

Mission

Contact: Malissa Pauling • MPAULING@SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG

Giving Trees at Southwood

Gifts for Giving Tree Tags - Due TODAY!

Bring your gift with the tag, unwrapped, back to Southwood by NOON, TODAY!

Boxes for gifts are located by both café areas.

Thank you for sharing love this Christmas.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Distribute Food

▶ Rural Food Distribution

425 C Street, Palmyra, NE

December 21, 10:45AM-12:30PM

Special Event at Southwood

▶ Spirit of Giving for Mourning Hope

The holidays can be a challenging time for grieving families. Southwood and Mourning Hope host families who have lost someone close to help share the spirit of Christmas. You can help by being a shopping buddy, craft assistant or wrapping assistant! Dinner is provided for families and volunteers.

Thursday, December 12, 5:15PM

Join the March Honduras Mission Team!

▶ Travel dates March 7-13, 2020

Cost = \$1996

First team meeting TODAY at Noon in the Youth Room.

Registration is due TODAY! Choose *Mission Trip* payment at SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG/GIVE-BACK

To sign up or get more information, visit SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.IVOLUNTEER.COM for a complete list of available volunteer opportunities in the community.

Merry Middle Schoolers Make Advent Happen!

Every year a team of people, who love all things Christmas, come together to brainstorm craft ideas for our Annual Advent Festival. It's a fun gathering of sharing ideas and memories of past year's craft successes and mishaps—glue guns and children are a tough mix! Eventually, eight crafts are chosen as the year's winners and we begin the fun prep work.



This is where we call in the Merry Middle Schoolers. Over the course of two work nights, students put in over 100 hours of time measuring, cutting, tracing, building and sorting, oh my! Imagine the fun quality control that goes on amongst the adult team members as the boys 'race' to see who can cut the spool of ribbon the quickest!



As I survey the room filled with business and laughter, I am filled with great joy and reminded of how blessed we are to be a community that provides opportunities for our children and youth to participate in something beyond themselves. The Advent Festival is free to all and it is such

a wonderful time filled with singing carols, decorating sugar cookies and creating fun crafts (see samples below) to glorify the Christ Child and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Those middle schoolers who prepped, will now get to see the fruits of their labors, as they again have the opportunity to serve by helping those families create their own special memories.

—Deb Raatz, Director of Children & Family Ministry

Advent Festival Sunday, December 8 • 2-4:30PM

All are invited to join us for a joy-filled afternoon!



Get Connected

December 1, 2019

Giving Trees

Did you grab a tag from the giving trees in the past couple weeks? If so, please bring those gifts to the church TODAY so we can distribute them to the appropriate mission partners. **Please return gifts unwrapped and attach the original tree tag.**



Advent Festival

Sunday, December 8 • 2-4:30PM

Come and begin your preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Southwood's annual Advent Craft Festival. Bring your family, invite your friends, stop in for a short time or spend the afternoon creating small treasures that remind us of Christmas and Jesus' birth.

Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24

2 & 4 PM Festival Christmas Service with lesson & carols

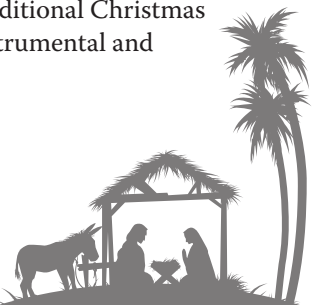
7 & 9 PM Festival Christmas Service with Holy Communion

Invite family and friends to worship with you this Christmas Eve as we celebrate Christ's birth. Sing traditional Christmas carols with the congregation and hear instrumental and special music.

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25 • 10AM

Worship on Christmas Day is a Festival Communion Service.



Southwood
Lutheran Church

southwoodlutheran.org

402.423.5511

Address: 4301 Wilderness Hills Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68516

Children

Contact: Deb Raatz • DRAATZ@SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG

Advent Festival Joyful Volunteers

Sunday, December 8 • 2–4:30PM

Help create fun memories for families at our annual Advent Festival on Sunday, December 8. Please consider helping with set up, assisting with crafts or clean up—you will love celebrating Jesus' birth and you may even score a sugar cookie! Contact Deb Raatz at DRAATZ@SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG Register at SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG/EVENTS



Houses of Hope—Sunday School Mission Project

This year the Sunday School offerings from September through December will go to provide two homes—one near our sister church in La Ceibita, Honduras and one in Tanzania, Africa. These homes will provide security, improve health and give hope to families living in very poor conditions. Our goal is \$5,000 and we are on our way with \$4,334!

