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2022



Christmas
Prayer
& Worship

The Garrett Clipper | *Albion New Era*

THE NEWS SUN | THE HERALD REPUBLICAN | The **Star**

Home for Advent

This year Pastor Josh Hawkins and I teamed up to write devotions together. We have called our Advent Devotions - Home for Advent. I hope that you have a church home. It is my prayer that you worship with people who are family to you. If not, Christmas is a great time to come home and join other believers to worship and learn more about Jesus.

We are never too old or young to learn more about Jesus Christ. Christmas is about the gift of Jesus to the world. One of the most well-known scriptures of all time comes from John 3:16.

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 verse we cannot leave out at Christmas follows this as well, John 3:17. John 3:17 states; For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. One of the best ways to say this has been said way before me, love came down at Christmas. How beautifully said and the actual reason we gather.

One of the definitions for “home” is “the social unit formed by a family living together.” This, to me, is what a church family is all about. We love one another and do life together. So, look around; this county has some wonderful flocks to do life with. We would be honored if you tried us out, but I would be thrilled if you joined one of my brothers or sisters in Christ churches. Come home. Come home to experience love. Come home to experience Jesus.

*by Pastor Tracey Zimmerman and
Pastor Josh Hawkins*

Merry Christmas
& A 2022 Year Filled With
The Presence of JESUS!

LOVE
THE 737 & 703

Fremont UMC
105 Tolford St.
Fremont, IN 46737

Worship begins on Sundays at 10:30 am
with Sunday School at 9:30 am.

Please join us on
Christmas Eve at 7 pm.
at Fremont UMC
for carols, candlelight
and remembering
the reason for
the season
JESUS!

for more information contact Pastor Tracey @ pastortraceyann@gmail.com.



Jenny Ernsberger
jernsberger@kpcmedia.com
General Manager

Ann Saggars
asaggars@kpcmedia.com
Print & Design Manager

Stevie Lockridge
slockridge@kpcmedia.com
Special Sections Graphic Designer

Sue Carpenter
scarpenter@kpcmedia.com
Special Sections Editor

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Mitch Anderson
Lisa Burnett
Michele Trowbridge
Machele Waid

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St. Anthony of Padua Church

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Saturday, December 24

Mass Times: Children's Mass 5:00 PM

Misa Hispana 7:30 PM

Midnight Mass: 10:00 PM

Musical Prelude at 9:45 PM

MASS OF CHRISTMAS MORNING

Sunday, December 25

Mass 10:00 AM

Misa Hispana 12:30 PM

700 W. Maumee St., Angola, IN 46703

www.stanthonyangola.com



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*Let Heaven
and Nature
Sing...*

All are welcome
to Christmas Eve
Service at 5:30 p.m.



Maple
Grove

United Methodist Church

The Little Church with a Big Heart

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The 12 days of Christmas

“On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a

partridge in a pear tree.”

The familiar lyrics of this tune are sung as part of Christmas

caroling and holiday celebrations, reaching a crescendo each time singers belt out “five golden rings.” The song is an English Christmas carol that was written in 1720. While it references plenty of gift-giving, it’s easy to assume the song is about giving Christmas gifts. However, the 12 days in the song actually refer to the birth of Jesus Christ.

different religious events or people.

Christmas celebrants can celebrate well into the new year. Commemorating the 12 days of Christmas can include small festivities from Dec. 25 to Jan. 5.

On Twelfth Night, historically known for parties, modern-day fanfare can mark the culmination of the Christmas season — with the last of gift-giving occurring on the Epiphany.

Gifting, hosting friends and family, attending religious services, participating in charitable events, or opening one’s home to neighbors and those who can use some companionship are all ways to make the 12 days of Christmas more special.

The 12 days of Christmas, also known as the Twelvetide, refers to the festive Christian season that celebrates the Nativity of Jesus. In fact, the start of these days occurs on Dec. 25 and extends until the evening of Jan. 5, the day before the Epiphany, known as Twelfth Night.

Each day corresponds to a remembrance of



Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve: 5PM, 7PM
 Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day: 9AM
 Saturday, December 31st, New Year’s Eve: 7PM
 Sunday, January 1st, New Year’s Day:
 Normal Service Schedule • 8AM & 1030AM



St. John Lutheran Church

301 S. Oak St.
 Kendallville, IN

“In the First Light”

Join us at Emma Church for our 10th Annual Men’s Chorus’ Christmas Program, Sunday, December 18.

