



*For the Members and Friends of Zion Lutheran Church  
December 2023*

# ***The Long Valley Lutheran***

## **Sundays in December**

### **December 3, First Sunday of Advent**

**8:30 AM** Sunday School  
**9:30 AM** Contemporary Service of Holy Communion  
**5:00PM** Concert and Christmas Tree Lighting

### **December 10, Second Sunday of Advent**

**9:30 AM** Traditional Service of Holy Communion  
**10:45AM** Christmas Sunday School Pageant / Potluck to follow

### **December 17, Third Sunday of Advent**

**8:30AM** Sunday School  
**9:30 AM** Traditional Service of Holy Communion with Christmas Cantata

### **December 24, Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**9:30 AM** Contemporary Service of the word with greening of sanctuary

### **Christmas Eve**

**4.00 PM** Family-friendly Candlelight service of Holy Communion  
**8.00 PM** Candlelight service of Holy Communion

### **December 31, First Sunday of Christmas**

**9:30 AM** Contemporary Service of Holy Communion

**Zion Lutheran Church, 11 Schooley's Mountain Rd., Long Valley, NJ 07853**  
**phone:** (908) 876-3547; **e-mail:** zionlongvalley@gmail.com; **website:** zionlongvalley.org

**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

11 Schooley's Mountain Rd.

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Tel: (908) 876-3547

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Like us on Facebook at  
"Zion Lutheran Church, Long Valley"

Pastor: Pastor Ingrid Wengert  
Cell: (215) 692-2091  
Email: [Ingridfathwengert@gmail.com](mailto:Ingridfathwengert@gmail.com)

Parish Secretary: Sarah Scudese

Minister of Music: Marilyn Hibler

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

9:30AM Worship with live-stream.

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL  
MEMBERS/OFFICERS:**

President: Tom Scudese  
Vice President: Eric Snyder  
Secretary: Jeanne Howell  
Finance: Ron Schulz

**Members:**

Burt Horner  
Marcia Horner  
Ben Johnston  
Elaine Kesler  
Becky Rasmussen  
Christine Stabile

**LONG VALLEY CHRISTIAN  
NURSERY SCHOOL**

11 Schooley's Mountain Rd.

Long Valley, NJ 07853

Tel: (908) 876-4115

Fax: (908) 876-4959

E-Mail: [longvalleychristian@gmail.com](mailto:longvalleychristian@gmail.com)

Website: [longvalleychristian.com](http://longvalleychristian.com)

LVCNS Director..... Meghan Bridge  
Bus. Administrator....Cyndy Thompson

**Office Hours**

**Parish Secretary Sarah**

**M-Fr from 9:00AM to 1PM.**

If you wish to stop by, please call ahead just to make  
sure someone is here.

(908) 876-3547 or [zionlongvalley@gmail.com](mailto:zionlongvalley@gmail.com)

**Pastor Ingrid**

**M-Th mornings**

Pastor Ingrid's day off each week is Friday.

(215) 692-2091 or [ingridfathwengert@gmail.com](mailto:ingridfathwengert@gmail.com)

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The deadline for the  
**January Newsletter is  
December 22nd**



Articles may be sent to the church  
office via email at

[zionlongvalley@gmail.com](mailto:zionlongvalley@gmail.com), or left in Sarah  
Scudese's mail box in the Parish Center.

**Your prompt attention to the deadline is  
greatly appreciated!**



Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer physically, emotionally, and are battling life altering conditions. Lord Jesus, who went about doing good and healing all, we ask you to bless our friends who are sick. Give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. Let them recover their health, so that restored, they may joyfully praise your name, for you and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

*We pray for:*

Family of James and Lori Andershonis: *Beverly Vecchione*

Friends and family of Jeanette Baker: *Frank Baker, Deborah Gruber*

Friend of Ellen Blaine: *Keith Correll*

Family of Sheila Blaine: *Logan Rodriguez*

Friends and family of Charlie & Marcia Davidson: *Gail Boyle*

Family & friends of Corey & Courtney Derr: *Ralph Derr, Bessie Grant, Don Gunter*

