a Savior has come who will lay a new path forward for humanity, one that is not wrapped up in injustice, pain, and death, but one rooted in righteousness, peace, and love. The second verse of "Joy" points to this as well:

For the bright days and the dark nights, we'll be alright

God gon' keep His word, yeah

I know that things goin' change now, the King done come

May His will be done and His kingdom come, amen

SEE CALVARY LUTHERAN, PAGE 10



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Proudly keeping Christ in Christmas

Have a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas!

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ELSIE
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YOU ARE WELCOME

The world seemed divided. One group was ready to cling to power at any cost. They felt justified in manipulating the people and using

fear, and division to gain that power because after all, they had the moral high ground. While the other influential force seemed ready to let go

of all that came before and bend the knee to the power of the current culture in an effort to make their gains often at the expense of

those they were called to serve. Over it all a system of greed and power that ground the individual to dust in its efforts to attain more.

him when the heart was full of hate and division. Sophistication didn't impress him when it abandoned the values of care for the least of these. Jesus taught us to love our enemy and to bring into the community those who have been rejected without judgment. He did not compromise his integrity and refused to lean into the tools of fear and violence to assert his will.

So if you're tired of the false choices the world is offering us and want true peace this Christmas come join us for worship. Words for the Beginning is our series that will challenge all of us to leave some things behind and take up the new offers by Christ. We are a church that strives to have Christlike unconditional love and acceptance for all AND YOU ARE WELCOME just as you are! Just as Christ made you.

No, I'm not talking about the recent elections or corporate greed of America today. I'm talking about the cultural climate in Israel when Christ was born. Jesus came to a deeply conflicted people. The Pharisees wanted to drive Rome and anyone else who didn't think like them out. They demonized the other calling them dirty and unclean. They had no room for anyone who thought differently than themselves calling them enemies of God. The Sadducees twisted and contorted God's Word to conform to the Roman Empire and leveraged its influence for their gains even as the systems in place oppressed God's people.

Born into this climate of division Jesus managed to upset all sides. Moral purity didn't impress

*Rev. Pastor Rob Barton
First United Methodist
Church, Auburn*



Join Us
Christmas Eve
December 24th 4:00 pm



First Christian Church
110 West Waits Road-Kendallville
firstkville.org

O' Come Let Us Adore Him



*Worship with us on Sundays at 9 AM
Christmas Eve Service 6 PM
Christmas Day Service 9 AM*



Calvary Lutheran Church
1301 Williams Street, Angola, IN
260-665-2516
www.calvarylutheranang.org




LOVE CHANGES EVERYTHING

I love the music of Christmas. I love the hymns, the carols, and even some of the crazy songs like “I want a hippopotamus for Christmas.” I love that one out of nostalgia as the song made my girls smile. We used to sing it in the car together whenever it came on the radio while traveling at Christmas. It brings back warm wonderful memories. There is a hymn I remember hearing sung by church choirs called “Love Came Down at Christmas.”

My favorite lines are contained within the first stanza:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
star and angels gave the sign.

Love changes things. I am sure you have noticed that. There is something special about this season not just in our lives but in the world. I hope you have

noticed or experienced that specialness. I have noticed since Thanksgiving people smiling more, holding the doors open for others, and waiting a little more patiently.

Love came down at Christmas. Have you noticed when you walk into a family function or celebration and there is a baby how that changes things? We may talk softer, smile more, and want to sit by anyone who is holding the baby or wait for a chance to hold a precious babe. There is something special about a newborn. This baby was born for love of the entire world, love all lovely, divine, unconditional love born at Christmas to save those who held him, gazed upon him, and visited him.

The angels delivered a message of love and hope for the world as the star shone bright as the sign of this ultimate love. This

might be the first verse you ever memorized, John 3: 16. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

The last lines or stanza are as follows:

Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and others,
love for plea and gift and sign.

Love shall be our symbol, badge, token. At Nevada Mills Community Church, we speak weekly about how to give love to God and others as spoken of in this hymn. We talk about giving of our time, talent, and treasures. We do need to give God our time. We do that through continually speaking to Him, ongoing prayer. We do that when we share our precious time with others because we realize

that is the heart of love. Each of us has a God given talent. You might ask if I cannot sing or paint or play an instrument; what talent do I have? You might have the talent of cooking, baking, cleaning, encouragement, listening, the list is endless of what each of us possesses. Won't you look for ways to share your talents with others?

When we hear the words treasure, we almost always think of money. Yet, all the things we have spoken of previously are treasure too. Your time is a treasure you can give to God and others. Your talents are a treasure you can give to God and others.