We are again offering two programs: 2:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m., with food and fellowship following the 6:30 program. Part of the program will include children and “animals” with a Bethlehem focus.

Emma Church, 1900 S 600 W, Topeka IN
 www.emmachurch.net ♦ 260-593-2036

Sunday morning worship begins at 9:00 a.m. Sunday school classes for all ages at 10:15.

Surprised by Hope

After a global pandemic we hoped for a bit of normal life, but in 2022, many people have been surprised and hit hard by soaring inflation and a plummeting stock market. Many families feel the need to tighten their belts and adapt their lifestyle. Being careful and stretching a dollar has become necessary for most households

to survive. But just as there are unwanted surprises, life can have wonderful surprises. Jesus our Savior was born in one of the darkest moments of human history. Jesus is described as the light that shines in the darkness. Just as Jesus brought hope 2000 years ago, He continues to bring hope today. Hope is the anticipa-

tion or expectation of something good to happen. Jesus brings hope to all who are open to His free gift of life. Join us for a fun and impactful candlelight Christmas Eve service as we sing Christmas carols and celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus!

*Pastor Jon Hunter
St. Mark's Lutheran Church*

A decorative poster for a Christmas Eve service. The background is a deep red color with scattered gold dots and green pine branches. The text is centered and reads: "SURPRISED BY HOPE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6PM 211 W. 9TH STREET AUBURN". At the bottom left is the logo for "ST. MARK'S -Lutheran Church-" and at the bottom right is a circular logo for "CLASSIC -CITY- CHURCH AUBURN, INDIANA EST. 2021".

SURPRISED BY

HOPE

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6PM
211 W. 9TH STREET AUBURN

ST. MARK'S
-Lutheran Church-

EST. 2021
CLASSIC -CITY- CHURCH
AUBURN, INDIANA

Great Stories

One of the most powerful things about Christmas are the great stories that are told over and over again every Christmas season by our families and in literature, movies, and song.

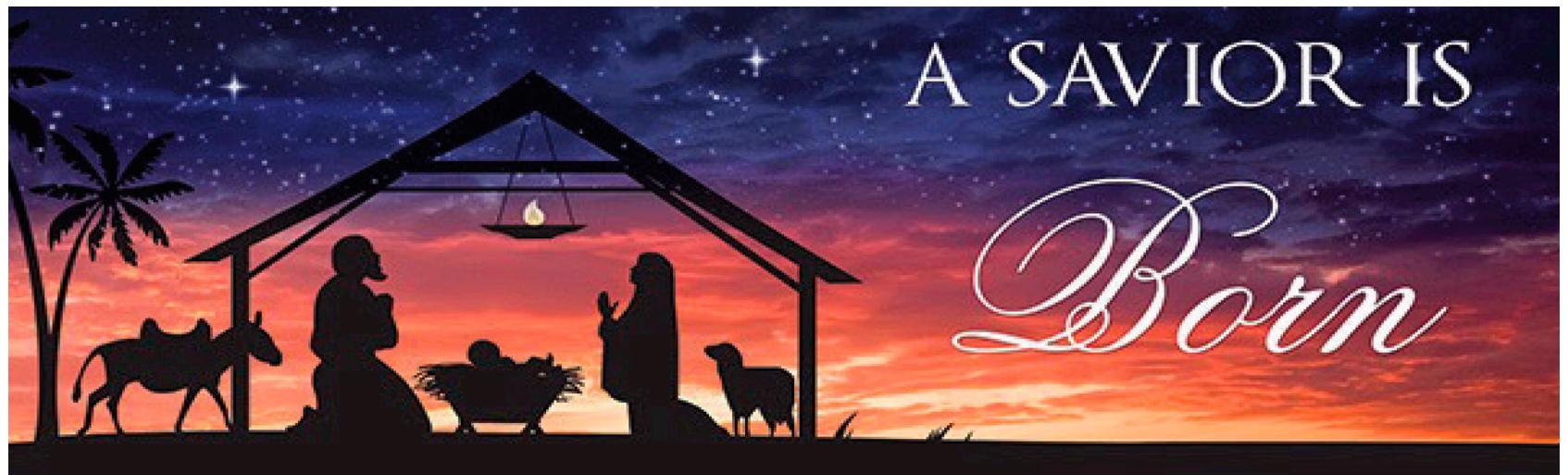
Some are family stories like the one told about one of my cousins who when telling the story of Jesus' birth and said, "And the Wise Men brought baby Jesus gold, Frankenstein, and myrrh." That story of my cousin's misunderstanding has been told in our family and by our family for decades.