If you are interested in helping with the Sunday School project, you can drop off a donation at Education Station downstairs or give a donation in the offering plate with "Sunday School Mission Project" in the memo.

Youth

Contact: Drew Jagadich • DJAGADICH@SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG

DELVE

- ▶ **6th & 7th Grade DELVE** • Not meeting this week. Resumes December 8 at 8:30, 9:45, & 11AM.
- ▶ **8th Grade DELVE** • December 4 (6:15–7:45PM) will begin a two-week series on Faith and Leadership. Dinner is provided.

High School Youth Group

- ▶ Not meeting this week. Resumes December 8 at 6PM. Caroling at Lincoln Square. Dinner not provided.

Life & Lattes

- ▶ Tuesday, December 3 • 2:30–5:00PM. We will meet at HiWay Diner (20TH & Highway 2). Bring your homework and we will provide the coffee.

Care

Contact: Mary Senne • MSENNE@SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG

Winter Grief Group

Starting January 6 • 6:30–8PM (9 weeks) • Group Room

- ▶ Are you grieving the death of a family member or friend? Learn how to walk the journey of grief and be supported along the way. Join us and find healing and hope in this 9-week series led by Jason Christensen, LMHP.
- ▶ Register online at SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG/EVENTS or at the Southwood Central Kiosks.

Renewed Hope

Sunday, December 8 • 11AM • Group Room

- ▶ Feeling overwhelmed after the death of your spouse? Attend Renewed Hope on Sunday, December 8TH, and find support with others grieving a similar loss. No registration needed.

Ongoing Care Ministries

Held in the Group Room next to the Nursery

- ▶ **Prayer Shawl Ministry**—Dec 4 & 18 • 6:30PM | Dec 12 • 10AM
- ▶ **Renewed Hope**—December 8 • 11AM
- ▶ **Healing Prayer Service**—December 18 • 7:30PM

3 Tips for Caring Every Day

Model the Meaning of Christmas

How much of our preparation for the holidays really centers on the true meaning of Christmas? It's easy to spend our time decorating, shopping, baking and socializing. In the spirit of Advent, we can model ways that include time praying, serving and putting the focus on Christ's birth. Consider these tips:

- ▶ **Attend the Healing Prayer Service.** Take time away from the hustle and bustle to pray for those hurting, and be filled with God's presence.
- ▶ **Find a way to serve as a family.** Put the focus on helping someone less fortunate.
- ▶ **Think of someone who may not be feeling joyful.** Call, visit, take a meal or pick them up to do an activity. This can give a new perspective and bring a smile to both of you.

Ministry

Contact: Jo Sheets • JSHEETS@SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG

Southwood Singles Christmas Dinner Party

Sunday, December 8 • 5–6:30PM at First Plymouth

- ▶ Join the First Plymouth Singles for dinner and live music
 - ▶ Registration and payment (\$12) required by December 4. Drop off a check or mail to 2000 D St., Lincoln, NE 68502
- Email KRISTA@FIRSTPLYMOUTH.ORG to register.

Southwood Seniors Christmas Gathering

Wednesday, December 11 • 12:00–1:00PM

- ▶ **Lunch**—Beef Brisket & sides, bring goodies to share
- ▶ **Program**—Carol Sing-a-long & a presentation on Nature's Christmas Creations from Colonial Williamsburg by Diana Sall
- ▶ Join this fun-loving group who are mostly age 60+, or just like to hang out with those 60+!



Register at SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG/EVENTS

Christmas Mixed Choir



All singers invited to sing on December 22.

Rehearsals: Wednesday, December 11 at 7:00PM
Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00PM

Childcare provided. Have questions? Contact Denise at DMAKINSON@SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG.

COMING IN JANUARY

Alpha: Explore the Meaning of Life—an 8-week series led by Pastor Jessica

- ▶ Thursdays beginning January 9
- ▶ Noon—bring a sack lunch **OR**
- ▶ 6:30–8:00PM—snacks & childcare provided

The new Alpha Film Series has received rave reviews, so even if you attended Alpha 5+ years ago, you'll get even more out of this version. For anyone, at any stage of faith. You'll enjoy great table conversation spurred by the powerful videos. Let Alpha bring new meaning into your life in 2020!

Register at SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG/EVENTS

Visit SOUTHWOODLUTHERAN.ORG for a complete listing of events and registrations.