



# DISTRICT NEWS

## INDIANA



# From DARKNESS to

# light

Remembering God's promises prepares us for Advent

**A**dvent is an important time for us to focus on the rich and certain promise God has made to His people. His promises are exciting because God cannot and will not ever break His Word to us! The sin of mankind darkens the world and leaves all of us in need of His light, love and grace.



**Rev. Daniel May**  
District President

We know how dark it can be in our hearts and minds. We know what it is like to long for light and hope in the

midst of disappointment and fear. We know what the shroud of guilt and shame can do to us and those around us.

In the midst of all of this we gather in Advent worship to rehearse the brightness of God's fulfilled promises in our lives. Our sins are serious and our hopelessness is all too real. The light at the end of the tunnel is the brightness of the King of glory. The prophet Daniel visions:

*"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven." Dan. 7:13*

It is my prayer that you and your family

are not missing the fulfilling days of Advent. Time in worship at church and around the kitchen table provide wonderful opportunities for you to share and discuss the need for the light of Jesus in the midst of darkness. Remembering the promises of God will indeed lead you to a Merry Christmas. That is my prayer for you as you hear the words, *"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord!"* I hope you know that the **you** in this verse is really for **you!**

*Rev. Daniel P. May*

Reverend May

## God With Us

### Reaching out to those who don't know Immanuel

*"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel (which means, God with us)." Matt. 1:23*



It is fantastic to consider that the Virgin Mary conceived and bore a son. It is extraordinary. But greater than that is the message of what the child would be named, "Immanuel."



**Rev. Geoff Robinson**  
Outreach Executive

God with us is a comforting and exciting truth. Jesus Christ is not only the one who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, buried and rose again victorious over sin, Satan and death, but He is also with us. Christ tells us, *"Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* Christ comes to us through the Word of God. Jesus is with us in the Sacrament

of the Altar, for there we eat and drink His real body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine. Christ is there when we are given faith through Holy Baptism, for we are baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Think of all the joy there is in knowing that the True God is with you. You are never alone. You have the greatest power in the cosmos on your side. What an awesome reality this is! And perhaps the greatest reality about God with us is that God doesn't come to us demanding to be served, but He serves us by giving us forgiveness of sins and life everlasting. This is something worth remembering and rejoicing about. No wonder Immanuel is a popular name for Lutheran churches.

God is with us! God is with us! Yes, the angels announced it in spectacular

fashion to shepherds who were with their flocks in the field. The angels told the shepherds the great blessing of the baby born to the Virgin Mary. And the shepherds reacted by visiting the baby Christ and then they went about telling people of the child who was named "Immanuel!"

You have the opportunity to do the same thing as the shepherds. The Advent and Christmas seasons are great times to invite people who don't know the joy of "God with us" to find out about Jesus the Christ.

Take a few moments and think of a person you know who doesn't know Christ Jesus. And then ask God to give you the opportunity to invite that person to an Advent and Christmas service so that they might come to learn of the child named "Immanuel."

# Christmas is Coming!

## Focusing on Jesus during a busy season

The days of December are upon us. Our voices can be heard, “I have to hurry up to get my Christmas...” You can finish the sentence.

Students are also in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season.

Many might be saying, “I cannot wait to open presents.” Others anxiously await their December holiday, taking time away from daily routines and school tasks.

It has been said that patience is a virtue. But it is hard to be patient when you



**Dr. Jon Mielke**  
Executive Counselor  
for Christian Education

are waiting for something you need or even want so much. The psalmist penned:

“Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him.” **Ps. 37:7**

Unfortunately, the more we concern ourselves with vacations, shopping for gifts and planning for Christmas parties, the less we concentrate on the real message of Christmas.

December brings the season of Advent, and Christmas Eve and Day, affording Christians, young and old, to take time out of the busyness of our lives to be still before the Lord. This means that God calls us to worship with Him on Sundays and Wednesday evenings. To be still before the Lord means we are invited to attend multiple services,

providing Christians opportunity for much song, recitation and praise.

The season of Christmas is a busy time. Crowded malls and office and classroom parties can distract us from the quiet peace that the Child of Bethlehem came to bring into our hearts. Take time to be still before the Lord. Patiently prepare your hearts for Jesus, who has come as Savior of the world with those celebratory hymns and psalms of praise.

