

The Federated Messenger

November 2026

Advent 2026: Prophecies and Promises! **by Pastor Malcolm Beall**

**“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name
Immanuel” (which means, God with us). – Matthew 1:22-23**



I know it is a little early to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, but the Advent Season is fast approaching! We are excited to have an Advent devotional series for the 2026 Christmas season, like we did last year! This year, we are studying some of the promises and prophecies surrounding the first coming of our Lord. His arrival as a baby in a manger was foretold long before it came to be, and the promises that heralded His first coming can bolster our own faith as we wait for His return.

- In the first week, we'll take a look at some of the earliest promises and prophecies that pointed to Jesus. From the Garden to Abraham to David and beyond, we will read of how God planned the lineage that would bring the Messiah.
- In the second week, we'll study prophecies related to John the Baptist, as well as ways that we, like John, can make ways in the wilderness to share the message of Christ's coming.
- In the third week, we'll visit the shepherds who were among the first to learn of Christ's arrival. We'll study the image of our Lord as a shepherd and consider how we can also eagerly share the news of Jesus' birth.
- In the fourth week, we'll join Simeon and Anna in the temple to learn of patience as we wait for promises to be fulfilled. We'll learn from their wisdom and willingness to be used by the Spirit.
- And finally, in the fifth week, we'll reflect on why Jesus came to fulfill the prophecies of God, how that should shape our actions at Christmas, and how we can trust His promises for the future as He dwells with us.

We encourage you to make time this season to slow down amidst all the Christmas busyness and take hold of the wonderful ways in which God has given us trustworthy promises and glorious prophecies that point to our God being with us!

Printed studies will be ready by mid-November and the study will begin on Monday, November 23rd. It will be 5 days a week for 5 weeks, and will also include a family activity for each week of the study. Join Us This Advent Season!!

Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch...

by Christy Preston

Fall is beautiful – colorful leaves, cooler temperatures, roaring campfires. I am so grateful for God's creativity in the colors of fall foliage that we've been enjoying at WLD and beyond over the past weeks. The beauty of nature is something we can take for granted when we're immersed in it often during camp life, but each group who uses WLD's facility over the fall months wonders at the creation they observe while here and that reminds us we have much for which to be grateful!

Our fall has been full of horse lessons and weekend retreats and while we're still in the midst of that season, our minds are already planning for the next season, which involves our **annual Kids' Christmas Shop on Friday, December 4 (3-8pm) and Saturday, December 5 (10am-2pm)**. The Kids' Christmas Shop is fun for kids and families alike, but our excitement for the event is not just from a weekend filled with people at WLD. Our passion for Kids' Christmas Shop is due to the money raised for our financial assistance program, helping children attend summer camp who, without financial assistance, would not otherwise be able to attend. All the work that goes into the Kids' Christmas Shop, all the hours spent in preparation and set up and clean up, all the time on our feet scampering around to service the kids who attend that weekend are all worth it when we see the dozens of kids who attend summer camp as a result.

In 2026, we continued to see an increase in the number of summer campers who requested financial assistance in order to attend summer camp. Each and every one of the children who attended camp with financial assistance were touched in ways we can't always see and the impact their camp time had on their lives will be felt beyond what we know. I think of one single mother who works hard to support her family, but had an extensive surgery in March of 2026, keeping her from working 8-12 weeks and cutting her income in half. She still wanted her children to attend summer camp and desperately needed assistance for that to happen. Fundraisers like the Kids' Christmas Shop and other donations enabled her children to attend camp on a full sponsorship. This mother's response was, "Oh, thank you so much! If there is a way to extend my gratitude to the people who make scholarships possible, please do so on my behalf. Looking forward to another great week at WLD! Thank you again, and God bless." Fundraising

events and donations toward the financial assistance fund make a difference in so many lives – and that's why we do what we do for the Kids' Christmas Shop!

God blesses us year after year with the funds raised and donated, and we look forward to seeing what He has in store for Summer 2027. Help us spread the word about the upcoming Kids' Christmas Shop! If you have any questions about it, please contact me (christy@wldranch.com). Thank you for partnering with us to reach our community for Christ!

Springfield Senior Center



Tuesday, November 10

Springfield Senior Center will meet in the Family Center at 9:45 a.m.

