

Christ's United Lutheran Church  
437 Airport Road  
Ashland, PA 17921  
[www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org)

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ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Pottsville, PA  
PERMIT NO. 25

December



*The CULC Messenger*  
*God's Work,*  
*Our Actions*

# Hark the Herald Angels Sing



*Join us for Worship - Sundays at 9:30 a.m.*  
*Sunday School - October through May*  
*1st & 3rd Sundays @ 10:45 a.m.*

*The CULC Messenger*  
*God's Work, Our Actions*





# Christ's United Lutheran Church

One God. One People. One Purpose.

437 Airport Road, Ashland, PA 17921

www.christsunited.org

(570) 875-1591

December 2024

## CHURCH COUNCIL 2024

	Phone	Term Expires
Kay Berner President	570-875-1035	Feb. 2026
Ken Dengler Vice President	570-933-5144	Feb. 2025
Morgen Sweitzer Secretary	717-858-9824	Feb. 2026
Robert Carl	570-590-7281	Feb. 2025
Darlene Stank	570-875-1644	Feb. 2025
Barbara Stepanchick	570-875-1114	Feb. 2027
Janet Towey	270-205-3420	Feb. 2027
John Towey	270-205-2682	Feb. 2027
Michael Yoder	570-205-1701	Feb. 2026

Youth Representative - Maura Sweitzer

### PASTOR

Rev. Brian Beissel  
570-516-1787

**\*Pastor Brian's Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or other times by appointment.

### STAFF

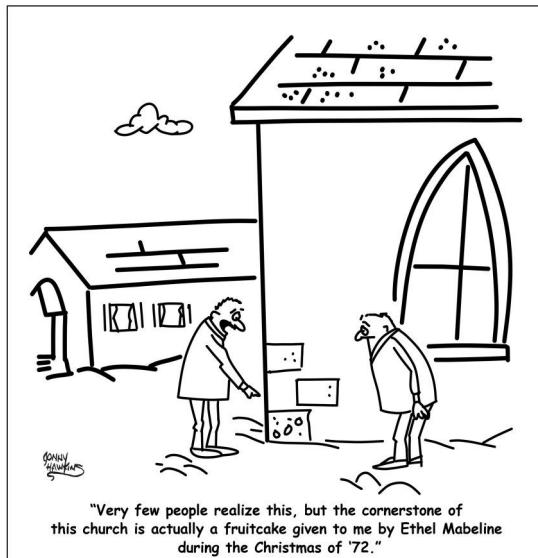
**Parish Administrator** Debbie Hall 570-875-1591  
office@christsunited.org 570-789-9722

**Office Hours:** Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30 am- 4:30 pm

<b>Director of Music</b>	Jamie Johnson	570-590-1678
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ann Marie Dillman	570-449-2021
<b>Indoor Custodian</b>	Ann Ray Begis	570-590-2729
<b>Outdoor Custodian</b>	Dennis Wolfe	570-875-9085
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Christine Brennan	570-875-0720

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## Status of Accounts as of October 31

Total amount in checking account: \$146,879.87.

Amount needed in offerings per month to meet our 2024 Annual Budget of \$203,168.00 is \$16,930.00.

Income for October was \$9,070.46.

Expenses for October were \$8,304.71,  
resulting in a net income of \$765.71.

Benevolence for October was \$827.00.



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**Facebook**



## Christ's United Ministry Teams

Christian Education  
Evangelism/Outreach  
Lutheran Church Men (LCM)  
Social Ministry  
Stewardship  
WELCA  
Worship & Music  
Multimedia Ministry  
Safety and Security Team

## Christ's United Committees

Auditing & Finance Committees  
Endowment Fund  
Mutual Ministry  
Nominating  
Personnel  
Property

## **Christ's United Lutheran Church**

### Mission Statement

*We the members of Christ's United Lutheran Church, Ashland, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in our world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which includes a creative re-examination of our worship life; a quality educational program for all ages; intentional witnessing; a serving spirit; and an integrated support system which will undergird our program and the maintenance of our facilities as it encourages improved stewardship.*

## **Message from Pastor Brian**

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!