If you are looking for a place to learn about God investing your time, talent, and treasures join this sweet church by the mill pond. We have studies during

SEE **NEVADA MILLS**, PAGE 10

Christmas & New Year's Schedule

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:00 p.m.,
Tuesdays 5-6:00 p.m., Saturdays 8:30-9:00 a.m. & 3:30-4:30 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE
CHRISTMAS EVE – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
5:00 p.m., Early Evening Mass (*incense to be used*)
9:00 p.m., Christmas Mass at Night
CHRISTMAS DAY – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
10:00 a.m., Christmas Mass
NEW YEAR'S EVE – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 5:30 p.m. (vigil)
NEW YEAR'S DAY – WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 10:00 a.m.
New Year's Mass

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

500 E. 7TH ST., AUBURN, 260-925-3930
Pastor: Father Drew Curry
Visit www.iccauburn.com

"Glory to God in the highest"
Luke 2:14

The Christmas Story

And it came to pass

in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And Joseph also went up to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.



The Christmas Story

Now when Jesus was born

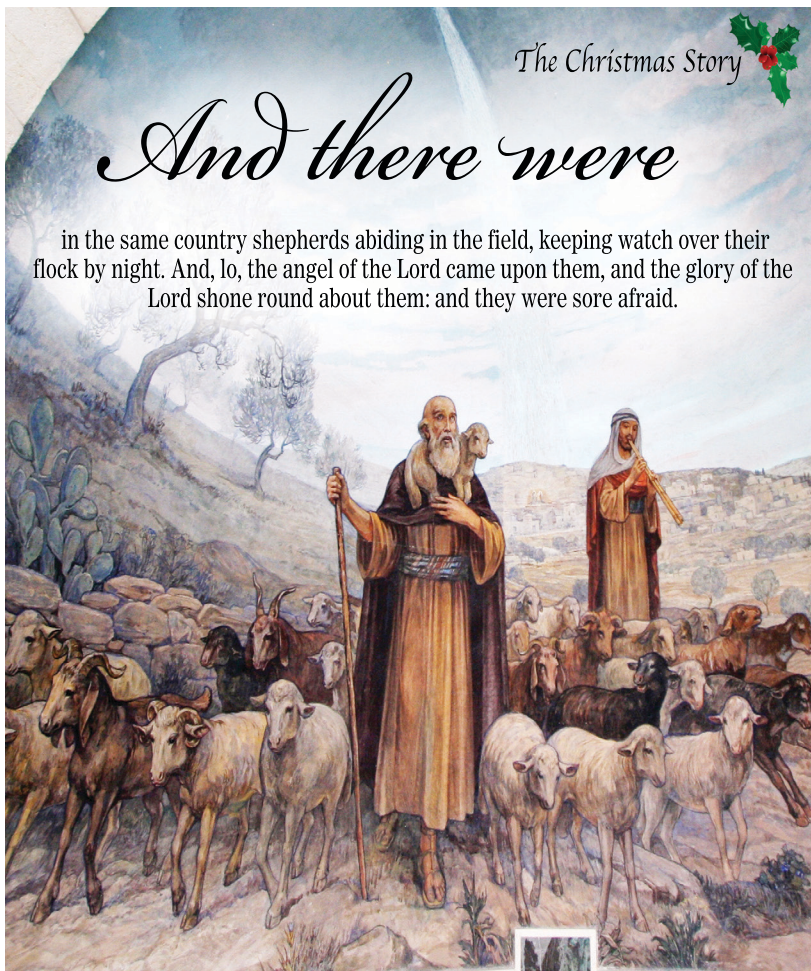
in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.



