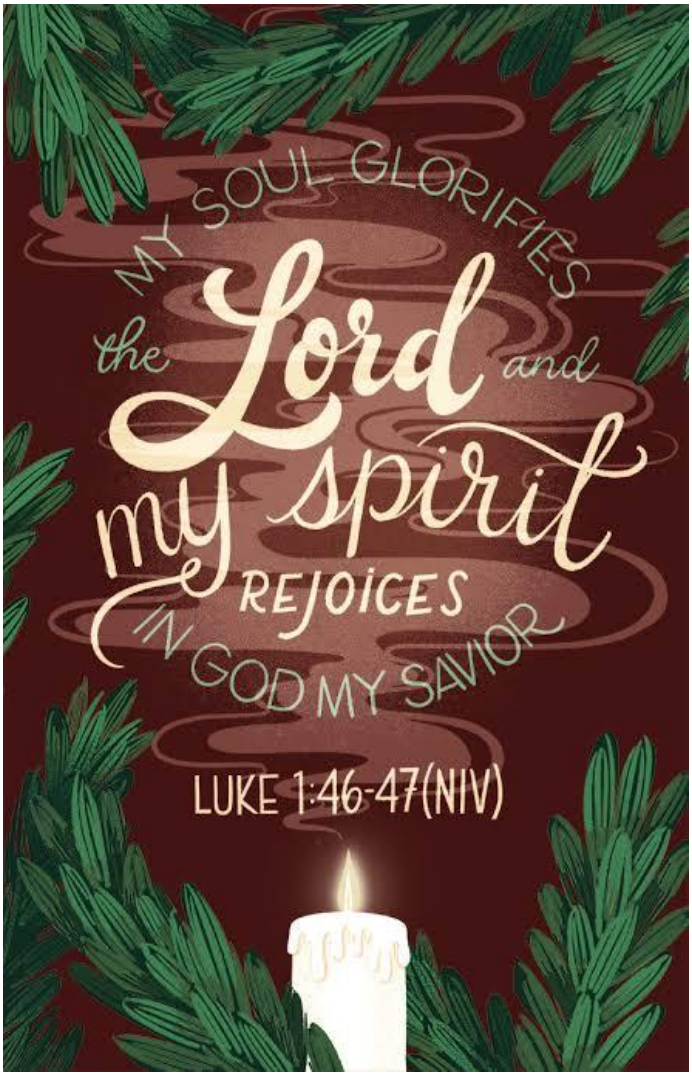


FIRST CHRONICLES
December, 2026
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"Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words." – 1 Thessalonians 4:17-18

When I first started in ministry as a worship pastor, there were quite a few individuals who gave me encouragement. Members of the music committee, current staff, and even a previous worship pastor helped me navigate the music, the relationships, and the ins and outs of ministry. Through them, I learned how to engage in worship ministry and how to encourage others. Their example convicted me of previous failings. I remember when I was close to graduating high school how one of my sisters was once going to sing a special music at our church. Instead of giving her reassurance when she mentioned her nervousness, I told her that the worst thing that could happen was that people could throw tomatoes at her and that tomatoes were still in season… so they were still readily available. Not encouraging. Not reassuring. Not a shining moment.

As we consider what it means to live out the "building up believers" portion of our mission statement, we should realize that this can take the form of reassuring one another. Sometimes that reassurance can take the form of reminding the believer of their identity in Christ when their past haunts them. Other times, it can mean giving them an encouraging word that they are on the right path. Occasionally, it can be given to help them step into a new area outside of their comfort zone. But one of the most important ways we can give reassurance to one another is to remind each other of the truth of the Gospel.

The Gospel doesn't end with Christ's death and resurrection. While those are profoundly important, they lead to so much more. Because Jesus' rose again, He is still alive—eternally so. He will come again one day, gather us to Himself, and bring all things to an end. This is as much a part of the Gospel as is His death and resurrection—and is important for us to remember. That is why Paul, in the verses above, called believers to reassure and remind each other of this truth—to encourage one another with these words. We should do this because it will give us hope for tomorrow and will impact our life today.

As we look at the state of the world around us, we can become fearful. We can be discouraged. We can be confused. The state of the world can give us doubts and deep sadness. But when we know that Jesus will come back and make all things right, we can have the energy and motivation to continue striving forward. When we know that He will take us to be with him forever, we can draw strength from Him to continue working and evangelizing while it is called Today.

We will always be with the Lord—in this life and the next. But not only that, all those who have gone before us is already with Him as well. Reminding each other of this will help us to face the future. So, encourage one another. Remind and reassure each other. And in doing so, build up believers.

In Christ,
Jesse

OUR SCHEDULE!