I am excited to be on the Advent journey with you. I know this may sound strange, but the season of Advent, not Christmas, happens to be my favorite in the church.

Why is that? Largely because I feel like the time building up to a big event are always the most meaningful. And here, we get to prepare for Christ to come. And as we talk about preparing for the birth of Christ, in the church we also get to talk about what it is like for us to prepare for the all-time coming of Christ, when we expect our Savior to show up, close this era of creation, and usher in something new and wonderful.

So what does that look like for us? For us believers, it has very little to do with decorating our homes or putting up trees, though many (including myself) will do that. But for me at least, I think it's finding those moments of connection in our shared humanity. We prepare for the coming of Christ by looking for Jesus in those on the margins, by searching for Christ's love in our ministry for the poor and lonely.

Years ago, I took a group of kids from Trinity, Valley View to the Boys and Girls club in South Philadelphia, where they spent time interacting with kids in an after school program that served a number of elementary schools in that area of the city.

I watched as one particular child, who was from a fairly financially sound family, played with another child who was living in a homeless shelter. I asked about that boy's story with one of the associates there, and she told me that recently he and his sister were moved by their mother out of their home, fleeing an abusive situation.

## **Christian symbol**



**ADVENT COLORS** — One of the season's symbolic colors is blue, representing hope. During Advent, we wait in hope to celebrate again God's coming in human form. We also look forward in hope to Christ's coming in glory at the end of the age. Purple symbolizes the royalty of Jesus, the coming Prince of Peace, and the penitence with which we receive him. Some congregations also use pink or white candles in Advent wreaths, with pink symbolizing joy and white symbolizing the Christ Child.

— continued on page 4

But there in that moment, coming from two completely different backgrounds, being of different races, of different financial means, and from different levels of stability, they were just two boys racing scooters across a floor. None of that other stuff mattered. And I thought to myself, "this is what the kingdom of God looks like."

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us also search for foretastes of the feast to come, in our interactions with those we know as well as those we don't.

Peace, Pastor Brian Beissel



### *Pastoral Acts*

*Pastor Beissel preformed the following:*

*Memorial Service*

*11/16/24 - Janet Quirk*



## **American Red Cross Community Blood Drive Christ's United Lutheran Church**

**437 Airport Road (Gordon)  
Ashland, PA 17921**

**Monday, December 2, 2024  
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.**

Please contact Debbie Hall or call  
1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2676) or visit  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)  
to schedule an appointment.

Open to the public and walk-ins are Welcome!

### ***Give Electronically***

**Checking/Savings      Credit/Debit Card**  
***Christ's United accepts electronic donations***

Electronic Giving is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to our church. Go to [www.christsunited.org](http://www.christsunited.org) or scan the QR code to learn how you can participate.



# Advent & Christmas Events at CULC:

**Congregational Christmas Meal -**  
December 8, 2024 following worship

**When Christmas Hurts**  
A Service of Remembrance and Healing  
Sunday, Dec 8, 2:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
with Holy Communion  
Tuesday, Dec 24, 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**  
with Holy Communion -  
Tuesday, Dec 24  
Special Music - 7:00 p.m.  
Worship begins - 7:30 p.m.



Candlelight Service

January 5<sup>th</sup> will be CULC's second Arts Sunday. Our theme in 2025 will be candles and the candle symbol. As it states in Psalm 18:28 - For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.

We invite anyone who has a craft whether it is knitting, crocheting, painting, drawing, coloring, weaving or any other handicraft to bring it in for display. We also request that if you have a craft with a candle/candle symbol or have the time and feel like making a new craft please incorporate a candle or candle symbol. Please have your craft here by Saturday January 4<sup>th</sup> for display on January 5<sup>th</sup> so that everyone can look at this display during our social hour. Crafts may be dropped off at the church during the week of December 30<sup>th</sup> during church office hours. There will be a table set up in the narthex for the crafts and crafts will be arranged on Saturday January 4<sup>th</sup>. If dropping a craft off on Saturday January 4<sup>th</sup> please drop off between the hours of 10AM-12 noon.