The Christmas Story

And there were

in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

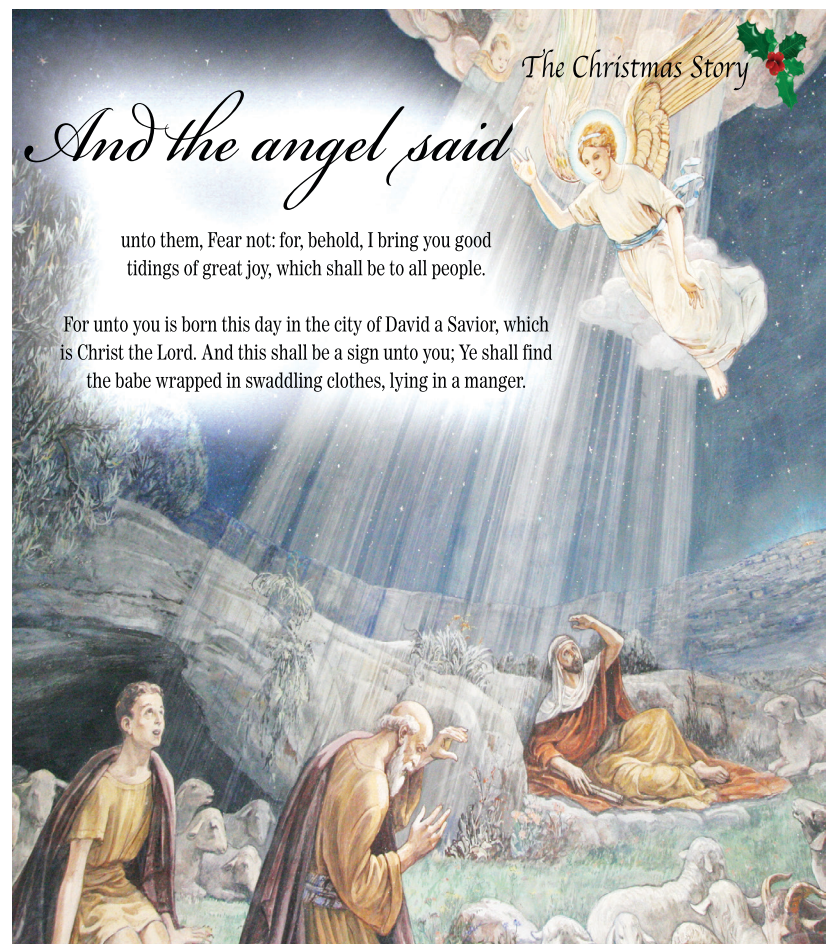


The Christmas Story

And the angel said

unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.



To be continued on page 7

THE LEGEND OF THE CANDY CANE

Many years ago, a candy maker wanted to make a candy at Christmas time that would serve as a witness to his Christian faith.

He wanted to incorporate several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus. He began with a stick of pure white hard candy; white to symbolize the Virgin Birth and the sinless nature of Jesus; hard to symbolize the solid rock, the foundation of the Church; firmness to represent the promise of God.

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Savior.

He thought it could also represent the staff of the Good Shepherd, with which he reached down into the ditches of the world to life out the fallen lambs who, like all sheep, have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candy maker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received, by which we are all healed. The large stripe was for the



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life. Unfortunately, the candy became known as a candy cane — a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time.

But the true meaning is still there for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

DID YOU KNOW?

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Christmas trees are a key component of many people's holiday season.

It's a family tradition to choose (or take out) the tree each year and then adorn it with ornaments, tinsel, family mementos, and a beautiful tree topper. In regard to tree toppers, most people fasten the top bough with an angel or a star.

The first tree toppers were the infant Jesus, but toppers are now available

in other options symbolic of the Nativity of Jesus. The star refers to the Star of Bethlehem, which guided the Magi to the birthplace of Jesus. The angel represents the messengers of God as well as the Angel Gabriel, who visited Mary to share the news that she would be giving birth to the Son of God.

People can choose whichever topper they prefer, but many refer to the religious significance of Christmas.

Continued from page 6

The Christmas Story

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Excerpts from Luke Chapter 2, and Matthew Chapter 2



Join us at one of our 3 locations in Angola, IN, Edgerton, OH or Hillsdale, MI (currently located at the Dawn Theater).



Saturday December 21 @ 5pm
Sunday, December 22 @ 9&11am

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

It has been called "The most wonderful time of the year." All over the world, through media, TV shows, stores, advertising, music,

decorations, lights, cards, letters, and gifts. Also, with family and friends. And, of course, church services, we celebrate the Christmas

season. But wait, let's back up. Something is missing from my list. What is that, you say? It is the reason for all of this. The answer

is LOVE! God's love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit God's plan for US.

Jesus came to earth as "Can you believe this?" as a baby! with a loving mother, Mary and with Joseph to be a loving earthly father. There were those at that time who surrounded the baby and recognized what a miracle, a gift, Jesus was. There were humble shepherds and wise astrologers. There were also animals, sheep, camels, probably a donkey and some other animals.

So, for over 2000 years, people all over the world have recognized this great gift of love, God's love, and we thank Him and return His love with joy and celebration, in our homes and in church services.

There is one other Very important part of our Christmas that we love and is seen throughout the world. That is the Nativity scene. Merle

and I collected nativity scenes for years. One of them came from Israel. But when a Tornado hit our house, the Nativity scenes were gone with the wind. I do have a couple of new ones now.