Pastor Barb English will have devotions. A wonderful program will be presented. You'll have to come to find out what it is!

Exercises will be led by Jule and a delicious lunch will be served at Noon, all for a \$3.00 donation.

Northwestern Food Pantry Children's Christmas Gift Program

Every December the Northwestern Food Pantry distributes Christmas gifts to the children of the food pantry aged 18 years and younger. **Our church has 15 labels that can be found on the desk in the Welcome Center along with a sign-up list and a letter explaining the program.** Gifts need to be purchased, wrapped and returned to St. Lawrence Church in Albion by **December 16th** (or bring it here to the Welcome Center and we will see that it gets to St. Lawrence). If you would like to provide a gift for a child, please sign up, take a letter and one or more labels, purchase a gift and follow the instructions on the letter.



OCC SHOEBOXES

by Beth Rigden



Our 2026 Operation Christmas Child Packing Party was a success! This was our 4th year to have a packing party and the excitement is still running high from it! We had over 100 people help us pack 500 boxes for boys and girls ages 5-9. What a joy to see all the different ages working together to accomplish this. Our youth started the morning out by folding hundreds of boxes then filling some of the boxes. They were such a nice group of respectful teens, it was heartwarming to see them put so much effort and thought and prayer into packing a box for a child they will not meet until Heaven. I asked a few people to give me their thoughts about packing.

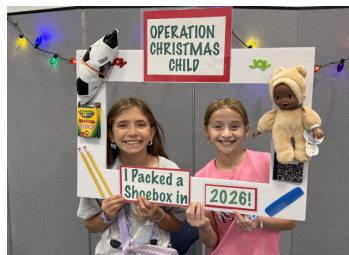
"As a packer of the OCC boxes this brings such joy knowing they are hearing about Jesus." Martha

"My name is Corbin and I'm ten. Packing boxes is so fun. It's so cool." Corbin

"As a university student that always tries to find a way to help but has a packed schedule, Operation Christmas Child is a wonderful way to bless others. The privilege to be able to make these boxes is such a blessing. This isn't just a box but a Gospel message." Yana

"I packed five boxes today. This experience was very meaningful because as Beth advised- I prayed for God to guide me as I picked each item and He definitely did!" Melissa

"Packing boxes means a lot to me knowing some kid is going to have a life change because of a box." Emeri



As our boxes head to their next stop on their journey to a child, please continue to pray for the child who will receive the box, pray for safe passage through customs and pray for the ministry partner who will be sharing the Good News before the box is received.

If you took a box home to pack, please be sure to **return it by November 15th**. We will be delivering them to the local Drop Off location on Monday, November 16th.

Thank you all for your support all through the year.

3rd Annual Fall Dinner Friday, November 6, 2026

Hosted by People for Life

Colony Banquet Center

3014 W. 12th St., Erie, PA

Doors open at 5 p.m. Program at 6 p.m.

Special Guest Speaker Dr. Monique Ruberu

(Pro-Life Ob/Gyn & Infertility Expert)



Reservations due by November 1. \$35 Regular, \$30 Students. Online registration: PeopleforLife.org/dinner or call 814-882-1333

The Castle '26 is a retreat for 8th-12th grade students to grow closer to the Lord through practicing spiritual disciplines found in the Bible. **The dates are November 13-15. Cost is \$40** per student.

See the FedYouth board in the Family Center for more details.



An event is coming in January for people who enjoy singing, organized by All God's Children Ministries

Saturday, January 30, 2027 is our **"Harmonies of Heaven"** singing competition at Luther Memorial Church in Erie.

It may feel early, but we want to give your choral groups plenty of time to start planning what to sing! The group doesn't have to be a formal choir, just 5-10 singers. The performance

can be sung to a piano accompaniment or A Capella. Full details and registration forms will be available in early November.





◆ **Celebration Class**

This class is for people celebrating their “mature” years in the church dining room, studying the scriptures on the current sermon series.

