

# THE ADVENTURE DECEMBER, 2017

## ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

### OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To *gather* as God's people and nurture one another
- + To *know* the Word of God
- + To *grow* in faith, love, and service
- + To *go* into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



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### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Dec. 3

- 8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 9:00 am Adult Bible Class
- 9:30 am Traditional Holy Communion  
Sunday School ages 4 - gr. 8
- 10:30 am Advent Brunch  
Dress Rehearsal for Christmas  
Pageant

### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Dec. 10

- 8:00 am Traditional Worship
- 9:00 am Adult Bible Class
- 9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion  
Sunday School Pageant
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time - Open
- 10:45 am Church Council  
Adult Bible Class
- 6:00 pm Youth Group

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Dec. 17

#### DEDICATION OF FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

- 8:00 am Traditional Worship
- 9:00 am Adult Bible Class
- 9:30 am Traditional Holy Communion  
Sunday School ages 4 - grade 8
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time - Open
- 10:45 am Adult Bible Class



### CHRISTMAS EVE - Dec. 24

#### No Early Service or Sunday School

- 9:30 am Manger Service - Puppets & characters present the Nativity to children & families.
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time -  
Congregational Life Comm.
- 7:00 pm Family Candlelight Service -  
Lessons & Carols with Holy  
Communion
- 9:00 pm Candlelight Service of Holy  
Communion



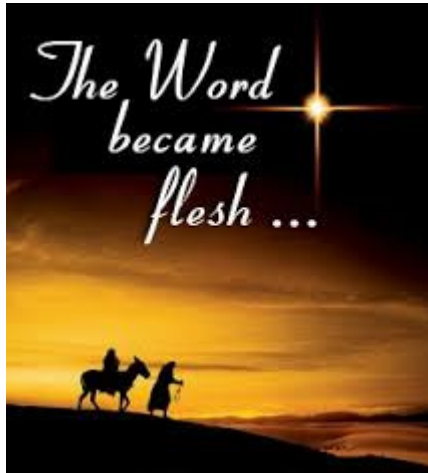
### CHRISTMAS DAY - Dec. 25 NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

### FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS - Dec. 31

#### NEW YEAR'S EVE

#### No Early Service or Sunday School

- 9:00 am Adult Bible Class
- 9:30 am Traditional Holy Communion
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time - Open
- 10:45 am Adult Bible Class



## Pastor's Message for the Month . . .

“The Word became a human being and...lived among us”. John 1:14

One Christmas day during World War II, a young family was outside making a snowman. Suddenly a plane flew by overhead. After it had passed, the tiniest child turned to her father and said, “Daddy, how do people climb up to the sky to get into planes?” Her father explained that passengers didn't have to climb up to the sky to get into the planes. The planes came down from the sky to get the passengers.

The child's question helps to illustrate the mystery of Christmas. It celebrates the fact that I don't have to climb to the sky to get to God.

God has come down to earth to me.  
Where do I meet God easiest on earth? (*Mark Link, S.J.*)

Christmas is the celebration of God coming down to earth in the form of a small child. It is in Jesus born for us that we meet God and experience His love. Plan on celebrating “The Word Becoming Flesh” in our Advent and Christmas services.

On Sunday, December 3, we will celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. Plan on staying following late service for the Advent Brunch, a great fellowship opportunity. On December 10 during the late service the Sunday School children will present their annual Christmas Pageant. We will continue our Advent celebration the following Sunday, December 17.

On Sunday, December 24, we will observe the Nativity of our Lord, Christmas Eve. There will be no early service or Sunday School that day. At 9:30 a.m. we will have the Manger Service (which was normally at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve). This is a service that uses puppets and characters to present the Christmas Story to children and their families. At 7 p.m. we will have a Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion. At 9 p.m. we will have a traditional candlelight service with Holy Communion. We invite you to come and worship with us.

Our celebration of Christmas will continue on December 31, New Year's Eve. We will have a single service that morning at 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated and additional Christmas Carols will be sung.

We give thanks that God has chosen to meet us in the child Jesus. We look forward to seeing you this month as we gather to celebrate His birth.