Family of Cathy DiLello: *Russell Dilello*

Family of Burt & Marcia Horner: *Bruce Adams, Rae Hoffman, David Swan, Joanne Yanchek*

Family of Jeanne Howell: *Dan Steffen and Jack Steffen*

Friend of Beth Johnson: *Tammy Jackman*

Family of Barbara Rennie: *Krista Gundersen*

Friends and family of Betty Rush: *Charlie Burd, Amy Burd, Kirk Klein, Ed Mancuso, Emily Mancuso, Pastor Martin Travis, Betty Wojciki*

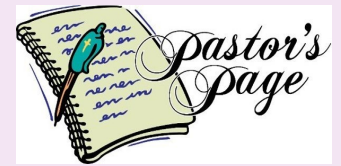
Friend of Dottie Weis: *Rich & Pat Bosley, Kathy Hepner, Charlie Sousa*

Friends of Zion: *Linda Daly, JoAnn McElwaine*

Members of Zion:

*Ellen Blaine, Diane Carlock, Cathy DiLello, Donna East, Rob Johnson, Paul Litwiller, Vi Muriello, Jim Newquist, John Resotka, Hannelore Seitz*

*Prayer requests will also appear in the announcements each week.  
Please contact the church office for  
additions, to make updates, or with questions.*



I have 2 words for you: Hope & expectation.  
They're at the heart of our current church season which is Advent.

Next to joy and peace (which are at the heart of the 12 days of Christmas) they're two of the most uplifting feelings to experience.

That's what the God of Jesus wants us to experience, *especially* when we are despairing or suffering, including suffering injustice. When we're in the grips of such darkness, we are to look to the end, where God will bring his own brilliant light, especially in terms of goodness and justice and mercy. When we're in the dark, we can cling to him in hope and expectation. Disease, sin, evil and darkness will eventually give way – whether in our lifetime or at the very end. The crucified & risen God will be the victor – with only life and light in his hands. God is our hope and expectation, and will give us the strength – and even joy – as we ride out the darkness.

One thing that's recently made a number parishioners hopeful and joyous is that Zion received 28 new members – including 13 young children - into our little fold on All Saints Sunday. People have said “good job, Pastor!” as though I deserve all the credit for it. Here's my perspective: First, I'm *also* hopeful and joyous because of all of the new brothers & sisters. And I really *enjoy* connecting with families who have young children. Monthly “Chapel” is one of my favorite tasks as Pastor at Zion. But part of the reason they joined is also due to *Zion* – which truly is a warm, friendly, caring community. Truth be told, I don't think I've experienced any congregation to be *more* caring than Zion. But also – part of the reason they joined is because they felt a need to do so – perhaps a desire to have a deeper connection with God, including for the sake of their children; or to connect with a community after being so isolated in the pandemic, or... who knows?! Perhaps as we get to know them better and even have deeper conversations, we can learn more about what drove them to look for a church at this moment. And don't we also believe that the Holy Spirit “calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth”? (Small Catechism on the 3<sup>rd</sup> article of the Apostles' Creed). So then, their presence is due to the work of the Holy Spirit – how's that for uplifting?!

There are many things this holiday season about which to be filled with hope and expectation – but the one consistent, sure thing we can rely upon is the eternal promise that God made in Christ: That we are his beloved children and that he will be the victorious in the end – bringing in an eternal reign of justice and mercy... and of goodness and life.





## Worship in December

We will have one service alternating between contemporary and traditional services. Sunday School will be at 8:30AM until 9:15AM

**Virtual:** We will live-stream the service to [Zion's YouTube channel](#), and it's automatically recorded so that you can worship when you are able. The worship bulletin, readings and music are [located on our website](#)  
Please see, [December Worship Assistant Schedule](#).

## Christmas Worship Schedule

### 12/20 Blue Christmas at 7PM

This 30-45 minute service of the word is aimed at people for whom Christmas is difficult, especially due to grief.

