



The CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Jen...

Bishop Election Process and Timeline South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Greetings to you all, in the name of Christ, who is our hope. This month I am sharing with you the process, timeline, and rationale the Synod is using to select our next Bishop. The following process and timeline have been drafted by Interim Bishop Peter Rogness. It arose from consideration by the Synod Bishop Election Task Force, Synod Council and Synod Executive Committee, and affirmed by the staff at the Office of the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA. They were then verbally presented at the Bishop's Convocation in October and affirmed at the special Synod Assembly held on November 2nd.

There are **three focal elements** of the process and they are:

- Lay a foundation based upon careful and broad input from around the synod, a foundation that describes the synod and develops a profile for the bishop being sought.
- Invite participation at the Conference level for careful consideration of possible nominees for bishop.
- Charge a Bishop Call Committee with the responsibility for conducting interviews, background and reference checks on proposed candidates, sending a slate of 4-6 candidates for the synod's consideration and election.

This process has been established according to the Synod Constitution and By-Laws. There is considerable pre-work with this process, which is different from past processes. The process, which has been used successfully by other ELCA Synods, including LaCrosse. There will be greater involvement by people throughout the Synod; especially Rostered Leaders and those identified as voting members of the Synod Assembly. (Your pastor in our case at BLC.) In part, one reason for using this process is that only two of our last six

Bishops have left office at the conclusion of a full 6-year term. While this isn't the only reason, the process will allow for more thought and consideration to candidates prior to the election.

The Timeline:

- **October-December** - Bishop Rogness holds informal conversations with Rostered Leaders at Conference gatherings. For us this will be on December 5th.
- **January 1-February 16-** Six Town Hall Meetings will be held for Rostered Leaders and Assembly Voting Members. These structured 90-minute meetings will be used to both gather input about who we are as a Synod and build the profile for what we need in our next Bishop.
- **February 15-February 20-** Summary of the 6 Town Hall Meetings and resulting "Bishop Profile"
- **February 20-March 10-** Conference Nomination Caucuses are held, with Rostered Leaders and lay voting members of Synod Assembly. Each Conference may identify up to 5 persons for nomination as Bishop.
- **March 10-April 24-** The Bishop Call Committee, appointed by the Synod Council in January goes to work.
- **May 1-2-** Nominees are introduced to the gathered Synod Assembly.
- **May 2-June 20-** Three forums held involving nominees.
- **June 20-** Members of the Synod Assembly reconvene for the Election of the Bishop.

Amen, amen, amen!

Pastor Jen

KAYLIN BRANDSMA CONCERT

Thank you to Kaylin Brandsma for a wonderful concert Friday, November 15th, before heading to Nashville. We had a full house and \$580 raised for the youth group.



Coffee Hour Fellowship is a great time to make new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy time together here at church. Unless preempted, coffee hour follows our church service. Gather together for treats, coffee, or tea and fellowship. *The sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex.*

- Dec 1:** Nancy Schwenke & Judy Hernkind
- Dec 8:** Soup & Sandwich lunch All Christian Education Classes
- Dec 15:** looking for hosts
- Dec 22:** looking for hosts
- Dec 29:** Darlene Anderson-Prest

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Monday Morning Coffee Clutch

Had a loss, or at a loss? Stop on in and stay a while. Share a story or just sit and listen for a while, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Everyone is welcome.

Located in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Held every Monday from 9-10:30am.

RIVER HAVEN

Please check the River Haven *Wish List* posted in the Narthex for items that are needed at the facility. It's a great, inexpensive way to fulfill our outreach programs, by helping those in need with a simple extra item in your shopping cart, that goes a long way to helping those less fortunate.

SEEKING COUNCIL NOMINEES

We are looking for nominations for council in January! If you are interested in serving on council, or know of someone that you would like to nominate, please contact Pr. Jen or Tania Anderson. Thank you!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- We are adding “worship slides” to the weekly Worship Team Volunteer list. We are in need of someone to run the slides for each service. This can be done from the comfort of your normal seat in church with a remote control. Contact the office if you are willing to help out in December.
- ADRC is looking for volunteer drivers for their home delivered meal program. Call (608) 742-9233 if interesting in volunteering.