Yours in the Name of the Child of Bethlehem,

Pastor Sorcek

† † † † † † † † † † † † †

Pastor and Ruby extend our best wishes to each and every member and friend of the congregation in this Christmas Season. May God bless you richly with the love of the Christ Child and in every way.



## SPECIAL OFFERING

You recently received a letter from Tony Gryszka from our Finance Committee regarding the current deficit we thank all who have responded generously with special gifts. It is not too late to respond. We are hopeful that with special offerings and strong Christmas offerings that we can make up much of the deficit. Thank you.



## STEWARDSHIP

You should have recently received your annual Stewardship Packet which includes a financial commitment card for 2018. We invite you to prayerfully consider your response and return your card in the enclosed envelope by placing it in the offering plate or by mailing it to the church's office. Thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry and mission together.

## POINSETTIA LIST

A sign-up sheet for dedicating poinsettias for Christmas Eve is on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$10 per plant. Please sign up by December 17. You can also call the office to leave your dedication. Poinsettias may be picked up following the 9 pm service on Christmas Eve or following the 9:30 am service on Christmas Day.

## ANGEL TREE PROJECT

This year our Angel Tree Project will benefit the Salvation Army in Levittown. Gifts are due back on **December 10** in order to give the organization plenty of time to service 1800 children!!! Thank-you for your faithfulness in donating to this yearly holiday outreach. Social Ministry.



## ADVENT CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

The annual Advent Christmas Brunch will be held this year on **Sunday, December 3**, in the

fellowship hall immediately following the **9:30 a.m.** service.

This is one of our most popular family events. Please join us in sharing Christmas fun and fellowship including delicious food, music and fun decorating the church for Christmas.

Please bring a breakfast or brunch item to share and indicate on the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend so we know how many to set up for.

Hot and cold beverages will be provided.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT - DECEMBER 10

Christmas Pageant preparations have begun at Sunday School! The pageant will be held on **Sunday, December 10 at 9:30 a.m.**, as a feature of the worship service.

All Sunday school students through grade 8 are invited to take part.

An important date to remember is the dress rehearsal on **Sunday, December 3 from 11:30 am-12:30 pm**. (Students who attend our Christmas Brunch may go directly to the rehearsal.)

Please sign a permission slip (in narthex) for children who plan to participate in the pageant.



## CHRISTMAS MANGER SERVICE

This year Christmas Eve will fall on a Sunday. Instead of having two morning services and 3 evening services we are planning on having a single morning service at 9:30 am and 2 communion services at 7 and 9. The 9:30 service will be the Manger Service (usually held at 4 p.m.) geared toward children and families.

## SUMMARY OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The congregation approved on November 26 the 2018 Budget. \$187,574 was budgeted for General expenses and \$64,128 for Mortgage Fund. Total budget is \$251,702 for a \$1,600 increase from the previous year. The congregation also approved a Mortgage Modification Proposal that will allow us to reduce our monthly payments even at the same time as we borrow for infrastructure needs. For a detailed copy of the Budget, or Mortgage Proposal please contact the Church Office.

## **ANNUAL FALL FOOD DRIVE**



Many thanks to the congregation for their generous contributions to our recent holiday food drive in support of the Warminster Food Cupboard. We contributed approximately 400 lbs. of food for Thanksgiving!! Thanks for Giving!!



## **WOMEN'S BRUNCH**

Our thanks to Kelly Sitler Brum for presenting at the Women's Brunch. It was a very informative and

enjoyable gathering.

## **THANKS FOR WINE & CHEESE GATHERING**

We thank Lynn and Julie Roccograndi for hosting the annual wine tasting on November 11. A great time was had by all!

## **STITCH CLUB CRAFT SALE**

The stitch club thanks everyone for their generosity with its Christmas sales. Proceeds of \$800.00 will support the ministry of Aid for Friends.

## **MEN'S GROUP**

Advent's men's group will hold its monthly breakfast and fellowship on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 am. All men of the congregation are invited to attend. For more information please speak with Men's Group Coordinator, Dave Shearer.

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Advent's Youth Group for grades 5 and above will meet on Sunday, December 10 from 6 to 7 p.m. We certainly hope you can attend.