12/24

### 4th Sunday of Advent

9:30AM Contemporary Service of the Word with Greening of the Sanctuary\*

### Christmas Eve

4:00PM Family-friendly service of Holy Communion with candlelight

8:00PM Live-streamed Service of Holy Communion with candlelight



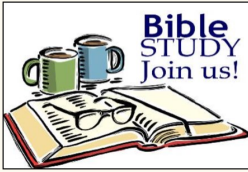
Don't forget to pick up you Poinsettias after worship



\*The congregation will be orchestrated to decorate the sanctuary with wreaths, poinsettias and tree ornaments during worship.

### Appointed Worship Readings for December

<u>Worship Date</u>	<u>Old or New Testament Readings</u>	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
December 3,	Isaiah 64:1-9 / 1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Psalm 80:1-7,17-19	Mark 13:24-37
December 10,	Isaiah 40:1-11 / 2 Peter 3:8-15a	Psalm 85:1-2,8-13	Mark 1:1-8
December 17,	Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11 / 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Psalm 90:1-8	John 1:6-8,19-28
December 24,	2 Samuel 7:1-11,16 / Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:46b-55	Luke 1:26-38
December 31,	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 / Galatians 4:4-7	Psalm 148	Luke 2:22-40



## TUESDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY

We will meet for an in person Bible study In Faith Hall at 1:30pm. The readings will continue to be the appointed readings for Sunday, which is based on a 3-year cycle that spans the Old and New Testaments:

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu//>

*Congratulations to  
Daniel & Mandy Unverricht  
on the birth of their son  
Caleb James Unverricht  
& grandparents  
Jim & Becky Rasmussen.*



*On November  
10th  
We celebrated the  
Baptism of  
Tyce Joseph  
Shakespeare  
son of  
Kyle & Ashlie Shakespeare*



# M.L.K. Community Day of Service

**MLK Morning of Service: "Make it a day on... not a day off"**



Please join congregations and the community to support our neighbors on MLK Day – Monday, 1/15 from 10am – 12pm at Church of the Messiah, 50 County Rd 513, Chester.

We'll pack bags of snack goods for Faith Kitchen, Dover and personal hygiene items for DASACC (Domestic & Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Warren County).

Please bring the following items to church through 1/14:

**For snack packs:**

- Chewy granola bars (no nuts)
- Oranges
- Kleenex packs
- Candy bars (no nuts)
- Beef jerky
- Grapes & raisins
- Snack food (non perishable/no nuts)
- Crackers

**For hygiene kits – TRAVEL SIZE**

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Razor
- Wash Cloth
- Q-tips
- Mouth wash (non-alcohol)
- Washcloth



We had a great Thanksgiving worship service!  
Thank you to the Long Valley Clergy Association for sponsoring this wonderful community event.

We had a great turn out for our November Congregational Dinner and Mentor night.  
A big thank you as always to Jance and our kitchen cuties.  
The food was delicious!!



**TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT  
ACTIVITY THRU NOVEMBER 2023**

*Please read notes and comments below*

<b>OPERATING</b>	<b>Actual YTD October 2023</b>	<b>Estimated Month of Nov 2023</b>	<b>[This Year] Estimated YTD Nov'23</b>	<b>[Last Year] Actual YTD Nov 2022</b>	<b>(Un) Favor Variance</b>	Notes
<b>Income</b>	\$208,259	\$19,388	\$227,647	\$247,832	(\$20,185)	<b>A</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Payroll-Related	\$119,556	\$11,280	\$130,836	\$133,859	\$3,023	B
Administrative	\$87,850	\$11,994	\$99,844	\$99,561	(\$283)	C
Committees	\$17,294	\$399	\$17,693	\$16,719	(\$974)	D
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$224,700	\$23,673	\$248,373	\$250,139	\$1,766	
<b>Net Income(Loss)</b>	(\$16,441)	(\$4,285)	(\$20,727)	(\$2,307)	(\$18,419)	
Cash Balance End of Mo.	\$27,180		\$22,810	\$40,596	(\$17,786)	<b>E</b>

**Operating Notes: (Un)Favorable variances**

**A. Month of November 2023 Income is approximately \$6,200 below November 2022.**

B. Business Manager position now volunteer \$4,310; Pastor Health & Pension (\$732)

C. Repairs (\$3,068); Cleaning (\$2,648); Utilities \$2,522; snow removal \$2,308

D. Mission Support (\$1,119)

**E. Cash balance on 11/30/23 is projected to be (\$17,786) below last year (11/30/22)**

**Treasurer's Operating Comments:** *looking at December 2023*

Through September, Congregational giving was favorable by \$1,242 -- essentially flat. But in October and November, Congregational giving in 2023 was below 2022 by more than (\$18,000), which means we'll have a significant year end deficit of about (\$17,000) assuming December 2023 matches 2022.

