



St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church
V. 26, No. 10

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923
November, 2021

Who does this remind you of: Funny hats, turkeys, and rifles? If you said, "A redneck birthday party," you are funny but wrong. With Thanksgiving in view, you probably thought of the Pilgrims. Maybe, you had the honor of being in the first grade Thanksgiving pageant, playing Governor Bradford, John Alden (or Priscilla), Miles Standish or even Squanto. The Pilgrims are a quaint relic of American history, their legacy relegated to inflatable lawn ornaments and accordion table decorations. However, there are still pilgrims today—including you and me!

In 1517, the Reformation called for changes in the European church. We just celebrated the Reformation here at St. John. And out of that movement came many splinter groups. One English group, the Puritans, didn't believe the Reformed church was pure enough, so they moved to Holland. Despite their acceptance in Holland, they missed their English culture and customs.

The English were colonizing the New World, which they named Virginia. The idea of starting a new life in a new world appealed to these Pilgrims; so, in 1620, the Mayflower set sail. A pilgrim is someone who journeys in a foreign land. A pilgrimage is a trip to a particular location, usually for religious purposes. The Pilgrims certainly fulfilled both definitions: They traveled to strange lands to find religious freedom for themselves. They became strangers and sojourners on the earth. The Pilgrim concept didn't die out with that little band of Puritans with funny hats; it continues today with all who follow God.

About 4,000 years ago, God told Abraham to emigrate from his home in Haran to a strange land that would become his new home (Genesis 12). He left everyone and everything to follow God to Canaan. Speaking of Abraham, Hebrews informs us, **"By faith he went to live in the land of**

promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God" (vv. 9, 10). God promised a new home for these men--and all who follow God after them--a real pilgrimage!

Believers in Jesus Christ are heirs of the same promise given to Abraham: **"And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise"** (Galatians 3:29). All who follow Christ are modern-day pilgrims on a pilgrimage. We are strangers in a strange land, looking for a better place where we can perfectly worship God for all eternity: Thus, we sing:

*What though the tempest rage, Heav'n is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage, Heav'n is my home;
And time's wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, Heav'n is my home.
(LSB #748:2)*

Until that great and glorious Last Day, our pilgrimage continues on this earth where we have the privilege of sharing Jesus with those whose earthly pilgrimage involves wandering aimlessly without the light of the Gospel in their lives. This Thanksgiving--and every day--give thanks for that opportunity to be a witness to such Good News. And thank God for the fact we are His "pilgrims" on a journey to heaven for all eternity! Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Pastor Munding



+In Our Prayers

Orlow Sommerfeldt

Orville Behm

Dustin Reilly

Wayne Fink

Carol Krause

Carol Kosterman

Carolyn Schmudlach

Duane Schmudlach

Ken Schuett

Jaden Schubert

Minnie Blackmore

Wilfird Polk

Kevin & Joan Parsons

Janet Ryerson

Janet Allen – Tina Markowski's
grandmother

Billi Jo Sperberg – sister-in-law of Dan
Sperberg

Martha Pieper – Bonnie Sperberg's
sister

Our Shut-In and Homebound members

The Family of Alice Parsons

In the Hospital
Duane Schmudlach



Sending Our **SYMPATHY**

Alice Parsons

Died - October 10, 2021

Funeral - October 16, 2021

Mother of Karen Wendt and
Debra Koch

THANK YOU!

Dear St. John Members, Prayer Committee, and
Human Care,

Thank you so much for your prayers, phone
calls, visits, food, and get well cards. I truly
appreciate your kindness and compassion as I
am recuperating from covid pneumonia. Thank
you and God bless. Candy Schram



LWML
South Wisconsin District

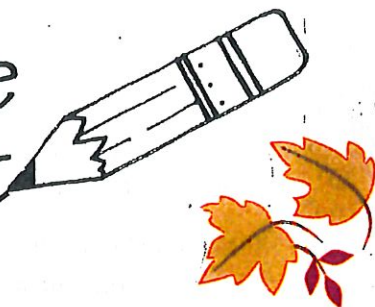
LWML News

The LWML meet on Monday,
October 18th. We started a new
Bible study that we are excited
about, join us next month to learn more. We will be
meeting on Monday, November 15th at 6:30pm.

