

# THE MESSENGER

Gladbrook Methodist Church

January 2026

## Inclement Weather Procedure



In case of inclement weather on a Sunday morning, a decision to cancel church will be made by Pastor Gideon, our lay leader, Kevin Williams and our Trustees' Chair, Paul Koester. An e-mail will be sent out by 7:30 AM. Word will also be sent to KGAN, KWWL-TV and announced on KFJB or KIX101, Marshalltown. You can double check if church is open by calling Dana @ 641-750-2219 Or Pastor Gideon @ 515-468-1173.

## Sr. Dinner

There will be no Sr. Luncheon for January or February. We will meet again in March at the Methodist church on March 13, 2026



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Facebook:  
Gladbrook Methodist Church

## *Thank You*



## Angel Tree

On behalf of the Food Pantry and Angel Tree Committee, we would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone in the Gladbrook and Lincoln communities who helped bring the spirit of Christmas to so many. Through the generosity of students, organizations, individuals, and families, we helped 9 families in need this holiday season. A special thank you to the members of Salem, Christ Lutheran, GMC, Chapel, Peace, Gladbrook Young Women, and GMG FFA for donating the presents for the kids, and to their representatives. I would like to wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Angel Tree Chairman, Jeanne Paustian



A big thank you to everyone that helped with the children and youth's Christmas program on December 14. All of the participants did an excellent job and really worked together to share the message of Christmas.

## A Prayer for Today

<sup>14</sup> If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

**(2 Chronicles 7:14)-**

The first stanza of the hymn “*Another Year is Dawning*” says, “**Another year is dawning; Dear Father, let it be, In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee; Another of progress., Another year of praise, Another year of proving Thy presence all the days.**”

It is a song prayer. And I believe that this is the right way to welcome another year in our life.

**<sup>14</sup> If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and PRAY and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.**

I highlighted “PRAY” because that should be our attitude as we welcome the gift of New Year. This reminds us of what Psalm 92:12, believed to be written by Moses when he was 90 years Old. He said, “*Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*”

I would like to share a prayer with you as your prayer for today when you sit down and reflect upon the goodness and graciousness of God in your life.

Lord, help me to live today as though it were the last day of my life, as though all the other days that I have experienced and all the days that I hope to experience, didn’t even exist in my thinking.

Help me to put into practice this day what to really believe-that You are alive and You are there when I need Your help, that you know me for what I really am yet love me, forgive me, accept me. Help me to give up on having to solve everybody’s problems-my own included-and live worry-free, at least for today.

Open my eyes today so that I can see the smile of a baby and notice the beauty and freshness of a flower. Help me to see the blue of the sky and the green grass despite being covered with snow, the splendor of Your world as Your hand paints the sky both morning and evening a thousand colors and shades.

Give me the perspective of eternity, to make me realize that the trivial concerns that consume my time and energy, things that I think are so important now, will not really count five minutes after I die. Today help me to focus on what really counts-my spouse (*if you are married*), my children, my family, my friends, my calling in life. Today, Lord, just let me be what I am and nothing else-transparent, open, free from guile and hypocrisy.

Help me to see others, too-not the veneer, the outside-but let me look beyond their idiosyncrasies and personalities to see the good that is in them because Your hand has touched them.

Help me set aside my agenda and consider how Your agenda might be different from mine. Today help me to think of interruptions and difficulties as special challenges that You allowed because You have something special to teach me.

Lord, help me to be thankful for what I have as well as what I don’t have. Help me see Your copious hand of blessing and focus on the many, many things You have given me rather than be discontent with what I think I need which I may not really need after all.

This sounds like a pretty tall order, Lord, but in reality, it is what I need to do every day. It is what You did day after day, giving us example so that we can follow in Your footsteps. And one more thing, Lord, please forgive me of my sin as I forgive who sin against me.

That’s it, Lord, my prayer for today. Amen.

A Blessed New Year to all of you. From the Gallo Family.

Pastor Gideon



## 2025 Kids Shopping Day!

The 12th Kids Shopping Day held on Sat. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>, was one to remember. The weather was very icy. But all in all it was a very successful day with the shoppers lined up and ready to make out their shopping list long before noon. We are just amazed at how the people in our community support KSD year after year. It has now become a Gladbrook Christmas tradition.

The Gladbrook American Legion Auxiliary Children & Youth Committee chaired the project with help from Gladbrook area churches, organizations, & individuals. Once again with thousands of items donated by the community, we created an opportunity for our area children to “shop” all by themselves and without any exchange of money.