Expenses are increasing, while the receipts are declining. Not a good pattern entering the new year.

Zion does not and cannot utilize fundraisers for the Operating Budget. Zion depends solely on your financial giving to pay for operational expenses.

<b>NON-OPERATING</b>	<b>01/01/23 Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Payments</b>	<b>Transfers</b>	<b>11/30/23 Balance</b>
Ministries (mostly Social Ministry + Property)	\$29,709	\$15,114	\$22,809	\$14,673	\$36,687
Seasonal Events	\$3,861	\$2,636	\$2,334	(\$2,935)	\$1,229
Mission	\$488	\$600	\$0	(\$300)	\$788
Mortgage Fund	Notes F, G	\$44,084	\$60,964	\$129	\$41,942
Memorials and Contingency	\$175,522	\$12,691	\$2,891	(\$11,567)	\$173,754
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$268,274</b>	<b>\$75,125</b>	<b>\$88,998</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$254,400</b>

**Non-Operating Notes:**

F. Principal balance of Mortgage on 11/30/23 is \$175,701 of which approximately \$41,942 is funded

G. Mortgage payments in 2023 = \$46,464 principal + \$14,500 paydown + \$8,944 Interest = \$60,964

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Schulz, Zion Treasurer



# Zion Fall Property Report 2023

*Bridging the future While Preserving the Past*



## Fall Clean up Day

A huge thank you to all the Cub Scouts and parishioners who came out to help. We got so much done! You were all amazing!!



Installation of the updated Ida and Norm Conrad plaque in the Hoehn Chapel entranceway has been completed. The old one had been eroded and the lettering had all but disappeared, making it unreadable.





## Welcome New Members



### *Matthew, Ashley, Tripp & Logan*

Matt was born and raised in Long Valley and Ashley was born and raised in Hackettstown. They both met in 2007 through a mutual friend and have been together ever since. Matt and Ashley lived in Budd Lake for about 9 years and moved to Long Valley 6 years ago. While Matt is busy operating the family business working commercial kitchen, Ashley is busy taking care of their two children. They have a son Tripp (former LVCNS student) who is 5 and attends Kindergarten at Kossman School. Their daughter Logan is 3 and currently attends LVCNS. They are expecting another boy this March! The family enjoys spending time with family & friends, doing stuff outdoors and going to the beach- especially the Outer Banks!



### *Will, Chelsea, Lucy & Gemma*

Hello Zion family! We're Will and Chelsea and we have two daughters, Lucy (5) and Gemma (3). We met in college at Penn State and settled here in NJ after we got married in 2014. We've been in Long Valley for the past 5 years and absolutely love it.

Lucy is a graduate from LVCNS and Gemma currently attends. Will works in Chester as a Certified Financial Planner and Chelsea is a landscape architect by profession (but currently a SAHM). So happy to finally be members of this wonderful community!



### *Eric, Kathy & Ethan*

I was born and raised in Morristown, NJ. My wife, Kathy, originally from Mountainside, and I have been married for 27 years and have 1 son, Ethan, who is also a member of Zion. We reside in Long Valley and have a French bulldog, Moana. I currently work as an auditor for Brother International Corporate in Bridgewater, NJ while Kathy works as an office manager for a local accounting and tax firm, CKW Advisors, in Chester. Ethan recently graduated from James Madison University and is working towards passing the Series 7 exam to become a municipal bond trader.



### *Dottie*

I've come to Zion via a transfer from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Morristown (now Amazing Grace). I have been coming to Zion with my daughter, Jance Denzler, and am part of the Kitchen Cuties and Red Hats. It was a natural move to come to Zion because of all the friends I have made here, and the great community that Zion is! My son Eric Tureson also joined as well.



