



St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church
V. 27, No. 10

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923
November, 2020

Another Thanksgiving Day will soon be upon us. Of course we should be thankful each and every day of our lives, but on November 26th, we set aside a special holiday whose theme is to be thankful. We've got a lot to be thankful for. Sure...there's a pandemic going on. Some may have lost their jobs and the value of our retirement accounts might not be what it was a year ago, yet we are alive which means that we've had food, clothing, and shelter. It may not be what we've been used to but still God has been good to us.

I have to remind myself of these things often. It's easy, when we have been used to having more, to complain, grumble and gripe because things have changed. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 tells us that we should be thankful in all things - also stating that this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning us. Does this mean that we should be thankful for the bad experiences, tragedies, sicknesses, hurts and pains in our lives? I don't think we should be thankful for those negative experiences but I do believe that we should be thankful for how God brings us through them and for the lessons we learn from them.

Being thankful means that we give God the glory and we are grateful for today. But are we really thankful? We should be! You see, those who believe in God and trust Him, have been granted the privilege of being taken care of by Him. Even those who don't believe in Him and wouldn't even think about trusting Him benefit as a byproduct of His blessings.

Jesus told a story in Matthew 18 that illustrates how many live today. He told of a king who decided it was time for all his

debtors to pay up. One servant owed a great debt and the king knew that there was no way that this servant would ever be able to repay him in his lifetime. So he ordered this servant and his family to be sold as slaves in order to recover some of his investment. The servant fell at his feet and begged him for more time. The king felt sorry for the man and so he graciously forgave him all of it. He wiped his slate clean.

Now you'd think that this servant would have been grateful - but nothing doing. He left the king's court, went straight out to a fellow servant who owed him a small amount of money and demanded that he pay it in full right then and there. When he couldn't, this ungrateful servant had his fellow servant thrown into prison until he could pay up. Of course, when the king found out about it he did the same thing to this wicked, ungrateful servant.

We might say that we'd never do such a thing. Yet how often have we had hard feelings towards a fellow human being who might owe us, even after we have been forgiven such a great debt of sin towards our heavenly Father? Thanksgiving Day certainly commemorates being thankful. But we really know that we should give thanks every day for all our blessings - especially the forgiveness and new life we believers have in Jesus Christ! Enjoy the turkey and the stuffing and the football on the 26th. But give thanks the other 364 days of the year as well! Have a blessed Thanksgiving



Pastor Munding

+In Our Prayers

Laverne and Verona Lipke – parents of
Ramona Hrebik

Leo Sperberg – father of Daniel
Sperberg

Martha Pieper – Bonnie Sperberg's
sister

Betty Freimark

Ken Schuett

Marie Chellow

Kathy Wiese

Dolly Doan

Vern Lichtenberg

Orville Behm

Ramona Hrebik

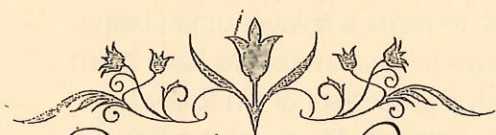
Tom Butterbrodt

Joan Parsons

Janet Ryerson

Maren Krause

Billi Kaufman



Sending Our
SYMPATHY

MERLE RESOP

Father of Brian Resop
and Brad Resop

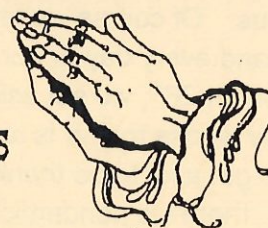


Quarterly Voter's Meeting

Sunday November 8th

Following the late service,
beginning at approx. 11:40 am.

Memorials



IN MEMORY OF MERLE RESOP

For Bell Tower

From Bob & Karen Wendt.....\$30.00



November

ANNIVERSARIES

November 1, 1997 - Mark & Terri Rausch

November 3, 1973 - Paul & Jane Olson

November 7, 2015 - Brent & Sandra Snow

November 11, 1972 - David & Belva Rux

November 13, 1954 - Ralph & Phyllis Van Dellen

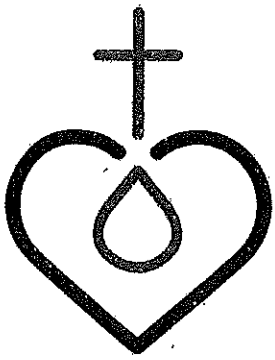
November 25, 1961 - Richard & Leitha Kraus

November 29, 2008 - Mark & Brenda Podoll

November 30, 2010 - Jason & Susan Wendt

Give

Thanks



LWML News

The LWML met on Monday, October 19th at church. We are sad to report that now our Fall Rally is also canceled. We would like to thank everyone who donated to the in-gathering for shut-

ins, we will still be putting together care packages for the shut-ins, we will just do it as a church society rather than a district. Thanks again for your donations.