Wait ... stop ... listen ... and be still! Christmas is here. The time is now to prepare our hearts and to worship the “*baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger*” (Luke 2:12).

God’s peace and joy to you at this Christmas time!



# Student Volunteers Help People with Disabilities Get Ready for Fall Fun!

*Home Heroes program connects people to volunteer opportunities*



**B**ethesda Lutheran Communities connects volunteers with intellectually and developmentally disabled people. These individuals are called Home Heroes. Earlier this fall, students from Laura Bohnke's biology class at Concordia Lutheran High School (CLHS) in Fort Wayne spent a day volunteering at Bethesda Community Outreach, a day program at 1615 Vance Ave. in Fort Wayne. The students were completing a day of service in the community by helping the residents get ready for fall fun.

"Our program is aptly named because the volunteers who work in our homes with the people we support really are heroes," said Kirsten Whitsitt, Bethesda's director of Volunteer Services. "We want our volunteers to see the ways that their

gifts can make a positive difference in the lives of the people we support."

The CLHS students began the day with devotions and worked with the day-program participants to complete a craft project to "Deck Their Halls with Fall." Not only did the handmade crafts brighten up the room, they provided a festive fall feeling when they were used again later in the month to decorate for the fall dance, when day-program members and friends enjoyed an evening of Halloween fun.

The goal of Bethesda's Home Heroes program is to recruit volunteers from the communities it represents. These volunteers work at Bethesda program locations with the people it supports alongside the Bethesda Direct Support Professional (DSP).

Volunteers undergo a background check and are trained before being placed in a program.

Bethesda Lutheran Communities is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Volunteers are always needed and welcome.

**To learn more about Bethesda's Home Heroes program and how you can get involved, contact Whitsitt at 920-262-6515 or [Kirsten.Whitsitt@mailblc.org](mailto:Kirsten.Whitsitt@mailblc.org).**

**Apply online at: [bethesdalutherancommunities.org/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-application](https://bethesdalutherancommunities.org/get-involved/volunteer/volunteer-application).**

## Rolling Up Your Sleeve

Last month I received a notice from the Red Cross saying that my blood was on its way to the Cleveland Clinic to help someone who was in need of blood. How special! I don't know who that person was nor do I need to know. In fact, for the 25 years or so of giving blood every two months, I haven't knowingly met anyone who has received my blood. They say that giving of one's blood is the gift of life. It had never crossed my mind until recently that doing this bi-monthly is a hallmark of faithful stewardship. However, there is no greater example of this than Christ shedding His blood on the cross. He wasn't thinking of Himself, as He was a fully committed steward to His Father's will. I heard my pastor recently talk about the "Joy of Generosity." Christ suffered and died generously for the sake of the whole world. I only give a pint each time. Jesus gave His whole self.

Christ's example was all about others, not about His own comforts. Stepping out of our comfort zone this Christmas season to help others is about the stewardship of giving. Feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the shut-ins are just a few ways of being faithful stewards.

Stewardship doesn't have to be just about money, but about your lifestyle. Stewardship flows from the Gospel. Our Father in heaven showed us His love by giving us the greatest Gift. We're reminded of that again as we celebrate Jesus' birth. When we share our Christian lifestyle with others, the Gospel is shared. That's human-care ministry and that's us, living as stewards of Christ. Have a blessed Christmas!



**Ken Schilf**  
Council of Resources

## December Prayer List

### Week of December 5

- > South Dakota District
- > Circuit 15
- > Concordia, *Greenwood*
- > Calvary, *Indianapolis*
- > Emmaus, *Indianapolis*
- > Our Savior, *Indianapolis*
- > Peace Deaf, *Indianapolis*
- > **Mission:** Burmese, *Southwest Fort Wayne*
- > **RSO:** Cross Connections, *Fort Wayne/Indianapolis*

### Week of December 12

- > South Wisconsin District
- > Circuit 20
- > Our Savior, *Danville*
- > Our Redeemer, *Lexington*
- > St. John, *Lexington*
- > Good Shepherd, *Lexington*
- > Bread of Life Mission, *Lexington*
- > **Mission:** Kenya Compassionate Care Ministries, *Emanuel, New Haven*
- > **RSO:** Hands of Mercy, *Fort Wayne*