As it states in Matthew 5:15 - Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let the light of CULC crafters shine in 2025.



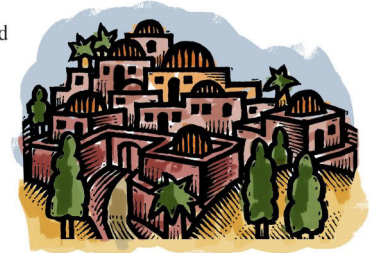
## Church Council Highlights From October

- Time and Talent Sheets will be distributed in November.
- Pastor Brian plans to restart Youth Group activities in January.
- The Annual Budget Meeting is scheduled for November 10.
- The section of wall where the new fire alarm box was installed has been filled in and painted.
- Pastor Brian's installation service will be held on January 19, 2025.
- Church Council will now meet on the first Wednesday of each month to better accommodate Pastor Brian's schedule.

**Bible Quiz**

Who was governor of Syria when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a mandated registration, or census?

A. Theophilus  
B. Herod Antipas  
C. Pontius Pilate  
D. Quirinius



Answer: D (See Luke 2:1-7)



There will be a special offering for the **Endowment Fund** on **December 1st**. Please be generous to support our youth with their future endeavors.

## December Council Contact of the month is Ken Dengler.

The Council Contact of the Month is the “on call” member of council, the person to contact if you have any concerns (other than pastoral concerns), or need access to the building. If you need to contact Ken, he can be reached at 570-933-5144.



## PRAYER CHAIN

Each day members of Christ’s United bow their heads and lift their hearts in prayer for the ministries of this congregation and people in need.

A copy of the Prayer List is available at worship services each Sunday. You also have an email sent to you each week with a list of those in need of your prayers. A phone chain notifies you of immediate needs. If there is an immediate need of prayer, please call the church office. In the event the office is closed, Gail Marquardt (570-554-1075 or 570-933-1737) should be called to begin the prayer chain. Please call the church office for more information or to become a Prayer Chain Participant.



## Praying Through the Directory

Each month we will be listing three of our church faith families. We ask that you take the time and uplift them in prayer for their needs and spiritual journey.

*This month we pray for:*

- The Brennan Family - Joseph
- The Roshannon Family - Dennis & Vicky Walk
- The Wolfgang Family - Larry & Jean



# PUZZLE

## CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus’ birth. Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	(	)	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a 3 8 9 # 4 is 2 ^ ( % ) ^ %

is 7 9 > 5 %, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? % ) 5 # ^ (

5 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4.

He will reign on David’s - 8 ( ^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$

establishing and upholding it with ! ? ) - 9 3 5 and righteousness

from that time on and 6 ^ ( 5 > 5 ( . Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

**During this Christmas Season please remember our homebound and members serving in the Military with, cards, greetings, and prayers.**



**Leroy Berner**, 1351 Deep Creek Rd., Ashland, PA 17921  
**Corrine Coward**, 520 Dutchtown Rd., Ashland, PA 17921  
**Pvt. David L. Cunningham Jr**, MAT PLATOON  
 Marine Corps Detachment  
 Dam Neck 2088 Regulus Ave.  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23561  
**Jim Gruber**, 912 Centre St., Ashland, PA 17921  
**Diane Heidlebaugh**, Grandview Nursing & Rehab,  
 78 Woodbine Ln., Danville, PA 17821  
**Jim Hepler**, 501 Main St., Ashland, PA 17921  
**Nancy Kessler**, Mt. Carmel Nursing Home,  
 2616 Locust Gap Highway, Mt. Carmel, PA 17851  
**Ryan Kosmisky**, 425 Volser Circle, Barksdale AFB, LA 71110  
**Bobbie Liem**, 212 Biddle St., PO Box 127, Gordon, PA 17936  
**Gail Marquardt**, 154 Stein Rd., Ashland, PA 17921  
**Anna Neumeister**, Schuylkill Center, 1000 Schuylkill Manor Rd.  
 Pottsville, PA 17901  
**Richard Shoup**, 204 Peter St., Ashland, PA 17921  
**Karen Smith**, Broad Mountain Nursing Center, 500 Laurel St.  
 Frackville, PA 179221  
**Beryl Stitzer**, 302 E. Biddle St., PO Box 136, Gordon, PA 17936  
**Linda Zerby**, 42 Bryn Mawr Ave., Pottsville, PA 17901