We celebrated LWML Sunday on October 11th. We invited Ebou Faye to speak before the services and at Bible class. He did a wonderful job explaining about his mission to people of the Islam faith, being a former Islam worshiper he is very well equipped to share his Christian faith with these individuals. We thank everyone who donated to his mission after church and Bible class.

Our next meeting is Monday, November 16th at 6:30 at the church, we would love to see you there!



Ladies Aid News

President Robin Henriksen opened the Thursday, October 1 meeting with a devotion on "each day is a glorious gift." In times of trouble we need to focus on God's presence.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were approved as read. Next month will be election of officers.

President Robin reminded the members that October is Pastor Appreciation Month.

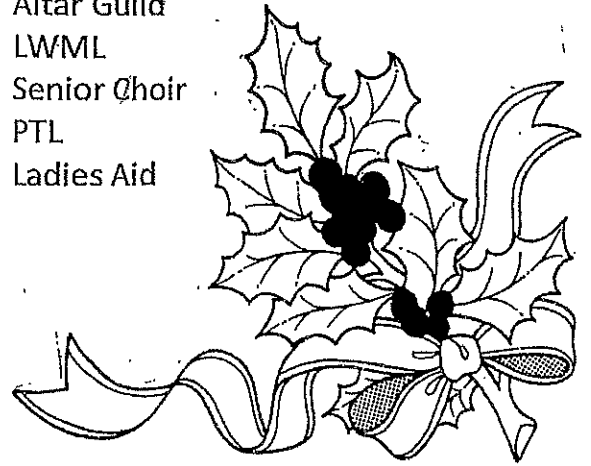
We thank Donna Dretske and Debbie Wissell for the lovely refreshments and table decorations.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 5 at 1pm in the church lower level.



CHRISTMAS DECORATING SCHEDULE FOR CHURCH

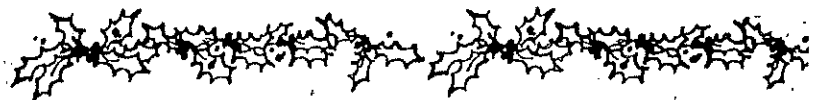
- 2020 - Altar Guild
- 2021 - LWML
- 2022 - Senior Choir
- 2023 - PTL
- 2024 - Ladies Aid



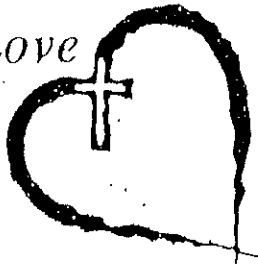
Angel Tree

Christmas is coming.....a reminder about the Angel trees at Christmas. There are two trees in the Narthex of church at Christmas and it is filled with angel ornaments in memory of loved ones.

If you need to purchase or make an angel in memory of a loved one, please have it in a marked box and put it in the card room at church before December 8.



Divine Love



Human Care

It is a wonderful feeling when you are praised and appreciated. There are so many aspects of praise that send out radiant beams of joy. You feel happy and light in your heart when someone praises you. This praise might be channeled *directly* to you from a friend, a family member or someone for whom you did a service or good deed. It's wonderful!

Or, you might hear *secondhand* about a person who praised you to the skies to someone else. This, too, brings a good feeling to your heart. You are glad to be appreciated, and you are happy that you were able to render service to someone in need.

Sometimes, you might be praised not for *doing* anything, but for simply *being the wonderful person you are!* Your friends might thank you for your very presence! Nothing more. Just for being you! How satisfying to be extolled and lifted up simply for being no one but yourself.

