



Resident Birthdays

Jim M.	Dec. 14 th
Martha V.	Dec. 17 th
Mary S.	Dec. 17 th

Staff Birthdays

Heidi G.	Dec. 5 th
Brooklynne H.	Dec. 8 th
Val. L.	Dec. 23 rd
Adven A.	Dec. 24 th

Staff Anniversaries

Kris R.	1 year
Dennis B.	2 years
Madilyn H.	3 years
Tara W.	10 years

New Residents

NA

We Remember

Anna Mae Berghorst
Husejin Odobasic
Don Klingbile

December 2025

505 East 4th Street | Hills, MN 56138

Hello December!

As we look back on this year, we are grateful for the many special moments we shared all together. Our residents continue to fill our days with joy and smiles. It truly has been a year full of warmth, connection, and community. This summer we were honored to celebrate the Tuff Memorial Home's 65th Anniversary. Although it was awfully hot outside, we still managed to enjoy a summer cookout, live music, and the time together with residents, families and staff to make this milestone extra meaningful.

We were also grateful to receive a distinguished 5-star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services—an achievement that reflects the dedication of our staff and the trust you place in us. This recognition, along with our rising resident satisfaction scores, reaffirms our commitment to compassionate, person-centered care.

Listening to resident feedback, we installed a new mini-split system in the chapel to create a more comfortable and welcoming space. We also completed the installation of our new security system, further supporting the safety and peace of mind of our residents, families, and staff. Thank you for your patience during that time on installment.

We thank you for being part of this wonderful year. We are truly grateful for your trust and partnership, and we look forward to continuing to provide exceptional, heartfelt care to all who call the Home their own.

Katie Kendall- Administrator

★★★★★ **5 Star Facility**

Mission Statement

The Tuff Memorial Home is a Christian home with a heart. In Christian love, we provide heartfelt quality care to people in a way that contributes to their sense of dignity and self-worth.

Department Heads

Administrator- Katie Kendall
Executive Director- Jane Blank
Director of Nursing- Dana Huisman
Social Services Professional- Emily Baatz

Life Enrichment Director – Jocelyn Jacoby
Laundry & Housekeeping Supervisor – Judy DeNoble
Maintenance Supervisor – Ben Vander Poel
Dietary Manager – Kelli Hellerud

Highlighted Activities for December

12/1 – Piano Music by Holly Vandenberg

- We're honored to welcome a gifted pianist, though blind, she learned to play entirely by ear. Her remarkable talent is an inspiring performance for all.

12/18- Hills Christian School Christmas Program

- Residents always light up when the students visit. We can't wait to hear their Christmas program.

12/22- "A Cup of Christmas Tea"

- Students from the Luverne Health Care Careers Class will be here to help spread some Christmas Cheer.

12/24 – Christmas Eve Service

- Pastor Lori will be here to lead the service. Many look forward to the peaceful, uplifting spirit as it brings everyone together.

Tuff Family Council

Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every month at 5p.m. located in the Tuff Chapel.

Thursday, December 4th

These meetings are designed for families to gather amongst themselves to discuss topics related to their loved ones in a safe space. Stay tuned for meetings with educational guest speakers.



Family Christmas Caroling and Cookie Social

Join your loved one for some Christmas Caroling and Cookies on Friday, December 12th. From 2-3p.m. located in the Tuff Dining Room.

There is a limit of 2 guests/resident.

Please RSVP with the Life Enrichment Department by December 10th

Residents Share Their Favorite Christmas Memories

Marilyn N. shared she enjoys the candlelight service at church and hearing all the laughter when family is together. Her most memorable present she received as a kid was a bicycle.

Forrest S. shared that he and his brother got a Shetland pony for Christmas, her name was Lindy.

Betty L. shared she would have to memorize a speech each year as a kid and recite it to the congregation on Christmas Eve. She added she would get so nervous but over all looking back really enjoyed that.

Judy R. shared she remembers when her siblings and her were in the car waiting to go to the Christmas Eve service and her mom would always be late because she was putting the presents under the tree. She also shared that on the car ride home from the service; her mom would tell her to look in the sky for Santa Claus.

Betty R. shared about her remembering how she would get so anxious during the Christmas Eve service knowing she would get to go home to open presents under the tree.

Bev D. shared her favorite Christmas memory was when her aunt and uncles bought her a brand new red wagon when she was around 7 or 8 years old. She let everyone have a ride on it before she did because she was so grateful for such a wonderful gift.

Annabelle F. shared she loved watching the kids open up their gifts from Santa Claus.

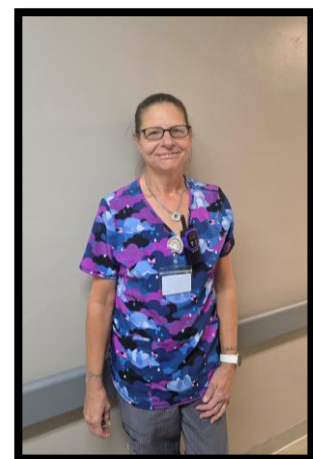
Joyce S. shared she loves seeing presents under the Christmas tree. She also enjoyed gifting clothes that she sewed for her family.



Employee of the Month is:

Lisa S.

Employee of the month is Lisa S. Her family consists of her children, grandchildren and friends. Hobbies include spending time with her grandkids, horses and dogs. She works in RT and as a CNA, she enjoys working with her awesome coworkers and all the residents hold a special place in her heart. She shared “I just love to make people feel happy and loved.”