Approximately 175 children diligently looked over the many items searching for the perfect gift to give to 8-10 family members. As you might have guessed there were a lot of toys, Hawk and Cyclone items, fishing, hunting and golf, and beautiful gift baskets. The children came from all around the G-R & GMG area. One mother told us that her children shopped, and that is all they talked about all year.

Parents patiently waited for their children in the sanctuary of the church. They enjoyed listening to Christmas carols played by June Bessman and viewing the beautiful decorations.

Volunteers helped the younger children shop. Many of the children were all smiles as they knew they had picked out the perfect gift for their moms, dads, brothers, sisters, etc. Other volunteers wrapped their presents, and each tag stated “Jesus Loves You”. When the shoppers left their “treasures” were ready to be put under the tree.

Each shopper visited the “People of Bethlehem” to receive a Christmas card and a Nativity ornament as their gift. Tired and happy kids left for home with a large bag of gifts for loved ones in their hands, plus a seed, containing the awareness of our loving Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, in their souls.

An abundance of our good Gladbrook-Lincoln folks and others contributed in countless ways to this year’s KSD. Individuals, our local churches, and organizations worked together beautifully to serve the children and families in our area. A very special thank you to everyone that donated items or gave monetary donations for the Christmas Store; the ladies that made the gift tags, the guys that helped get the church ready, the many volunteers that helped set up the store, 80 plus people that helped on shopping day, and the guys that came back to put the church back to normal. The sparkle in the children’s eyes told us they appreciated everything. We needed each and every one of you in order to pull everything together. THANKS so much!

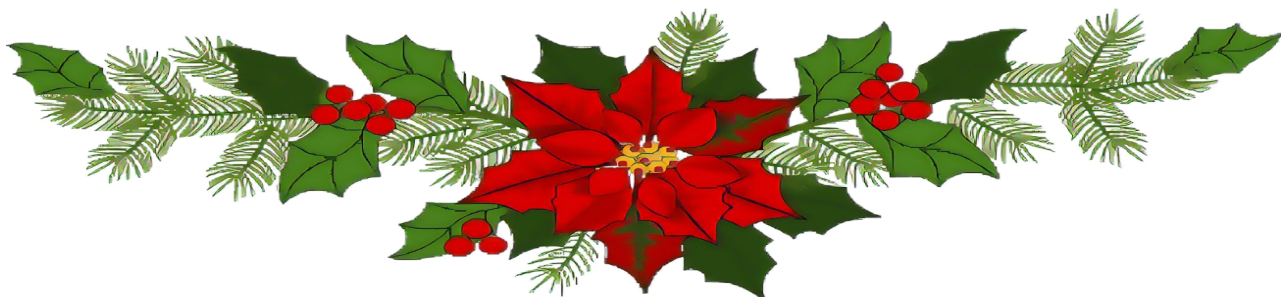
Many of the items that were left were boxed up and taken to Westbrook Acres, so their residents could shop for their loved ones. Baby toys were given to Crayon Corners.

Kids’ Shopping Day offers our young folks, an opportunity to experience the true spirit of Christmas, and you would be surprised on how many letters and calls we receive from parents and grandparents telling us how happy and excited their children were when the gifts they selected were open. Our kids have the opportunity to encounter... the JOY of thinking beyond self, the JOY of working to choose a gift that will make another happy, handing that gift to their loved one, and then enJOY the loving response of the recipient. The children, workers, and families, give and receive much joy at our community supported “Kids’ Shopping Day”. Thanks for making it happen!