It's easy to *receive* praise, but do you find it difficult to *give* praise? Some people do, including a conductor I know. Schedule permitting, I try to join a community chorus every Advent season - which begins next Sunday - to sing G.F. Handel's *Messiah*. A couple of years ago, we imported a guest conductor from Austin, Texas. He had recently retired, but had an excellent, national reputation as a choral conductor. He expected nothing but the best from his musicians, and so he was very sparing with his praise.

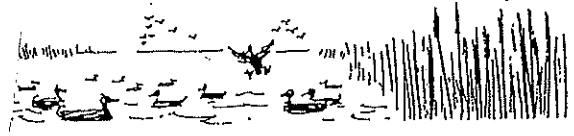
On one occasion, however, after a particularly excellent rendition in rehearsal of the final choral piece, "Worthy Is the Lamb," he congratulated the choir and the orchestra with an enthusiastic "Good!" We singers, and players, too, burst into spontaneous applause. The conductor's smile quickly vanished, and then became a frown, and he said, "Not *that* good."

I hope you do not find it difficult to give praise. Because God loves to receive praise. Read Psalm 100, the Bible reading for today. "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name" (v. 4).

Yes, as Thanksgiving Day approaches this week, let's ramp up our praise and thanksgiving to

God for all of his bountiful blessings, and for just being our God!

Prayer: God of great glory, power and majesty, I praise you today for your blessings bestowed not only upon me, but upon humankind since the dawn of history. You are great and deserve our worship and adoration! Amen.



Life Line Screening Event At St. John Lutheran Church Tuesday, November 24, 2020

Life Line Screening, the nation's leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at St John Lutheran Church on Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- Carotid artery ultrasound to identify plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, a major risk factor for stroke
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound to identify presence of an enlargement in the largest blood vessel in the body
- An EKG to identify the presence of atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke
- Ultrasound of the lower legs to look for plaque buildup known as peripheral artery disease
- Ultrasound of the shin bone to identify risk for osteoporosis

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word "circle" to 797979.



From St. John Lutheran School



Welcome to November. This the month that we celebrate Thanksgiving. The farmers are in the field harvesting the corn and any beans that are left. The leaves have mostly fallen. The temperatures are falling and so are snowflakes. What a great time of year! I love the fall.

We have reached the midpoint of our first trimester and sent home progress reports. In October we held mid-trimester parent / teacher conferences. All parents called in or Zoomed in or met in the parking lot to see how their children are doing so far in the first trimester.

Some of our students and staff participated in a gleaning project at the Gosen's property. We went to their apple grove and picked apples to donate to the Berlin Food Pantry. We were able to donate more than 100 pounds of apples to those less fortunate than us. We share the love of Jesus in our community.

Our school also partnered with Green Lake homemakers to collect "non-food" items for the Berlin Food Pantry. We were pleasantly surprised with the results. We delivered a truckload of paper towels, toilet paper, toothpaste, floss, soap, hand sanitizer etc. to the pantry. We thank Nancy, Keven, and Deb for all their help with this project to share the love of Jesus with others in the community.

Our volleyball team has finished their season. We thank players, parents, coaches,

and officials for their involvement in the season. The girls had a great season.

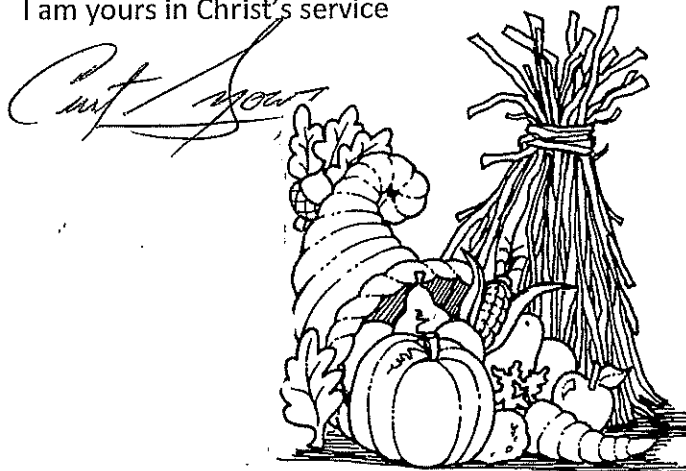
Our athletic department is taking the month of November off. We are waiting on the WIAA for guidance concerning the basketball season. Our hope is to start practice in December and have games in January and February. We will have to see what happens with the mask mandate and the current surge in Wisconsin.

