



*The Evangelical Lutheran Church
Of the Good Shepherd
501 Fairfield Drive
Greensburg, PA 15601*

December 7, 2014

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
**A congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

"We are a caring family of God nourished by the Word, guided by the Holy Spirit to share the love of Jesus Christ."

The Rev. Frank S. Podolinski, Jr., Pastor
Pastor's Cell Phone -- 724-858-7816

Pastor's e-mail -- preacherpod@comcast.net

Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday: 9:30 am. – 1:30 pm.

Church Phone -- 724-834-1940

Church's e-mail -- Shepherd501@yahoo.com

Church website – www.goodshepherdgbg.org

Rocking Horse Preschool – www.rockinghorsepreschool.com

Parish Secretary -- Jenny Luffy

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm.

Music Director

Nancy Flinner

Organist

Jean Brunot

We welcome all visitors with us and ask that you sign our guest register. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to consider the Good Shepherd family.

ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS are welcome to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Children may come forward for a blessing. During communion, we offer wine and grape juice, if you would like to receive grape juice do not bring a cup, it will be provided by the Worship Assistant.

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips gifted lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian Care to individuals in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties in their lives and extends the care that Pastor Frank continues to provide.

If you could benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister, please speak to Pastor Frank. Or you may refer to the Stephen Ministry flyers and cards available in the pew racks.

Please take a moment to fill out a yellow RCR card located in the pews. Please place completed cards in the offering plate.

When you see the following symbol "+", please stand.

Service of the Word and Sacrament
December 7, 2014
Second Sunday of Advent
8:30 & 10:30 am.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (Silent Meditation Time)

“THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME” ARR. H. HOPSON

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Who shapes the whole creation, who comes with might and mercy, who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

Faithful God,

We confess that we have been unfaithful to you. Like dry leaves and withered grass, our lives are blown about by our sins and the powers of evil around us. Restore us, O God; let the light of your face shine on us, and we shall be saved.

Amen

God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of + Jesus Christ, I bring you this good news: You are free from all that imprisons you; your sins are forgiven; God heals your broken heart. Live in peace and harmony as you wait for the day of God.

Amen.

+ GATHERING HYMN

“PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY” ELW 264

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

+ LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

(THE VERSE WILL BE SUNG BEFORE THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE AND THEN AGAIN AFTER THE ADVENT PRAYER)

“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”

ELW 257 VERSE 2

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

+ KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1–11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.\

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:1–2, 8-13

¹You have been gracious to your ¹land, O LORD;
you have restored the good for- ¹tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity ¹of your people
and blotted out ¹all their sins.**

⁸I will listen to what the LORD ¹God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people
and to those who turn their ¹hearts to you.

⁹**Truly, your salvation is very near to ¹those who fear you,
that your glory may dwell ¹in our land. R**

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have ¹met together;
righteousness and peace have ¹kissed each other.

¹¹**Faithfulness shall spring up ¹from the earth,
and righteousness shall look ¹down from heaven.**

¹²The LORD will indeed ¹grant prosperity,
and our land will ¹yield its increase.

¹³**Righteousness shall go be- ¹fore the LORD
and shall prepare for ¹God a pathway. R**

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

The holy gospel according to St. _____, the _____ chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

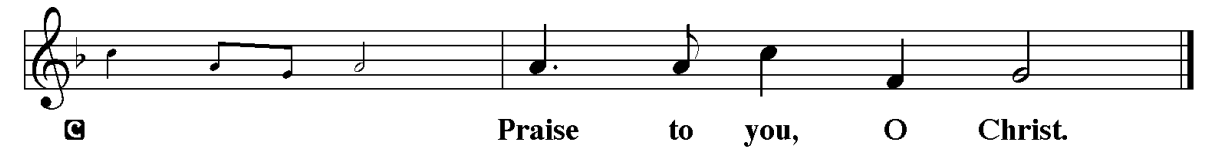
²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"COMFORT, COMFORT NOW MY PEOPLE"

ELW 256

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With longing and hopeful expectation, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

For the church, that it be a herald of glad tidings, announcing the good news that you are drawing near. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who strive for peace and an end to conflict and warfare, that righteousness find a home in their midst. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For wilderness and desert terrains, for mountains and plains, for fields fallow in winter, and for fruitful vegetation during these summer days in the Southern Hemisphere. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For all who are weighed down with economic instability, sorrow, anxiety, or sickness (*especially*), that you speak tenderly to them and comfort them in your compassionate embrace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For this community of faith, that in our busy and fast-paced lives you will grant us the gift of patience and trust in your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for (*Ambrose and*) all your holy ones who faithfully prepared the way of the Lord. Open our eyes to the new heavens and new earth made known in your advent among us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers, faithful God, as we watch and wait for your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY (8:30)

“DIMANCHE DE L’AVENT”

ARR. W. LEUPOLD

ANTHEM

“COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS”