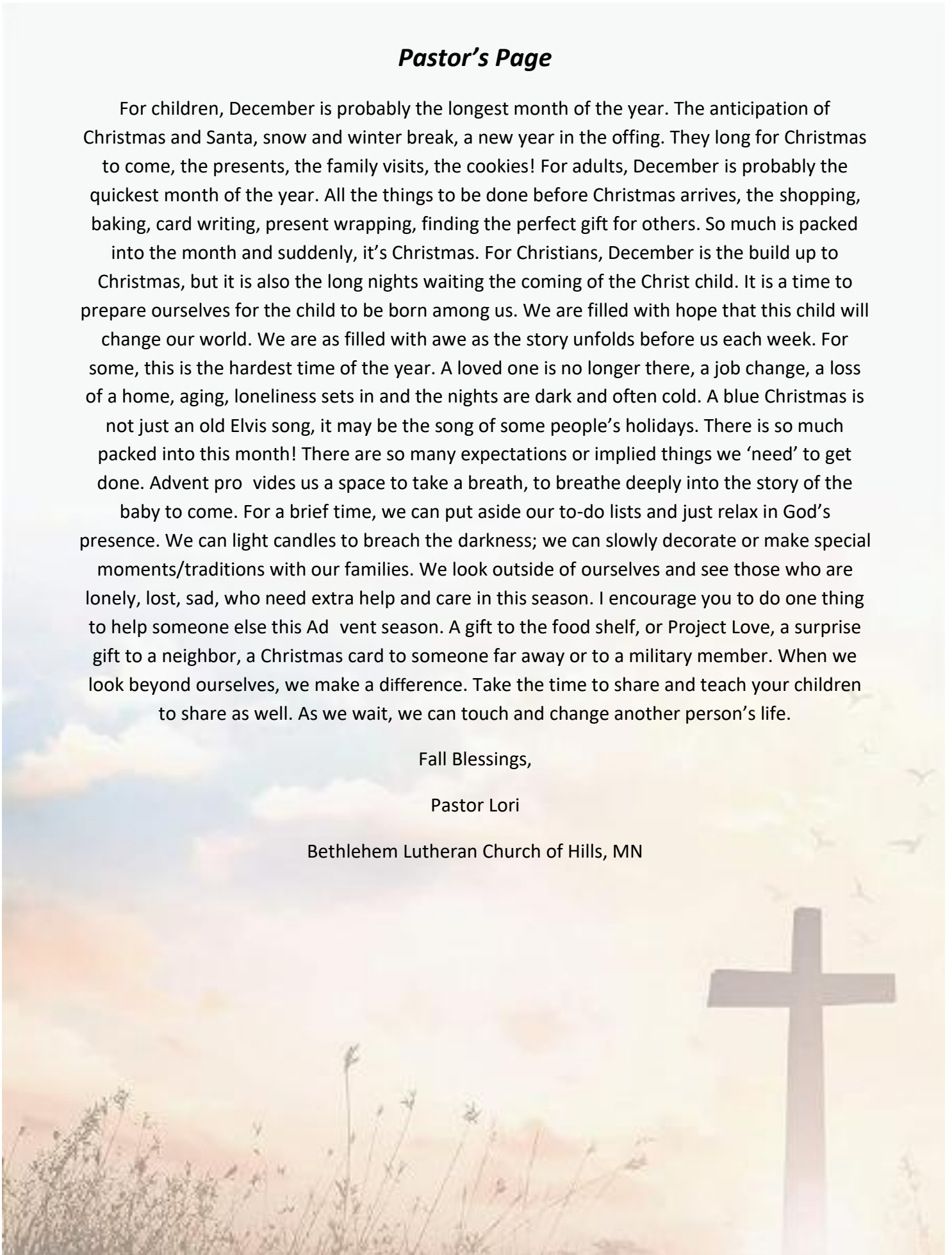
Pastor's Page

For children, December is probably the longest month of the year. The anticipation of Christmas and Santa, snow and winter break, a new year in the offing. They long for Christmas to come, the presents, the family visits, the cookies! For adults, December is probably the quickest month of the year. All the things to be done before Christmas arrives, the shopping, baking, card writing, present wrapping, finding the perfect gift for others. So much is packed into the month and suddenly, it's Christmas. For Christians, December is the build up to Christmas, but it is also the long nights waiting the coming of the Christ child. It is a time to prepare ourselves for the child to be born among us. We are filled with hope that this child will change our world. We are as filled with awe as the story unfolds before us each week. For some, this is the hardest time of the year. A loved one is no longer there, a job change, a loss of a home, aging, loneliness sets in and the nights are dark and often cold. A blue Christmas is not just an old Elvis song, it may be the song of some people's holidays. There is so much packed into this month! There are so many expectations or implied things we 'need' to get done. Advent provides us a space to take a breath, to breathe deeply into the story of the baby to come. For a brief time, we can put aside our to-do lists and just relax in God's presence. We can light candles to breach the darkness; we can slowly decorate or make special moments/traditions with our families. We look outside of ourselves and see those who are lonely, lost, sad, who need extra help and care in this season. I encourage you to do one thing to help someone else this Advent season. A gift to the food shelf, or Project Love, a surprise gift to a neighbor, a Christmas card to someone far away or to a military member. When we look beyond ourselves, we make a difference. Take the time to share and teach your children to share as well. As we wait, we can touch and change another person's life.

Fall Blessings,

Pastor Lori

Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Hills, MN



Highlights from 2025

