



First Lutheran Church
 W2314 Prospect Street
 P.O. Box 250
 Poy Sippi, WI 54967



All are welcome!



*When they saw
 the star, they rejoiced
 with exceeding great joy.
 Matthew 2:10*

We have 10:30am worship services, and also provide

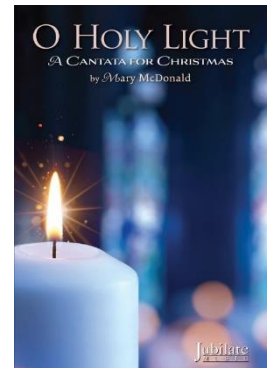


our service at our Facebook page,
 at: *“First Lutheran Church ELCA”*



*Christmas
 begins
 with
 Christ*

“THE FIRST  EDITION”



Christmas Services
(see page 4 for details)

Pastor: *Pastor Rebekah Tarras*
Email: pastortarras@gmail.com
Office Phone: (920) 987-5151
Cell Phone: (715) 897-5393

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Council President: *Mark Henn*
Home Phone: 715-820-2565
Email: cmhenn96@gmail.com

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Office Administrator: *Diane Warning*
Office Assistant: *Patti Langkau*
Office Phone: (920) 987-5151
Church Email - firstluthpoyssippi@gmail.com



(see page 6 for details)



**Blue Christmas
 Evening Prayer**
(see page 6 for details)

**1st day
 of winter
 Dec. 21st**



As the days grow shorter and winter's chill settles in, the season of Advent emerges, ushering in a time of reflection, anticipation, and joy.

Advent marks the beginning of the church liturgical year. It is often thought of as a season of waiting and preparation. So what are we waiting for? For what are we preparing? On the one hand, we are getting ready to celebrate the birth of Christ. And at the same time, Advent reminds us of not just a historical moment, but a new reality, a new encounter. The Isaiah reading for Advent 1 begins with a plea "O that you would tear open the heavens and come down" (Isaiah 64:1a, NRSV). God, we know you are present; our faith tells us that you are here. But we need to know it beyond a shadow of a doubt. Shake us up so that we can be certain again. We've begun to wonder; we've begun to doubt. So, do it again, Lord. Do it again.



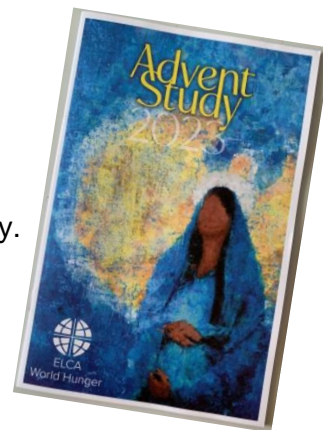
Central to the Advent season is the lighting of the Advent wreath. Each candle represents a different aspect of the season - hope, peace, joy, and love. The lighting of these candles, one by one, symbolizes the progression of the season.

Beyond the lighting of candles, many people celebrate Advent with an Advent calendar. Each day leading up to Christmas, a door or compartment is opened, revealing a verse of scripture, or an inspirational quote. This daily ritual fosters a sense of mindfulness, encouraging individuals to savor the present moment and appreciate the beauty in the ordinary. We have calendars available if you don't already have one.

ELCA World Hunger had provided copies of an Advent Study guide. I encourage you to pick up a copy and use it each week throughout the Advent season. The guide is designed to help you notice in scripture, story, and reflection, where and how God is at work.

May the season of Advent be a time of anticipation and joy for you and your family.

Pastor Rebekah Tarras



December 2023 Church Office Hours:

<p>Pastor : 9:00-12:00pm Monday & Wednesday, Pastor Rebekah 715-897-5393 (Please note times may vary due to home visits, etc.)</p>	<p>Office Hours: 9:00-4:00pm Monday*, Tuesday and Thursday*, 10:00-12:00pm Wed. (Unless noted differently in the Sunday bulletins.) Thank you. *Days Patti is in the office.</p>
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Bulletin Deadline

Information should be turned into the church by **noon on Tuesday** to ensure adequate time to process the information into the following Sundays bulletin.



