



Grace Newsletter

DECEMBER 2020

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

415 10th Street
P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

PH: 563-659-9153
Fax: 563-659-9154

WEB: www.gracedewitt.org

EMAIL:
kgood@gracedewitt.org

Pastor Eric Obermann

563-321-0032
pastoreric@gracedewitt.org

Mark Sperry, DCE

563-321-0674
msperry@gracedewitt.org

Mark's Office Hours
7:30 am to 1:00 pm

Kerry Good

kgood@gracedewitt.org

Church Office Hours
M-Th - 8am to 3 pm
F - 8am to Noon

Grace Lutheran Preschool

P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742

PH: 563-659-9193

Preschool Teacher/Director
Christine Greve

preschool@gracedewitt.org

Grace Lutheran Camp

2675 242nd Street
P.O. Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

Camp Reservations

camprentals@gracedewitt.org
319-230-7718

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

It was a night that no one could have expected. It was a night that surely no one would remember. But who in their right mind would ever remember lowly shepherds? Or who would ever stop to listen to these same lowly shepherds go on and on about the marvelous sight they saw in the sky. I mean would you believe someone if they came right up to you to tell you that they saw a multitude of angels coming down from heaven proclaiming that peace has now come down to earth?

Yet, some of our favorite Christmas hymns are about these shepherds who were some of the first people in the entire world to hear the best news to ever be spoken! The Christ child is born for you today! Yet this is the story of the first Christmas. Joseph and Mary are lying their child in a manger, angels appear to the shepherds announcing the news that the Savior is born, wise men begin the journey of following the star to Bethlehem, and the shepherds running to the town of Bethlehem to speak of the news.

This year, it is not the Christmas that we are expecting. This past entire year has been clouded by uncertainty around the coronavirus. Things that seemed certain suddenly became uncertain. Routines suddenly became less normal. The uniqueness of sitting in a pew fixing your eyes towards a cross suddenly changed to sitting on a couch surrounding a laptop or smart tv. This past year, looking to this Christmas, it is not something we were expecting.

Except it is. Again, and again we gather together every year to hear the story of the shepherds. For on that unexpected night they saw the angels announced to them that peace has come! They heard with their own ears what God was going to do for this world. He had sent his son, the Savior, to bring true peace into this world. A peace that is grounded in the salvation that the Christ child was going to bring through his obedience to the father. Where he became peace for us. By being the one who goes before us to the Father and to be the one who mediates for our forgiveness. By reminding the Father of the love that he has for you and I. The true peace that you and I need, peace with God. Knowing that our debt with him has been paid by the love of his Son, our Savior.

For many, this has not been the year they anticipated. Yet we are always reminded of the message the shepherds heard. "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to those with whom he is well pleased."

May the Lord bless and keep you as continue to hear the good news that Christ is your peace!

In the Service of Jesus,
Pastor Eric

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Clint Albrecht
10:30 AM Jon Betz &
Scott Havener

Wednesday 11:00 AM Ray Ackerman
7:00 PM Scott Steffens

The Organist: Diana Baetke

The Acolytes

Dec. 2, 2020

7:00 PM

Adalyn Appleby

Dec. 6, 2020

8:00 AM

Hannah Grantz

10:30 AM

Lily Gurtorad

Dec. 9, 2020

7:00 PM

Benson Hill

Dec. 13, 2020

8:00 AM

Emma Pillers

10:30 AM

Caitlin Proctor

Dec. 16, 2020

7:00 PM

Remi Ruggenberg

Dec. 20, 2020

8:00 AM

Lauren Walker

10:30 AM

Jackson Butler

Dec. 24, 2020

4:00 PM

Kinley Birt

7:00 PM

Hudson Krukow

10:00 PM

Mallory McMahon

Dec. 25, 2020

9:00 AM

Wyatt Jensen

Dec. 27, 2020

8:00 AM

Ashton Schneider

10:30 AM

Ashlie Oronzio

Special Gifts Given Include:

In loving memory of Coral Hesse \$55 has been given to Grace Lutheran Camp, \$50 to Glory Bound Choir and \$50 to Grace Preschool.

In loving memory of Ed & Esther Soenksen \$150 was given toward the Paschal Candle in honor of their anniversary by their family.

In loving memory of Randall Dickey \$20 was given to Grace Preschool.

In loving memory of Donnie Birney \$20 was given to Grace Preschool.

In loving memory of Diana Ocheltree \$20 was given to Grace Preschool.

In loving memory of Yvonne DeGreve \$25 was given to Grace Lutheran Church.