One of my former students have over 100 nativity scenes, all kinds, from many parts of this nation and from around the world. Someone once asked me, why do the Nativity scenes show Jesus, Mary and Joseph as blond, or Indian, or Black or Asian? He didn't look like any of that. I like to think that is because we know that Christ came for all of us, no matter when or where we live and no matter what we look like. So, we are accepting Him and want to give back to Him and to love and accept others.

*Judy Holden
New Life
Lutheran Church
Waterloo*



Come home to a family of faith this Christmas!

Join us at
Nevada Mills Community Church
at 9 am Sundays for Worship.
We fellowship, study together,
and strive to know Jesus and
make Him known.

Join us at
**4710 W
Bachelor Rd,
Angola.**



**Peace. Joy.
Gratitude.**

As we celebrate what matters most this holiday season, we're filled with gratitude for the support and friendship of good neighbors and customers like all of you. Your trust in us is truly a gift, and we value the opportunity to serve you. We hope this blessed season delivers much peace, love, light and joy to you and your loved ones. May it fill your heart and home with contentment.
Merry Christmas!

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DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Here lately the Christmas song, Do You Hear What I Hear (by Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne), has been ringing in my ears. I think the problem with most of us during the Christmas season is we hear very little because of the noise the commercial side of Christmas brings: The honking of horns in the mall parking lots, the complaining of having to stand in long lines, the chirping of the cash registers, the lights flashing, kids crying. Oh, the sounds of Christmas!

I have another option for you if long lines are not your thing and people honking their horns in claiming their parking

spot or if the flashing lights are more than your eyes can stand – why not put a Sunday service on your to-do list? Slow down, take a deep breath, and give the Holy Spirit a chance to whisper in your ear again this year the real meaning of Christmas! The message of hope that was brought to the hopeless! May we remember why He came! May the angel’s words ring in our ear once again!

Luke 2:10-12 – “But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior

has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Do you hear what I hear?
Merry Christmas!
Love,
Brother Bud

Brother Bud Owen,
Pastor
First Church of Christ
Garrett



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion 6 p.m.



All Are Welcome!
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www.clearlakelutheran.org
ClearLakeLutheran@gmail.com



Fairview Missionary Church

Come Join Us!



*See how Fairview Missionary Church is helping
people take their next step toward Jesus.*

Christmas Eve Services

December 24
5:30 & 7:00 P.M.



260-665-8402
www.fairviewangola.com
e-mail: fmc@fairviewangola.com



Map to Fairview Missionary Church
St. Rd. 120
Fremont
Menards
CR 200N
Fairview Missionary Church
Meijer
Cameron Hospital
US Hwy. 20

**Corner of SR 827
and CR 200N**
*(1 mile east of Meijer
and Menards)*
Angola, Indiana

A FESTIVE GUIDE TO CAROLING

BY METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Christmas caroling is a joyful tradition that has endured for centuries.

Christmas caroling can be traced to the fourth century in Rome. Latin hymns were written to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Historians

believe that even before the emergence of Christianity midwinter songs existed to lift people's spirits through the bleak weather and

extended hours of darkness.

Christmas caroling continues to unite communities and spread holiday cheer through song. It is time to inspire a resurgence of caroling by planning to gather friends, family, or neighbors for a caroling session. This guide can help anyone plan a memorable caroling event.

Gather your group
Begin by assembling a group of singers. No one needs to be an expert singer, as enthusiasm goes a long way. Reach out to friends, family, coworkers, and/or local community members. Try to get a diverse group of people together whose main goal is to have fun.

Find the right time and date

Typically evening hours after work or during weekends are when you can reach the greatest number of people. The goal is to enable participants to relax and

enjoy the experience.

Map out a caroling route
Carefully identify neighborhoods or locations that are known for being festive. While the organizer may choose to carol around his or her own neighborhood, it may be possible to engage more of the community in other settings. Look at local nursing homes or even community centers as caroling locations. Contact businesses along Main Street to see if caroling in the center of town to coincide with holiday shopping may be a good idea.

Compile a list of classics
Most people will want to hear the carols and other songs they know and love. Make a list of classic Christmas songs that aren't overly complicated and singers will already know how to sing, such as "Jingle Bells," "Deck the

SEE CAROLING, Page A11



Tuesday, December 24th, Christmas Eve: 5PM, 7PM
Wednesday, December 25th, Christmas Day: 9AM
Tuesday, December 31st, New Year's Eve: 7PM

St. John Lutheran Church
301 S. Oak St.
Kendallville, IN

GROWING TALL IN CHRIST.