### Week of December 19

- > Southeastern District
- > Circuit 2
- > Trinity, *Crown Point*
- > Faith, *DeMotte*
- > Faith, *Gary*
- > Good Shepherd, *Gary*
- > Our Savior, *Gary*
- > St. John, *Gary*
- > **Mission:** TIM Support-First Timothy, *Messiah, Indianapolis*
- > **RSO:** Lutheran Child and Family Services, *Indianapolis*

### Week of December 26

*A very blessed Christmas to everyone!*



# EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please add these important dates to your personal calendar as we look forward to a fun and fulfilling holiday season.

### DECEMBER

**8**  
District Board  
of Directors meeting

**23**  
The district office  
will close at noon

**25**  
**A blessed Christmas!**

**26**  
District office closed

### JANUARY

**4-6**  
LCMS Campus  
Ministry Conference,  
*College Park, Md.*

**17-18**  
Symposium on Exegetical  
Theology — *"The Spirit  
of Reformation Exegesis  
Today," Concordia  
Theological Seminary*

### 18-20

Symposium on the  
Lutheran Confessions  
— "The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
of the Reformation  
Continuing the  
Celebration," *Concordia  
Theological Seminary*

### 22-28

National Lutheran Schools  
Week — "Upon This Rock"

### 27-29

LCMS Life Conference

### FEBRUARY

**10-12**  
"Katie Retreat" for pastors'  
wives, *Inn at DePauw,  
Greencastle*

### MARCH

**16-19**  
LCMS Teen Leadership  
training, *St. Louis*

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 1  
Venita Reininga, 92, Trinity, Darmstadt  
Opal Smolek, 92, St. Peter, North Judson

DECEMBER 2  
Edith Wesley, 98, Trinity, Hobart  
Henry Kranich, 95, Zion, Decatur

DECEMBER 4  
Marie Heller, 98, Immanuel, Avilla  
Judd Bleeke, 93, St. Paul (Preble), Decatur

DECEMBER 6  
**Mildred Kiel, 100, Immanuel, Seymour**  
Bob Trussel, 95, Mt. Calvary, Fort Wayne  
Bud Wiser, 93, Calvary, Indianapolis

DECEMBER 7  
Marvin Conrad, 95, Zion, Friedheim  
Francis Hudlow, 93, St. James, Lafayette  
Caroline Nielsen, 92, Cornerstone, Carmel  
Bertha Jackson, 91, Immanuel, Seymour

DECEMBER 8  
Alberta Krampe, 93, Calvary, Indianapolis  
Helen Vandre Schakel, 93, Grace, Muncie

DECEMBER 9  
Ralph Herb, 93, St. Paul's, Fort Wayne

DECEMBER 10  
Russell Byrnett, 90, Immanuel, Seymour  
Wilma Toppe, 90, Immanuel, Seymour

DECEMBER 11  
**Irene Schamber, 103**  
**Holy Cross, Fort Wayne**

DECEMBER 12  
Iris Guethe, 93, St. Paul's, Fort Wayne

DECEMBER 13  
Ruth Linnemeier, 91  
St. John (Bingen), Decatur

DECEMBER 15  
Ruby Fosbrink, 90  
St. Peter's, Brownstown  
Beverly Grant, 90, St. Paul's, Evansville

DECEMBER 17  
Lucille Fox, 90, Immanuel, Seymour

DECEMBER 18  
Pauline Zollman, 91, St. John, Lanesville

DECEMBER 19  
Virginia Knoke, 97, Immanuel, Seymour  
Alma Keidel, 93, Zion, Friedheim  
Helen Roberts, 90, St. John's, White Creek

DECEMBER 20  
Paul Thune, 90, Cornerstone, Carmel

DECEMBER 22  
Maryon Schueler, 94  
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

DECEMBER 23  
Fern Theriac, 92, St. John, Vincennes

DECEMBER 25  
Jack Griebel, 92, Mt. Calvary, Fort Wayne

DECEMBER 26  
Anna Cockerham, 90, St. John, Vincennes  
Joe Halter, 90, St. John, Vincennes  
Evelyn Luecke, 90, Immanuel, Seymour