## 2025 Poinsettias gifts...

- 1 given in memory of Fred & Pearl Koester, Fred & Anna Koester, and Ruth & Mary Koester by Allen Koester and Marla Jarr families
- 1 given in memory of Karen Pieper by Stan & Peggy Nirider
- 1 given in memory of Harlod & Lorene Koester by Peggy and Stan Nirider
- 1 given in memory of Grandpa & Grandma Lattin by Kyle Koester
- 1 given in memory of Grandpa & Grandma Koester by Kyle Koester
- 1 given in memory of Debra Koester by Kyle Koester
- 1 given in memory of Debra Koester by Phil Koester
- 1 given in memory of Mary Lynne by Chuck Bearden
- 1 given in memory of Donald & Kathy Keiser by Nancy, Steven, and John Keiser
- 1 in memory of our grandparents and great aunts by Nancy, Steven, and John Keiser
- 1 given in memory Bill Schneider and Eric Pierce by Linda Schneider
- 1 given in memory Marvin & Evelyn Bern and Ross & Edna Murty by Bob & Bonnie Murty
- 1 given in memory of Glen & Abbie Sash and Carl & Leona Gienger by Keith & JoAnne Sash and family
- 1 given in memory our parents by Dave & Lisa Koester
- 1 given in memory Henry Junge Jr. & Mary Appelgate by Jody Junge
- 1 given in memory our parents by Roger & Terri Luehring
- 1 given in memory of Mary Appelgate by Bruce Appelgate
- 1 given in memory of Herman & Anna Gethmann, George & Doris Gethmann by Joan Appelgate
- 1 given in memory of Bob, Muriel ad Jim Slinker by Joan Appelgate
- 1 large white poinsettia in memory of Gerald Raum and Walt Gethmann by Joan Appelgate
- 1 large white poinsettia in memory of our family members by Paul & Aviel Koester
- 1 given in honor of our 5 grandchildren by Dave & Lisa Koester
- 1 given in honor of my great grandchildren Kayden, Emmett, Stetson and Wrenley by Kay Lowry
- 1 given by Roger & Terri Luehring





## **Administrative Council Minutes**

**November 24, 2025**

Susie Strohbehn called the meeting to order at 7:00 with 12 members present. In attendance were Dana Brown, Cheryl Bruene, Becky Fish, Gideon Gallo, Cornell Gethmann, Dave Koester, Roger Luehring, Carolyn Moe, Steve Moe, Grant Strohbehn, Susie Strohbehn, and Kevin Williams.

Susie led a devotion, and discipleship moments were shared. The October minutes were read and approved after corrections (Dave K motioned, Grant seconded). The treasurer's report was discussed and approved (Carolyn motioned, Cornell seconded).

**Finance Committee** – The 2026 budget was proposed. After some discussion, Cornell moved to accept it as presented, with a revision option in January when 2025 totals are available. Cheryl seconded. Motion passed.

**Food Pantry** - Dana noted increased pantry usage recently, as expected with winter nearing. She is coordinating with local groups for November and December food drives and will share a list of needed items in the next newsletter.

**Gladbrook Methodist Women** – Met on Nov. 20th. Trunk or Treat meal served between 120 and 140 people. Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> will be our Ladies Christmas meeting. We invite all women of the church to attend. We are also inviting the women of Chapel church to attend as our guests.

**Good Samaritan Fund** – Our account balance is getting low. It was suggested Dana put a basket in the Fellowship for donations on Sunday Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>. The Wednesday Coffee Ladies take up a weekly collection that is given to the Good Samaritan fund monthly.

**Memorial** – Money has been transferred from the savings account to the checking account to cover the cost of purchasing two 85 inch TVs for the sanctuary.

**Mission Outreach** – Gideon reported that 23 people attended the Harvest Supper Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. The committee would like to continue holding community suppers in 2026. The next Free Movie Admission is Nov. 28 for Sarah's Oil.

**Pastoral Report** – Gideon made 12 home visits and two at Creekside Living in Grundy Center, and continues leading weekly Bible studies for women, men, and discipleship, as well as attending monthly district meetings. Confirmation classes are ongoing. He co-led the Thanksgiving service and another worship event at Westbrook Acres in November. Several members attended the Annual Charge Conference on Nov. 10th at Chapel Church.

Gideon presented leadership committee nominees; Roger motioned to accept them, Steve seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Gideon also introduced new Welcome Packet folders for visitors and is seeking suggestions for their contents.

**SPPRC**- Dave reported a meeting was held Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Michael Lamb covered as custodian when Deb Quisberg took a vacation. He did a good job. There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Technology** – Roger confirmed two 85-inch TVs are ordered. Steve noted a learning period will occur as we switch from projection to wireless TVs. There was talk of adding two smaller TVs, one for the pastor's lectern and one for the Worship Leader's lectern.

**Trustees** – Gideon reported some work on the hot water valve had been done at the parsonage.

**Other business** – 1) Roger stated that First Interstate Bank requires two signers for the new CDs: the Treasurer (Roger Luehring) and the Financial Committee Chair (Grant Strohbehn). Dave moved to approve them as signers; Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Dana noted a concern about the oven: a pilot light went out, causing natural gas fumes to fill the kitchen and fellowship hall. Mark Lowry, Austin Gehring, and Mike DeWitt investigated, relit the pilot, and aired out the building for several hours.