### *Michael, Ryann, Oliver & Elodie*

Hi everyone! We are the Johnson family-Michael, Ryann, Oliver (4 years old) and Elodie (7 months old). We currently live in Hackettstown with Michael growing up in Montville and Ryann in Toms River. Michael owns his own small business selling turbine parts for power generation and Ryann is blessed to stay home with the kids. We ended up in Hackettstown through Michael's work and found Zion when Oliver started preschool at LVCNS. We will be married for 9 years this coming June. We love taking family trips to Disney world and go at least once a year (more often if we can!). Michael enjoys playing hockey as a goalie, Ryann loves going to the beach and enjoying the sun, Oliver loves superheroes and playing outside on the playground, and Elodie loves watching whatever her crazy brother is doing and enjoys every second of it. We look forward to getting to know everyone at Zion!



### *Sam, Caitlin, Santana, Brayden & Brent*

My husband, Sam and I moved from Clark, NJ to Long Valley in 2016 accidentally! We were simply looking for more space and landed in this wonderful town that we've come to know and love. We started our family here in 2019, welcoming our daughter, Santana (4), followed by her brothers, Brayden (2) and Brent (6m). Sam is in the Millwrights Union and owns a small engine repair business right in town. As for myself, I left my career to raise my children (and was one of the best decisions we've ever made!). I now work part time for a title agency working on post closing tasks. In our free time, we love to be outside whether we are hiking or simply going on a scavenger hunt in the backyard. We also love cooking, camping, and gardening. We are so happy we found Zion and are looking forward to getting to know other like-minded friends as well.



### *Matt, Jennie, Avery & Millie*

Hello Church friends! Our story started in 2017. Matt and I met while working for Tony Robbins. We spent the first 2 years of our relationship, traveling the world together while working for Tony. I am a Navy brat [father retired, brother on Active Duty], so I never really had a place to call home. I spent a good amount of time in the South, so when I met Matt from Bergen County, I decided to take a leap and try out Edgewater. Both of us agreed that city life was not for us. At the time, Matt had a dear friend up in Long Valley. We both loved visiting, and decided to try and start their roots here! We married in 2019, and welcomed baby Avery in March 2020 (yes, the 2nd week into the pandemic!). When I was 9 months pregnant, we moved into our dream farm house. Millie (Amelia, but goes by Millie) was born in January 2022, right when Matt transitioned from Tony to working for JP Morgan, as an Event Producer. Now, he works as an Event Producer for PepsiCo. We are happily settled here on the back of the mountain, with a full house and a full farm! I spend my time working on my Candle Company and homesteading: aka feeding Horses, baby cows, chickens, a rabbit, cats and dogs... and fish. You're family and you are more than welcome to visit the farm any time. We are so thrilled to be a part of this Zion family & LVCNS.



### *Chance, Megan, Eleanor, & Nadine*

We moved to Long Valley from Houston, Tx in 2019. Chance is a real estate project manager for a clean energy company and Megan is a stay at home mom and part-time photographer. Eleanor enjoys gymnastics, theater and art. Nadine enjoys dance and arts and crafts. We love spending time with friends and family, spending time at the beach in the summer and watching movies or playing games together by the fire in the winter :)



*Hannelore (Lore)* Immigrated from Austria in 1966. I lived in New Jersey for thirty years with my husband and raised my family. We attended Our Savior Lutheran Church in Pompton Plains NJ. My daughter Christine and her three children Victoria, Ryan, and Catherine live in Mansfield, NJ. My son, Werner, his wife Julie and their children Hannah and Joseph live in Twinsburg, Ohio. I enjoy listening to classical music, puzzles, bird watching, walking in the woods, sewing, and crocheting. Currently I am singing in the choir at Zion and enjoying every minute.



## Christmas Events



### **December 3rd Long Valley Christmas Tree Lighting-**

The lighting of the official Long Valley Christmas tree on our front lawn will take place on **Sunday, December 3rd**. The program begins in the church sanctuary at **5 PM** and will once again feature musical talent from the Long Valley Community. The Tree Lighting will Happen at 6PM and afterward there will be cookies and cider in Faith Hall. The winners of the Gingerbread House contest will be announced.