## **ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

We remind you that every Sunday our Christian Education Chairman George Henry offers Adult Bible Study at 9 and 10:45 am. You are invited to come and share in a half hour adult learning experience. No background in Bible is necessary.



## **CONGRATULATIONS ON BAPTISM**

We welcomed into God's Church on Sunday, November 12 through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism Angela Janet Casale, daughter of Aimee (Manco) and Jason Casale. Angela was born on July 11, 2017 at St. Peter's University Hospital, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Sponsors are Ralph and Tara Manco. May God's blessings be with the Manco and Casale Families on this joyous occasion.

## **CONGRATULATIONS ON WEDDING**

Advent expresses its congratulations to Kali Marie Frey of our Congregation and Jeffrey Michael Marino who were married here at Advent on Friday, November 17. We pray God's blessings on them and on the Frey and Marino families.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**



Please remember in your prayers the following Advent member and friends who are ill, hurting or homebound.

Vickie Flint recovering after hospitalization

M. A. Jafar recovering at home.

Sue Jafar recovering after eye surgery.

Jen McQuiggan recovering after ankle surgery.

Louise Rictchie at home

Norm Smith at home.



## **SIGN-UP SHEETS**

Please sign up in the narthex for Mission Support & Altar Flowers.

## **FELLOWSHIP**

We need committees or individuals to sign up for Fellowship to provide refreshments after worship. The sign-up sheet for October is on the fellowship table. Advent supplies hot beverages (e.g. coffee & tea) and all paper products.

## **EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!**

Advent Lutheran Church (EIN: 23-2081861) has been issued a \$15.12 donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of AmazonSmile program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2017, and \$67.43 since the program was started just over a year ago.

Shop for everyone on your gift list this Christmas at [smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2081861](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2081861) and help us

to raise even more donation money. Shop for your own holiday and household items, also. It is a great and painless way to give. The prices are great (usually better than retail), and the variety of things that can be found is endless. The convenience can't be beat as the items arrive 1-3 days later right to your door! If you are tired of retail "sale" prices or lugging heavy bags, give AmazonSmile a try.

If you need help setting up your shopping experience through AmazonSmile, just give Gail Oines a call (215-534-8218) or an e-mail ([alcdeacon@yahoo.com](mailto:alcdeacon@yahoo.com)). I'll be happy to assist you. Remember, every little bit helps!

**MANY THANKS**

To my dear friends at Advent, Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers and support during this difficult year. Your messages and cards and words of encouragement lifted my spirits and reminded me that I am not alone.

God doesn't promise us an easy life - but He promises us that He will always walk beside us when the hills get steep, and carry us when the journey seems too difficult. I'm happy to report that He never let me down and that I 'm grateful that He gave me such wonderful lifelong teachers and friends at Advent.

Thank you all-with love,  
Meg (Henke) Ballman

**CHRISTIAN CONCERTS**

Gail Oines has been kind enough to supply us with a list of upcoming Christian Concerts. The list can be found on the table in the narthex.

**INCOME FOR OCTOBER 2017**

Benevolence (LWR, Mission Support, etc)	\$ 1,434*
General Fund	\$16,074
Mortgage Fund	\$ 4,125

**2017 BUDGET**

Budgeted to date for General Fund	\$153,725.00
Received to date for General Fund	138,589.00
	<b>-\$15,136.00</b>
Budgeted to date for Mortgage Fund	<b>\$53,062.00</b>
Received to date for Mortgage Fund	<b>\$38,921.00</b>
	<b>-\$14,141.00</b>

\* includes \$755 for disaster relief

**A Note from the Financial Secretary:**

As you can see from my report above, we have fallen behind in the amount of money needed to meet budget.