“THE FIRST EDITION”

Please provide the church office with news items for the January newsletter by the **17th of December** to ensure the newsletter is emailed on time. You may **email** your news item(s) in Word format to Diane at firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com.
Thank you, ~The Office



~ Save the Date ~

January 28, 2024



The Annual Congregational Meeting for the life of First Lutheran will take place immediately following

the service on January 28th! Please begin creating your ministry reports for the annual booklet. It is preferred they are typed and saved in a Word document. If you can, email it to Diane at firstluthpoysippi@gmail.com; this will save her a lot of time preparing the booklet without having to retype everything. These reports should be turned in no later than Jan. 1st, 2023.

2023 Council Members

Mark Henn	715-820-2565 (<i>President</i>)
Jerry Wrage	920-290-0986 (<i>V-Pres.</i>)
Dar Cravillion	920-987-5887 (<i>Treasurer</i>)
Jan Strehlow	920-572-6098 (<i>Secretary</i>)
Kevin Birschbach	920-266-3628
Lenny Langkau	920-229-3593
Joan Everson	920-295-9404

When calling after office hours, we invite you to leave a message on the church phone at 920-987-5151 with our voice messaging system, so that we can assist you at our earliest convenience. Thank you. ~the Office

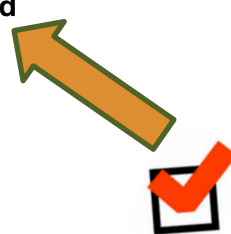


Reminder: To let the office know if your email, or mailing address has changed, or if you will be away, this will avoid uninterrupted service of church news and mail.



Newsletter

If you know of someone who would like to receive a copy of the newsletter via email, please let the office know. ~Thank you



Worship Schedule & News:

December 3rd Sunday – 10:30AM -
First Sunday of Advent

December 10th Sunday – 10:30AM -
2nd Sunday of Advent

December 17th Sunday – 10:30AM -
3rd Sunday of Advent ~ Christmas Cantata

December 24th Sunday – 10:30AM -
4th Sunday of Advent

December 24th Christmas Eve – 6:30PM
Candlelight Service

December 31st Sunday – 10:30AM -
First Sunday of Christmas

Readers:
The Macijeski Family

Colleen Hein

**Pastor Rebekah &
John Koch**

Kim Huerth

Diane Warning

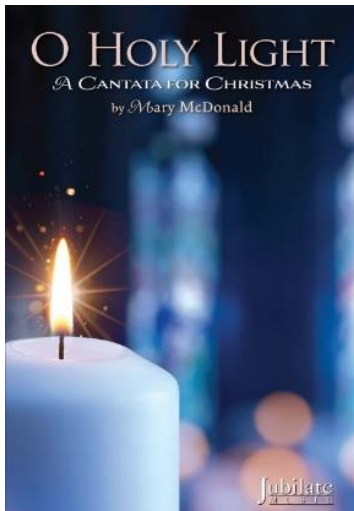
Joan Everson



If you are unable to attend in person, you can watch online through our Facebook page, listen to worship via the radio station 93.1 FM or 1600 AM at Noon.



Christmas Cantata



The Grace choir invites you to a performance of their Christmas Cantata, "O Holy Night"

Sunday, December 18th
at 8:30 am at Grace Lutheran, Berlin,
then 10:30 am at First Lutheran, Poy Sippi.

Also ~

on Wednesday, December 20th at 7:00pm
at Grace Lutheran, 361 Street Berlin.
Refreshments will be
available afterwards.
All are welcome!



Tinsel versus Garland – which is which?

The word tinsel comes from "estincele," an old French word that means sparkle. It has another name too, "lametta," Italian for tiny blade. But tinsel as we know it probably came from Germany. Legend has it that it was tradition to hang thin strips of silver on a Christmas tree to reflect the warm glow of candlelight. Tinsel is shredded foil, garland is a long string of shredded foil; which later was made of evergreens and other materials.





Poinsettia orders

Thank you to those who have ordered, but if you missed getting your order in for the delivered poinsettias, some extra plants have been ordered for decorating the church during this Advent and Christmas season. Please talk with a member of the Altar Guild or Diane & Patti in the office. Prices for the 6.5" potted plant is \$15.00, make checks payable to the church.