GREETERS	NURSERY WORKERS	CHILDREN'S CHURCH
Sunday, December 6 Jim & Sharon Douglass	**Sunday, December 6** Judy Eben	**Sunday, December 6** Abby Kramer
Sunday, December 13 Bryan & Rachel Kramer	**Sunday, December 13** Josie Klingenberg	**Sunday, December 13** Katie DeBoer
Sunday, December 20 Darren & Julie Kramer	**Sunday, December 20** Terresa Wagenaar	**Sunday, December 20** Christmas Program
Sunday, December 27 Daryl & Mary Kramer	**Sunday, December 27** Donna DeBoer	**Sunday, December 27** Sarah Gruis



THANK YOU for the Veteran's Day cards that the Awana kids sent me. It was very thoughtful and special to me. – Kenny Kanengieter



December	1	Michael Kramer
	4	Gerri Spangler
	5	Bethany DeBoer
	6	Ross Kooiker
	7	Steve & Anna Jean Schneiderman
	11	Jesse DeGroot Trent Thompson
	14	Jozephine Kaufman
	16	Harold & Helen Eben
	17	Taylor Kramer Dominick Rozeboom
	22	Dave & Rita Busse Katie DeBoer
	26	Kelly & Stacie DeBoer Raelyn Thompson
	28	Jesse Schrick
	30	Dustin DeBoer Glenda DeBoer
	31	Bob Johnson Jesse Cottington



Happy November and Happy Thanksgiving!

Every November, as we think about thanksgiving and about all the things we are thankful for, that always includes all of you! We are physically here in East London, but you are very much a part of us here as well! We are so grateful for your monetary support, your prayer support, and your encouragements. And we love that we are able to share East London and our love of the people here with all of you as well! Thank you so much!!

We have a request for your help. Our monthly support amounts have been decreasing, and we are at a point where we are around $2000 short each month. Various things have contributed to this, but probably the biggest thing is that daily costs have increased, and the dollar doesn't go as far against the pound currently, so our needs have risen. We have also been in London for 7 years now and some of our support team has changed over that time.

We are trusting God's plans and God's provision in this area and believing that He will continue to care and provide.

Please pray in this month of thanksgiving, that we can use the holiday and talk about the holiday to also explain why we want to give thanks to
God- and our joy in the great hope we have through faith in Jesus.

Thank you for your care and prayers in this area. We appreciate you all!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving in a few weeks and know we are thankful for you!

With love
Scott, Colleen Burdsall and kids



- Christmas Program practice will begin December 6 during the Sunday school hour. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 20, at 10:00 am.

- Join us for a Night of Holiday Music on Sunday evening, December 6, at 6:30. Lunch to follow. Group 3 is asked to work in the kitchen and bring 1 ½ doz. bars or cookies.

- On Sunday, December 13, we will be having a potluck following the morning service. Group 4 will work in the kitchen. We will then head out to go caroling.

- Pastor Jesse & family would like to invite the church to the parsonage to celebrate Christmas together on Sunday, December 20, from 4:00-7:00pm. There'll be music, soup, and Christmas cookies! Feel free to stop by at any time and leave when you'd like. We hope to see you there!

- This Christmas Eve, we will celebrate the birth of our Savior with a candlelight service. Join us as we sing carols, light the Christ candle, and remind ourselves that God demonstrated His love for us by coming into the world so long ago. Service is at 6pm. We hope to see you here!



- Annual Reports are due to Crystal deBoer via email by Sunday, January 3.

- Join us on New Year's Eve @ 7pm for a prayer and worship service to praise God for this past year and seek His direction for 2027. After the service, we'll start a movie in the sanctuary for anyone who'd like to watch and, at the same time, have food and games in the fellowship hall. We'll plan on being done around 10p so people can either go to bed or celebrate the new year at their leisure. Hope to see you here!

- Are Mormon's Christian? What do Jehovah's Witnesses believe? Is Satanism a thing? Starting on Sunday night, January 3rd @ 6:30p, Pastor Jesse will be teaching through the next Equip Seminar that will deal with Cults, Occults, and Modern Developments. Come and learn about these groups and more—including Scientology, Wicca, Atheism, Agnosticism, and Post-modernism.

- We are planning on taking a group to the winter youth retreat for grades 6-12 at Village Creek February 5-7th. The Mission board will cover the cost of the registration fee. Let Alyssa know if you have any questions.

December 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Visitation	3	4	5
6 COMMUNION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Sunday School Program Practice 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Holiday Concert	7	8 7:00 PM Deacon Board Meeting	9 6:30 PM Awana 7:00 PM Youth 7:00 PM Adult Prayer Meeting and Bible Study	10	11	12
13 9:00 AM Program Practice Dress Rehearsal 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Mission Board Meeting 11:00 AM Lunch & Caroling	14	15	16 9:30 AM Good Sam Worship 5:00 PM Bread of Life 6:30 PM Awana 6:30 PM Youth Party 7:00 PM Visitation	17	18	19
20 MISSION SUNDAY 9:00 AM Program Practice Dress Rehearsal 10:00 AM Sunday School Christmas Program 4:00-7:00 PM Parsonage Open House	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 6:00 PM Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26
27 9:00 AM Sunday School Bell Choir 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Trustee Mtg	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Service	**SERVING MEALS ON WHEELS** **MON-FRI ALL MONTH**	