We had our Fall Rally on Oct 23rd at Grace in
Omro. Our Winter Getaway is scheduled for
February 4th and 5th in Wisconsin Dells, and we will
have a Prayer Lunch on February 12th at Grace in
Omro.


N O V E M B E R

From The President



Members and Friends,

Thanks to everyone who gave so generously for the school sign. We exceeded our goal and should have more than enough funds for the purchase and installation and the trustees are moving forward with the project.

At the upcoming voters meeting, I will ask for voter approval that any remaining sign funds be used for future school projects such as purchase and installation of new playground equipment. Our Church continues to do well financially thanks to your continued support and increased 4k enrollment and our ongoing participation in the School Choice program.

The Board of Christian Education faces some challenges. They are currently working on accreditation renewal and, with the announcement of Curt and Julie Snow's retirement, finding a new principal, 5&6th grade teacher and 4k teacher.

I used the word new instead of replacement because there is no direct replacement for these two people who have given so much of their lives in service to the Lord and the children of St. John Lutheran School. Without their years of dedication, it is doubtful that our school would still be in operation.

Please pray for the members of the Board of Christian Education and ask for the Lord's guidance as they make their decisions.

I invite everyone to join us for our first quarter voters meeting November 7th after service. It is important that our members stay informed and make their opinions known.

Yours in Christ,
Rich



Memorials



IN MEMORY OF ALICE PARSONS

For Repair & Maintenance

From Rich & Nancy Wallner..\$100.00

For School Fund

From Alice Janes.....\$ 50.00

From Arden Patchett.....\$ 20.00

From Bob & Betty Dewhurst

.....\$ 25.00

From Russ & Robin Henriksen

.....\$ 25.00

IN MEMORY OF FRED WARNECKE

For Repair & Maintenance

From Bob & Karen Wendt.....\$ 25.00

IN MEMORY OF HANNAH WILLIAMS

For General Fund

From Kevin & Deb Koch.....\$ 25.00

IN MEMORY OF TOM McMASTERS

For Repair & Maintenance

From Bob & Karen Wendt

DONATIONS

For Communion Wine

From Delbert & Barbara Krause

.....\$143.92

For Electronic Sign

From Karen Rowen.....\$100.00

From Mike & Tina Markowski

.....\$500.00

Anonymous.....\$100.00

From Terri Van Dellen Rousch

.....\$ 20.00

From David & Deb Johanknecht

.....\$500.00

From Aimee Vergin.....\$200.00

From Linda Hertzberg.....\$100.00

From St. John



Lutheran School

Happy November to you all.

We have been blessed with a pretty mild autumn, so far. Most of the bean fields look like they are gone, and I've seen lots of corn fields getting mowed down. We haven't even had to wear jackets until recently. The maple trees around the playground went from green to crimson in the past week. God really pulled out His paint brush in the past few weeks. (I think I have mentioned that I love the fall.) This is definitely the time of year to give thanks for the bounty that the Lord so generously showers on us.

As I write this, we are studying the reformation and the work God called Martin Luther into. It is amazing to think of the timing that God put into place to accomplish His work. The printing press is invented to share writings in the people's language. The guy was smart and planning to be lawyer. A bad storm comes up, and he promises God that he would become a monk if he made it through. He beats himself up because he doesn't think there is any way he can be good enough to deserve heaven. He comes to the realization that we are justified by grace not by our works. It is all about Jesus and what He has done. He was kidnapped, hidden out, and threatened with death, but he would not take it back. He stood firm on the Word of God. And now, here we are. We have much to be truly thankful for.

We would like to thank everyone who supported our 7th and 8th graders in our recent pizza sale. They will be taking a spring trip down to the Creation Museum and the Ark Experience. That should be very educational and enjoyable.

Most our school is scheduled to attend a field trip to the Petals and Plows corn maze on the last

day of school in October. We are watching the skies to see if the rain will stay away.

The teachers will be spending an in-service day working on curriculum for our accreditation process. We can be thankful for the faithful and dedicated workers that God has given our congregation and school.

Our first quarter ends on November 5.

There will be no school on November 8 and 9, while the teachers will be attending a conference in Wisconsin Dells with all of the other Lutheran school teachers of the North and South Wisconsin Districts. This is a good opportunity to recharge and renew and come back to school with new and Up-to-date ideas.