TO REACH ALL WITH CHRIST



Christmas Eve

4:30 pm **FAMILY SERVICE** - Fellowship Hall
We'll tell a story and sing carols

7:30 pm **COMMUNION SERVICE** - Sanctuary
Our communion table is open to all

11:00 pm **CANTATA SERVICE** - Sanctuary
"Bethlehem's Child" by Victor C. Johnson & Lloyd Larson

DEC. 15 **BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS**
11:00 am
Join us for a birthday party with cake and an impromptu play to act out the Christmas story!

DEC. 18 **PUBLIC CANTATA REHEARSAL**
6:30 pm
A sneak peek of our cantata with a full dress rehearsal at a much earlier time!

First United Methodist Church
1203 E 7th St, Auburn, Indiana
260.925.0885 | office@auburnumc.church

FIND US ONLINE!
auburnumc.church

Christlike unconditional love and acceptance for all

CALVARY LUTHERAN

FROM PAGE 3

Knowing that God will keep God's word, and bring about the restoration and redemption we desperately need in this world, we can celebrate this Christmas season. Whatever our circumstances may be, we have encountered

good news of great joy. We can say with every confidence that our Savior has come. I hope you may find some time in the midst of a busy season to hear this wonderful story again at one of the places listed in this editorial. Merry Christmas everyone and a blessed New Year!

*Pastor Daryl Emowrey
Calvary Lutheran
Angola*

NEVADA MILLS

FROM PAGE 5

the week, one during the day and one at night. We worship at 9 am and invite you to join our family of faith. I pray that you find a place or have a place to worship the Lord and experience His love, for

it really does change everything. I pray you are also sharing that love with others so that love can continue to change things.

Striving to know Jesus and make Him known!

*Pastor Tracey
Nevada Mills
Community Church*

CAROLING

FROM PAGE A10

Halls,” “Frosty the Snowman,” and “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.” If a particularly accomplished singer is in the group, he or she might do a featured solo. Be sure to have printed copies of the lyrics and sheet music for all participants.

Enlist some musicians

Although caroling is traditionally done a capella, having someone who plays an instrument, like a guitar or violin, can ensure everyone is on the right note and can keep the pace of each song.

Plan to rest

Singing can be joyful, but also tiring. Bring along refreshments so the carolers can rest their voices and stop to grab a drink or snack. Tea, coffee and cocoa can warm up participants on chilly days. Perhaps make one of the caroling stops in front of a local coffee shop and pop in after a set.

Coordinate attire

Although everyone does not have to dress alike, a similar element, such as a red scarf or green mittens, can unite the group.

Add a charitable element

Consider incorporating a charitable aspect to the caroling. Collect financial or food donations for a local food pantry, or do a toy drive while caroling, encouraging people to offer a wrapped gift in exchange for some beautiful music.

Christmas music often sets the holiday scene, and carolers can bring familiar songs into neighborhoods this time of year.



METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION



**WE
BELIEVE
IN THE
POWER OF
PRAYER!!**

**Christmas Eve
6:30 p.m.
Service of Holy
Communion**

*Praise the Lord for
His Amazing Grace!*

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**Every 10:30 a.m. Sunday • Gospel Based Sermon • 4 Bible Readings • Prayer
Worship Service features: • Holy Communion • Confession of Sins • Jr. Church**

Following Worship We Have Fellowship Refreshment Time!

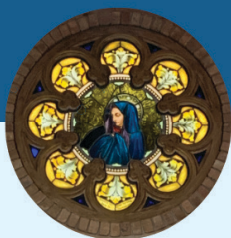
Visitors Welcome and Expected!

For Youth we have: Jr. Church, Acolyting, First Communion Instruction, Confirmation Classes!

“Like” us on Facebook: New Life Lutheran Church Member LCMC

New Life Lutheran Church of Waterloo *365 Lockhart St.
Waterloo*

CHRISTMAS CATHOLIC MASS SCHEDULE



St. Paul Catholic Chapel

Christmas Eve - December 24
Mass at 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - December 25
Mass at 9:00 a.m.

8780 E. 700 N.
Fremont, Indiana 46737



St. Anthony Catholic Church

Christmas Eve - December 24
Children's Mass at 5:00 p.m.
Nativity Program at 4:30 p.m.

Midnight Mass at 9:00 p.m.
Music Prelude at 8:30 p.m.

Christmas Day - December 25
Bilingual Mass at 10:00 a.m.

700 W. Maumee Street
Angola, Indiana 46703



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Christmas Eve - December 24
Bilingual Mass at 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day - December 25
Bilingual Mass at 10:00 a.m.

50 N. 100 E.
LaGrange, Indiana 46761