Bible study with Pastor Jen is on Tuesdays from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

All are welcome to participate. No previous experience is needed—the Holy Spirit takes care of that! Currently we are reviewing the book “A People’s History of Christianity, Christian Origins”, by Richard A. Horsley.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC DONATIONS

The youth and adults going to the Dominican Republic in January are taking much needed supplies with them. If you would like to help out with their efforts, they are looking for the following items: flip flops, shoes, children’s Tylenol/vitamins, eye glasses. Also duffle bags and suitcases you do not want any more to carry the items in. Items can be dropped off in the office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- Dec 1:** Sunday School Christmas program practice, 10:30 am
- Dec 4:** Wednesday New Member Classes start, 7:00 pm
- Dec 8:**
 - Gifts of Bethlehem Sunday School Program, 9am

- Sunday New Member Classes start, 10:30 am

Dec 11: Sunday School Christmas Program, 5:30pm

Dec 12-14: Gathering Hall closed for use - floors being refinished

Dec 12: Women's Group outing to Thays' Art Gallery, 9:30 am

Dec 15: Sunday School Fun Day, 10:15 am

Dec 18: Christmas Caroling at Tivoli, 6:30 pm

Dec 24: Christmas Eve services, 4:00 & 6:30 pm

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Christmas program this year is New Star. We will perform as part of *Gifts of Bethlehem* on Sunday, December 8th for the worship service. There will be soup and sandwiches etc. following the program. There is a sign up in the Narthex and online if you would like to bring something. There will be a gift basket silent auction. Drawings for gift baskets will be after the service. We also will perform the program Wednesday, December 11th, at 5:30 pm (children arriving between 5 & 5:15) followed by cookies and milk/juice.

We will be having a practice day for the program on Sunday December 1st from 10:30 – 12:30 with lunch provided. During practice time you are welcome to attend and help as needed.

We will be having a group Fun Day on December 15th during Sunday School.

There will be no Sunday school December 22nd or December 29th.

Your Sunday School Staff

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Confirmation students will be going to Tivoli Wednesday, December 18th to sing Christmas carols for the residents. **All church members are also welcome to join them.** Please meet at Tivoli at 6:30pm. They will be taking small gifts to the residents for them to open for Christmas. They are taking donations for gift items, such as: grippy socks, lotion, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, lip balm, and tissues. There are approximately 99 residents. There is a box in the Narthex for donations. They

students will be wrapping the gifts and having a pizza party on Wednesday, December 11th.

Please Note: CHANGES! THE GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM

The 2nd annual *Gifts of Bethlehem* Christmas program will be *combining with the Sunday School program* on **Sunday, December 8th at 9:00 am** (with a light meal and silent auction to follow).



The Sunday School will be performing a Christmas play and we will be including additional musical performances from anyone interested in participating.

Donations/Decorations: Similar to last year, we will be decorating the narthex to look like a Bethlehem Market. For this, we will need to borrow various baskets, pots, blankets, rugs, etc. for the month of December. Please be sure you label your items with your name somehow so they can be returned to you after the Christmas season.

Decorating Volunteers: We have a couple of decorating days planned to help prepare for the Christmas season. Please contact Margaret Molden, Ginny Paulson or Tania Anderson if you are able to help on the dates below:

- December 4th, 9:00am: Assemble the live wreath
- December 5th, 9:00am: Begin Christmas decor and the Bethlehem gifts display
- December 7th, 9:00am: Tree Decorating and finish decorating the narthex

Musician Volunteers: If you are still interested in playing instruments and/or singing in the Gifts of Bethlehem Sunday School program, please contact Tania Anderson at 608-697-5999.

PROPERTY & BUILDING UPDATES

A dusk to dawn light has been installed on the shed for safely purposes.

Del Molden is looking for someone skilled in electrical work and building maintenance that he can train on the maintenance of the church and be a back-up for him. If you are interested in helping out, contact Del at 608-695-0272.

The Gathering Hall floors are being cleaned and polished December 12th. The room will be closed for use from the 12th-14th to allow them to cure.

Just a Reminder... If you have an event at church, stop in for a visit, attend a meeting, or whatever and happen to be the last one in the building...BEFORE YOU LEAVE, please make sure all the outside doors are locked. Our church doors have been found unlocked several times in the last few months which creates a great liability for us all. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

You may have noticed the new wall hanging near the Praise Team instruments. It is our 2019 Fall Stewardship Campaign banner. It is a tree, our roots in Christ and the church, living in love. Each leaf added is a pledge made. If you were not present for the initial kick-off, there is still time. Green pledge cards can be found in the Narthex. You can return them during Offering or directly to the office. **Please note:** if you use Simply Giving for your offerings and you are changing your giving in any way for 2020, you will need to fill out a new Simply Giving form, found in the Narthex. Please call the office if you have any questions.