## We Offer our Prayers to...

Please note that those experiencing a traumatic event are placed onto the Prayer List and will be **kept on for one month and then taken off**. If you would like someone added, please call the office or write their name on the Prayer Request sheet found on the Prayer Podium. **Please provide updates to the office in order that the list is always current.**



**Nov. 24 --** Cheryl Varndell  
 Jane Herb (F. Herb)  
 Family of Mary Kay Cray  
**Nov. 17 –** Darlene Stank  
 Amanda Whritenour (A. Dillman)  
 Jim Gruber  
 Connie Weinreich (S. Marlow)  
 Peterine Wojek (J. Deeter)  
 Pastor Mark Manz (V. Brown)  
 Linda Watson (M. Snyder)  
**Nov. 10 –** Barry Oswald (J. Towey)  
 Kevin Jones (A. Berger)  
 Family of Edwin Andrews (A. Berger)  
**Nov. 3 –** Faith Anthony  
 Family of Dawn Huntziner

**Please continue to pray for:** Corrine & Josh Coward, Jim Gruber, Annette Houser, Jack Houser, Jim Houser Jr., Jenny Kosmisky, Barbara Liem, Gail Lorady, Pearl & Carl Lute, Dianna Monaghan, Jane Pennypacker, Heidi Walsh, Kayla Werner

**Remember our Home-bound:** Leroy Berner, Diane Heidlebaugh, Jim Hepler, Nancy Kessler, Gail Marquardt, Anna Neumeister, Richard Shoup, Karen Smith, Linda Zerby

**And Friends:** Michele & Amber Adams, Michelle Ambrose, Robert Beecher, Donald Bulla, Ed Emerich, Joe Ferraro Jr., Bob Griffiths, Cathy Groody, Dan Grow, Ann Helwig, Minah Horan, Bob Kinlin, Lisa Metzinger, Angie Romberger, Bailey Romberger, Samantha Schifano, Sarah (Herb) Shanks (T. Wolfe), Elizabeth Smith & family, Pastor Sunny Stock, Elaine Stone, Linda (Herb) Szuler (T. Wolfe), Joe Towey, Rose Varndell, Karyssa Wenrich, Bev Wolfgang

**DECEMBER**  
*Birthdays*

2 Nancy Lindenmuth  
 3 Asea Krah  
 4 Cheryl Weikel  
 5 Janna Gregis  
 Kristen Toldt  
 6 Daniel Cascarino  
 7 Beryl Stitzer  
 8 Anita Fegley  
 9 Robert Pennypacker  
 10 Makena Dean  
 11 Cory Krise  
 Christopher Olson  
 12 Daniel Witner  
 13 Karleigh Economy  
 Shea Moyer  
 Bruce Pirie  
 14 Joey Anczarski  
 Tammy I. Zangari  
 15 Ralph R. Johnson  
 Arlene Krise  
 Jessica Nagle  
 Leslie Shadle

16 Tammy L. Harris  
 Terri Whyne  
 17 Linda Brennan Panikkar  
 Cheryl Klinger  
 18 April Brennan  
 Lynn Dillman  
 Raven Marlow  
 Samuel Troup, Sr.  
 Tim Hubler  
 20 Richard Edmondson  
 Rachel Pancher  
 Regan Kratovich  
 22 Jeff Brennan  
 Siena Smith  
 23 Robert Carl  
 25 David Hall  
 Daniel Cunningham  
 27 Brody Baker  
 Zackary Coward  
 28 Bonnie Dillman  
 Donald Klinger  
 Sawyer Smith  
 29 Beth Andrews  
 William Cook  
 Jessica Gregis  
 Mike Stepanchick  
 30 Stephen Harhigh  
 31 Lori Fox  
 Christine Heyer