Deck the Halls - December 3

Following worship on Sunday, December 3 we invite you to stay and help to decorate our church for the Advent and Christmas season. The M-team will be serving a soup lunch following the decorating.



Wild Rose Community Band Presents A Winter Holiday Celebration

December 10, 2:00 pm
at Wild Rose High School Auditorium

Make plans to take the Sunday afternoon to relax and listen to festive Christmas music during the business of the season.



Kid's Korner

Please note: There will be no Kid's Christmas Program this year.

Confirmation Update

The confirmation students will be wrapping up their study on the Old Testament December 13. There will be **no** confirmation class on December 20 or 27. Classes will resume on January 3.



High School Youth All high school youth are invited to attend weekly Soul Food at the local Berlin churches from 12:40pm-1:40pm. This is a great inexpensive lunch, with fellowship and a time to reflect. Grace hosts Soul Food December 21st; please note there will be no Soul Food on December 28th.



Blue Christmas Evening Prayer Service

December 17, 6:30 pm
at Grace Lutheran, Berlin

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. The Blue Christmas service is a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

**Sunshine Bags**

The M-team will be assembling gift bags for our members who are homebound and others who could use some sunshine this holiday season. They are looking for donations of packaged snack items, fruit, candy, or any type of small item (small tissue packs, small puzzle books, postage stamps) that would work well in the sunshine bags. If you have items you wish to donate, please make sure you have your items here at the church by Sunday, December 10th, as the team will be packing them on Monday, December 11th. If you know of someone who could use a basket of sunshine, please let an M-Team member know.

**SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS**

Help and hope as you navigate the Christmas season

Saturday, December 2, 2:00-4:00 pm
Grace English Lutheran Church,
384 Oak Street , Berlin



Are you dreading the holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated? Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas?

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

Call to register (920) 987-5151 for this FREE event.





Thank you to Jim Laird for sharing his story during the message for our Veteran's Observance service, Sunday, Nov. 12th.



Thank you to all of our veterans for their service and sacrifice and to Pastor Rebekah for the special blessing read and given to the veterans during the service. A luncheon was held, as a token of our appreciation in their honor, after worship. A great time of food and fellowship was had by all. Blessings to all veterans here and abroad, may you be kept in his steadfast loving arms.



Bookkeeper job posting

First Lutheran would like to hire a part time bookkeeper to oversee the receipt, deposit, and disbursement of all church funds. The position would be up to ten hours a week. A copy of the job description is posted on the bulletin board and can be emailed upon request. Anyone interested may contact Mark Henn, church council.

Thank you

Pastor Rebekah & the First Lutheran Congregation – Thank you so much for leading and being a part of my baptism. It was such a special day and I am so honored and excited to be a member of the First Lutheran church.



Love,

ELLAFENWER





Birthdays

Bradley Nitzke - 4th * Sandy Anderson - 7th
 Brittany Disterhaft - 9th * Bill Meier - 10th
 Craig Monroe - 13th * Bryan Austin - 14th
 Todd Chase - 15th * Gordon Andersen - 18th
 Jeff Tarras - 19th * Skylar Dexter - 20th
 Kayla Nelsen - 20th * Bill Deppe - 22nd
 Ron Hein - 22nd * Travis Anderson - 26th
 Darlene Tracy - 27th * Marcella Jorgensen - 29th

☞ May you enjoy your day and receive blessings from above. ☞



If I have missed anyone, dated anyone incorrectly, or misspelled a name, please let me know. Thank you. ~Diane

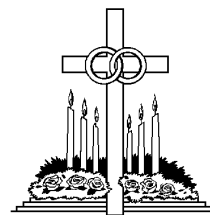


DECEMBER



Anniversaries

Dan & Judy Button – 10th
 Gary & Chris Monroe – 15th
 Brian & Melissa Poitras – 16th
 Bryan & Barb Austin – 31st



"May the dear Lord bless you both throughout the year and always."



Novin Jeffrey's Baptism
 November 26th



Prayers of Concern & Healing

You are in our Prayers . . .



- * For Pastor Rick Reiten
- * For Pastor Dean D.
- * For Jim E.
- * For Vicki
- * For Shannon M.
- * For Liz B.
- * For Annie R.