Some are the great stories of literature, movies, and song that help put the wonder into Christmas. Stories, movies, & songs like Twas the Night Before Christmas, A Christmas Carol, Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, How the Grinch Stole Christmas, Frosty the Snowman, The Gift of the Magi, It's a Wonderful Life, Miracle on 34th Street and one of my personal favorites- Home Alone, spark our imaginations. For many of us Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without reading those favorite stories, singing those songs or watching those movies.

Other stories are the stories of faith- the stories of Jesus' birth. At my mom's family Christmases, the story of Mary, Joseph, Bethlehem, shepherds, angels, and the Child in the manger were told Christmas after Christmas.

My wife and I have continued that tradition with our own family. Before the presents are opened, we read the Christmas story from Luke chapter 2. We started this tradition when our oldest was a baby. (I will say there were times when the kids were teenagers I wondered if the tradition would

SEE **STORIES**, PAGE 7



Merry Christmas From:
Angola United Methodist Church
And
The Gathering

May you experience God's blessing
and favor in the New Year!

Christmas Eve Services

7:00 pm Family Candlelight Service

11:00 pm Traditional & Candlelight Service

Christmas Sunday Service

10:00 am Combined Service

Angola United Methodist is located at
220 West Maumee, Angola, IN

www.angolaumc.org

STORIES

FROM PAGE 6

survive.) Now with our two grand-gals we are passing the tradition on to the next generation.

The story of the first Christmas helps to shape our understanding of God and how God relates to us. From the first Christmas story we see...

...God and God's messengers often show up in unexpected places.

...God chooses the unlikely to play important roles in the unfolding of the divine drama.

...God keeps His promises. (For instance, the promise to send the Messiah.)

...some of us will welcome Jesus, while others will make no room for Jesus in their lives.

I could mention many other aspects of what we learn from the first Christmas story but you get the idea. These great stories are powerful and need to be told over and over again.

I hope you take time to read your favorite stories, watch your favorite movies, and sing your favorite Christmas carols this Christmas season. But in it all, spend some time with the story of the first without telling that story of Jesus' arrival in our world!

May you have a Christ-filled Christmas!!!

*All for Jesus,
Pastor Tim Terrell
Angola UMC & the Gathering*





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Christmas & New Year's Schedule

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Tuesdays 5-6:00 p.m., Saturdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18 at 3:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
CHRISTMAS EVE – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24
5:00 p.m., Early Evening Mass (*incense to be used*)
9:00 p.m., Christmas Mass at Night

CHRISTMAS DAY – DECEMBER 25
9:00 a.m., Christmas Morning Mass

NEW YEAR'S LITURGIES
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 (vigil) Mass 5:00 p.m.
SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 Mass 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Father Mark Enemali, Pastor

Visit www.iccauburn.com

CELEBRATE WITH US!

DEC
24

4:30 pm Family Service - Fellowship Hall

7:30 pm Communion Service - Sanctuary

11:00 pm Cantata Service - Sanctuary
"Night of the Father's Love"
by Pepper Choplin

SUNDAY MORNINGS

8:45 am Sanctuary
(Traditional Service)

10:00 am Sunday School
(for all ages & stages)

10:45 am Chapter 2
(Modern Service)

OTHER SPECIAL DATES

Dec. 18 | 10:00 am
Birthday Party for Jesus - Fellowship Hall

Dec. 21 | 6:30 pm
Open Cantata Dress Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Dec. 25 | 10:00 am
ONE Worship Service - Sanctuary



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Find us online!
auburnumc.church
[@FirstUMCAuburn](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCAuburn)

Radical Invitation To Come

In this season of Christmas, we reflect on the miracle of the Word of God taking on flesh, on the Creator entering into creation. We remember the love of God that was revealed in the manger that proclaimed, by Jesus' very presence, Immanuel, God with us. In short, we remember that God came to us, to abide with us, to show us the life and love God longs for

us to have.

When Jesus is older, we hear about how this God who came to us invites us in turn to come to God. We hear Jesus' invitation to come and follow him offered to the fishermen (Matt. 4:18-22). Throughout the Gospel of John, we hear the invitation to "come and see" extended time and time again (e.g. John 1:38-39, 45-46; 4:27-29). We see in

Jesus' miracles and his time spent with sinners that he was consistently offering an invitation to God's presence that was viewed as radical (Luke 15:1-2).