Our volleyball season has come to a close. Now we are gearing up for the basketball season. We thank all the volunteers that make these programs possible. It is good to see the students grow in this aspect of their lives.

The 5th-8th grade students participated in a service project this past month. We traveled to Green Bay to work with a group called Feed My Starving Children. We filled food packets that will shipped around the world to children in need food for the body as well as the Gospel message.

God is good all the time. Oh, give thanks to the Lord. Have a great Thanksgiving.

I am yours in Christ's service.





Message from the Elders

Are you not coming to Church services because of Covid concerns?

If not, are you watching our service on the internet or listening to our weekly radio broadcasts?

As Elders, one of our duties is to review communion attendance records and contact members who have not communed for a long period of time to ask if all is well with them and remind them of the blessings of regularly worshipping together and receiving the Lord's Supper.

Currently there are many members who are on our watch list. We have not contacted them as we usually would because we thought that once restrictions on group gatherings were eased many would return.

Our list has not yet decreased as we hoped and currently has over 100 members on it.

We will have to begin contacting those members soon to try and get our list under control and make sure that those who need special attention get it.

If you think you are one of the folks on the list and do not feel it is necessary for an Elder to contact you, please get in touch with one of us, the church office, or the Pastor, and let us know your status.

Also, if you know someone who is not attending because of covid concerns and may not see this message please ask them to contact us.

The Elders are listed on the back of the Church newsletter.

In Christ's service,
Rich Wallner



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



Ladies Aid News

President Robin Henriksen opened the October 7 meeting with a devotion on "What a Friend We Have in Jesus". He is our faithful friend and He hears and understands. The hymn was then sung by all.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

The hostess sheet was passed around to be completed. Robin reminded all members that October is Pastor Appreciation Month. We are all very grateful for our dedicated Pastor.

Thanks to Donna Dretske and Debbie Wissell for hostessing.

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 4 at 1pm in the church lower level.



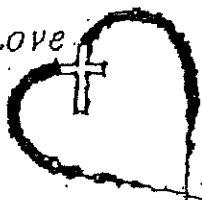
November

BIRTHDAYS

Deb Schrader	11/01	Lenora Draeger	11/18
Ralph Van Dellen	11/01	Ken Fink	11/19
Ken Keenlance	11/02	Lori Piechowski	11/19
Timothy Pett	11/02	Andrew Stertz	11/19
Nicholas Carriere	11/03	Karen Wendt	11/20
Rick Henriksen	11/04	Gladys Hall	11/22
Nova Phelps	11/04	Dawn Henriksen	11/22
Lori Ryckman	11/04	Sawyer Gilmour	11/23
Christine Carriere	11/05	Violet Kaufman	11/23
Loralei Hess	11/06	Jason Wendt	11/25
Tom Butterbrodt	11/09	Scott Oppor	11/26
Arden Patchett	11/09	Amber Dretske	11/27
Payton Phelps	11/09	Karen Schurk	11/27
Kris Hrebik	11/11	Isaac Lueck	11/29
Candy Schram	11/12	Casey Wollert Sr.	11/29
Ray Stumpner	11/12	JoAnn Fink	11/30
Kayla Gilmour	11/14	Candace Johnson	11/30
Brian Wilson	11/14	Megan Marks	11/30
Tyler Kettlewell	11/15		
Wanda Putzke	11/15		
Lisa Schuster	11/15		
Karen Strebelinski	11/15		
Kevin Vergin	11/15		
Brady Polk	11/16		
Wyatt Deibert	11/17		
Robin Henriksen	11/17		
Carlton Nehring	11/17		



Divine Love



Human Care

One night last spring, the residents of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo were frightened by noise ... big noise. They knew what it meant. Mount Nyiragongo was erupting again after being silent for 19 years. In 2002, the volcano blew up, killing 250 people and making 120,000 homeless. Now it was happening again!

A mass evacuation began, but fortunately, this time no one died during the eruption, but there was considerable damage to thousands of homes.

It is terrifying when one is forced to leave one's home. This happens in California almost every year when wildfires run rampant through the hills and countryside.

Sometimes a fire strikes a nursing home, and residents have to be evacuated quickly.