DECEMBER 27  
Lynn Hinnefeld, 92, St. Peter's, Brownstown

DECEMBER 28  
Ada Reek, 96, St. John, Indianapolis

Pauline Rekeweg, 95, Zion, Woodburn  
Mildred Nelson, 92, Trinity, Hobart

DECEMBER 29  
James Prien, 92, St. James, Lafayette

DECEMBER 30  
Mary Hackman, 94, Immanuel, Seymour

DECEMBER 31  
Martha Janz, 91, St. Matthew's, Delphi

### Belated Birthdays

AUGUST 1  
Ruth Sunderman, 90, Immanuel, Seymour

AUGUST 3  
Dorothy Lunte, 92, Immanuel, Seymour

AUGUST 14  
Rabel Newkirk, 92, Immanuel, Seymour

AUGUST 31  
Hulda Goecker, 93, Immanuel, Seymour

SEPTEMBER 1  
Pauline Hackman, 90, Immanuel, Seymour

SEPTEMBER 3  
Melvin Wischmeier, 93, Immanuel, Seymour  
Rosemary Wesselman, 90  
St. John, Indianapolis

SEPTEMBER 10  
Mildred Rahn, 90, Immanuel, Seymour

SEPTEMBER 12  
Esther Gottfried, 91, Immanuel, Seymour

SEPTEMBER 16  
Edgar Westphal, 91, St. John, Indianapolis  
Mildred Kontak, 90, St. John, Indianapolis

SEPTEMBER 17  
**Marvin Stoppenhagen, 100**  
**Zion, Friedheim**

SEPTEMBER 18  
Marlin Keidel, 91, Zion, Friedheim

SEPTEMBER 30  
Charles Walker, 95  
Our Redeemer, Evansville

OCTOBER 12  
Mae Ellen Schneider, 90  
Immanuel, Seymour  
Lucile Stoppenhagen, 90, Zion, Friedheim

OCTOBER 15  
Edna Hallow, 94, Immanuel, Seymour  
Edna Kaufman, 92, Immanuel, Seymour

OCTOBER 22  
Bessie Ormsby, 94, Immanuel, Seymour

OCTOBER 28  
Helen Schleibaum, 92, Immanuel, Seymour

OCTOBER 29  
Lillie Girton, 92, St. John, Indianapolis

NOVEMBER 4  
Lois Schmidt, 94 Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

NOVEMBER 13  
Lucille Psilas 97, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

NOVEMBER 15  
Treva Stahl, 93, Immanuel, Seymour  
Helma Conrad, 91, Zion, Friedheim

NOVEMBER 22  
W. Dale Weasner, 93, Immanuel, Seymour

NOVEMBER 29  
**Audramae Clamme, 102, Grace, Muncie**

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER 4  
Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Wittman, 55  
St. John's, Evanston

DECEMBER 5  
Mr. and Mrs. Delbert James, 67  
St. John's, Evanston

DECEMBER 6  
Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Beilke, 63  
St. Paul's, Evansville

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Hacker, 62  
St. John, Vincennes

# DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES (CONT'D)

## DECEMBER 26 (CONT'D)

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Conrad, 52  
Zion, Friedheim

## DECEMBER 7

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wheeler, 55  
St. Peter's, Brownstown  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Koch, 52  
Immanuel, Michigan City

## DECEMBER 8

Mr. and Mrs. Rich Reidenbach, 53  
Heritage Valparaiso

## DECEMBER 9

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schultz, 59  
Faith, DeMotte

## DECEMBER 10

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Borchelt, 20  
Trinity, Hobart  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerrold Horn, 55  
St. Paul's, Evansville

## DECEMBER 11

Mr. and Mrs. Deane Fisher, 60  
Calvary, Plymouth  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Polk, 55  
St. John, Indianapolis  
Mr. and Mrs. David Cooper, 50  
Trinity, Hobart  
Mr. and Mrs. John O. Wittman, 50  
St. John's, Evanston

## DECEMBER 14

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Roach, 53  
Cornerstone, Carmel

## DECEMBER 16

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Carter, 59  
Zion, New Palestine  
Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Perkins, 54  
St. John, Vincennes

## DECEMBER 17

Mr. and Mrs. William Swift, 55  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Vill Thompson, 50  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