- * For Danan T.
- * For Kelly B.
- * For Mali B.
- * For Jerry W.
- * For Piper

- * For Carolyn H.
- * For Linda N.

- * For Diane H.
- * For Baby Ryder
- * For Carol K.
- * For Bill J.
- * For Donna

- * For Patti B.
- * For Chris M.

- * For Georgia L.
- * For Marcella J.
- * For Bill H.
- * For Dave L.
- * For Patti

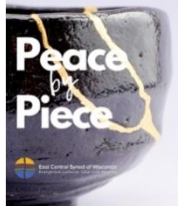


December Communion Bread: Judy Button



We are using prepared communion elements for those who wish to partake in Holy Communion during Sunday worship service. The first Sunday will be communing at the rail, as well as in the pew.

- Thank you, Altar Guild -



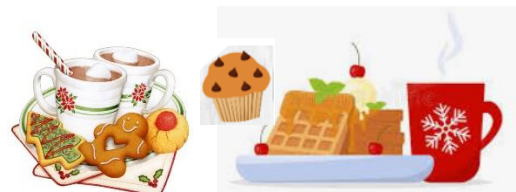
Save the date!

Registration information for this year's **Journey with Jesus** is coming soon!
Synod Youth Gathering
February 16-18, 2024 @Imago Dei Village
Students Grades 6-12



Christmas Eve Worship & more

Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year. We will have regular Sunday morning worship at 10:30 am (Advent 4).



Before worship there will be a special breakfast served by the Stampin' Ministry from 9 am – 10 am.

A free will offering will be taken and donated to the PoySippi Community Food Pantry.

There will also be a Christmas Eve worship at 6:30 pm.

December Mission of the Month: ELCA Good Gifts



Wondering how to make a positive impact in the world right now? With ELCA Good Gifts, you can choose from more than 50 charitable gifts to give in honor of friends and loved ones. Each of these gifts makes a real impact in the world — one goat, water filter or school uniform at a time. Start your holiday shopping now and order free, customized cards for each gift. Give by Dec. 9 to ensure that your cards arrive in time for Christmas. Print-at-home and online cards are also instantly available at any time.

Check it out online:

[https://goodgifts.elca.org/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=111623_Seeds&utm_content=\(111623\)+Seeds](https://goodgifts.elca.org/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=111623_Seeds&utm_content=(111623)+Seeds)

How It Works



1. CHOOSE YOUR GIFT



2. GET A CARD



3. MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Bingo – Silent Auction

February 3rd, 2024



Baskets

We are trying to value baskets at \$30 - \$50 each.

Examples of themes we were thinking of:

- 1. Grilling
- 2. Dining out
- 3. Health and wellness
- 4. Kitchen and baking
- 5. Gardening
- 6. Movie night

Silent Auction Bid Sheets	
FORM #	
DESCRIPTION	
QUANTITY	NETTA VALUE
BIDDER NAME/NUMBER	BID AMOUNT
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
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19	
20	

Silent Auction

Looking for larger items with values from \$30 - \$100.

Silent Auction

Bingo

Note: We cannot charge for Bingo unless we get a license from the State. Free Bingo does not need a license.



You can view some items that have already been brought in for the Bingo event on the stage in the fellowship of the church.

Some examples of Bingo prizes are: Hair Dryer or curling iron, Set of one bath towel, hand towel and

washcloth, Cans or bags of nuts, Candy or Hot Chocolate gift boxes, Popcorn gift boxes, Kitchen utensils or supplies, (Honey, Maple Syrup, Real Vanilla, Wood/Bamboo spoons/turners, strainers, digital kitchen scales to name a few), Boxes of Greeting Cards, STEM projects for kids, jewelry making projects for girls, Gift Cards (no more than \$10), Postage stamps (no more than \$10).

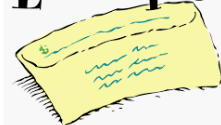
The M-Team invites you to enjoy light refreshments with coffee and juice prior to service. They are looking for weekly hosts, please talk with any M-Team member. TY



December hosts

- 3rd - Open
- 10th - Judy Button (anniversary)
- 17th - Open
- 24th - no coffee, but breakfast by the Stampin' Ministry.
- 31st - Open

2024 Offering Envelopes



will be ready for pick up starting Dec. 3rd.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Thank you to Pastor Tim Krick for coming Sunday, Nov. 5th, to thank us for our generous giving and showing us how the funds were used, along with personal videos of families saying thanks for being able to make their new home in one of the special housing PODS.



