DECEMBER 2021

THE VISITOR

New Hope Lutheran church of the ELCA

Worship sites at Blanchardville & Hollandale

Our Mission:

"Serving God by sharing, teaching and connecting people to God with Jesus in our hearts."

Please be sure to check the website (http://newhopelutheran.info), the church Facebook page, or the church phone for updated information on services and activities.

DEC 12th—Please plan to join us! We have LOTS happening this day at our Blanchardville Site, starting at 10:00 AM

- * Sunday School Christmas Program
- * Congregational & Ladies Meetings immediately following the program.
- * Christmas concert by Becky Johnson @ 1 pm

Congregational Meeting Agenda:

Vote on 2022 Budget; Election of council members

12th Annual "Home for the Holidays" Dinner

When: December 25 (Rain or Shine)

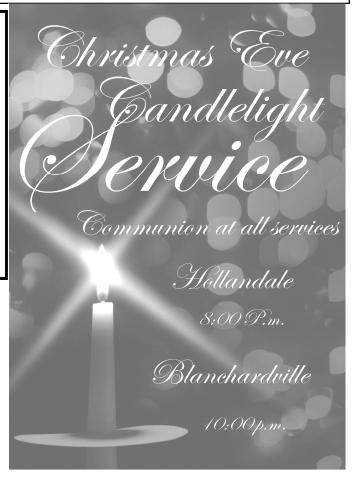
Time: 9am—Doors open for fun and activities

12pm—Begin serving meal **Where:** Viking Café, Blanchardville

No one should be alone for the holidays. The holidays should be about family, friends and fellowship. If you're going to be alone or the economy has made it difficult for you to gather with others, then come celebrate with our family!

-Curbside or delivery available upon request.

Please feel free to call and set up delivery or curbside. No need to make reservations. Call Jerry Bredeson at 608-574-8813 or Marcia Bredeson at 608-574-5224.. Donations are appreciated but not required!



—YEAR-END GIVING —

It's time to assesses your giving for the year. Thank you for your continued commitments, however, keep in mind that contributions mailed after December 28th may not get to the treasurer in time for the current year credit. Contributions for the year 2021 must be in the church office and deposited by noon on Friday morning, December 31st. Monies received after the start of 2022 will be posted to the 2022 year.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Hello New Hope,

I will let you on a little secret. My favorite Christmas movie, maybe even my favorite movie, is It's A Wonderful Life. Not because everything works out in the end and Clarence gets his wings instead it is the message that the greatest gift we ever receive is the gift of life. This gift is only given by God.

We see this in the story of George Bailey's life from the very start until the point of crisis. We see and hear how George has touched the lives of many people in his town and because of that touch, their lives have all changed for the better. George does not live a perfect life. He has hopes and dreams of seeing the world and building great and magnificent things. All his dreams seem to be cut short, life interferes with his plans. He believes he is stuck in his hometown, running a business he doesn't want to, living a life that seems to be suffocating him. No, George doesn't live a perfect life nor is there anything special about him. He is short tempered, gets frustrated easily, been known to have one drink too many. Why does it matter that he has touched the lives of many? Why does his presence, his life matter?

When he is given the gift of seeing what life would have been like without him, he sees that the lie that he believed, everyone would be better without him, is just that, a lie. He sees that his life matters, that he matters. That life is a gift.

Life is a gift and comes wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, on Christmas Eve. No life is perfect. No life is easy. No life comes without its ups and downs. We have good times and bad times both individually and together.

This year my wife and I will hold a Blue Christmas Service on Monday December 20th at 7 pm via New Hope Lutheran's Facebook page This is a worship service to acknowledge that beneath all the bright lights and Christmas cheer there is loneliness, sadness, grief and loss. We recognize and acknowledge the dark times in our lives whenever they might be, but especially amidst the cheer of Christmas. On this, the shortest day or near the shortest day, in the gloom of the night, we lift our hearts in prayer and song beseeching God for help just as the whole town did for George. We lift up our loss, our anguish, our hopelessness to God as an offering. As the service comes to a close, we lift up the hope of light, the hope of life. We exit the darkness of the tomb into the light of Easter and of Christmas morn. This is where we celebrate the gift of life that God has given us.