**DECEMBER**  
*Anniversaries*

12/05/08 Breann & Daniel Barker  
 12/07/02 Randy & Angie Lucas  
 12/11/93 Stephen & Tami Wagner  
 12/11/99 Erik & Sally Tice  
 12/28/10 Stephen & Brittany Harhigh



**CONGREGATIONAL  
CHRISTMAS MEAL**

**DECEMBER 8  
11:00 a.m.**

**following morning worship**

**BAKED HAM and BAKED CHICKEN  
GRAVY / COFFEE and TEA  
will be provided by WELCA and LCM**

**Sign up to attend and include what you will bring  
as a side dish to share.**

**Indicate what specifically you will contribute:**

**FILLING**

**HOT VEGETABLES**  
*(yams, corn, green beans, etc)*

**SALADS**  
*(coleslaw, cranberry sauce, broccoli, veggies, etc.)*

**DINNER ROLLS**

**COLD DRINKS**

**DESSERT**  
*(cake, pie, pudding, etc)*







All are welcome to attend the  
**Women of the ELCA's**  
**next meeting on**  
**Wednesday, December 4, 2024**  
**6:00 PM**

### Communion and Contribution Records

Please assist us in making an accurate report of all active, communing and contributing members of Christ's United.



As we approach the end of our calendar year, it is important that everyone take a moment to complete one communion card and one offering envelope with your name and address. Both can be found in the pew racks at any of our upcoming services.

Thank you.

New offering envelopes for 2025 will be available soon.



*Jamie*

*Dennis*

*Debbie*

On behalf of Christ's United's Staff:  
 May the miracle of Christmas give you joy and peace this holiday season and all through the new year.  
 Jesus, Our Savoir is born!

*Ann Marie*

*Chris*

*Ann Ray*



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### Christmas Tree of Sharing



The Christmas Tree of Sharing begins on Sunday, December 1st. We will be collecting clothing items and toys for children up to age 18, ELCA Good Gifts, and food pantry items.

Tags will be available on the table in the Narthex beginning on December 1st. After you make your selection, please place the "ornament" for ELCA Good Gifts or food pantry items on the Christmas Tree. All wrapped children's gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 22nd and are to be placed under the tree. ELCA Good Gifts and food pantry items may be purchased up until Christmas Eve. Thank you!

### 2025 Sponsorships

The sponsorship sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board. Sign up for:



- Altar Flowers \$35.00\*
- Worship Bulletins \$15.00
- Special service bulletins \$10.00
- Sanctuary Candle \$10.00
- Children's Bulletins \$10.00
- Monthly Newsletters \$40.00

### \*For Altar Flowers:

Please sign up by the bulletin board for week(s) you would like to sponsor Altar Flowers and call "Flowers From the Heart" 570-339-2519 to place order. **Cost is \$35.00.**

**Please place order and make payment directly to the florist.**

All other sponsorships, please make payable to CULC and give to Debbie in the Church Office.





*The following Memorial was given to Christ's United since the last issue of the Newsletter*

*In Memory of Janet Quirk  
by Donald & Laray Klinger*



## Christmas Poinsettias!

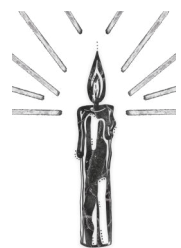
Poinsettias are available in pink, white, or red.



Sizes available:

- 1 plant per pot for \$12.00
- 2 plants per pot for \$17.50
- 3 plants per pot for \$24.00

**Please sign up on the bulletin board.**  
Make checks payable to CULC and drop them in the church office.  
***The deadline to order is December 8.***



### *When Christmas Hurts*

A service of remembrance and Healing

Will be held here at Christ's United on  
Sunday, December 8, 2024  
At 2:00 p.m.

The Rev. Brian Beissel and  
The Rev. Dana D. Heckman-Beil M. Div. will preside.

Hosted by Kull-Heizenroth Funeral Home



## The Gospel of Luke Challenge

By: Paul Jokerst

How much do you know about Jesus? Do you know of His life and ministry?