Christmas greens in the containers in front of the church are in memory of: Wayne & Nita Haring Family and Harold & Dorothy Kauffman Family by Kim & Beth Haring and Family.

Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

Worship SCHEDULE

Advent Worship

11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Dec. 2nd, 9th & 16th

Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Communion Service
December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

10:00 p.m. Communion Service
December 24th

Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Communion Service
December 25th



**PLEASE REMEMBER
TO CONTINUE
GIVING TO YOUR
CHURCH**

Remember the ways to give:

- 1.) Bill pay from your bank.
- 2.) Download the Give+ mobile app on your phone to make giving easy.
- 3.) Mail checks directly to Grace Church, PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA.
- 4.) Use the link on our website, www.gracedewitt.org, for online giving.

IMPORTANT - Deadline for submitting articles for the January Newsletter is December 15th.



CHRISTMAS TREES will be available for sale at the Grace Camp Christmas Tree Farm beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving. Please note we will only be open one Friday this season, November 27th, and open every Saturday and Sunday through, December 20th.

A large selection of trees is available. Camp Board Members will be available to assist you with tree purchases. If no one is there to help you, you can slide your cash or check in the mail slot by the door at the tree shed.



ADVENT GIFTS: Brighten someone's holiday by contributing gifts for the Advent Gifts Drive, sponsored by the LWML Mission Guild. Gifts are taken to the Davenport Lutheran Home (a nursing home facility for Lutherans) and University of Iowa Children's Hospital where children are treated for various illnesses. The drive will continue until December 10th.



Grace Lutheran

FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE

Once again, we will be decorating the Family Christmas Tree with pictures. We ask that every family provide a 4"X6" or a 3 1/2"X5" portrait, which we will use to make an ornament. You may bring your picture at any time and place them in the basket on the Welcome Center. Please, make sure to put your last name on the photo.

Ornaments from last year will be placed on the tree. We look forward to many new additions.

Davenport Lutheran Home – nail polish, nail polish remover, fingernail files, hair spray, hair brushes, jewelry, perfume, boxed tissues, watercolor paints, Crayola crayons, hand lotion, aftershave, men's cologne, glue sticks, felt-tip markers, acrylic paints for crafting, foam/felt sheets, non-skid slipper socks, beads with large holes for jewelry making, men's/ women's cardigan sweaters/fleece (size medium to extra large), lip balms/chap stick, hot glue sticks (large and small), ladies headbands/hair clips, thermal gloves, handkerchiefs and Crayola colored pencils.

The 2021 Altar Flower calendar is now available. To sign-up, we are asking that you call the church office or stop in during the week and speak with Kerry. Bouquets can be donated in honor of or in memory of persons or events. Each bouquet is \$27 and there are two bouquets available each week. Please sign up for your preferred dates and place your payment in the secretary's door. You may purchase one or both bouquets.

University Children's Hospital – crayons, coloring books, story books, stationery, tapes and stuffed animals.

Please leave your unwrapped gifts in the totes on the stage in Grace Hall. Please note that the gifts must be brought to the church by Thursday, December 10th. Thank you kindly.

Christmas Cards have arrived! There are a variety of Christmas, sympathy, thinking of you, get well, birthday cards and much more available for purchase upstairs in the foyer. Please take a moment to see the wide assortment of cards and napkins displayed.

Please note, beginning January 1st card prices will be \$4.50 per box and napkins will be \$3.00 per package.

GRACE LUTHERAN MISSION STATEMENT — To make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our church, communities and world.



The DeWitt Referral Center needs children size coats, boots, and snow pants. These are items the children need to have to go outside for recess. If you would like to assist them with these donations, they can be dropped off at the Referral Center. They would like you to call ahead at 563-659-9612 as they have a limit to the number of people that can be in their center.



REFERRAL CENTER COLLECTION

Do you have extra Hamburger Helper, boxed potatoes, canned fruits & vegetables, paper products or toiletries that you would like to donate to the Referral Center? Please drop off your donation at the display in the church foyer.

Right now they have a need for canned mixed vegetables, peas, and pork & beans

Grace Endowment Fund

With December 31, 2020, approaching, it is a good time for everyone to review your financial position and make adjustments in preparation for Federal and State income taxes. Charitable contributions can reduce tax liabilities. The Endowment Committee is asking everyone to include the Endowment Fund in your year-end contributions. Each year the requests that the Endowment Committee receives for funds far exceed the amount available. If the Endowment Fund grows, more money becomes available for distribution. This fund will provide income year after year for projects supporting missions, education, youth, worship, music, and capital improvements that help our church-run and grow.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be NO Sunday School classes on Sunday, December 27th or January 3rd. Regular classes will resume January 10th.