WOMEN'S GROUP OUTING

The women's group will be going on an outing in December. We would like to invite members of Bethlehem to join us when we visit the Wildlife Memories Gallery, owned by our very own members Jim and Alana Thays, in Harrisville on December 12th. After visiting we are stopping for lunch at the Rendevous Restaurant in Montello. We will be meeting at 9:30 AM in the church parking lot to car pool. Please visit their website to view their spectacular artwork:
<http://www.wildlifememoriesgallery.com/index.html>

NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

Sign up for either Wednesday night classes or Sunday mornings. Please contact Pastor Jen or the office to sign up. Class Schedule:

Wednesdays at 7pm: Dec 4, 11, 18
Sundays at 10:30: Dec 8, 15, 22

QUILTERS GROUP

The quilters have sent 115 quilts to Lutheran World Relief for 2019. These quilts are the work and talent of Angie Bucholty, Cloe Rehdantz, Ginny Paulson, Margaret Molden, Linda Lewis, Ann Ciske, Dorothy Waldo, and Cheryl Hebel. They've heard by the grape vine, that Bob Rehdantz has put a stitch or two in some of these quilts. Thanks to Jim Crawford for delivering these quilts to the depot.

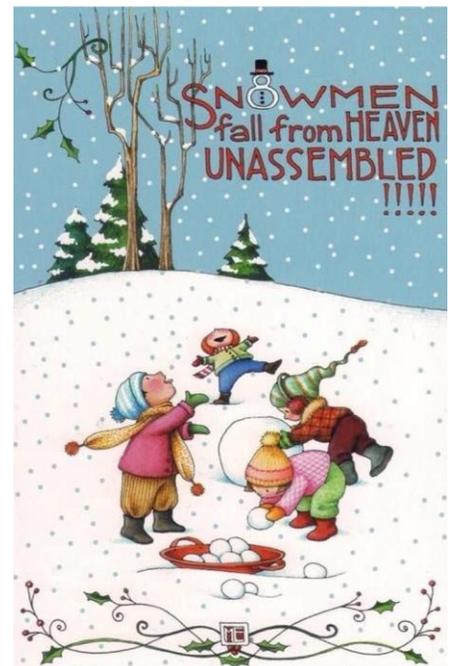
NOTES FROM THE OFFICE: BULLETINS

As you have all noticed, but maybe not have liked, we have tried using a new format for the weekly worship bulletins. This decision was made to try to reduce waste: waste of paper which is bad for the environment God entrusted to us and waste of money which is bad for our pocket books. Now that we have used them for a few months, I wanted to run a cost savings analysis to share with you. Annually, the old way of printing weekly bulletins cost the church approximately \$559.52. The new way costs us approximately \$299.06. This is an annual cost savings of \$260.46. It also helps out the environment which we need to be good stewards of by reducing waste.

We will continue to use this format for now, but in doing so, Pastor Jen will announce when we are using the insert and see if that helps people out. Another tip when using the printed bulletin: the insert is only used for the Prayer of the Day, Readings, and Prayers of the People, which all follow each other in one section of the service. Once the prayers are done, you do not need it for the rest of the service. I hope this helps elevates some confusion.

I am always looking for ways to be more efficient with time and resources and am open to your feedback with suggestions on ways to do that. Thank you for your patience.

*Peace,
Julie Saalsaa*



NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
9am to 3pm
Thursday & Friday
9am to 12 pm

SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS WITH SCRIP GIFT CARDS!

Simply stop by the SCRIP table after service to order. Prepayment is required to place an order. You can also see what is available online at shopwithscrip.com. A portion of your purchase will be donated back to BLC. To use the online option, go to the website above, (Bethlehem's enrollment code is 8D3B13BL8296), search, choose and place your order. Print out your order and bring to the church with your cash or check. Orders placed by Sunday will be available the following Sunday for pick up at SCRIP.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

From the Council...

Due to multiple scheduling conflicts, the November council meeting had to be cancelled.

Because of this, there is no summary available for the December Chimes at this time. Currently, we are working on the proposed 2020 budget and preparing for the annual meeting early next year.