Every life you touch makes a difference. You make a difference in the lives of countless people. Your life matters. You matter. You are loved. This Christmas unwrap the greatest gift of all. The gift of love, the gift of life.

Merry Christmas, Pastor Chris

Exciting News!

Thanks to the various folks who made specific donations to this project, the Plaster repair project will start on 1/3/2021 at our Blanchardville site!

Praise be to God!

REVENUE/EXPENSES	ATTENDANCE
October Revenue \$13,823.18 October Expense \$14,876.83	11/7/21: 62
October Expense over Revenue \$1,053.35	11/14/21: 59
YTD Revenue \$128,671.91	11/21/21: 42
YTD Expenses \$132,985.02 YTD Expense over Revenue \$4,313.11	Total: 163 Average: 41

Worship Highlights for December

Services: 8:30 AM Blanchardville & 10:30 AM Hollandale
*There will be ONE service at 10:00 AM on both
12/12 (at Blanchardville Site) and 12/26 (at Hollandale Site)

Advent Theme "The Angel's Messages"

November 28th- 1st week of Advent

The Angel Speaks to Zechariah's Fear. Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5, Gospel: Luke 1: 5-20

December 5th; 2nd Week of Advent The Angel Speaks to Joseph's Confusion

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

December 12th; 3rd Week of Advent

Join the Sunday School as they tell the story of Jesus birth. This will be ONE service at

10:00 AM at our Blanchardville Site. No Communion this day.

December 19th: 4th Week of Advent The Angel Speaks to Mary's Doubt

Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Gospel: Luke 1:26-3

December 26th: Join us for Lessons & Carols at 10:00 AM at our Hollandale Site. No

Communion this day.

Sanctuary Ministers

12/5/2021:

Ushers/Greeters (B) Bob & Elaine Becker (H) Jay Massey

Reader: (B) Nancy Meyer (H) Siri Thronson **Communion:** (B) Ellen Syse (H) Bryan Lisser Acolyte: (B) _____ (H) Audrey Hughes

12/12/21- One Service @ Blanchardville 10:00 AM

Ushers/Greeters Ron & Ellen Syse

Acolyte: Tucker Bethke

12/19/21-

Ushers/Greeters (B) Ron & Ellen Syse (H) Thronson family

Reader: (B) Tina Steiner (H) Siri Thronson

Communion: (B) Ellen Syse (H) Judy Hendrickson

Acolyte: (B) Beckett Mieden (H) Bo Leonard

12/24/21-

Ushers/Greeters (B) Ron & Ellen Syse (H)

Reader: (B) Julie Saether (H) Gary Whitford-Holey **Communion**: (B) Ellen Syse (H) David & Cindy Whitford

12/26/21- One Service @ Hollandale Site 10:00 AM

Ushers/Greeters Andy Whitford

Acolyte: Will Doescher Reader: Gary Whitford-Holey

December Altar Committee:

Beth Kundert– Blanchardville Site Jean Christen– Hollandale Site

Thank you to those who signed up to bring treats for fellowship following Worship Services for the month of December!

Join us for December Activities!

CONFIRMATIONS CLASS INFO: December 1st & December 15th

2:30-3:30 pm Confirmation class at our Blanchardville Site

After the class on 12/15, Confirmation class will be on Winter Break until January 19th

Youth helping at Secret Santa Shop; 10:00 AM -1:00 PM at Pec Elem School on 12/11/2021

Sunday School Update:

Sunday School continues to meet at the Blanchardville Site at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings. As we continue to get ready for the Christmas Program that will be on 12/12, we'd like to extend class to be from 9:30 AM –10:30 AM each Sunday. We look forward to the program and hope the kids can have lots of friends and family join us!

Following the program, Sunday School will have a winter break until January 9th. Beginning January 9th, Sunday School will transition to being at our Hollandale Site, at 9:30 AM

A big THANK YOU to all the people that made our lefse sale so good. With your help and cooperation it wouldn't have happened. Thanks to all the people who purchased lefse.

We made and sold 138 DOZEN!