The Sunday School students will continue to collect offerings for Operation Christmas Child through the rest of the Sunday school year. It is our hope that by October of 2021 we have enough offering to be able to order boxes to fill.

WHAT IS OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD?

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993 Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 168 million shoeboxes to children in over 160 countries and territories. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

The offering will be used to purchase shoeboxes, fees for shipping, and include "The Greatest Journey" for each box purchased.

Since the start of Sunday School in September, we have collected \$338.06. Thank you for your support.

Chancel Care - The Chancel Care Committee needs new volunteers to assist with caring for the altar, the linens, candles, and setting up communion. For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Julie Krukow at 659-1147.



The DeWitt Referral center has been serving the elderly, children, working poor, and others in the community for over 45 years. They provide emergency assistance, food, and referral services to the residents of the DeWitt Community School

District. They are currently preparing to build a new space to better serve the people in the community.

During the month of November the Board of Outreach began the Donor Envelope Challenge for the Referral Center Building Campaign. Donors were asked to pick up an envelope with the corresponding dollar amount that they wanted to donate and return it to the church. Through this campaign, we have raised \$1,563.00 which will be sent to the Referral Center once the challenge is over.

Due to COVID and a number of our church services being cancelled we will be continuing this envelope challenge. If you were unable to make it to church to pick up an envelope or return your envelope, you still have time. If you are unable to attend service but would like to participate in this challenge you can mail your donation to PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742. Checks can be made out to "Grace Church" make sure to write Referral Center in the memo blank.

Thank you to everyone who has participated in this fundraiser, we thank you for your contribution.

Grace Lutheran Preschool could use your help! Due to COVID, they have to sanitize their carpets. The only product they can use is *Woolite—Advanced Pet Stain & Odor Remover + Sanitize* which, they have been using a lot. They need to increase their supply of this product and wanted your help. You can donate this product by purchasing it yourself and dropping it off at church, supplying a Wal-Mart gift card, or put a donation into an enveloped marked Preschool Supplies. The Preschool is very thankful for all the support given to them by Grace Lutheran Church members.

Youth Group Christmas Caroling & Pizza Party

Attention all 6th through 12th graders. Make plans now to join us Sunday, December 13th for our annual Caroling, Pizza Party & Gift Exchange. Please let Mr. Sperry know by Sunday, December 6th if you're coming so we are sure to have enough food for everyone. Please bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$10 to participate in the exchange. Feel free to contact Mr. Sperry if you have any questions.

New Year's Eve LOCK-IN

Attention all High School and college-aged students. Join us Thursday, December 31st for a New Year's Eve LOCK-IN here at church. It won't be the same as being at Winter Camp, but we have a night full of fun activities and food planned, so don't miss out. To register please go to: www.gracedewitt.org and click on the New Year's Eve LOCK-IN link. There is no cost for this event, but we ask that everyone bring a sweet or salty treat for the Snack Table.



CLUB345 provides opportunities for our 3rd, 4th & 5th graders (and friends) to grow in their faith through activities, games, service projects, and more!

SAVE THE DATE!

Our first quarterly event will be held on **Sunday, January 31, 2021**, from 3pm-5pm at Grace Lutheran Camp (G*Y*M Building). ALL 3rd, 4th & 5th graders are welcome!

More details to follow. Please look for our group page, "Club345 at Grace Lutheran Church" on Facebook. For more information, contact Mark Sperry at the church office or reach out to Rachael Vopatek or Amy Meyers. Please help to spread the word!

"We have confidence in the Lord that you are doing and will continue to do the things we command. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's perseverance." 2 Thessalonians 3:4-5 NIV



The staff at Grace Lutheran Church would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. It is our hope that during this Christmas season your heart is filled with hope, peace, love and joy. May you have a Blessed Holiday.

Pastor Eric

Mark



Kerry

Christine

Kindra

Cathy



Merry Christmas



We can't believe it's already December! We had our first remote learning experience, and the kids did wonderfully with it. This month we are looking forward to learning about Bears and Gingerbread. We are also wrapping up our unit on colors and can't wait to celebrate Christmas.