HELPING HAITI UPDATE

“Here is the update about Helping Haiti Work. Our congregation has been involved in helping the village women obtain micro-business loans with donations around Mother's Day for about 6 years. We put this on "pause" last year due to the unrest in Haiti.

Here is an update from Dr. Leslie Jaeger on the current situation our friends continue to face. Please keep them in your prayers.

And yes Jim and I sold our house in Portage and will have Bradenton Florida as our new home. If you get down to this area please look us up.” *Peace to all. Ann Marie Crawley*

HAITI UNDER SEIGE - Leslee Jaeger

The smiling faces of our Haitian seamstresses and their drivers are because they have secured the gasoline to fill the tanks of their motos and be able to

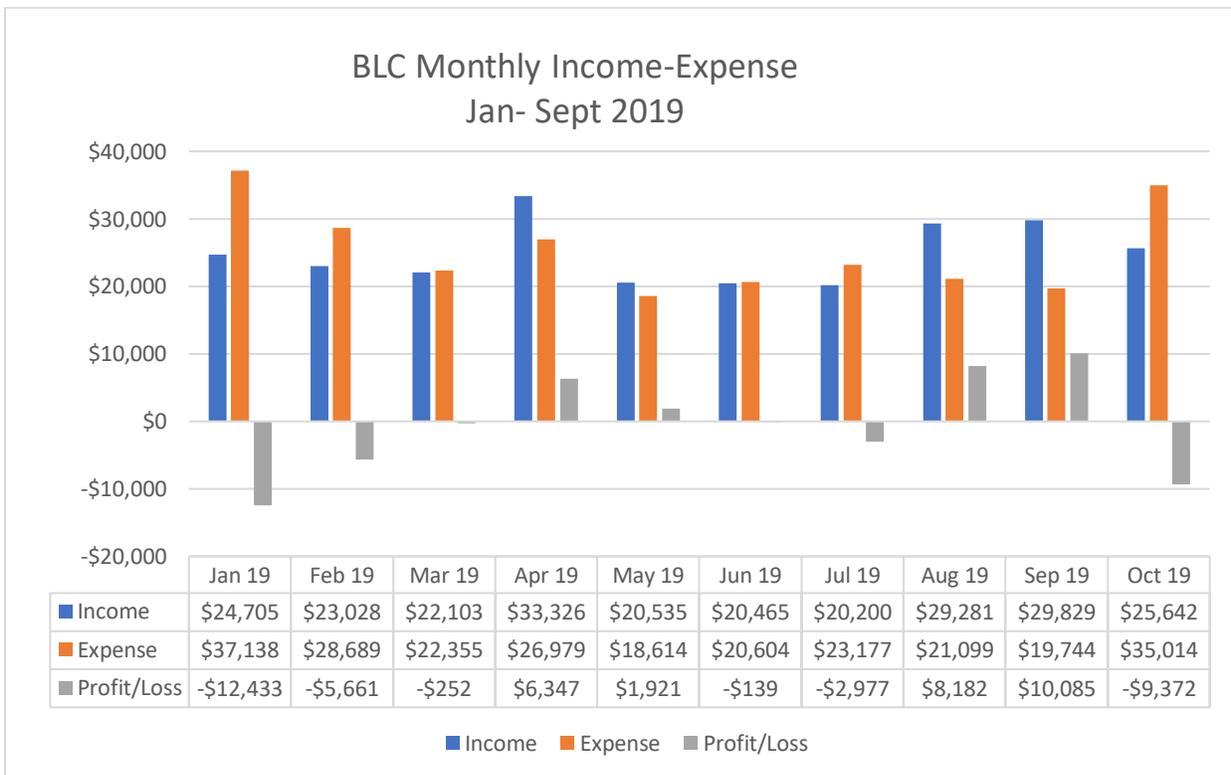
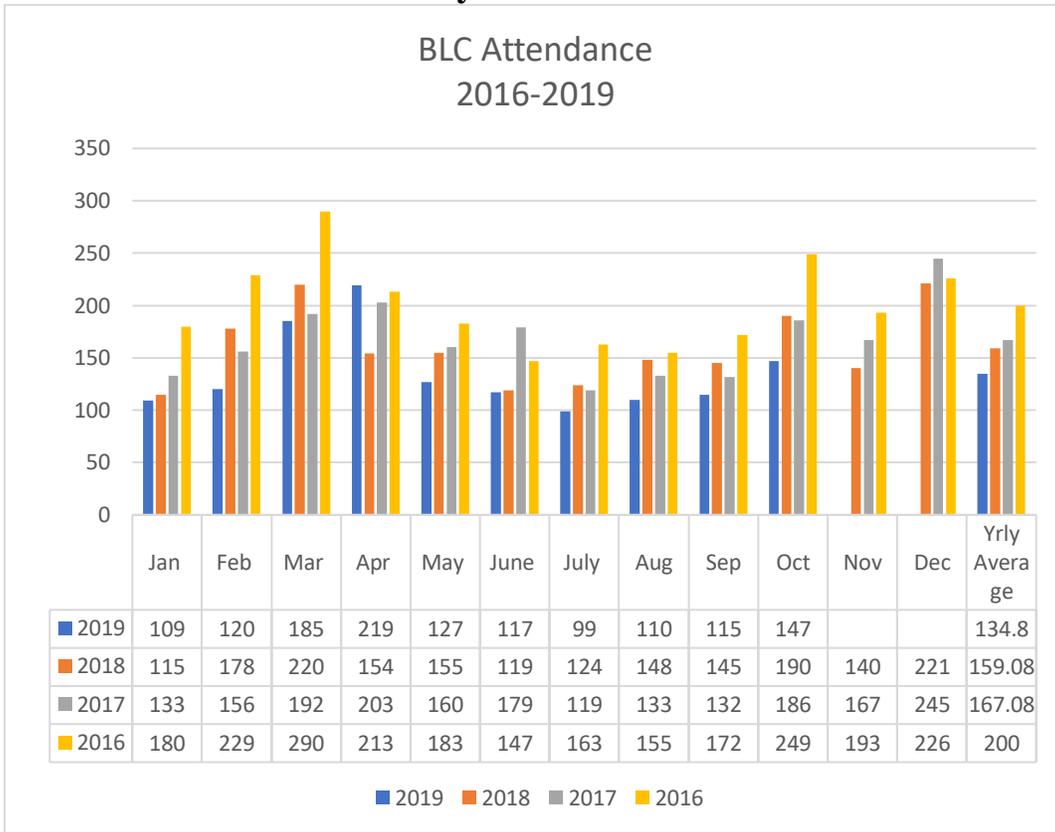
make it home to their families. This gas cost \$25 per gallon and was difficult to locate. Haiti is currently suffering the effects of unpaid fuel bills by the governmental elite and the subsequent lack of gas shipments to the country. Due to the solar panels that were installed earlier this summer and materials that arrived by container shipment in February, they are able to continue sewing components of the reusable menstrual pad kits. Unfortunately, most of the orders placed by mission groups have been retracted as the groups have had to cancel their trips. At last count, we needed to refund groups for orders that involved just over 800 kits. At \$9 a kit, that is \$7200 of lost revenue.