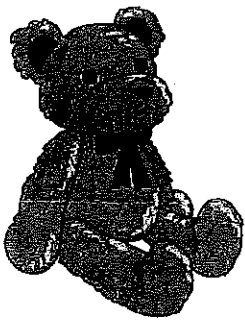
The students and staff are looking forward to our visit to the Kaufman's, Petals and Plows, Corn Maze on Friday, October the 30th. Most of the classes are having their fall parties that same day.

I am happy to report that the Lord has blessed us with relatively safe start to our school year. We are thankful that, up to this point, we have no positive Covid tests in any of our students. We have had several students and faculty who have observed limited quarantine times at home. We are using technology to deliver educational experiences to those students. We pray that God would continue to keep us safe and together while cases seem to be rising around the state.

Have a marvelous month thanking God for all the blessings that He showers on us all the time.

I am yours in Christ's service





THANK YOU TEDDY BEARS NEW AND USED

Thank you to all who have contributed to Project: Teddy Bear. Bears have been given to many different organizations for distribution to children,

Bears have gone to Green Lake County Ambulance Service, Waushara County Ambulance Service, Berlin Police Department, Christine Ann Abuse Center in Oshkosh, Outagamie Children's Service, Concordia Seminary Co-op in Ft. Wayne Indiana just to name a few. At the moment we have a request from Waukesha Wis. From a couple who have been providing Foster Care for children for 31 years. Many of these children come in the middle of the night from domestic abuse or drug related incidents.

Carol Gelhar has been essential in assisting in collection of bears. Thank You Carol. She watches at the Second Time Around Shop for bears for this project. Bears cannot have beans in them and must be made of material that can be spray washed and dried.

After bears have been cleaned they are distributed wherever they can be "adopted." To date we have distributed over 70 bears.

If you know of any organizations that could benefit from this project, please call me. Thank you so much!

June Richter
(920) 361-2451

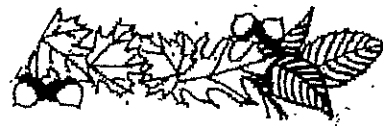
THINGS YOU NEVER HEAR IN CHURCH

"Hey! It's MY turn to sit in the front pew!"

"I LOVE it when we sing hymns I've never heard before!"

"I was so enthralled, I never noticed that your sermon went 25 minutes longer than usual."

"You need board members? Where do I sign up?"



Bell Tower Project Comes to an End

The Bell Tower Committee would like to thank the following "Willing Workers" for landscaping around the bell tower. Ken Fink, Keith Krause, Gordy Lewis, Curt Snow, Bob and Jason Wendt. You guys did a fantastic job and never complained about the cold or the drizzle that threatened to shut the project down.

Thank you so much Keith for bringing your trailer and making multiple trips between Blue Sky and church hauling dirt, plants and mulch. Many thanks to Dr. Peter Johnson, for letting us use his bucket-tractor. That was a big help and much appreciated.

We would like to thank Russell and Lanette Pomplun from Blue Sky Nursery in Eureka for generously donating all the plants, black dirt and mulch.

When you look at the landscaping around tower, take note of the large stones that encircle the back of the area. They are foundation stones from our old brick church. A fitting compliment for the old church bell.



November Birthdays



Deb Schrader	11/01	Ken Fink	11/19
Ralph Van Dellen	11/01	Lori Piechowski	11/19
Ken Keenlance	11/02	Andrew Stertz	11/19
Timothy Pett	11/02	Karen Wendt	11/20
Nicholas Carriere	11/03	Gladys Hall	11/22
Rick Henriksen	11/04	Dawn Henriksen	11/22
Nova Phelps	11/04	Sawyer Gilmour	11/23
Lori Ryckman	11/04	Violet Kaufman	11/23
Christine Carriere	11/05	Jason Wendt	11/25
Ilene McDougal	11/05	Scott Oppor	11/26
Margaret Ceman	11/06	Amber Dretske	11/27
Loralei Hess	11/06	Karen Schurk	11/27
Tom Butterbrodt	11/09	Richard Weisjohn	11/27
Arden Patchett	11/09	Isaac Lueck	11/29
Payton Phelps	11/09	Casey Wollert Sr.	11/29
Kris Hrebik	11/11	JoAnn Fink	11/30
Candy Schram	11/12	Candace Johnson	11/30
Ray Stumpner	11/12	Megan Marks	11/30
Kayla Gilmour	11/14		
Brian Wilson	11/14		
Tyler Kettlewell	11/15		
Wanda Putzke	11/15		
Lisa Schuster	11/15		
Karen Strebelinski	11/15		
Kevin Vergin	11/15		
Brady Polk	11/16		
Robin Henriksen	11/17		



