



# Holland Church

## Where you find family



*From the Pastor*



My memories of Christmas are like many of yours. Family gathering, joy of gifts, music from the season, the decorations, lights and smells unique to this time of year. However beautiful and fond I am of all these things, even today, my thoughts are mostly consumed with the experience of feelings that seem to register most at the end of a year. Love, Joy, Peace and Hope seem to rise more to the top with believers in Christ and those who don't know Christ.

Between these two kinds of people in the world the motivations and look of these advent themes may differ. They also certainly create a ripeness for us Christians to share and show real Love, Joy, Peace and Hope that only comes through Christ. The Child that was born, a son that was given, the Lord that became common, God who became human, the Savior that has arrived is the significance of this season. This was the hope that was long awaited. When He, Jesus Christ, arrived, He gave us, showed and transformed with Love, Joy and Peace.

May the year end and new year begin with these transformative blessings from our Lord and Savior.

God Bless,  
Pastor Holland Church Sunday Worship is at 9:30

We're excited to invite more choir members to join us in singing praises to our Lord! Choir rehearsals: 9 a.m. December 15 and we'll be performing during the morning Worship service on December 20.



Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24th



Friends at Reformed Church of Holland

Your gift of \$700 is helping us to prepare for the holidays and winter months. Our guest numbers are already elevated, with nearly 50 children and youth staying with us right now! Their holidays will be so much better in the safety of the Mission.

God bless your Thanksgiving!  
Pastor Tom, People's City Mission

*thank you!*



20 Calvin and Donna TeSelle  
29 Damon and Mindy Driskell



On December 18, our 3-year-olds through 8th graders will be putting on a Christmas Pageant at 6:30 p.m. We invite parents, grandparents, and the whole congregation to come celebrate the holiday with us. We'll be serving pizza from 5:30 to 6:10 p.m.

Also, just a heads up—Wednesday Nights Alive will take a break and be back on January 8, 2025.

**Advent 2024 theme: Red is for Joy**

"Now sing we. Now rejoice. Now raise to heaven our voice; From manger poor see streaming Bright rays of joy now beaming".

*"I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."*

Luke 2:10



- 3 Jill Vande Griend
- 7 Primrose Gunther
- 9 Janis Walvoord
- 12 Kyle Townsend
- 14 Jillian Wathor
- 15 Barb Fossler
- 17 Ann Wubbels
- 17 Chet Maendele
- 18 Marj Huenink
- 20 Paige Liesveld
- 22 Callum Maendele
- 22 Bob Wubbels

Our Congregational Business Meeting is December 1, following our time of fellowship.

Congregational Meeting

**Who:** WinGS members (and anyone else who wants to join us)

**What:** Christmas Party

**Where:** Ann Wubbels' house (9105 Panama Road)

**When:** Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.



**Why:** Because we will enjoy a Bible Study, get started on our mission donation schedule for 2025, eat some yummy food, and donate (if you want) to a worthy cause sponsored by the Reformed Church in America.

Ann will provide soup and drinks. If you wish, you may bring a side "something" to share, but it is not necessary.



### Christmas Memories



The following people submitted these responses when asked about a Christmas memory they had:

**Faye Weckle:** Christmas meals at both grandparents' homes. The best was at Grahams and playing with my cousin.

**Laura Hilkemann:** Making a life-size nativity scene out of snow with my sister and a newspaper reporter put a photo of it on the front page.

**Elizabeth Hilkemann:** Reading a prayer for the Advent candle lighting when I was three.

**Susan O'Connor:** With my husband gone two times during his Air Force deployments we would hold Christmas till springtime. Our kids loved this—having Christmas twice and decorating cookies again. I even got them each a small tree for their rooms to decorate. This made the holidays better without Dad around to celebrate.

**Jeff Spencer:** "Silent Night, Holy Night" at the end of Christmas Eve service and the congregation leaving in silence on this Holy Night, set the tone for the jubilant joy of Christmas morning celebration as we remember the greatest gift given—Jesus.

**Marian Schmid:** Going to candlelight service at church 11 p.m. Christmas Eve. And the Christmas pageant on the square in Minden, NE.

**Chet and Lexi Maendele:** We love to drive around Lincoln each year and look at Christmas lights while sipping hot chai/cider and listening to classic Christmas music!

**Audrey Elizabeth Godtel:** Probably when I was in daycare and when we made painted ornaments to put on the Christmas tree in our living room.

**Jamie Godtel:** When I was a kid we lived in Texas. One year it got cold enough the pipes froze so we couldn't cook anything. The only place open was a pizza place, which began a tradition for the Goodrich clan to have pizza on Christmas Eve.

**Cindy Widhalm:** One Christmas when I was a child, I received a small glass Christmas bell ornament in my stocking. I had taken it off the tree and was playing with it and dropped and broke it. My mom patiently glued the pieces back together. I still have that bell, and it has a place of honor on our tree every year.

**Randal Wubbels:** When I was about 10 or 11 years old, Darrell Wubbels and I were sitting in front of church at a Christmas cantata. We were giggling and talking through the whole thing. When I got home, dad told me he wasn't going to give me the BB gun they had gotten me for Christmas. But Tom Liesveld talked him out of it.

**Judy Nyhof:** We remember when our children were young, spending Christmas with their cousins and grandparents, playing games as a family. The tradition continues as we played games with our grandchildren on Christmas Day. Now we play games with the great-grandchildren. Memories built around 5 generations of our family.