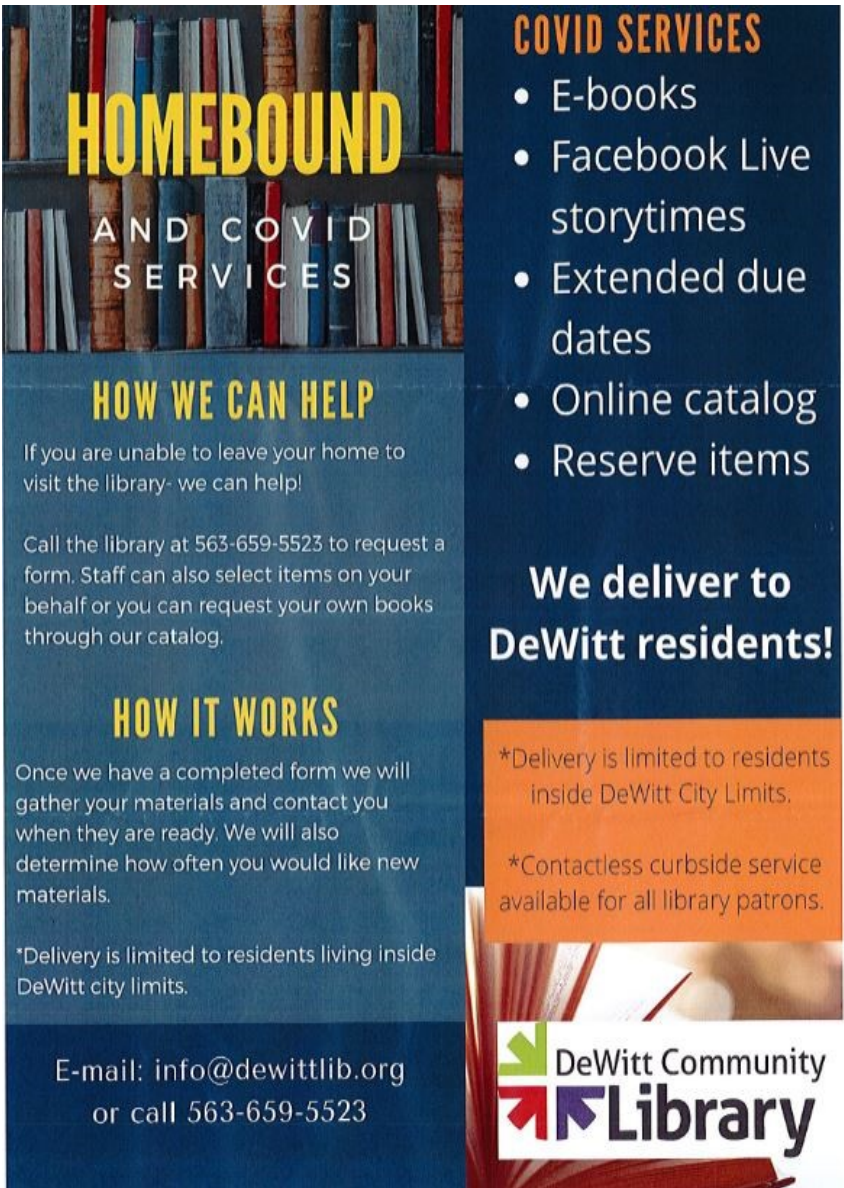
Thank you for your support of preschool by purchasing fundraiser books, Clorox wipes, and carpet sanitizer.

We really appreciate all you do for us.

Do you have any old Christmas Cards laying around? Would you like to donate them? Grace Lutheran Preschool is collecting old Christmas Cards to be used for craft projects. Donations of cards can be left in the basket on the Welcome Center.



Grace Lutheran Preschool has one Save Around Coupon Book available to sell. If you did not make the fundraiser deadline and would still like a coupon book then you are in luck. Just call or stop by the church office and speak with Kerry. The book costs \$25 and contains coupons for certain businesses in DeWitt, Clinton, Davenport, and more. This would make a great Christmas gift.



HOMEBOUND
AND COVID SERVICES

HOW WE CAN HELP

If you are unable to leave your home to visit the library- we can help!

Call the library at 563-659-5523 to request a form. Staff can also select items on your behalf or you can request your own books through our catalog.

HOW IT WORKS

Once we have a completed form we will gather your materials and contact you when they are ready. We will also determine how often you would like new materials.

*Delivery is limited to residents living inside DeWitt city limits.

E-mail: info@dewittlib.org
or call 563-659-5523


COVID SERVICES

- E-books
- Facebook Live storytimes
- Extended due dates
- Online catalog
- Reserve items

We deliver to DeWitt residents!

*Delivery is limited to residents inside DeWitt City Limits.