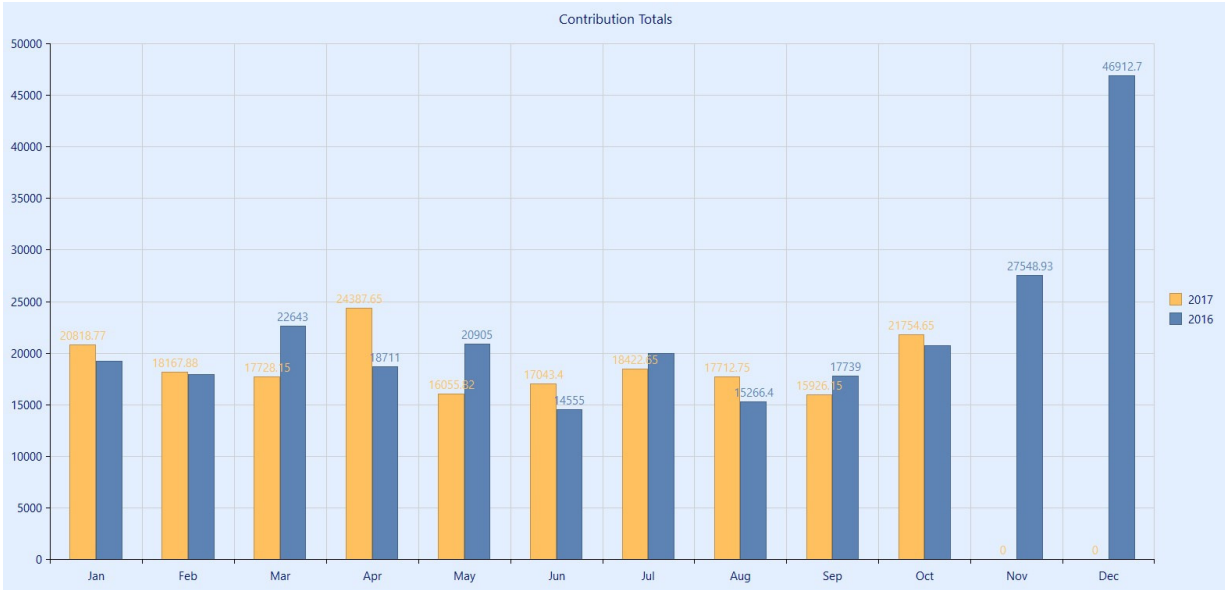
For general fund we are behind \$15,136.

The mortgage fund is behind \$14,141.

That is a total of \$29,277 needed to meet budget for 2017.

Many thanks to all of you who give faithfully!  
Please keep our/your family here at Advent in your prayers.

Respectfully,  
Kathryn Urbaniak



2016		2017	
January	\$19,225.50	January	\$20,818.77
February	\$17,964.00	February	\$18,167.88
March	\$22,643.00	March	\$17,728.15
April	\$18,711.00	April	\$24,387.65
May	\$20,905.00	May	\$16,055.82
June	\$14,555.00	June	\$17,043.40
July	\$19,951.00	July	\$18,422.65
August	\$15,266.40	August	\$17,712.75
September	\$17,739.00	September	\$15,926.15
October	\$20,740.05	October	\$21,754.65
November	\$27,548.93	November	\$
December	\$46,912.70	December	\$



## ADVENT'S BIRTHDAY CORNER DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- |                      |                  |                   |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 George Morris III  | 19 Greg Heiss    | 26 Judy Buttil    |
| Victoria Vassello    | Kayla McGee      | 29 Brian Kropp    |
| 6 Tom McQuiggan      | Zachary Meyers   | 30 Shirley Morris |
| 10 David Shearer     | 21 Ken Earle     |                   |
| 12 Logan Frey        | 22 Drew Frey     |                   |
| 14 Robert Matlack    | 23 Karen Matlack |                   |
| 15 Landon Ryan Baker |                  |                   |

Please contact the church office if you or someone you know has been omitted from the list. Thank you.



### THE ARMED FORCES

Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women and especially those related to our congregation:

US Air Force Lt. Col. Andrew Frey is Commander of the Third Weather Squadron at Fort Hood Texas, which is the largest weather Squadron in the Air Force and supports the Army's First Cavalry's Division.

US Air Force Major Fred Gouse is a pilot and instructor stationed at Holloman AFB, New Mexico. Newly commissioned Air Force Captain Dana Roccograndi who serves as Pharmacist at Eglin AFB in Valparaiso, Florida

US Army Colonel (Ret.) Jeff Williams is serving in Dubai, UAE as a military advisor.