SENIOR CHOIR



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our



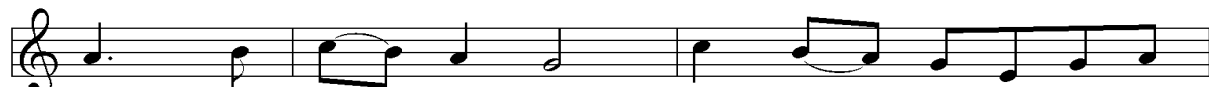
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the



prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

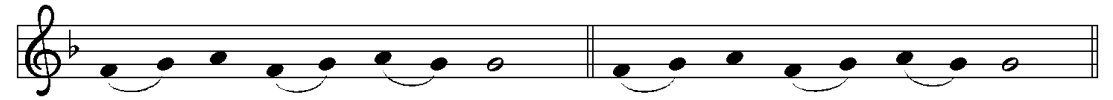


pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of abundance,
C we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

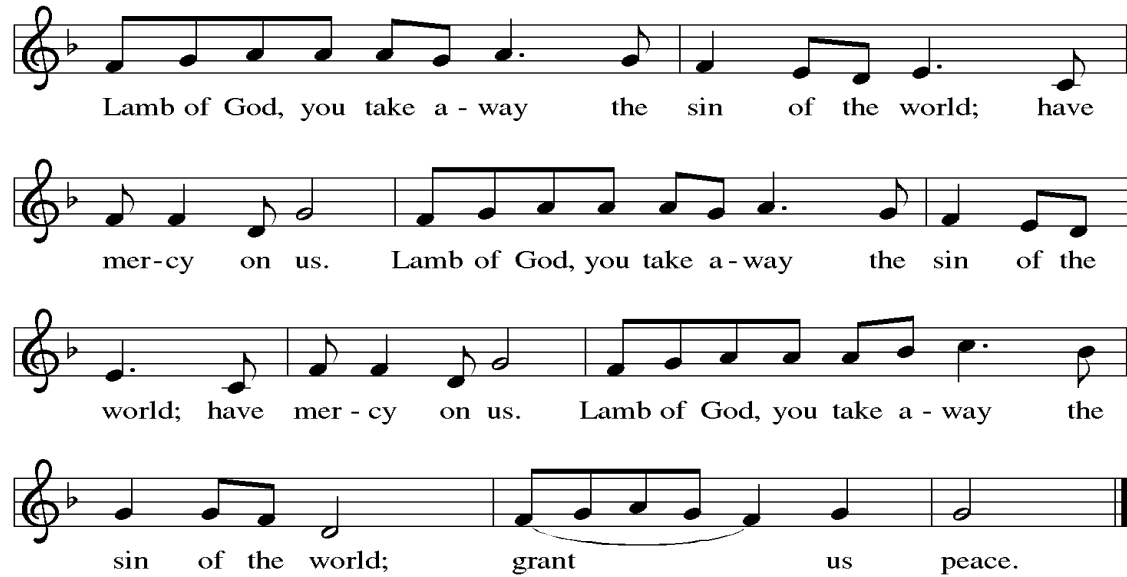
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ, who comes to us in this holy supper.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

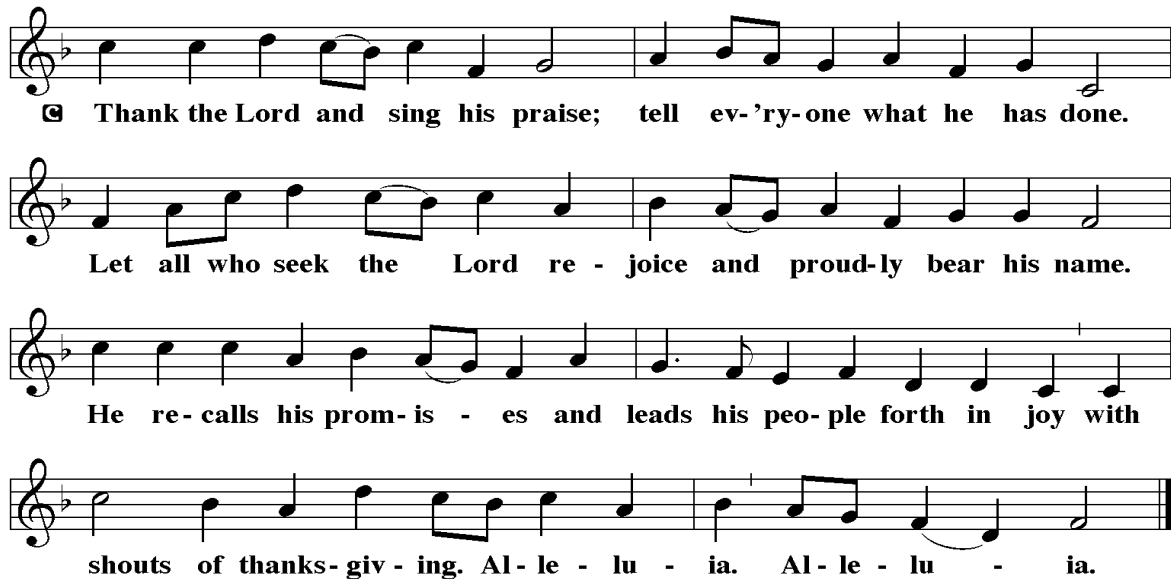
During the distribution the congregation and choir shall join in singing *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please continue singing during distribution of communion the following hymns: ELW 253, 487, 793.

+ POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Lord God, we give you thanks that you have fed us even now with the banquet that is yet to come. Keep us alert for signs of your presence in the world around us. Send us as healing oil and sheltering comfort to those in need, and make us bold in testifying to the light of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

+ BENEDICTION

God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"HARK, THE GLAD SOUND"

ELW 239

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"HARK, THE GLAD SOUND"

P. MANZ

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ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the honor and glory of God by Chuck, Jenny, Brady & Jamie Luffy in honor of Janet Ambrose's birthday.

LIVING GIFTS have been designated:

By Barbara Henderson, daughter Jodi, her husband Tom and granddaughter, Aidan in loving memory of Ralph Henderson's birthday on December 7th.

By John & Betty Crock to Cancer Research in memory of Barry Crock.

By Jane Croushore to the Air Conditioning Fund in memory of Eugene "Skip" Crosby.

To the Air Conditioning Fund in honor of John & Sue's 45th Wedding Anniversary.


SERVING TODAY:	8:30	10:30
Worship Assistant	Open	Jim Stewart
Lector	Jennifer Connor	Danielle Smith
Acolyte	Maggie Isler	Michael Hook
Crucifer	XXX	XXX
Torchbearers	XXX	XXX
Greeters	Open	Bill & Janet Ambrose
Ushers	Open	Rachel & Andrew King
Altar Guild	Open	Altar Guild
Counters		Janet Ambrose & Shelley Cottrill

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN


As of November 30th, we have received 71 Estimate of Giving cards and a total commitment of \$107,330.00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please be considerate to those around you and observe silence during the prelude and service. This time is designed for personal meditation.



Don't forget to come out to the
ANNUAL CRAFT BAZAAR on Saturday, December 13th from 10:00 am. – 3:00 pm.



The **ADVENT DINNER** is tonight. It's not too late to sign up.

ALTAR FLOWERS/LIVING GIFTS - A new sign-up sheet has been posted in the hall. Please sign up for those dates that may have special meaning to you.

The sign up sheet to purchase a poinsettia is posted in the commons area. The cost is \$5.00.

The Youth still have coupons books available to purchase. The books are good until March 31, 2015 and are being sold at the discounted price of \$5.00. (Coupons for Subway, Dick's, Rizzo's, The Boulevard, Ground Round, Meadows just to name a few). Books available in the office.

Our annual mitten tree is up. We are collecting mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and even socks for all ages. Our collection will run until December 15th. All items will then be taken to the Salvation Army.



CHRISTMAS WISH LISTS

We still have names for the Christmas Wish List programs. We are participating in the Trinity, North Side and Glade Run programs again this year. The information is available in the office. Please make sure that you sign your name and note the deadline is tonight, December 7th to have the gifts back in the office.

Help is needed at all services during the holiday season. If you know you are attending a service, please consider serving in some way.

The Advent and Christmas seasons are very busy times for Altar Guild and extra help is needed. If you are able to help, contact Mina Rutter (724)832-1285. If you are attending a service and it looks like someone could use a helping hand, that helping hand would be much appreciated.

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF December 7 - 14, 2014

Today is "Food Pantry" Sunday

Sunday	8:30 am.	Holy Communion
	9:30 am.	Sunday School
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	10:30 am.	Holy Communion
	5:00 pm.	Advent Dinner
	5:00 pm.	Troop 416 Patrol Mtg.
	6:00 pm.	Pack 416 Committee Mtg.
	7:00 pm.	Troop 416 Committee Mtg.
	7:00 pm.	Bell Practice
Monday	6:30 pm.	Webelos I
Tuesday	9:00 am. – 12:00 pm.	Brunot in Sanctuary
	10:00 am. – 1:30 pm.	Chat-n-Sew
	3:00 pm.	Kindermusik
	7:00 pm.	Caregiver Support Group
Wednesday	9:30 am.	Kindermusik
	6:30 pm.	Brownies
	6:45 pm.	Troop 416
	7:00 pm.	Bible Study
Thursday	7:00 pm.	Christmas Choir
	7:45 pm.	Senior Choir
Friday	10:00 pm. – 3:00 pm.	Bridge Club
	6:00 pm.	Brownies
Saturday	5:30 pm.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:30 am.	Sunday School
	9:30 am.	Fellowship Coffee
	10:30 am.	Christmas Concert
	6:30 pm.	6 – 12 Youth Christmas Party
	7:00 pm.	Bell Practice

Important Dates

December 13
 December 14
 December 24
 December 28

Craft Bazaar
 Christmas Concert - 10:30 service
 Services at 4:00, 7:30 & 10:00 pm
 Lessons & Carols – 10:30 service

Giving Report as of Nov. 30th:

Budget \$195,408.00
 Giving \$167,202.75
 Behind \$28,205.25