**Joys & Concerns** – **Joys**: A donation had been made to UnityPoint Health in Marshalltown in the name of our church. Carolyn explained this money came from the closed BeFriends account.

**Concerns**: Paul continues chemo treatments.

**Gideon closed with prayer.**

**Next Meeting:** January 26, 2026

**Devotions:** Gideon

Respectfully submitted, Dana Brown

## 2025 Gifts of Hope

Food Pantry— In thanksgiving for Iowa Farmers— Dave & Lisa Koester

Gladbrook Methodist Good Samaritan Fund— In Thanksgiving for all of God's blessings by Dave & Lisa Koester  
In memory of Louis, Elsi, and Evelyn Koester by Stan & Peggy Nirider

### **PRAYER CORNER**

Pray for God's peace and reconciliation to overcome all hatred, conflict, and war, people under persecution everywhere, and our many unspoken concerns, our military families, our law enforcement and safety professionals, those experiencing mental health concerns.

**Pray for comfort and healing for all those in its need:**  
Paul Koester, Alannah McHenry, Don & Carolyn Anker,  
Kari Groth, Janell Gienger, George & Galene Groves,  
Dale Haack, Denise (Handorf) Kemp, Mike Wentzien.



***Thank you for your participation.***

***Your church family greatly appreciates everything you do for us. There are so many little jobs that keep this church running smoothly.***



Gladbrook Methodist Women  
will meet January 15, 2025.  
We will be meeting at 9:30am  
We will be electing new officers

### **Lectionary Readings for the Month**

#### **January 4**

Jeremiah 31:7-14    Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14    John 1:1-18

#### **January 11**

Isaiah 42:1-9    Psalm 29  
Acts 10:34-43    Matthew 3:13-17

#### **January 18**

Isaiah 49:1-7    Psalm 40:1-11  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9    John 1:29-42

#### **January 25**

Isaiah 9:1-4    Psalm 27:1, 4-9  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31    Matthew 5:13-20

#### **Psalm 119:105**

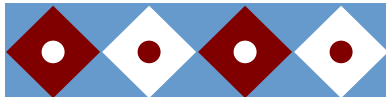
***105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.***





## January

- 4 Jhona Lynn Gallo
- 6 Chris Gienger
- 7 Matt Garber
- 8 Sean Williams
- 9 Ruth Gallo
- 19 Steve Koester
- 20 Mark Flamme
- 21 Morgan (Mo) Brown
- 23 Priscilla Crumley
- 25 Harold McKinney
- 26 Marcia Koester



## Gladbrook Community Kid's Club

The Kid's Club would like to thank all those who furnished food and those who volunteered with preparing our suppers for 2025. We are so blessed to have such a giving church who supports us. Special thanks to Dana who is always available to us. God bless all of you and have a Happy New Year!



## Gladbrook American Legion

**Pancake Breakfast**  
**January 4th**

## Sons of American Legion Fish Fry

The SAL will be holding its Fish Fry on Friday, January 9th at the Memorial Building from 5-7 p.m.



## Gladbrook Methodist Women

We are beginning to plan for our 2026 season. If you have an idea for a program or would like to learn more about a specific topic, let Dana know.

There is a signup sheet in the Fellowship Hall for the various committee assignments. There are quite a few openings. If you would like to be on a specific committee either sign up or contact Dana.

Our next meeting will be January 15th at 9:30am.

**The 2025 giving statements for the Gladbrook Methodist Church will be available the first week of January. Dana is planning to have the statements available to be picked up the first full week of January. Then any that aren't picked up by January 9th will be mailed out.**



**Worship Leaders**

Jan. 4 Carolyn Moe  
Jan.11 Dave Koester  
Jan. 18 Kevin Williams  
Jan. 25 Beth Koester  
Feb. 1 Roger Luehring  
Feb. 8 Carolyn Moe  
Feb. 15 Dave Koester  
Feb. 22 Kevin Williams  
Mar. 1 Beth Koester  
Mar. 8 Roger Luehring  
Mar. 15 Carolyn Moe  
Mar.22 Dave Koester  
Mar. 29 Kevin Williams