Please see our Armed Forces Display in the corridor leading to the ramp down to the fellowship hall.

If there are any errors or omissions, please notify the church office.

Thank you.



### NUEVA CREACION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Please keep Pastor Lyzette Rios Sanchez and our mission congregation Nueva Creación Lutheran Church in your prayers. Your mission support gifts help them to minister in a very impoverished area of Philadelphia.



**SERVING THE LORD AT ADVENT**  
**DECEMBER SCHEDULES**

**ACOLYTES**

12/03	9:30 am	Courtney Korn
12/10	9:30 am	Andrew Slawter, Jr.
12/17	9:30 am	Erik Urbaniak
12/24	7:00 pm	Erik Urbaniak
	9:00 pm	Open
12/31	9:30 am	Courtney Korn

**LAY READERS**

12/03	8:00 am	Open
	9:30 am	Benicia Meyers
12/10	8:00 am	Open
12/17	8:00 am	Dave Shearer
	9:30 am	Kathy Sitler
12/24	8:00 am	Open
12/31	9:30 am	Ken Meyers

**ALTAR FLOWER DISTRIBUTION**

12/03	Audrey Savchuck
12/10	Kathryn Urbaniak
12/17	Donna Duffy
12/24	Melissa Pasch
12/31	Victoria Vassello

**ALTAR GUILD**

8:00 am	Liz Gracey, Hanna McCollum
9:30 am	Donna Duffy, Lisa Frey, Pam Maurer, Kathy Sitler

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

12/03	8:00 am	Janice Hoffmann
	9:30 am	Jennifer McQuiggan
12/10	9:30 am	Gail Oines
12/17	9:30 am	Tony Gryszka
12/24	7:00 pm	Dave Shearer
	9:00 pm	Janice Hoffmann
12/31	9:30 am	Jennifer McQuiggan

**MONEY COUNTERS**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Janice Hoffmann, Dianna Strauss
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Cindy Frey, Bob Holford
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ray & Joyce Heiss
4 <sup>th</sup>	Tony Gryszka, Tom Herbert
5 <sup>th</sup>	Gail Oines

**USHERS**

1 <sup>st</sup>	8:00 am	Ron Brown, Dave Shearer
	9:30 am	Ray Heiss, Bob Matlack
2 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00 am	Ron Brown, Dave Shearer
	9:30 am	Tom Herbert, Bob Holford
3 <sup>rd</sup>	8:00 am	Ron Brown, Dave Shearer
	9:30 am	George Henry, Mike Sitler
4 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 am	Ron Brown, Dave Shearer
	9:30 am	Tony Gryszka, Bob Pancoast