- Submitted by Jean Christen



Christmas Concert December 12

It's time to celebrate the birth of our Savior and what better way then listening to some music on the wonderful piano in Blanchardville's sanctuary. Becky Johnson will be offering a Christmas concert of piano music on December 12 at 1:00 at the Blanchardville site. Come hear your old favorites and maybe one or two that will become your new favorites. Free will offering will be taken. Coffee and fellowship to follow.

Come, Join, Learn!

Looking for help for the lefse days at Blanchardville. Give Judy a call, 523-4795 or email: rewjaw@tds.net, if you can help.

Peeling of potatoes will start around 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 9th, and on Friday we will start making balls and rolling lefse at 8 a.m. Any and all help will be appreciated. Come and learn how it's made.

Food and fun provided.



New Hope Lutheran Council Meeting

New Hope Lutheran Council Meeting

Date: November 22, 2021 Location: Hollandale Site & via Zoom

Minutes taken by: Tiffany Bethke, Council Secretary

Attendees: Pastor Chris, Becky Johnson, Ellen Syse, Ron Syse, Kandi Lockard, Rodney Kurschner, Dawn Doran, Dan Hittesdorf, Julie Saether, Gary Whitford-Holey and Tiffany Bethke

Our Vision: We invite ALL people to join our community of Christ as we grow in faith, serve and Worship God. Our Mission: Serving God by sharing, teaching and connecting people to God with Jesus in our hearts.

Pastor Chris led us in prayer. The October meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Rodney Kurschner to approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dan Hittesdorf. Motion carried. Board/committee reports were reviewed. Additionally, the new snow removal contract was discussed. We have someone new hired to do snow removal and if anyone notices anything that is not done please contact the church office as this will be the first year they've worked with us on snow removal. Treasurer's report was presented by Becky Johnson. We are behind budget by about 11K for the year. October ran behind a little bit. 10% of the Lefse sales in November was \$383. \$50 of that went to Shop with a Cop and the rest of the money from that will be spent on tags from the giving trees. Correspondence: None. Transfers/New Members: None. Visitors: None

Old Business:

- Council Elections for 2022 Update- Nominating committee Vicki Chrostowski, Kate Garthwaite & Pastor Chris. Pastor reached out to Kate and Vicki and has a slate of names of possible deacons to contact and has reached out to someone in terms of Board of Education spot.
- Moving council meeting day- Discussed moving the standing Council meeting to an earlier time in the month. Kandi Lockard made a motion to change the Council meeting to be the 3rd Monday of each month, starting 1/17/2022. Ron Syse seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

- 2022 Proposed Budget Review/Approval Becky reviewed the proposed budget. Ron Syse made a motion to send the proposed budget to the congregation at the Congregational Meeting. Dan Hittesdorf seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Congregational Meeting agenda Vote on 2022 Budget; Election of council members.
- Staff Christmas Bonus'- Becky Johnson reported how staff bonuses have been done in the past. Last year things were different due to Covid-19. Ron Syse made a motion to give staff bonuses as discussed. The motion was seconded by Ellen Syse. Motion carried.
- December Lefse sales 10% of proceeds: Ron Syse made a motion to donate 10% of the proceeds of the December Lefse Sales to the "Save the Pool Fund in Blanchardville". The motion was seconded by Kandi Lockard. Motion carried.
- Lock box at church sites Tina (financial secretary) requested security lock boxes be put at each site, in the event that offerings needed to be put in there (if no counters available) or if you are dropping something off when the church isn't open. Tina has a key and is responsible for checking the lock boxes. A lock box will be put up at the Hollandale Site. A box has already been purchased. Tiffany will send manilla envelopes to the Hollandale Site. At the Blanchardville Site, the security lock box is currently inside the parking lot entrance doors. The security lock box at the Blanchardville Site will be moved to the outside (to the left of the door when entering the church) Communication can be sent out letting folks know that offerings/monies can be dropped off anytime in this box.
- Parking lot doors- Discussed unlocking the outer door at the parking lot entrance at the Blanchardville Site. Discussed that the glass doors do not have a crash bar for fire/emergency safety purposes. No further action at this time.

Advent/Christmas Services- Christmas Eve Services will be at 8 PM (Hollandale) & 10 PM (Blanchardville). 12/26/2021 will be a "Lessons & Carrols" and we will have one service on 12/26 @ 10:00 AM in Hollandale. There will be no Communion this day.

