



St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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December 2019

Issue 12

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Pastor's Meditation

Dear friends in Christ,

What do you want for Christmas? I know of a song, which is sung around holidays, and in that song, a youngster does not ask for expensive Christmas gifts but only for his "two front teeth." Perhaps he wanted them because they related closely to him as a maturing person. After all, children get tired of being teased about the missing-teeth aspect of growing up. They want a feeling of well-being. Whatever does that is a precious thing, although no price tag may be attached to it. It is not to be described as "mere" or "only" or "just."

So it is with the great love God has revealed to us when He sent His Son into the world as our Savior. The Son came, as an infant small, born in poverty, wrapped in swaddling clothes, laid in a manger in a smelly stall. By all outward appearances there was little to impress the people for whom He came. Even then "He has not beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not" (Isa 53:2-3). Yet in that small Child the fullness of the Godhead dwelled bodily. In Him, and in none other, is our salvation.

So we can say, never mind the expensive gifts, the glitter and glamour, the royal trappings of a "Christ" who never was but exists only in peoples' imagination—a "Christ" with a halo and other heavenly features as artists like to picture Him. All we want for Christmas is the

(Continued on page 2)

Pastor's Meditation Cont.,

(Continued from page 1)

Christ Child, the Baby born of the teenage Virgin in deep humility, for He communicates God's saving love for us. Jesus, God's Incarnate Son, brings into our lives this Christmas and always peace, life, and salvation. And only in Him will we find the "True Gift" of everlasting happiness. To Him be the glory forever! Amen!

A Blessed Christ-MASS to you and yours,

In Christ's love, +

Pastor Cody
Psalm 84:10



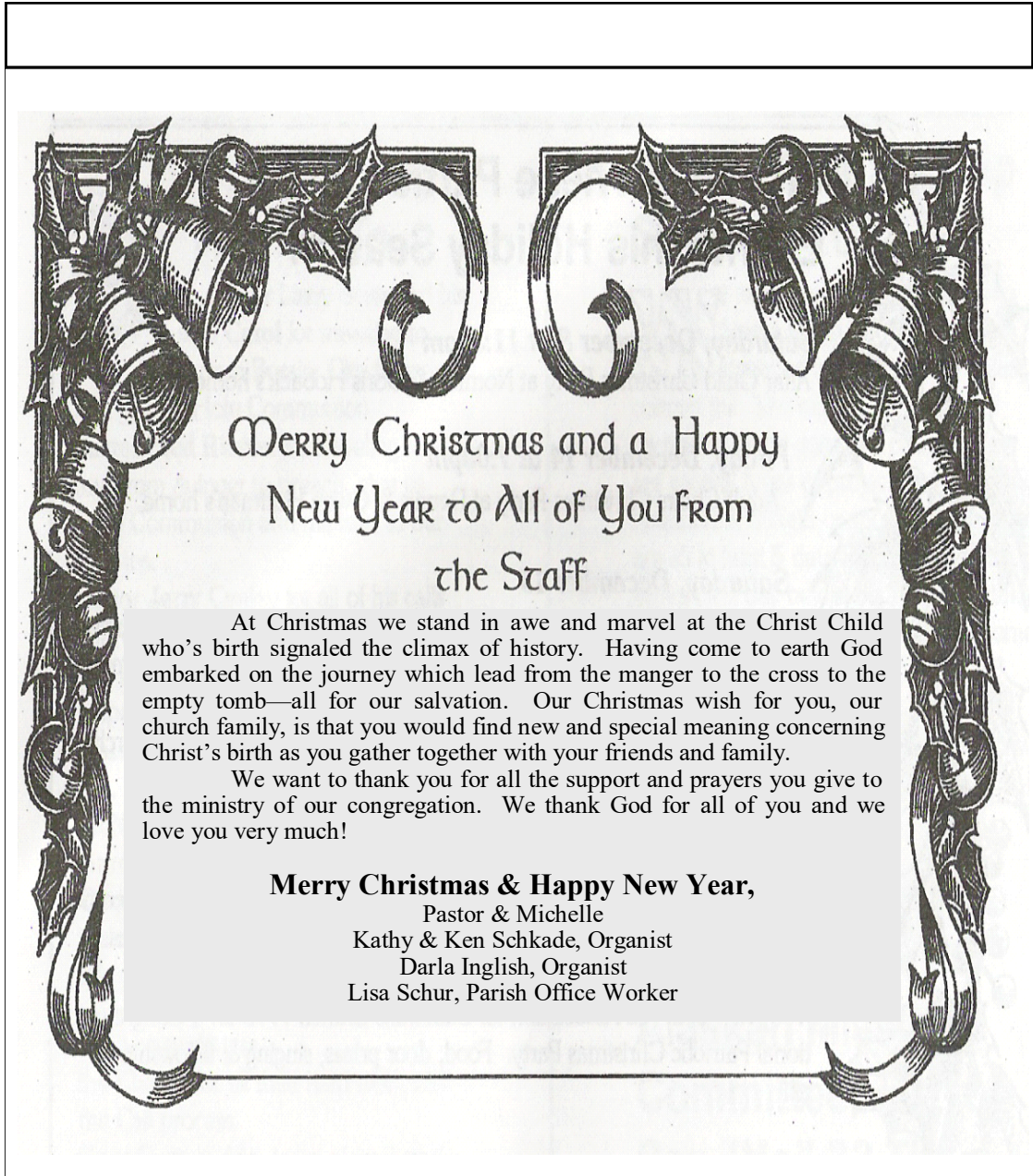
Join us for Pastor's Advent Songs Midweek Series:

1. Advent Midweek 1: **Mary's Song— The Magnificat**
2. Advent Midweek 2: **Zechariah's Song— The Benedictus**
3. Advent Midweek 3: **Simeon's Song— The Nunc Dimittis**



**Join Pastor Cody in December
as he delivers a Sermon Series
on the
Book of Jonah**





MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy
New Year to All of You from
the Staff

At Christmas we stand in awe and marvel at the Christ Child who's birth signaled the climax of history. Having come to earth God embarked on the journey which lead from the manger to the cross to the empty tomb—all for our salvation. Our Christmas wish for you, our church family, is that you would find new and special meaning concerning Christ's birth as you gather together with your friends and family.

We want to thank you for all the support and prayers you give to the ministry of our congregation. We thank God for all of you and we love you very much!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year,

Pastor & Michelle
Kathy & Ken Schkade, Organist
Darla English, Organist
Lisa Schur, Parish Office Worker

Remembering our Church Family in Prayer



FOR - THOSE WITH CANCER:

Jeanette Evans, Janie Khlum, Dennis Keethler, Virginia Martinez, Hank Roten, Lee Shores, Kay Castleberry, Guinola Huneycutt, and Latricia Parker.

PHYSICAL AND OTHER CONCERNS:

Betty Corder, Brantley French, Duncan Hibbard, Claudia Kelley, Ronnie Newman, Kellen Osborne, Barbara Roten, Mark Lehman, Delores LaBlanc, Tyler Sherrod, Ellen Fisher, and Barbara Roten.

HOMEBOUND/SHUT-IN MEMBERS: Dorothy Kutzler (Royal Estates), Ruby Swartz (Royal Estates), Virginia Hendricks (Rolling Meadows), Lois Kramer (Rolling Meadows), Jesse Flick (Royal Estates).

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL: Whitney Brown (Air Force), Eli Buckmaster (Marine Corps), Brian Clayton (Army), Kate Ridinger Dozier (Navy), Zachary Wied (Army), Jaydon Martinez

I would like to thank everyone who came out to help decorate the church float and who participated too! The float looked great and we all had a great time sharing Jesus with our community.

Pastor Cody



Adult Education

Are you tired of watered-down Bible studies?

Do you want to dig into God's Word and feed on the deeper meaning of the texts? Well Monday night Bible study is for you! We gather together around 6PM-8:00PM in the fellowship hall and study various topics on God's Word, teach parts of the Small Catechism, and look at different books of the Bible, and we will make it all very

practical for daily living. So come out and invite a friend or family member or potential new member to join us each week. A meal will be provided, and a free-will donation can be made to help offset the cost of the meal each week. Come three classes in a row and you'll be hooked! Look forward to seeing y'all there!



Come out and join us on Sunday mornings for Adult Bible Class as we are just now getting started in St. Paul's Epistle 1 Corinthians. The most important aspect of our faith life is being in the study of God's Word. This is the place we strengthen our Scriptural understanding and develop a love for all things Christ. You don't learn much about the life of Christ in a 20 minute sermon typically, so Bible study is the answer for that. We hope to see many of you on Sunday morning at 9:00AM.