- ◆ **Men’s Class** – Studying the book of Proverbs, led by Bob Pettis and others. Meet in the Church Basement Room 32.
- ◆ **Ladies Class** – Studying “The Heart of Change” led by Tobi Magill and Suzanne Barton, Room 10 in the church basement.
- ◆ **Faith Chapel Ladies Class** –following an inductive study on Romans 6-8 (Part 2) led by Tracy Shinko. All ladies welcome!
- ◆ **Sanctuary Class** – a verse by verse study of the book of John, led by Jerry Hills in the sanctuary.
- ◆ **Everyone’s a Theologian** - What do Christians believe and why? This series on Systematic Theology is designed for new believers and anyone wanting to grow in their understanding of God’s truth. Meet in **Room 29**, Church Basement
- ◆ **College & Young Adult Class** – Room 28 in the Church Basement, exploring what the Bible says about topics relative to life, led by Mike and Cheryl Anderson.
- ◆ **Good News Class** – Family Center Office Room, studying the book of Philippians with Seth Huntley and Sam Ring leading.
- ◆ **Midlife In Christ Class** – led by Rick Fails and Jamie Greig in Room 31 in the church basement, studying James.
- ◆ **Heart and Soul Class** – led by Paul Burgess in Room 19/20 of the church basement, studying “The Promise of Heaven”, by David Jeremiah.
- ◆ **The Upper Room Class** – led by Pastor Mal Beall and Paula Adams. Open to Young Adults both single and married. Meeting in the big room upstairs in the church and studying a variety of topics.



Kids Church is for children 4 years old thru 5th grade in the Family Center. The children should be signed in at the Family Center desk by a parent/caregiver before services and promptly picked up afterward.

Infant and Toddler care: During the 8:15 a.m. service, unsupervised Infant/Toddler rooms are available for families to use. Also, there is a nursing mother’s room available during both services at the back of the sanctuary. Infant and Toddler care *is* available during the 11 a.m. service in the Family Center. **MORE VOLUNTEERS** are needed to care for the children. If you can help, please contact the Church Office or the Welcome Center Desk.



Saturday and Sunday, November 7 & 8

Come and hear what our supported Missionaries are doing out in the world!

Our Missionary Guests will be:

- **Rahul Sanuria and Theresa Liang**, **International Friendships**, working with international students in the US
- **Brian and Rachel Lusky**, **Converge**, sharing the Gospel with people in Japan
- **Ryan Nevil**, **Fellowship of Christian Athletes**, sharing the Gospel with students in Ohio

At 6:00 PM on Saturday we will join together with our missionary guests in a time of Worship and Prayer in the Sanctuary, with light refreshments provided afterward. **Sunday morning**, our missionaries will be sharing in the worship services and Sunday School.

If you are interested in being part of the **Pill Bottle Recycling Program**, please contact **Amy Bovaird at 814-431-4266 or Suzanne Barton at 814-392-4383.**
Meet in the Church Dining Room
November 9, 1-4 PM & December 7, 1-4 PM



November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
1 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 	2 7 PM Men's Bible Study	3 3:30 PM SALT 	4 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	5 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 10 AM Fed Moms100 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study AND	6	7 6:00 PM MISSIONS WEEKEND Worship & Prayer, Sanctuary
8 MISSIONS WEEKEND 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 3 PM Bow Shoot 4 PM Praise Choir	9 1 PM Pill Bottle Ministry 7 PM Men's Study	10 9:45 AM Senior Center 3:30 PM SALT 6:30 PM Leadership Meeting	11 10 AM Golden Circle 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	12 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study AND Celebrate Recovery	13 Youth Castle Retreat	14
15 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Youth Castle Retreat 	16 7 PM Men's Bible Study	17 3:30 PM SALT 6:30 PM Women's Worship Night 	18 10 AM Golden Cir. 10AM-4PM Erie News Now Food Drive 6:30 PM JOURNEY 7 PM Prayer Meeting	19 10 AM Fed Moms 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study AND Celebrate Recovery	20	21
22 8:15 & 11 AM Worship <i>Communion</i> 9:45 AM Sunday School 4 PM Praise Choir	23 12 PM Mobile Food Pantry 7 PM Men's Bible Study	24 7 PM Community Thanksgiving Service here at The Federated Church	25 No Activities	26 	27	28
29 8:15 & 11 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School 6 PM Ignite 5-7 PM NERF NIGHT!	30 7 PM Men's Bible Study					