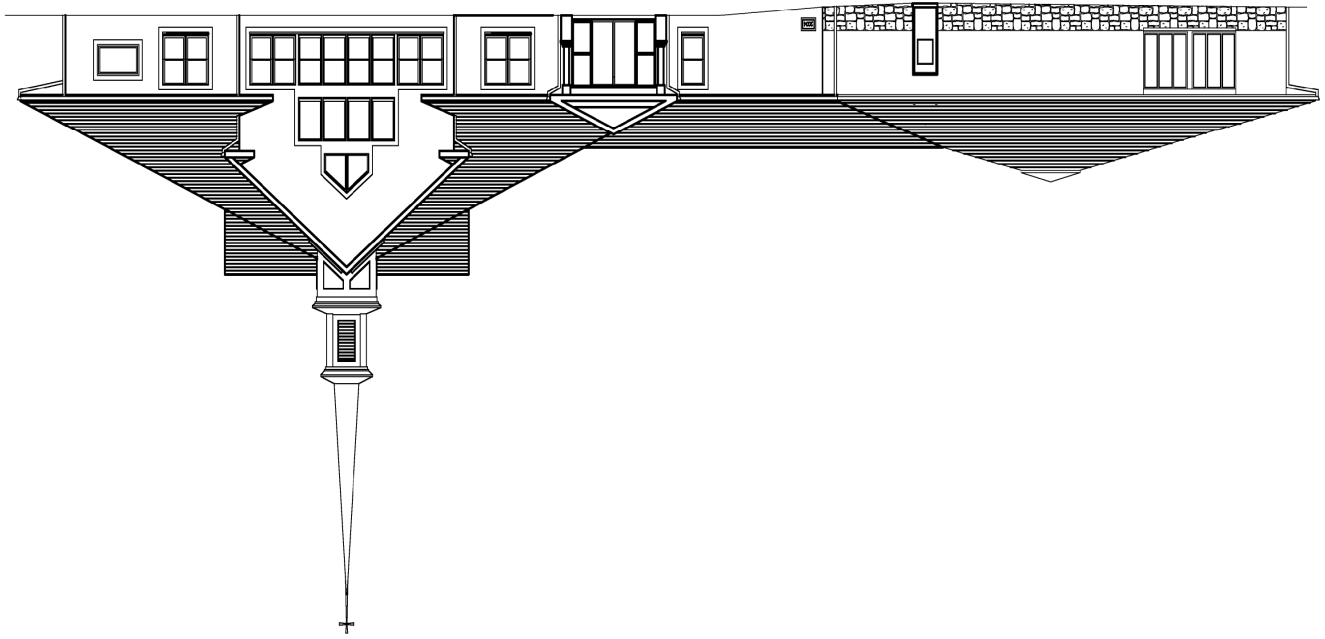
**FELLOWSHIP TIME**

12/03	Advent Brunch
12/10	Open
12/17	Open
12/24	Open
12/31	Open



## DECEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	2 10:00 AM Stitch Club
<b>3</b> <b>1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Trad. Holy Com <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult Bible Study <b>9:30 AM</b> Traditional Holy Comm Sunday School ages 4 - gr. 8 <b>10:30 AM</b> Advent Brunch <b>10:45 AM</b> Adult Bible Study <b>11:30 AM</b> Dress Rehearsal for Pageant	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM Confirmation <b>7:30 PM</b> A.A. Open Meeting	<b>5</b> <b>7:00 PM Finance</b>	<b>6</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study	<b>7</b> <b>9:30 AM Lower Bucks Pastors at Immanuel Somerton</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Planning Committee <b>7:30 PM</b> A.A. Topic Group	<b>8</b> 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	<b>9</b> <b>8:30 AM</b> Men's Breakfast <b>10:00 AM</b> Stitch Club
<b>10 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Trad. Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult Bible Study <b>9:30 AM</b> Cont. Holy Comm. Sunday School Christmas Pageant <b>10:30 AM</b> Fellowship Time-Open <b>10:45 AM</b> Adult Bible Study Church Council <b>6:00 PM</b> Youth Group	<b>11</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> A.A. Open Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study  <b>6:30 PM</b> Praise Team Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Vocal Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Bell Choir Practice	<b>14</b> <b>9:30 Deans Meting at ULS</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> A.A. Topic Group	<b>15</b> 7:30 PM A.A. Step Mtg.	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Stitch Club
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Trad. Worship <b>9:00 AM</b> Adult Bible Study <b>9:30 AM</b> Trad. Holy Com Sunday School ages 4 - gr. 8 <b>10:30 AM</b> Fellowship Time - Open <b>10:45 AM</b> Adult Bible Study	<b>18</b> 6:00 PM Confirmation <b>7:30 PM</b> A.A. Open Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Bible Study  <b>6:30 PM</b> Praise Team Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Vocal Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Bell Choir Practice	<b>21</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> A.A. Topic Group	<b>22</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> A.A. Step Mtg.	<b>23</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Stitch Club
<b>24</b>  <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>No Early Service or Sunday School</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Manger Service - puppets & characters present the Nativity to children & families <b>10:0 AM</b> Fellowship - Congregational Life <b>7:00 PM</b> Family Candlelight service of Lesson s Carols with Holy Communion <b>9:00 PM</b> Candlelight Service of Holy Communion.	<b>25</b> <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 	<b>26</b>	<b>No Bible Study</b> <b>No Choir Practice</b>	<b>28</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> A.A. Topic Group	<b>29</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> A.A. Step Mtg.	<b>30</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Stitch Club
<b>31 FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</b> <b>No early service or Sunday School</b> <b>9:30 AM</b> Traditional Holy Communion						



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Address Service Requested