A crew of nine American women, led by Elly Schreder, traveled to Haiti 2 weeks ago to meet with the seamstresses and share food and community while teaching them how to construct surgical hats for sale in the community. The women were hosted by a local Rotarian who gave a lesson in business practices. Two distributions of kits, in addition to reproductive health education, were accomplished as 100 girls received their kits. Given the lack of gasoline and prominence of protests, much was accomplished and the Haitian seamstresses were hopeful that their good luck would continue as they work to support their families.

Unfortunately, the gasoline price has continued to rise and most public transportation has been shuttered. The streets are bare of cars and motos while food scarcity is becoming a growing concern. Currency has been devalued by half while the cost of living has increased by 25%. The math does not work for even the most elite. When a pregnant women is finally able to get to a hospital after an obstructed labor they are often turned away as the hospitals are unable to locate gasoline to run their generators and power the operating rooms.

Those of us who support the citizens of Haiti from afar are left helpless to view news stories and frustrated by our ability to help. At HHW, we have reassured our seamstresses that they will continue to be paid for their work even if we are not able to sell the menstrual pad kits at this time. Luckily, the sewing centers are within walking distance of their homes and the sewing machines powered by solar panels. By the end of this unrest, we may have enough menstrual pad kits for the entire country of Haiti!

BLC Attendance and Finance Summary January – October 2019



DECEMBER 2019 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Time	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild	Acolytes	Worship Slides
Sun 12/1	9:00 AM	Lucile Gauger & Bonnie Dixon	Kerry & Jeff Melby	Bonnie Dixon	Brenda Larson & 	Bobbie Goodman	Katherine Reickmann	
Wed 12/4	5:30 PM					Kathy Lawrence	Braxton Druckrey	
Sun 12/8 Gifts of Bethlehem SS Program	9:00 AM	Jean Elliott	Robin & Mike Kvalo	n/a	n/a	Kari Johnson	Griffin Garrigan	
Wed 12/11 SS Program	5:30 PM					Cheryl Hebel	Tyler Zabler	
Sun 12/15	9:00 AM	Betty Ring	Lacy & Angie Chappell	Del Molden	Bobbie Goodman & Linda Lewis	Brenda Larson	Samantha Nickel	
Wed 12/18	5:30 PM					Diane Gruenberg	Jack Brenner	
Sun 12/22	9:00 AM	Bev Johnson & Sue Wenker	Pat & Karissa Jahn	Kris Soderman	Darlene Anderson-Prest & Nancy Buckley	Cindy Frank	River Meierdirk	
CHRISTMAS EVE	4:00 PM	Dean & Judy Traut	The Anderson Family	Robin Kvalo	Emily Marcks & Halley Harms	Cara Druckery	Maren Marcks	
CHRISTMAS EVE	6:30 PM		Larry & Sandy Sween	Mark Teslik	Brenda Larson & 	Marie Kucksdorf		
Sun 12/29	9 AM		Jack & Ginny Paulson	Roger Sheimo	Angela Pace & 		Shayna Cox	



Looking for volunteers! Contact Nancy Buckley or the Church office to volunteer.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 Decorating- Remove Fall 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am BP Screening 10:30 am Sunday School Xmas Program Practice	2 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	3 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 11:00 am Photo group 6:00 pm Finance Committee 6:30 pm Zumba	4 9am Decorating- Assemble Wreath 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm New Member Class 	5 Decorating- Xmas décor – 9am	6 10:30 am Tai Chi	7 9 am Decorating- Xmas décor & tree set up	
8 9:00 am Gifts of Bethlehem & SS Program 10:15 am luncheon 10:30 am New Member Class  	9 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	10 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 6:30 pm Zumba	11 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship SS Program 6:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm New Member Class 	12 9am Gathering Hall floors being redone 9:00 am Women's Group Trip to Thays' 5:00 pm Renewal Team Meeting	13 Gathering Hall closed due to floors 10:130 am Tai Chi	14 Gathering Hall closed due to floors	
15 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School Fun Day 10:30 am New Member Class 	16 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	17 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 6:30 pm Zumba	18 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation Caroling@Tivoli 7:00 pm New Member Class 	19 Chimes Articles Due 6:30 pm Council Meeting	20 10:30 am Tai Chi	21	
22 NO Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:00 am New Member Class 	23 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship 6:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship 	25 Christmas Church Office Closed 5:30 pm NO Worship	26	27 10:30 am Tai Chi	28	
29 NO Sunday School 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour	30 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	31 9:00 am Quilters					

Christmas Countdown Kindness Calendar

<p>1 COMPLIMENT A STRANGER</p>	<p>2 hold the door open for someone</p>	<p>3 Write a letter or e-mail encouraging words to a friend</p> 	<p>4 show off your best smile all day</p> 	<p>5 Volunteer</p>
<p>6 leave a great big tip!</p> 	<p>7 give someone a "just because" gift</p>	<p>8 help a friend wrap gifts</p> 	<p>9 * shower someone with compliments like confetti</p>	<p>10 donate to a shelter</p> 
<p>11 Make cards for soldiers overseas</p>	<p>12 Donate used books to a library</p> 	<p>13 Leave some change in a vending machine</p> 	<p>14 take dinner to another family</p>	<p>15 go Christmas Caroling</p> 
<p>16 give out free hugs</p>	<p>17 leave a kind note on the hood of a stranger's car</p>	<p>18 Pay for the car behind you in a drive thru line</p>	<p>19 Bring baked treats to your local police or fire station</p> 	<p>20 support local business</p>
<p>21 babysit for free</p>	<p>22 help a neighbor with lawn work</p>	<p>23 Help clean snow off cars</p> 	<p>24 Let someone skip ahead of you in line</p>	<p>25 keep acts of kindness going year-round!</p>