Creation Corner

From the Bi-Monthly Journal

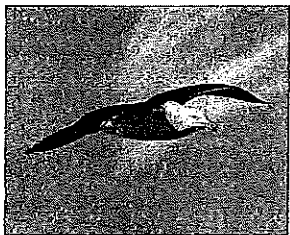
"Does God Exist?"

A regular feature of the journal *"Does God Exist?"* is a section entitled *"Dandy Designs."* Here are various examples from God's creation pointing to the undeniable existence of our Creator.

How Sea Animals Drink Water

Albatrosses and petrels are birds that can spend a year or more in the open ocean, but they need to drink water. Whales and seals also do not have land-based water supplies, and yet, like all mammals, they need water to survive.

So how do sea animals drink water when ocean water is salty? God's design of living creatures always includes unusual equipment to enable them to deal with their environment.



In the case of sea birds, they have a set of salt glands in their heads that connect to the bird's nostrils. The birds drink seawater, but the glands are so efficient that within three hours, all of the salt is removed through the nostrils.

Whales and other aquatic mammals produce urine that has extremely concentrated salt content. By allowing high salt concentrations in the urine to diffuse into the ocean, the salt never reaches toxic levels inside the animal. An interesting sidelight to this is that the milk of these sea mammals is very low in water content. In that way, they conserve water. Milk from seals has only half the water content of lean hamburger.

Everywhere we look in the natural world, we see that a wonder-working hand has gone before. These marvelous designs are not the product of mindless chance. They show an Intelligence who created with purpose and wisdom.

In Job 38-40, God challenged Job to advance his understanding of God's power and wisdom by considering the natural things of creation. When Job questioned God's wisdom and purpose in his personal struggles, he did not recognize the wisdom shown in creation's design. We too need to look at what God has done and know there is a God through the things he has made (Romans 1:18-20).



Thanks from the Seminary!

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

The next step in Colleen and my development in our work in the service of our Lord began in July 6th this summer. We moved about 30 minutes south of the campus to Arnold MO and are living in a nice apartment just five minutes from St. John's Lutheran Church and School in Arnold, MO and fifteen minutes from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Barnhart MO. I started my vicarage on July 6th and have been quickly engaged in the ministry of both churches.

Even though my vicarage is with St. John's Lutheran Church and School I am deployed 75% of my time at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Barnhart. When at Immanuel, I am serving as the sole ministry staff, while supervised by Pastor Jeremy Schultz, the senior pastor at St. John's. My unique vicarage is allowing me to experience both small and large ministries as well as serving in both churches preschools and school chapels. Preparing services and preaching three out of four Sundays a month has given me an opportunity to learn quickly how to manage my time so I can care for both Colleen and my congregation.

Pastor Schultz is an incredible mentor and I am learning so much from the entire staff at St. John's. As for a family update, Megan is still living in Oshkosh working as an inspector for the city and is looking at programs to advance her education so she can get into urban planning. Hope is excited to be back for her senior year at UW Eau Claire and enjoying in person classes. She is still expecting to graduate next spring and starting her career advocating for children in need.

God's Peace Be With You,
Bruce Elliot



St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: October 20, 2020

The October meeting was called to order at 5:50 pm by Bob Young. Pastor Mundinger opened with prayer.

Present: Bob Young, Kevin Koch, Debra Thiel, Bob Radliff, Amy Radliff, Rich Wallner, Curt Snow, Keith Krause, Pastor Mundinger.

Secretary's Report submitted by Amy Radliff

Motion by Wallner/B Radliff to accept September minutes. Motion approved.

Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	<u>September 2020</u>	<u>September 2019</u>
General Fund	\$43,755.46	\$76,512.29
Children's Fund	\$ 177.70	\$19,254.53
Elderly Fund	\$.00	\$.00
Memorials	\$ 170.73	\$12,180.00
Attendance	136 per week	203 per week

Motion by Wallner/Thiel to accept the Financial Secretary's report. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

Square Account September 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$6,697.07	Income:	\$.00
Expenses:	\$5,403.25	Ending Balance:	\$1,293.82

Hot Lunch Account September 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$3,441.14	Income:	\$42,884.25
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$46,325.39

Elderly Fund September 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$6,702.28	Income:	\$.00
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$6,702.28

Children's Fund September 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$81,722.45	Income:	\$ 178.60
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$81,901.05

Motion by A Radliff/Koch to accept Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

Board of Trustees Report by Keith Krause

- Operation of sanitizer sprayer for disinfecting school classrooms was covered with trustees and will be reviewed with the janitor.
- Tyler Kettlewell will continue the snow plowing for the coming winter season.
- LifeLine rental of the Church's lower level was approved for November 24th.
- Church bell and landscaping have been completed. The sign installation will soon be completed.
- Concordia health insurance renewal process is done.
- Mike Schrader and Pete Gravunder will renew their board membership for another term.

Motion by Thiel/Wallner to accept Trustee's report. Motion approved.

Board of Elders Report & Pastor's Report

Official Acts: Adult Baptism – Jonathan Phelps. Affirmation of Faith – Korin Larson and children Evion and Livianna.

Adult Confirmation – Jonathan Phelps and Patricia Thompson. Released by Request – Tara Chesebro and children Deegan and Rossi McCutcheon.

Communicant Members 479

Baptized Members 557

Church Families 295

Board of Education Report by Kevin Koch

- Tuition balances reviewed. Moved credits such as unused class trip monies to other accounts as appropriate.
- Esser Funds being used to purchase wireless headphones and for teachers to use if classes go virtual.
- Winter sports practices will begin in December. Games will be played in January and February. No tournaments will be scheduled.
- Field Trip planned to a corn maze.
- Mr. Pett presented Living Nativity idea. This will be a one-day event at the school.
- No positive cases of Covid-19.

Motion by Wallner/Krause to accept the Board of Education report. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- Nominations for Boards will be presented at the next voter's meeting. Still have 1 open position on the Board of Trustees.
- Payroll Protection Plan application was submitted to forgive the loan amount. There is currently a 90-day waiting period for federal government to make a final decision.

New Business: (none)

Meetings next month: Trustees – Monday, November 9th. Board of Education – Tuesday, November 10th.

Elders – Tuesday, November 10th. **Council – Tuesday November 17th– 6pm.**

Quarterly Voter's Meeting – Sunday, November 8th following the late service (approx. 11:40am)

Motion by Snow/Krause to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

*Respectfully submitted,
Amy Radliff, Secretary*

***Note: These minutes have not yet been reviewed by the Council and are subject to revision and correction at the next meeting.*





November 2020



VETERANS DAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ALL SAINTS' 8 am Worship/HC 9:15 Sun. School 9:15 Bible Classes 10:30 Worship/HC	2	3	4 3:45 Public Confirm 7 pm Sr. Choir	5 1 pm Ladies Aid 6:30 Worship/HC	6	7
8 8 am Worship/HC 9:15 Sun. School 9:15 Bible Classes 10:30 Worship/HC Voters Meeting after	9	10 6:00 Bd. of Ed. 6:00 Elders	11 3:45 Public Confirm 7 pm Sr. Choir	12 6:30 Worship/HC	13	14
15 8 am Worship/HC 9:15 Sun. School 9:15 Bible Classes 10:30 Worship/HC	16	17	18 3:45 Public Confirm 7 pm Sr. Choir	19 6:30 Worship/HC	20	21
22 8 am Worship/HC 9:15 Sun. School 9:15 Bible Classes 10:30 Worship/HC	23	24 6 pm Council Mtg. 7 pm Altar Guild	25 NO Public Confirm Thanksgiving Eve 6:30 Worship/HC	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27	28
29 ADVENT I 8 am Worship 9:15 Sun. School 9:15 Bible Classes 10:30 Worship	30					