## DECEMBER 19

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schoen, 51  
St. John, Lanesville

## DECEMBER 20

Mr. and Mrs. John Watkins, 57  
Cornerstone, Carmel

## DECEMBER 21

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Johnson, 57  
Calvary, Indianapolis  
Mr. and Mrs. Roland Meyer, 57  
Immanuel, Seymour

## DECEMBER 22

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beall, 59  
St. James, Lafayette  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Poulston, 59  
Trinity Memorial, Merrillville  
Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Hamner, 58  
St. John, Vincennes

## DECEMBER 23

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schiefelbein, 61  
Calvary, Plymouth  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Carpenter, 55  
Zion, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Byron White, 55  
St. Paul's, (Denham), Winamac

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Stanford, 54  
Calvary, Indianapolis

## DECEMBER 24

Mr. and Mrs. Harley Like, 65  
St. John, Vincennes  
Rev. and Mrs. James Link, 51  
St. John, Indianapolis

## DECEMBER 25

Mr. and Mrs. Rich Rekoweg, 62  
Mt. Calvary, Fort Wayne

## DECEMBER 26

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schur, 62  
Concordia, Louisville  
Mr. and Mrs. Len Buuck, 60  
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Art Bartholomew, 54  
Heritage, Valparaiso  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Heeger, 54  
Trinity, Darmstadt  
Mr. and Mrs. Russ Prough, 50  
Concordia, Louisville  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Welty, 50  
Cornerstone, Carmel

## DECEMBER 27

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Conrad, 74  
Zion, Friedheim  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Haines, 63  
St. Paul (Preble), Decatur  
Mr. and Mrs. William Berning, 62  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Schmidt, 57  
St. John, Monroeville  
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Fuhrer, 52  
St. Paul's, Evansville  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Peters, 52  
St. Peter's, Brownstown  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kolanowski, 51  
St. Peter, North Judson

## DECEMBER 28

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Cox, 66  
Zion, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul McMichael, 65  
Holy Cross, Indianapolis  
Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Phillips, 60  
St. James, Lafayette  
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Barks, 52  
Concordia, Greenwood  
Mr. and Mrs. Thom Seeley, 52  
Cornerstone, Carmel  
Mr. and Mrs. John Lewis IV, 50  
Immanuel, Seymour

## DECEMBER 29

Mr. and Mrs. Noel Schlegelmilch, 53  
Immanuel, Michigan City

## DECEMBER 30

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Herb, 65  
St. Paul's, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Lantz, 54  
Cornerstone, Carmel

## DECEMBER 31

Mr. and Mrs. Hank Hansen, 60  
Zion, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Fields, 55  
Concordia, Louisville  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Wimsatt, 52  
Shepherd of the Hills, Georgetown

## Belated Anniversaries

### AUGUST 2

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Baker, 51  
Immanuel, Seymour

### AUGUST 4

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Otte, 52  
Immanuel, Seymour

### AUGUST 5

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Pardieck, 59  
Immanuel, Seymour

### AUGUST 8

Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Borcharding, 50  
Immanuel, Seymour

### AUGUST 14

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Carpenter, 60  
Immanuel, Seymour

### AUGUST 19

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Raabe, 59  
Immanuel, Seymour

### AUGUST 23

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pardieck, 62  
Immanuel, Seymour

### AUGUST 25

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Kilgas, 58  
Immanuel, Seymour

### AUGUST 28

Mr. and Mrs. Donavon Kieser, 55  
Immanuel, Seymour

### SEPTEMBER 1

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Linnemeier, 62  
Zion, Friedheim

### SEPTEMBER 2

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Darlage, 54  
Immanuel, Seymour

### SEPTEMBER 9

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Heckman, 70  
Zion, Friedheim

### SEPTEMBER 15

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kiel, 58  
Immanuel, Seymour

### SEPTEMBER 17

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Beltz, 55  
Immanuel, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Gehres, 50  
Zion, Friedheim

### SEPTEMBER 18

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Crosby, 60  
Zion, Friedheim

### SEPTEMBER 27

Mr. and Mrs. Glen VonDielingen, 51  
Immanuel, Seymour

### OCTOBER 2

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wente, 50  
Immanuel, Seymour