### **December 10th Christmas Sunday School Pageant Hello**

*from all of us in Sunday School. We're here to tell you about our Christmas pageant. On Dec 10th at 10:30AM we will have a carol sing PLUS some instrumentals from Zion's children. Our play at 10:45AM tells the age old story of when Jesus was born. Come to our play and you'll find out the ending! Also there's a potluck brunch in Faith Hall after the play. Come enjoy the food -- but mostly be with us.*

**December 17th Christmas Cantata** - It will be such a treat to hear our choir again, please come and enjoy this special service at 9:30 AM.



**Christmas Giving Tree** - We are once again helping to provide Christmas gifts for those in need this year. Our Giving Tree will provide gifts to LVCAP. There are still a few gifts available on the [online sign-up](#). Labeled gifts due 12/10



Poinsettias for Christmas eve,  
orders due 12/11



Sponsor a wreath fundraiser  
for LVCAP, see page 14



# Social Ministry Update



## Wreaths Across America, Long Valley Remembers.

Please join us on December 16, 12:00 noon at St Mark's the Evangelist RC Church for a remembrance Ceremony honoring our deceased veterans, followed by a 1pm wreath laying at all Washington Township cemeteries. Please use the QR code for more info or to donate.



The wreath fundraiser for Long Valley Community Assistance Program (LVCAP) has slightly changed this year. Hoffman's Supply generously purchased artificial wreaths which will also be used in future years. The Long Valley Junior



Women's Club also donated the bows. The rising cost of wreaths meant less money for the food pantry, but now 100% of all financial contributions will go directly to support the food pantry. LVCAP is asking for donations to be made through the [website](#) rather than using the envelopes and "snail mail" as has been done in the past! They offered thanks for all of our food donations and noted that, unfortunately, the need for food is great at this time.



## Social Ministry Update



Another huge thank you to Jeanne and the crafting crew who have worked tirelessly for the last 9 Yrs. Donating all the proceeds to a family or charity in need. This is her last Christmas craft fair, but would be happy for someone else to take over the reins.

### Congratulations to Jeanne



### Cub Scout Coat Drive November – January

Troy Krisanda, a Webelos 4th grade Scout in Pack 136, will be coordinating a Coat Drive in partnership with Jersey Cares, collecting New or Gently Used winter coats for Men, Women, Children & Infants.

The drive will run from 11/8/23 through 1/7/24. Please consider donating new or gently used winter coats for men, women, and children in need. Donation bins will soon be in the church to drop off coats (**please no hats, gloves, or other winter accessories - just coats!**).

Thank you for helping those in need this winter!





## December Birthdays

Wishing you a day filled with joy, candy canes, snowmen and hot cocoa by the fire!

Happy Birthday!!

2 Taylor Weth

4 Sue Guterl

6 Lori Andershonis  
Amanda Ito

8 Malainie Hibler Stoma

9 Marcia Davidson

11 Kelly Reibel  
Marilyn Spengler

12 George Collard  
Anderson Hipp

15 Ava Lichtenberger  
Jean Seewald

17 Sheri Sabino  
Melissa Sgambati

18 Barry Buchanan

22 Harry Bullock  
Rob Brobst

23 Rhea Burke

25 Jesus

26 Meghan Horner Callow  
Brooke Edwards

31 Dave Bataille

## Christmas Fun!!

- ✧ Why did the scarecrow get a big Christmas bonus? Because he was outstanding in his field.
- ✧ What did the wise men say after they offered up their gifts of gold and frankincense? Wait, there's myrrh.
- ✧ How do Christmas trees get ready for a night out? They spruce up!
- ✧ Knock, knock! *Who's there?* Justin. *Justin who?* Justin time for Christmas cookies!
- ✧ Knock, knock! *Who's there?* Snow. *Snow who?* Snow time to waste. It's almost Christmas!
- ✧ How did the reindeer know it was going to rain? Because Rudolph the red-knows-rain, deer!
- ✧ What athlete is warmest in winter? A long jumper!