Here's a question for you: *If you had three minutes to get out of your home, whether it is a room in a care facility or a big house, what would you grab on your way out?*

Perhaps you wouldn't grab anything. Above all else, you value your *life*, so you would make certain that you got to a place of safety as quickly as possible!

But many people are tempted to take something with them. It is an understandable impulse.

Perhaps there's a cherished photo album, a box of jewelry, an original oil painting, a book of poetry or a Bible that needs to be saved. Or maybe, the first thought in an emergency evacuation is about your mobile phone, or a laptop if you have one. Perhaps there's a shoebox of love letters from years gone by that must be saved. Don't forget the wad of cash you've been saving in a mayonnaise jar!

What we take with us in such an emergency reveals something about our values.

The authorities who direct evacuations in emergencies warn us not to take anything. If there is a crisis on an airplane, for example, passengers are sternly admonished not to leave the airplane with a suitcase or bag. Leave it where it is!

This is a reminder, that someday we will leave everything behind. For what is death, but an evacuation of this mortal body, when we leave it to be with the Lord?

When it is time for this evacuation, the question is not what we will take with us, but what are we leaving behind for others? One would hope that we will leave an example, a template, a model of how to live on this earth with gentleness and grace, kindness and a forgiving spirit. For these are the things that make the life of anyone who possesses them rich indeed!

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, I pray for those who are in crisis right now around the world, for those in danger of losing everything. Bring help to them and comfort them in their time of loss. And I thank You for providing for my daily needs. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

There is a deep meaning connected with this hymn. It's the question Jesus asked Simon Peter in Gethsemane: "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour?" If an hour spent with the Lord is so sweet, why do we race through our day prayerless, then squeeze all our requests into a two-minute segment at bedtime? If prayer is so powerful, why do we neglect it so consistently?

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known.
In seasons of distress and grief
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By Thy return, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless;
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His word, and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care,
And wait for Thee, sweet hour of prayer.

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer,
May I Thy consolation share,
"Til from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight.
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise
To seize the everlasting prize,
And shout while passing through the air,
Fairwell, fairwell, sweet hour of prayer.

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.

Eating in Self Defense

This grasshopper cannot fly, and it can barely jump. The western horse lubber grasshopper (*Taeniopoda eques*) protects itself by eating.



Western horse lubber grasshoppers live in the arid Sonoran area of the southwestern United States and Mexico. They are larger

than the average grasshopper at 2.75 inches (7 cm) long. Despite being a large morsel, they can sit on a bush in the desert and relax, knowing that predators will leave them alone. Their defense is that they eat toxic plants, which give them a nasty taste for any animal foolish enough to eat them.

To warn a potential predator that it does not taste good, horse lubber grasshoppers have distinctive colors with a shiny black body and yellow trim. Besides being a warning to predators, the black body also provides thermoregulation. On cold days, the black color absorbs heat, which speeds the metabolism of the insect. Without this thermoregulation, the horse lubber grasshopper would not survive in the northern portion of its range. It orients and positions its body to maximize sun exposure in the cool part of the day and then finds shade during the day's heat.

Horse lubber grasshoppers also produce a warning odor made from chemicals derived from the plants they eat. If a mouse threatens the grasshopper, it sprays the foul-smelling chemical and makes a hissing sound. It may also expose its bright red hind wings and wave its legs and antennae. A predator who is not smart enough to back off but eats the grasshopper instead will become sick or possibly die.

There is a fantastic variety of defense mechanisms used by the millions of creatures God has designed.

Thanks from the Seminary!

I thank you! You are making my prayer joy! (Philippians 1).

We survived the discouragement of summer Greek in brotherly love and now built up in fellowship. We are now learning the basics of faith and practice and lo, the root of this great service is love that you have shown me!