I challenge you through the month of December; take a journey with myself, and Luke, through the life of our Lord and Savior. During this time of the church calendar, we usually focus on Christ's birth. However, this year, let us also focus on why His birth is so significant.

If you have heard or read the Gospel of Luke, you know just how detailed he was as his Gospel truly corroborates the other Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and John. Additionally, Luke tells us about additional events in Jesus life including his early childhood.

Therefore, I issue to you the Gospel of Luke Challenge. There are twenty-four chapters in the Gospel of Luke. The challenge is this, each day between December 1 and December 24 read one chapter from the Gospel of Luke. By the time we get to Christmas Eve, we will have a better understanding of Jesus and his ministry. Maybe, by December 24, we will wholeheartedly praise God with the angels and declare, "Glory to god in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14)

As you read the Gospel, keep notes in a journal on specific highlights that stand out to you in the reading. That is the challenge, read and learn Jesus. Let's take this trip together through Luke's account of the life and ministry of our Lord, our Savior, the Messiah, the King!



*The CULC Messenger  
God's Work, Our Actions*



**Serving Our Community of Faith in December:**

# SOCIAL MINISTRY



**Fellowship Hour** will be held after worship on only the first Sunday of each month September through May. See schedule below for your committee's turn to serve. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help.

~ 2024 ~  
**December** - Evangelism/  
 Endowment/Stewardship

~ 2025 ~  
**January** - WELCA  
**February** - Church Council  
**March** - Social Ministry  
**April** - Evangelism/  
 Endowment/Stewardship  
**May** - WELCA  
**June/July/August** -  
 No Social Hour



We will be collecting the following items for December:

## Canned Fruit

Please place your donations in the shopping cart.

Thank You!

The next food distribution date is  
 Thursday  
**December 12, 2024**




Date	Congregational Rep/Announcements	Lector	Ushers	Communion Assistants	Acolyte(s)	Crucifer
December 1 Advent 1	Kay Berner	John Towey	Carla Mae Carl Allen Johnson c/d Robert Carl so	Erik Tice AM Barb Anczarski Angie Berger	Joey McAndrew	Bianca McAndrew
December 8 Advent 2	John Towey	Donna Wallace	→		TBA	
December 15 Advent 3		Barb Anczarski			Maura Sweitzer	John Wagner Tag-a-Long
December 22 Advent 4		Cheryl Varn dell			Eli Pennypacker	---
December 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m		Erik Tice	Virgil Smith b Allen Johnson c/d Ted Ambrose so	John Towey AM Deb Price Becky Spencer	Marisa Seritsky	Bianca McAndrew
December 24 Christmas Eve 7:30 p.m.		Deb Hubler	Donna Wallace b Allen Johnson c/d Darlene Stank so	Kay Berner AM Beth Andrews Dennis Wolfe	Ava Hubler	Cole Johnson
December 29		Angie Berger	Carla Mae Carl b Allen Johnson c/d Robert Carl so		Sawyer Smith	---



# December 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 Advent 1</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30 Worship w/Holy Communion Endowment Scholarships & Endowment Offering 10:30 Fellowship Hour 10:45 Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Learning Series	1:00 – 6:00 Red Cross Blood Drive	9:00 Christmas Decorating of the Church	10:30 Seniors  6:00 WELCA 7:00 Church Council	6:30 Choir Practice		
<b>8 Advent 2</b>	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30 Worship 11:00 Congregation Christmas Meal 2:00 When Christmas Hurts Service				10 – 11:30 Christ's Cupboard  6:30 Choir Practice		
<b>15 Advent 3</b>	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School			8:30 Newsletter Assembly 10:30 Seniors	6:30 Choir Practice		
<b>22 Advent 4</b>	23	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>25 Christmas Day</b>	26	27	28
9:30 Worship		4:00 Candlelight Worship W/ HC. 7:00 Special Music 7:30 Candlelight Worship W/ HC.				
29	30	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b>				
9:30 Worship - Service of Lessons & Carols					