In our Christmas story, we recognize that this radical invitation to come and experience the presence of God with us was extended right from the beginning of Jesus' entrance into the world. When Jesus is born, the

angels cannot help but tell the shepherds this good news. They are invited to draw near to Christ, to follow the star that heralds the coming of the light of the world. Even as a baby, Jesus's very presence, the light that enters the world when Jesus comes into it, is extending an invitation to come.

This invitation is not just for the locals, not just for the shepherds, but people from the far east receive this invitation too. The wise men see this star and recognize within it the invitation to "come and see." They follow this star for up to two years! So strong is the invitation it makes upon their lives and upon their hearts (for the full story of the two-year timeline, see Matt. 2:1-16)! The light of

the world beckons them to continue to come. Once again, this is a radical invitation, to foreigners in a far-off kingdom. The light of the world fills the world, beckoning all who would see it to come.

This invitation made by the light of the world remains an open invitation to come today. Many of our beloved Christmas songs recognize this. "O Come All You Faithful" puts it right in the title and cries out this invitation to come throughout the refrain. In "Angels We Have Heard on High" we hear "Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king." Even in the "Little Drummer Boy" we hear the

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



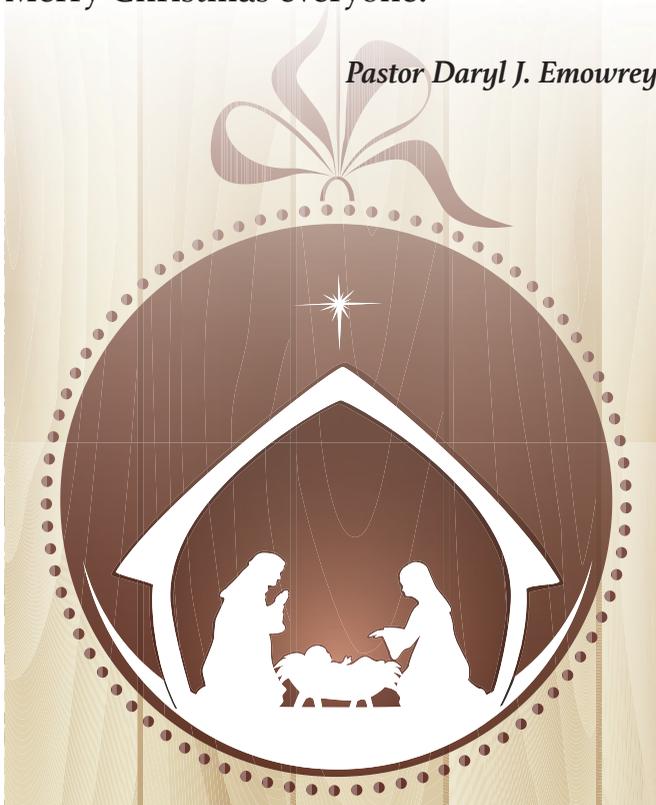
INVITATION

FROM PAGE 8

invitation right at the beginning of the song, "Come, they told me, pa rum pum pum pum." This invitation to "come" cries out to us all again this Christmas time, to bear witness to the light and love of God once more.

So wherever you may be this Christmas season, physically, mentally, or emotionally, I invite you to hear this invitation to "come" and encounter the light of the world. No matter how far you may feel from God, no matter how close you may feel to God, this invitation is extended just the same in the same way as it was extended to close shepherds and wise men from afar. So, I now make the same invitation that Jesus offers, that you may come and draw near to the God who longs to draw near to you. And as you do, I pray that the light of the world would enter into you, offering you peace, joy, and love this Christmas season and always. Merry Christmas everyone!

Pastor Daryl J. Emowrey



"Glory to the Newborn King!"

We wish you a Very Merry, Blessed & Healthy Christmas



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A sign for you

IN PERSON CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Edgerton & Angola
Fri. Dec. 23rd 5 & 7PM
Sat. Dec. 24th 1 & 3PM

ONLINE ONLY CHRISTMAS SERVICE

churchwhereyouare.online.church
Sun. Dec. 25th 9AM

Glory to God in the highest indeed!

An army of angels appeared over the Palestinian

night sky that first Christmas to announce the

miracle of Jesus' birth to a gang of lowly shepherds.