Informational:

- November Lefse outcome- 10% was split between Shop with a Cop and our giving trees. Remaining proceeds will be placed into operational fund. 10% of the Lefse sales in November was \$383. \$50 of that went to Shop with a Cop and the rest of the money from that will be spent on tags from the giving trees. December Lefse Preparation & Sale 9th - 11th (want to help contact Judy Watrud)
- January's visitor will be assembled on 12/30
- Contribution Policy- in September this form was reviewed and approved. Dawn Doran discussed this again and all were in agreement, there were no further questions.

Dates to remember (Subject to change):

- November 28th Advent begins
- December `12th Once Service @ Blanchardville @ 10:00 am; Sunday School Christmas program followed by Congregational meeting and short ladies meeting
- December 12th @ 1:00 pm Piano concert Blanchardville site by Becky Johnson
- December 9th, 10th, Lefse making @ Blanchardville (Potato peeling 9th, Rolling 10th) December 11th Pre-order Lefse pick-up @ Blanchardville site
- December 11th Secret Santa Shop @ Elem School Youth volunteering 10 AM -1:00 PM
- December 20th Blue Christmas @ 7:00 pm on church Facebook page
- December 23rd Visitor articles due to church office
- December 24th Services at 8 PM Hollandale Site & 10 PM Blanchardville Site
- December 26th One Service at 10:00 AM at Hollandale Site. No Communion.

Next meeting: January 17th @ 7:00 PM Blanchardville site & via Zoom

Dan Hittesdorf made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rodney Kurschner seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was closed with the reading of The Lord's Prayer.

Board Reports . . .

Trustee Meeting – Rodney Kurschner, Dan Hittesdorf, Kandi Lockard and Pastor Chris Strohm

Date: 11/1/2021 and 11/15/2021 Location: Blanchardville Church and Zoom

Hollandale

Reviewed basement flooring and heat duct costs.

Reviewing de-humidification system settings for the winter.

Blanchardville

Discussed Dishwasher running for long periods of time and will monitor to make sure the cycle shuts off.

Outside Services is performing Maintenance on the Heating System.

Added sidewalk cement work and blacktop work by entrance that needs to be done in the future to the roadmap.

Plaster project cost is \$2000 with a 10% winter discount, the current plan is to start in January 2021 based on available funds.

Parsonage

Finalized Parsonage responsibilities.

Roadmap/Budget

Reviewed Roadmap and updated.

Attended Annual Budget Meeting

All sites

Finalized Snow Removal at both churches and will contract with KML the season.

No meeting in December. Next Trustee Meeting January 10, 2022 at 5 p.m. at the Blanchardville Site



REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS THIS CHRISTMAS

Priscilla U'ren Crest Ridge Assisted Living 219 E Grace St Dodgeville WI 53533

John Larson Crestridge Assisted Living 219 E Grace St #20 Dodgeville WI 53533

Margaret Disrud 3007 CTY BB Dodgeville WI 53533

New Glarus Home 600 2nd St, New Glarus Gordy Larson (306) Marilyn Torkelson (Apt 5109 Audrey Parkinson

Pleasant View Nursing Home PO Box 768 Monroe WI 53566 Doris Hermanson Doris Larson

Lyle & Audrey Klosterman N7931 Cty Rd. J New Glarus WI 53574

Vera Eidsmoe Oakwood Village Apt 209 6205 Mineral Point Rd Madison WI 53705

Dorothy Jungbluth Hyland Crossings 1249 School Street Sun Prairie WI 53590

Clifford Lien 8303 Community Rd. Belleville WI 53508 Blanchardville 53516

Richard & Peggy Gilbertson PO Box 102

Kay Lageson 303 Maple St. (Rt 2)

Barbara Lien 303 Maple St #721 (Rt 2)

Paul Sardeson 303 Maple St

Ruth Vamstad 708 Prospect St. (Rt. 1)

Rollie Trumble 203 Center Street PO 236

Hollandale 53544

John & Mary Carr PO Box 57

Erna Chrostowski 702 State St

Thomas Plantikow 603 Waldwick St

Mt Horeb:

Roger Kittleson 387 CTH H Mt Horeb, WI 53572

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New Hope Lutheran Church





PECATONICA AREA FOOD PANTRY

1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month 10:00-11:00 a.m. New Hope-Blanchardville

WISH LIST:

Ketchup Cooking oil mayo paper towels laundry soap pudding/jello dish soap cake/brownie mix macaroni spaghetti sauce (like Hamburger Helper Ragu or Prego) oatmeal soup cereal pancake mix pancake syrup eggs

Please contact a committee member if you are in need of delivery or have any other questions:

Tiffany Bethke—608-212-9028 Jean Christen -- 608-967-2349 Bev Lien -- 608-215-3956 Alice Yaeger -- 608-523-4960

We remember members & friends: Especially Stewart Olson, Ryan Kurschner, Anna Hendrickson, Terry Boehlke,

Hendrickson, Terry Boehlke,
Roger Kittleson, Erik Krebs, Carol
Anderson, Paul Sardeson, Donna Arneson, Cliff Lien, Audrey Parkinson, Lyle &
Audrey Klosterman, Jeanne Stansfield,
John Larson, John & Mary Carr, Doris
Hermanson, Dorothy Jungbluth, Vera
Eidsmoe, Lynne Hendrickson, Doris Larson, Gordy Larson, Betty Lou
Mathiowetz & Mark Zimmerman. Keep
in your prayers the family and friends

of Lolly Johnson



Donna Arneson	December 1
Edith Ruby	December 1
Norah Bethke	December 1
Piper Garthwaite	December 1
Micah Watrud	December 3
Dawn Doran	December 4
Inga Terrill	December 4
Marsha Crooks	December 6
Jerry Doescher	December 8
Leah Stansfield	December 8
Morrion Berg	December 8
Rodney Kurschner	December 8
Macy Emberson	December 9
Milton Kurschner	December 10
Amy Goninen	December 13
Julie Saether	December 14
Arwen Valcheff	December 16
Gracie Gordon	December 16
Kelsey Griffiths	December 16
Shari Whitford	December 16
Paul Kittleson	December 19
Coy Ruegsegger	December 20
Noah Olson	December 21
Cayden Mieden	December 22
William Wyse	December 22
Darren Kittleson	December 23
Robert Kapke	December 23
Shirley Eidsmoe	December 25
Mary Kolb	December 26
Bryson Burkeland	December 28
Kamdyn Kolb	December 28
Tony Kirch	December 28
Tracy Zweifel	December 29
Michele Kittleson	December 30

Giving Corner—Opportunities for giving beyond the church

LOCAL GIVING TREE

For several years now, the local banks, Woodford State Bank in Blanchardville and Farmers Savings in Hollandale have provided trees in their institutions which have tags from less fornate young people with requests for Christmas. Please stop and give someone locally a gift for the coming Christmas. In addition, there are envelopes at each site for monetary donations to be given, which will be used for children shopping for books at the school book fair!

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

As Christmas approaches, you may be looking for a way to help to act on your faith and give gifts that truly reflect the spirit of Christ. Gifts of livestock and seeds allows poor families to care for themselves and their children. Visit www.heifer.org/faith to find their catalog of gifts.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS— These gifts do a lot of *good*.

Wondering how to make a positive impact in the world right now? With ELCA Good Gifts, you can choose from 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Each one of these gifts makes a real impact in the world, sharing the love of Christ — one goat, water well or school uniform at a time. goodgifts@elca.org

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Mt Horeb-

The Community Clothes Closet provides clothing and bedding to our neighbors in need. It is open to all without regard to age, race, gender or creed. More than 2,500 families come through our doors every year. Open the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month from 10am -12pm, and the 3rd Thursday, from 5-7pm. (Shopping limited to 30 minutes, with 1 shopper per family, and 5 shoppers at a time.)

Food: Shop our Food Closet: Open on Fridays from 9-10am for seniors. Fridays from 3-6pm, Saturdays from 10-11:30am. Drive up food distribution is also available for those who are unable to shop themselves.