### OCTOBER 3

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Avney, 60  
St. Matthew's, Delphi

### OCTOBER 7

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Caruso, 55  
St. John, Indianapolis

### OCTOBER 11

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Weihe, 51  
Immanuel, Seymour

## OCTOBER 12

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Myers, 58  
St. John, Indianapolis

## OCTOBER 14

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Maschino, 55  
Immanuel, Seymour

## OCTOBER 17

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Niederbaumer, 51  
Immanuel, Seymour

## OCTOBER 21

Mr. and Mrs. Farrell Sullivan, 54  
Immanuel, Seymour

## OCTOBER 22

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walton, 65  
St. Matthew's, Delphi

## OCTOBER 24

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Bultemeier, 50  
Zion Friedheim

## NOVEMBER 1

Mr. and Mrs. Don Koestring, 62  
Our Redeemer, Evansville

## NOVEMBER 5

Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson 60  
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

## NOVEMBER 11

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Heideman, 53  
Immanuel, Seymour

## NOVEMBER 18

Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Czerny, 65  
Zion, Wabash

## NOVEMBER 20

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Everest, 56  
St. John, Indianapolis

## NOVEMBER 21

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ayres, 57  
St. John, Indianapolis  
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Payne, 56  
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Clark, 51  
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Cameron, 50  
Our Redeemer, Evansville

## NOVEMBER 24

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rump, 70  
St. John, Indianapolis

## NOVEMBER 25

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brown, 50  
Immanuel, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Kanning, 50  
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

## NOVEMBER 26

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Brown, 50  
Immanuel, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schneider, 65  
Immanuel, Seymour

## NOVEMBER 27

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Roser, 63  
Zion, Wabash

## NOVEMBER 29

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Fox 57  
St. John, Indianapolis

## NOVEMBER 30

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Roth, 58  
Our Redeemer, Evansville



## ‘His to give’

### *Transferring the blessings*

**E**ach year we plan on giving gifts at Christmas. We get asked for the workplace gift. We shop for the perfect gift for our loved ones. We spend a lot of time and money in December on gifts that are out of proportion to the rest of the year. We do all of this in celebration of the greatest gift ever, given by our Heavenly Father, who sent His only begotten Son that in the flesh He would save us from our sins on the cross and in the resurrection.

Yet despite all the gift giving, have you ever really thought that you cannot really give a gift? Ultimately, all things belong to our Father and are His to give. So in essence, we don't really “give” gifts. We “transfer” them.

As we engage in this transfer of blessings this year, consider gifts that also support ministry. If you are older than 70, you may have Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) on a retirement account that you can use



**Rev. Philip Krupski**  
LCMS Foundation Gift  
Planning Counselor

to support the Lord's work in the district or in your congregation. Using charitable rollover from your qualified retirement plans, you avoid paying taxes and maximize the greatest amount of gift transference. So for example, if you have \$5,000 of RMD this year, and you take that distribution, you may very well owe \$1,250 of income tax on it. But if you use that RMD for your support of ministry, you avoid the tax and instead of your gift being \$3,750, you could give \$5,000. Plus, you still receive your charitable deduction for the transference of the gift!

Maybe you have appreciated stock and are afraid to cash it in because of capital gains tax. Maybe you have a piece of appreciated property that is costing you more in taxes than any value you receive from it. Again, these become great opportunities for “transferring the blessings.”

May God bless your Christmas as you celebrate Him as the true giver of every perfect gift!

If you need help, or would like to learn more about LCMS Foundation gift planning, contact me at *philip.krupski@lfnrd.org* or 317-840-3202.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Do you have exciting news you'd like to see published in the Indiana District Lutheran Witness? We love to hear news and updates and see photos from around our district. Be sure to send in your news, especially if you enjoy writing or taking photos at church events.

**The deadline for  
the February issue of  
*The Lutheran Witness*  
is Dec. 12.**

Your stories and photos are welcomed and most appreciated.

Please send all submissions to Jan Koenig via email to:  
**jan.koenig@in.lcms.org**

or by postal mail to:  
**Lutheran Witness Editor  
Indiana District LCMS  
1145 South Barr St.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

Please remember that photos sent electronically should be in high resolution with a minimum of 300 dpi.