“Glory to God in the highest!” They sang. “And on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased” (Lk. 2:14). Christmas is all about God getting the glory. In fact, everything God does he does for the sake of his glory. Why did God create? To the praise of his loving nature. Why does God punish evil? To the praise of his just nature. Why does God call a sinful people to himself? To the praise of his merciful nature! And so it was to glorify God that God the Son left the embrace of Infinity and accepted a bed in a cattle stall. Everything God does he does for the sake of his glory.

a self-absorbed egomaniac; a real sketchy character!” I’ll offer an analogy to show why God being glorified is a good thing.

When my wife and I were newly married we lived in Naples, Italy where we were serving in the Navy. Our home was a typical duplex-villa, us downstairs the landlords upstairs. My wife went to work but since I had recently finished my tour of duty, I stayed home with very little to do. One day I found myself lamenting the tremendous amount of lemons that had fallen from the trees in our front yard and were left to rot. I’m from the midwest. Lemons are expensive! I decided to make lemonade. All day long I processed lemons, cutting them in half and squeezing

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service**
7:00-7:45PM

St. Andrew EPC
316 W. 4th St. Auburn, IN 46706
SaintAndrewEPC.org

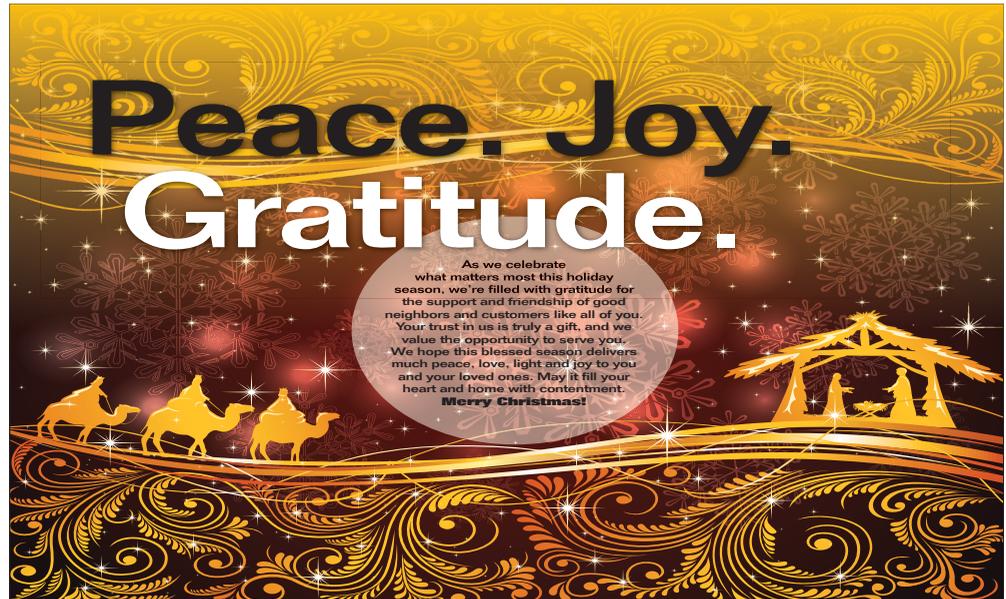
**PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
355 E. State Rd. 120 • Fremont, IN 46737
We Invite You to Join Us!
Christmas Eve *December 24*
5:00 pm — *Family Candlelight Worship*
8:00 pm — *Lessons and Carols (with Holy Communion)*
Christmas Sunday Worship
December 25, 9:00 am (only 1 service)
(with Holy Communion)
New Year’s Eve Worship
Dec. 31, 6:30 pm (with Holy Communion)
New Year’s Day Worship
January 1, 9:00 am (only 1 service)
(with Holy Communion)
WEBSITE: WWW.PLCMS.ORG
FACEBOOK.COM/PLCMS

GLORY

FROM PAGE 10

them on a handheld plastic juicer. Finally, when all was said and done I had several gallons of juice and a couple aching hands and forearms. “Cool,” I thought, “now I just need to add sugar.” After pouring and mixing for quite some time I was amazed to find my creation was still terrible. Way too sour to drink. This being just before the advent of the smart phone and our home internet being notoriously unreliable, I pattered down the street on my Vespa to an internet cafe to figure out what the heck I was doing wrong. It turns out there are three ingredients to lemonade. Did you know? Of course you did. Lemon juice, sugar and WATER. Lots of water. About 5 gal of water for every gal of juice! Once I watered my solution down