**Organist**

Jan. 4 Ann Vibbard  
Jan. 11 Sam DeWitt  
Jan. 18 Ann Vibbard  
Jan. 25 Sam DeWitt  
Feb. 1 Ann Vibbard  
Feb. 8 Sam DeWitt  
Feb. 15 Ann Vibbard  
Feb. 22 Sam DeWitt  
Mar. 1 Ann Vibbard  
Mar. 8 Sam DeWitt  
Mar. 15 Ann Vibbard  
Mar. 22 Sam DeWitt

**Greeters**

Jan. 4 Steve & Erin Murty family  
Jan. 11 Larry Pieper & Kristi Carlson family  
Jan. 18 Tim Pierce family  
Jan. 25 John & Emily Putney  
Feb.1 Jim & Deb Quisberg  
Feb. 8 Keith & JoAnne Sash  
Feb. 15 Linda Schneider  
Feb. 24 Carol Sperry-Weber  
Mar.1 Terri Lamb  
Mar.8 Jim & Deb Quisberg  
Mar. 15 Jennifer Strohbehn  
Mar. 22 Joan Surber  
Mar. 29 Scott & Kathy Vavroch

**Projectionists:**

Jan. 4 Jhona Lyn Gallo  
Jan 11 Joan Appelgate  
Jan 18 Dave Koester  
Jan 25 Dave Koester  
Feb 1 Jhona Lyn Gallo  
Feb 8 Steve Moe  
Feb 15 Steve Moe  
Feb 22 Roger Luehring  
Mar. 1 Jhona Lyn Gallo  
Mar 8 Roger Luehring  
Mar 15 Kyle Koester  
Mar 22 Joan Appelgate  
Mar 29 Kyle Koester

**Acolytes**

Jan.4 Charlette Bruene  
Jan. 11 Cade DeWitt  
Jan. 18 Clay Koester  
Jan. 25 Codi DeWitt  
Feb. 1 Tate Koester  
Feb. 8 Michael McHenry  
Feb. 15 Charlette Bruene  
Feb. 22 Cade DeWitt  
Mar.1 Clay Koester  
Mar. 8 Codi DeWitt  
Mar. 15 Tate Koester  
Mar. 22 Michael McHenry  
Mar 29 Cade DeWitt

**Ushers:**

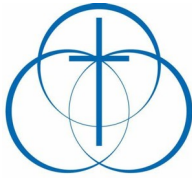
January: Grant Strohbehn,  
Susie Strohbehn, Ken  
Strohbehn  
  
February: Logan & Emma  
Koester, Steve & Marcia  
Koester  
  
March: Bruce and Joan Appel-  
gate, John and Emily Putney

**Communion Stewards:**

January 4- Scott & Kathy  
Vavroch  
  
February 1- Logan & Emma  
Koester  
  
March 1- Cheryl Bruene &  
Kay Lowry

**If you aren't able to participate at  
your scheduled date, please find a  
replacement and let Dana know as  
soon as possible so she can up-  
date the schedule**





The Gladbrook Methodist Messenger  
715 Lincoln St., PO Box 176  
Gladbrook, Iowa 50635



## JANUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

### USHERS

Grant Strohbehn, Susie  
Strohbehn, Ken Strohbehn

### ACOLYTES

Jan. 4 Charlette Bruene  
Jan. 11 Cade DeWitt  
Jan. 18 Clay Koester  
Jan. 25 Codi DeWitt

### Worship Leaders

Jan. 4 Carolyn Moe  
Jan. 11 Dave Koester  
Jan. 18 Kevin Williams  
Jan. 25 Beth Koester

### Communion Stewards

January 4- Scott & Kathy Vavroch

### PROJECTION

Jan. 4 Jhona Lyn Gallo  
Jan 11 Joan Appelgate  
Jan 18 Dave Koester  
Jan 25 Dave Koester

### ORGANIST

Jan. 4 Ann Vibbard  
Jan. 11 Sam DeWitt  
Jan. 18 Ann Vibbard  
Jan. 25 Sam DeWitt

### GREETERS

Jan. 4 Steve & Erin Murty family  
Jan. 11 Larry Pieper & Kristi Carlson family  
Jan. 18 Tim Pierce family  
Jan. 25 John & Emily Putney

### The Messenger

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Mon—Thurs 9:00-2:00 PM

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Parsonage # 641-473-2816  
Pastor Cell— 515-468-1173  
Dana's cell— 641-750-2219

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windstream.net

### Website:

gladbrookmethodist.org

Facebook:

**Gladbrook Methodist Church**