The Poy Sippi Community Food Pantry News:

The food pantry is located at First Lutheran Church in Poy Sippi. The food pantry will be open the first and third Friday of each month. The food pantry's hours are: 9:30am-10:30am and 3:30pm-4:30pm.

The Food Pantry graciously accepts food (in date) and monetary donations.

Coordinators of the pantry: Jody and Rodger Surprise, phone 920-987-5024,

Food Donations: Judy Schierland, phone 920-987-5582, backup – Patti Langkau 920-229-3193,

Money donations can be mailed to: Poy Sippi Community Food Pantry, P.O. Box 250, Poy Sippi, WI 54967-0250.

Thank you to everyone who supports this great ministry.

We will serve the townships of Saxeville, Leon, West Bloomfield, Aurora, and Poy Sippi. The food pantry will be open the first and third Friday of each month, from 9:30am-10:30am and 3:30pm-4:30pm. Emergency food will be given when needed by calling Judy Schierland, Patti Langkau or Harold Nigbor (920-291-6258).



Food Pantry
packing on
December 9th
at 9 am



Stampin' Ministry of First Lutheran -



The fun event at the Poy Sippi Library has been rescheduled to: Dec. 6th!! See the posted flyer.



The Stampin' Ministry is making Christmas Breakfast and invite you to enjoy a Christmas breakfast prior to Christmas Eve day service on Sunday December 24th. They will begin serving at 9:00am until 10:00am, serving delicious egg baked dishes, sausages, muffins with condiments, juice, milk and coffee. We ask is that you place your name on the sign-up sheet with number of people attending for meal preparation. Deadline for signing up is Sunday, December 17th. We wish each and every one a "Merry Christmas & a Blessed New Year!"



We would like to thank everyone who helped out with setting up, serving, cleaning afterwards and those who attended the luncheon we hosted in honoring our Veterans. Thank you to Marisa Jewell for the beautiful cake and to those who brought a dish for the potluck. What a wonderful assortment, and we didn't even have a sign-up.

– Georgia Lee & Jim Laird, cochairs for the M-Team



Archive Committee busy sorting and labeling church papers, (from L to R: Sheri Bahr, Dar Cravillion, Connie Henn, Judy Schierland, and Colleen Hein).



First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 10, 2023



Attendance: Mark Henn, Kevin Birschbach, Lenny Langkau, Jan Strehlow, Joan Everson, Jerry Wrage, Dar Cravillion, Pastor Rebekah Tarras.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Mark Henn at 6:33PM.

Devotions: Council members helped Pastor read Matthew 21: 33-46 , discussion followed and ended with prayer.

Visitors: No visitors.

Approval of minutes: Motion was made, seconded to approve September minutes, motion carried.

New Business:

- A. December 24th & Christmas: A survey was taken Sunday during worship. The majority was to have regular Sunday worship and 6:30 Christmas Eve service. No service on the 25th.
- B. 60/40 split versus 50/50 split: The covenant we have with Grace is 60/40, we will keep it this way for now. Pastor's Insurance package: 2.5% increase was voted on at the joint meeting with Grace on Sept. 18th. Motion made and carried to accept the increase.
- C. Lent services with New Hope (Methodist): Motion was made, seconded and carried to table this until we have more information on the New Hope Congregation.

Unfinished Business:

1. Review Suggestion Box: There was a concern in the suggestion box for protecting the use of the \$100,000 CD. The interest monies can be used. The CD is to be set up for future investments.
2. Flooring Project: Mark showed a sample of the carpet tiles. The carpet would cover 7/8th inch plywood underlayment. Project will start around the end of January 2024
3. Blacktop bids: A second estimate came in for \$33,550 for the parking lot and in front of church. We are waiting for another bid to come in.
4. Hot water heater: The new hot water heater should be installed next week.

5. Hearing Loop: The hearing loop will be installed Wed, Oct. 11th.
6. Handling of Money Policy: tabled until November
7. Holy Conversations: Some discussion was done. Will pick up at another meeting.