SEE TITLE, PAGE 12



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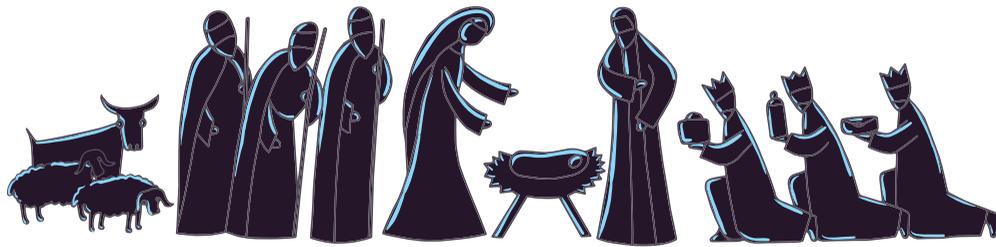


**Come worship
with us at
St. Paul Chapel**

**Christmas Eve Mass
Saturday, December 24 • 8:00 PM**

**Christmas Day Mass
Sunday, December 25 • 9:00 AM**

8780 E 700 N, Fremont, IN 46737
www.stpaulcatholicchapel.org



**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Christmas Service 7 p.m.**

Christmas Sunday Service 9 a.m.



All Are Welcome!
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 Who Cares About You!"*

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 Lutheran Church**
 270 Outer Drive, Clear Lake
260-495-9219
www.clearlakelutheran.org
ClearLakeLutheran@gmail.com



You're invited to

**CELEBRATE
 CHRISTMAS**

On Saturday, December 24 at 5:00pm

Fairview Fellowship Church
 615 PROFESSIONAL WAY, KENDALLVILLE IN



GLORY

FROM PAGE 11

I had made delicious lemonade. A great deal of lemonade!

The sour was concentrated in the juice. It made it powerful; too powerful to drink. Instead of sour think of love. Imagine you could take all the love in the world; all the love that's ever been loved in all human history and you could boil out the water, simmering out the impurities. Everything that looked like love but that was really self-serving you could eliminate. Now imagine you could pack all that love into a teaspoon. In fact, let's go a step further and apply pressure until we can contain all that love in a single drop. Who is God? What is God? God is an OCEAN of that stuff. It's not egomaniacal for God to save people "to the praise of his glory." It's common sense. You should want that ocean of love glorified, magnified, and worshipped. You should want everyone to experience it. You should want word of it to be spread far and wide. One last thing. That ocean of love isn't an ocean. It's a person. God, your adoptive Father, who left infinity to suffer and die for you. So that you could be with him and enjoy his love forever. This is the God of the Bible who we know and worship every day, but especially on Christmas. Come Sunday or go to our Youtube page to hear more about him.

saintandrewepc.org
Glory to God in the highest indeed!
Merry Christmas.
Pastor Adam Reasner

Making Spirits Bright

AES is grateful for the opportunity to serve our community. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



auburnessentialservices.net

South Milford Church of Christ Christmas Services

Join us this Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of the Savior!

Christmas Communion Service

Wednesday, December 21st (6:30-7:30pm)

Join us for an evening to celebrate Christ's birth. This service will be a time of worship led by our worship team and our SMCC kids. Come enjoy this Christmas experience.

Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 25th (One Service Only @ 10:30am)

Come and worship the King with us as we praise Him this Christmas season!

8030 E 600 S, Corner of St. Rd. 3 and 600 S.

1½ miles north of South Milford

260-351-3671

www.southmilfordchurchofchrist.com



"For Unto Us a Child Is Born."

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FIRST CHRISTIAN

SEEK • EQUIP • SEND

Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, December 24th at 5:00 pm



Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 25th at 10:00 am

110 West Waits Road

Kendallville, Indiana 46755

firstkville.org

Celebrate Christmas with Us

Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church
2520 N 600 East
Kendallville

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church
210 N Orange
Albion

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
307 S Main
LaOtto

Christmas Eve

December 24

Mt. Pleasant – 6:00 pm
Emmanuel – 8:00 pm
St. Mark's – 10:30 pm

Christmas Day

December 25

St. Mark's – 10:30 am

Weekly Worship

Mt. Pleasant
Sundays – 9:00 am
St. Mark's
Sundays – 10:30 am
Emmanuel
Wednesdays – 6:00 pm



Blessings Of The Season

May your home be filled with His light and love this holiday season and may the spirit of Christmas burn brightly in your heart for a long time to come.

For your good will, we are deeply grateful.

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