*Contactless curbside service available for all library patrons.



On Sunday, December 13th we will be setting out the January—March issue of “Portals of Prayer”. “Portals of Prayer” will now be available in three different reading formats: regular print, readers digest size (med), and large print. We hope that this variety allows everyone to choose the size that best suits their needs.

Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries God with Us

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God’s Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, “God with us.”

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He *knows* us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them delivered right to your inbox, podcast the audio devotional, access them on your mobile device through the FREE app, or listen with Spotify, iHeart Radio, Alexa, or Google Home. Seasonal Devotions for Advent are available here. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

Log onto lhm.org/advent to access this years advent devotionals.



Please join Thrivent Community—Mississippi Valley in the gathering of paper products to be included with the holiday food boxes to be distributed by the **DeWitt Referral Center** in December. **Items being collected: toilet paper, facial tissue, and paper towels. Bring donations to Thrivent, 908 6th Ave., DeWitt, M-F, 9-4 for safe, no-contact drop off NOW through Dec. 14th.** Call

563-659-2991 or email joanne.renfro@thrivent.com if you have questions. During the challenging days of 2020, the need to offer charitable support to struggling families is greater than ever and your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

Happy Birthday





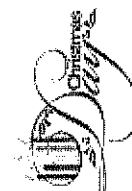

2 nd	Dylan Spain Jay Dies Chuck Goddard Gary Paarmann Bridget Henningsen Faith Ketelsen Grace Ketelsen Hollie Appleby Tessa Stevens Kourtney Postell	16 th	Scott Jacobsen Kim Haring Carolyn Lane Carly Small Dylan Azinger Emilie Butler	27 th	David L. Mangan Jennifer McCormick Lori Olson Melisa Knight
3 rd	Cathy Youngers	17 th	Judy Hartmann Shelby Schroeder Tyler Erps	28 th	Gayle Fuller Kimberly Burzlaff
5 th	Dick Broadfoot Skylar Henningsen	18 th	Nathan Keeney Matthew Scott Matthew Diercks Miranda Franklin	29 th	Kolton Goddard
6 th	Stephanie Pillers	19 th	Alyvia Stevens Luke Hill Jill Johnson	30 th	Travis Ketelsen Chad Tobey
7 th	Kristi VanLaere Brooke Paasch Trenton Weimerskirk	20 th	John Gisel		
9 th	Jim Owen Laura DeLarm Chad Jeffery	21 st	Verlene Reid Sara Suhr		
10 th	Joel Kirby Katelyn Good	22 nd	Carol Anderson David J. Hansen Steve Butler		
11 th	Bailey Garrity	24 th	Tammy Mickelson Robert Mundt Jason Mork		
13 th	Margie Erdman Leon Roseland Christina Hansen	25 th	Lauren Walker		
14 th	Makayla Shores	26 th	Sharri Block Jenny Marlowe		
15 th	Todd Hughes				



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

3 rd	David & Stephanie Pillers	20 th	Daniel & Dona Bark
5 th	Dave & Tracy Paarmann	22 nd	Kody & Shoni Hoffmann
6 th	Allen & Brooke Barnes		
8 th	Lucas & Nicole Rickertsen		
9 th	Louis & Cathy Ingwersen Sr. Donald & Connie Havener		
15 th	Ronald & Betty Jo Ketelsen		
18 th	Jamie & Jennifer Griem		

DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p>  <p>FIRST SUNDAY Advent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion 11:30 AM Decorate the Church</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Church Office Open (8am to Noon) No Preschool</p>	<p>1</p> <p>No Preschool</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Advent Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Advent Worship</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>  <p>SECOND SUNDAY Advent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 PM Council Meeting</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00 AM Finance Board Meeting 11:00 AM Advent Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Advent Worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Hall Rental</p>
<p>13</p>  <p>THIRD SUNDAY Advent 8:00 AM Traditional Worship 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship 4:30 PM Youth Caroling & Pizza Party</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 PM Board of Discipleship Meeting 6:30 PM Elders Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 6:30 PM Camp Board Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Advent Worship 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Advent Worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Hall Rental</p>
<p>20</p> <p>8:00 AM Traditional Worship/Comm 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Traditional Worship/Communion</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No Preschool</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Church Office Closed 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 PM Christmas Eve - Candelight Worship</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>Church Office Closed 9:00 AM Christmas Day Worship</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>8:00 AM Traditional Worship 10:30 AM Traditional Worship</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>  <p><i>New Year's Eve</i> 7:00 PM New Year's Eve LOCK-IN</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>