Other Business: None.

Reports:

Monthly Financials: Dar went through the financial pages. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept as printed.

Finance Ministry: They will be meeting October 25, 2023.

Archive Committee: There are 5 persons on this committee, they will meet October 12th.

Parish Council Committee: Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 14th at 6:30 at First.

Noisy Bucket: November - Honor Flight, December - ELCA Good Gifts, January - "We are in Christ".

Children's Ministry: Hoping to bring in more students.

Worship: All Saints Service set for Nov. 5th, Veterans Service set for Nov. 12th with potluck following. Community Thanksgiving Eve service at New Hope.

M-Team: Jim Laird will be speaker for Veteran's Service, Marisa Jewell will make a cake, Joan Everson will play taps. December 3rd will be a "Deck the Halls" decorate the church after service with soups and chili following. They are doing Christmas Bags for the shut-ins. Kim Huerth is doing follow ups for visitors and cards.

Endowment: Meeting is scheduled for November 7th at 6:30 at First.

Property: Mark is fixing the door handles in the offices.

Staff Reports:

Pastoral Acts: Baptism: Eleanor Rose Fenner 10/08, Visits: Don Rew, Marcella Jorgensen, Judy Vergin, Victor Hansen. Pastor also thanked us for the surprise birthday and all the food that was collected for food pantry. Pastor will be at a Synod Retreat Monday thru Wednesday, October 16-18).

Office: Diane and Patti will be at an Administrative Staff Retreat Wednesday thru Friday, Oct. 18-20.

Organist: Deb plans to play two times each month for Sunday worship.

Adjourn: Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:45PM, motion carried.

Next meeting will be Tuesday November 14th at 6:30PM.

Pastor ended the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Strehlow
Church Council Secretary



Deadline for the January 2024

*First Edition Newsletter items
is Sunday, December 17th!*





December 2023 First Lutheran Church, Poy Sippi, WI

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI Dec 1	SAT 2
					Office closed ● 9:30am Food Pantry ● 3:30pm Food Pantry	● 2pm Grief Share-Sur
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
First Sun.-Advent ● 9am Sun.School Class ● 9:30am Coffee Fellowship ● 10:30am Worship ● 11:30am Decorating Party	● 9am Pastor in ● 9:30am Finance Con ● 1:30pm BibleStudy	Bulletin deadline	● 9am Pastor in ● 6:30pm Confirmation	● 12:45pm Soul Food - ● 7pm Choir - cantata	Office closed	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2nd Sun.-Advent ● 9am Sun.School Cla ● 9:30am Coffee Fello ● 10:30am Worship	● 9am Pastor in ● 1:30pm BibleStudy ● 2:45pm M-Team Mtg ● 2:45pm Sunshine Ba	Bulletin deadline ● 6:30pm Council Mtg	● 9am Pastor in ● 6:30pm Confirmation ● 7pm Choir - cantata	● 12:45pm Soul Food -	Office closed ● 9:30am Food Pantry ● 3:30pm Food Pantry	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
3rd Sun.-Advent ● 9am Sun.School Cla ● 9:30am Coffee Fello ● 10:30am Worship - C	Deadline for Newslett ● 9am Pastor in ● 1:30pm BibleStudy	Bulletin deadline	● 9am Pastor in ● 6:30pm No Confirma ● 7pm Cantata Program	● 12:45pm Soul Food -	Office closed	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
4th Sun.-Advent ● 9am Christmas Breakfast ● 10:30am Worship ● 4pm Christmas Eve Worship ● 6:30pm Christmas Eve Worship	Christ is Born! Merry Christmas Office Closed	Bulletin deadline	● 9am Pastor in ● 6:30pm No Confirma	● 12:45pm No Soul Fo	Office closed ● 10am Stamp'nWorks	
31	Jan 1	2	3	4	5	6
First Sun.-Christmas ● 9am Coffee Fellowsl ● 10:30am Worship	Office Closed	Bulletin deadline	● 9am Pastor in ● 6:30pm Confirmation	● 12:45pm Soul Food -	Office closed ● 9:30am Food Pantry ● 3:30pm Food Pantry	