Dec 01	Bob & Carol Helmeid	59	Years
Dec 07	Josh & Tracey Zweifel	3	Years
Dec 13	Brady & Jennifer O'Connor	7	Years
Dec 26	Earl & Ginny McNeill	40	Years
Dec 27	John & Kathy Kolden-Doyle	24	Years
Dec 28	Morrion & Volly Berg	69	Years
Dec 28	Stacey & Dawn Schmitz	36	Years
Dec 29	Wayne & Jean Christen	59	Years
Dec 25	Mark & Amanda Anderson	1	Year



AMERICAL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Blanchardville American Legion Monday, December 13th 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Now is the time to give your most generous Christmas gift – donation to the American Red Cross Blood Drive. <u>Due to the current social/health situation</u>, it is imperative that donors make an appointment. Check in at the Blanchardville drive if you have been unable to make an appointment.



Critical Congregational Help Needed: Volunteer to be a Council Member or Representative

What does this entail? Being a council member means attending a zoom meeting every other month to help LUAD set policy and vote on expenses. The job description can expand as the member wishes. LUAD became important enough to me that I have gone on to be treasurer and now president as well as being an active volunteer at disaster sites. Other members attend meetings, contribute insights and ideas, but otherwise have limited their involvement to meeting attendance.

What does this entail? Being a congregational representative would mean that you are a person our disaster coordinator could call and you would help find volunteers within your congregation. This duty might mean a couple of years go by before you are asked to find volunteers for disaster work.

Contact LUAD at 888-237-0433

Thank you to ALL whom ordered Poinsettias this year, while helps our Youth Group raise funds for upcoming youth events, such as the Youth Gathering they will go on next year! We are anticipating delivery of the plants around 12/18, but once we receive confirmation, we'll keep you posted.

Keep your eyes peeled for ongoing ways to help support our youth!

Bits-n-Pieces

Please call the church when:

- a member of your family is admitted to the hospital so that visits can be made.
- your committee or group plans to have a meeting, or cancel a meeting so that it can be published in the bulletin or newsletter
- either your personal or business telephone number has changed, so that the church records can be updated
- you are planning to move out of town or locally
- a new baby arrives in the family
- a death occurs in the family
- a member of your family leaves home for college or to establish a new residence
- you have special requests for the prayers of the church
- a new family moves into the neighborhood
- you think the church can help in any way
- you have ideas, articles, pictures, or corrections for the newsletter

Collecting items! The Pecatonica Area School District is collecting magazines such as readers digest & guide post, old newspapers, and any crayons that are no longer used. These items can be brought to either site so they can be donated to the school! Contact Marlys Hittesdorf or Melissa Legler if questions!

Save your gift bags! If you receive gift bags this year at Christmas time, save them and bring them back to church. We can use them next year for Secret Santa AND the Pecatonica Area Food Pantry!

Newsletter Deadline

If you'd like to submit an article/announcement for the monthly newsletter "Visitor" it is due by **Thursday, December 23**

Newsletter assembly: **Thursday, December 30, by**

Blanchardville area

volunteers

ANNUAL DECEMBER
LEFSE SALE
hosted by
New Hope Lutheran

ACH is a system for automatic withdrawal from your checking/ savings account and deposited automatically into the church account, similar to if you pay your bills thru automatic draws from your bank. ACH (automated clearing house) forms are available in the church office. Many timely options are possible—weekly, monthly, bi-weekly. Such a simple way to continue to give regardless if you are at Worship on Sundays mornings, joining us online or just keeping God in your heart. Contact the church office if you'd like a form to get started with ACH giving!

Are you using ACH giving?

COST IS \$7.00 FOR 3 LARGE ROUNDS

Place your pre-order by Friday December 3rd in one of the following ways:

- online at our website newhopelutheran.info
- Calling Judy Watrud 608-523-4795
- Contacting church office @ 608-523-4395 or email @ newhopeoffice@tds.net

Pre-order pick-up will be on Saturday 12/11 9:00 AM -11:00 AM at New Hope Lutheran Blanchardville Site- parking lot entrance :

Come and see the "Festival of the Trees" Sponsored by the Pecatonica Patchwork Homemakers

Vote on the different trees, all proceeds go back into the community). The event is open for Public Viewing on Saturday December 11 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday December 12 from 9 a.m. - Noon at the legion building in Hollandale.