Thank you,

Matt Wilson, 1st year seminarian. St. Louis, MO

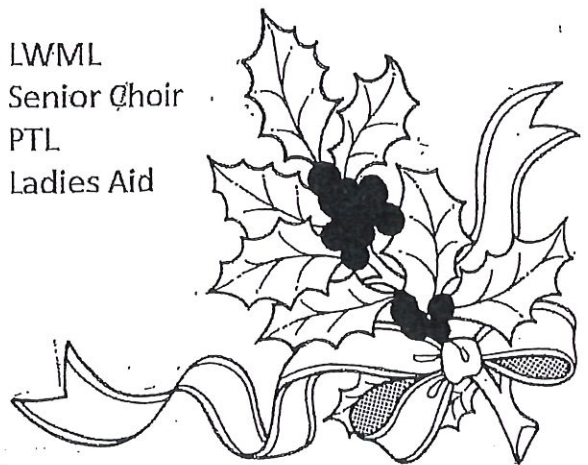
CHRISTMAS DECORATING SCHEDULE FOR CHURCH

2021 - LWML

2022 - Senior Choir

2023 - PTL

2024 - Ladies Aid



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.



St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: October 19, 2021

The October meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Adam Ewald. Adam opened with prayer.

Present: Keith Krause, Adam Ewald, Debbie Thiel, Amy Brooks, Curt Snow, Rich Wallner, Bob Radliff and Amy Radliff

Absent: Pastor Munding (pastor's conference)

Secretary's Report by Amy Radliff

Motion by Wallner/Thiel to accept September minutes with amendment to Board of Education report, (Covid update) St John School will "consider" GL Co Health Department regarding masking. Replacing, "follow recommendation". Motion approved.

Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	<u>September 2021</u>	<u>September 2020</u>
General Fund	\$49,339.53	\$43,75.46
Children's Fund	\$ 2,416.72	\$ 177.70
Elderly Fund	\$.00	\$.00
Memorials	\$14,827.22	\$ 170.73
Attendance	171 per week	136 per week

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

Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

Square Account September 2021:

Beginning Balance:	\$ 1,432.80	Income:	\$.00
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$ 1,432.80

Hot Lunch Account September 2021:

Beginning Balance:	\$ 3,636.80	Income:	\$51,253.82
Expenses:	\$51,173.23	Ending Balance:	\$ 3,717.39

Elderly Fund September 2021:

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

Children's Fund September 2021:

Beginning Balance:	\$84,030.44	Income:	\$ 2,416.72
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$86,447.16

Motion by Wallner/Krause to accept Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

Board of Trustees Report by Keith Krause

- Electronic sign for School/Church has been ordered and site prepped.
- Eve troughs on southeast side of Church will be replaced by Pinnow.
- North sidewalk light has been installed on the church's peak.
- Repairs will be scheduled for the bathroom floor and fixtures of the teacherage.
- Josie Hartzke and Keith Krause have agreed to continue another term on the board beginning in 2022.

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

Board of Elders Report & Pastor's Report

Official Acts:

Transfer In – Ronald Beardsley, from Immanuel, Auroraville, WI. Robert and Jayne Kersten, from St. Paul, Aurora, IL

Communicant Members 486

Baptized Members 572

Church Families 298

Board of Education Report by Amy Brooks

- Special Meeting was held September 30th to update policies with regard to Covid-19 protocol. Prevention, quarantine and positive case practices were defined. Parents were notified of the policy updates.
- An air purifier will be placed in the school to be used in classrooms as needed.
- Accreditation process: currently working on personnel handbooks.
- Member-based tuition, families not attending in person worship with communion less than once per month during the school year will be encouraged to attend services.
- St. John School will have a float in the Christmas parade scheduled for November 18th.
- Live Nativity is planned for this year, date and time has not yet been determined.
- School Christmas program is dependent on Berlin High School protocol. No decisions have been made at this time.
- Board will be prepared to make a recommendation to the voters regarding a replacement position of principal and 5th/6th grade teacher following the retirement of Mr. Snow at the end of the school year.

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

Old Business:

- Teacher/Principal position, looking at change of hours for principal duties.

New Business:

- Financial Controls Audit is scheduled for November 10th and 11th. This audit covers processes, classifications and attendance pertaining to School Choice program.

Meetings next month: Trustees – Monday November 1st -6:30pm. Board of Education – Tuesday November 9th - 6pm. Elders – Wednesday, November 10th - 6pm. **Council – Monday, November 15th - 6 pm.**

Motion by Snow/Brooks to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:12 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.*

Honoring our veterans



her sympathy with peace and justice." In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the "opportunity it has given America to show



Happy
Thanksgiving



November 2021

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