Please continue to pray on a daily basis for:

- ✦ Pastor Cody & Michelle
- ✦ Darla English, Organist
- ✦ The leadership of our church.
- ✦ All those sick or suffering in our church family.
- ✦ Church unity and God's blessing and growth.
- ✦ Our nation and governmental leaders.
- ✦ All military personnel.

ALTAR GUILD:

Set up: Claudia Kelley
Take Down: Leanne Roten, Michelle Cody

ALTAR FLOWERS:

Dec 3: Open
Dec 10: Open
Dec 17: Open
Dec 24: Christmas Poinsettias
Dec 31: Open

ELDERS:

Dec 1: Kenneth Schkade
Dec 8: Ben English
Dec 15: Kenneth Schkade
Dec. 22: Kenneth Theimer

GREETERS:

Dec 1: Leann Roten & Michelle Cody
Dec 8: Delores Palmatary & Ruth Rathgeber
Dec 15: Pam Marten & Nancy Martinez
Dec 22: Hank & Judy Hancock
Dec 29: Del Tech & Penny Becker

SOUNDMAN: Randal Schoppa/Ben English

USHERS:

Dec 1: Randal Schoppa
Dec 8:
Dec 15: Randal Schoppa
Dec 22:
Dec. 24:
Dec. 25: No service
Dec 29:
Dec. 31: No service

SCRIPTURE READERS

Dec 1: Kenneth Schkade
Dec 8: Pastor Cody
Dec 15: Eugene Kruger
Dec 22: Kenneth Theimer
Dec 24: Pastor Cody
Dec 29: TBD





**TIME TO ORDER CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS
TO DECORATE THE ALTAR & CHANCEL
AREA ON CHRISTMAS EVE**

Orders must be received with payment
by Wednesday, December 18th.

Please provide the following information, attach your check for the correct total amount, and place it in an offering plate or send it to the church office.

Quantity desired: _____ X **\$10.00** = \$ _____ total amount.

Your

Name _____ *In*

Memory Commemoration Honor

of

You may take your poinsettias you ordered after the Children's
Christmas Eve Service and Candlelight Service.

I want my poinsettia(s) I do not want my poinsettias.

Thank you to everyone who provides poinsettias for the Christmas Season.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR CHURCH STAFF: On **Sunday, December 1st, 8th, and 15th**, there will be a Christmas collection to acknowledge and thank our church staff for their efforts during the year. Please honor them by donating.

Board of Elders

Christmas Caroling

Come out and join us on Sunday, December 8, at 3:00PM, as we go around to some of our shut-ins and the elderly at the nursing homes in Wichita Falls to spread some Christmas cheer through music and song! We will gather at Randal Schoppa's house after caroling for snacks and fellowship. Please RSVP and bring your favorite dish to share and your beverage of choice. Hope to see y'all there!



St. Paul to adopt 55 residents at the Courtyard Gardens in Wichita Falls for Christmas

We have been asked to assist the Courtyard Gardens residents with either a \$20 gift card or a pair of sweats for each resident for Christmas. The Voters decided to go with the sweats option. We will be purchasing them and delivering them while out on our Christmas Caroling adventure on Sunday, December 8, starting at 3PM. If you would like to come with us to deliver the gifts, be here at the church by 2:45PM that Sunday. See y'all there!



TABITHA JOY LWML CHRISTMAS PARTY & GOODY BAGGING

Friday, December 20nd at 9:15 AM.

We will meet for a spirited-gift exchange and snack of Christmas items. If you want to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift (not more than \$10.00) and a snack to share. We will prepare the Goody Bags to be distributed on Christmas Eve. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us. For more information contact Kathy Schkade at 867-2743.(We will not meet at our usual time).



**Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, December 8,
8:15AM**

Pancake Breakfast-sponsored by the Board of Ed and assisted by the youth of the congregation, will be on Sunday, December 8, at 8:15 AM. The Sunday school youth will be assisting with flipping the flapjacks and it's always a fun fellowship meal! So hop on in for some hot cakes on Dec.8, 8:15AM! Please have the youth here at the church by 7:45AM. Thanks!

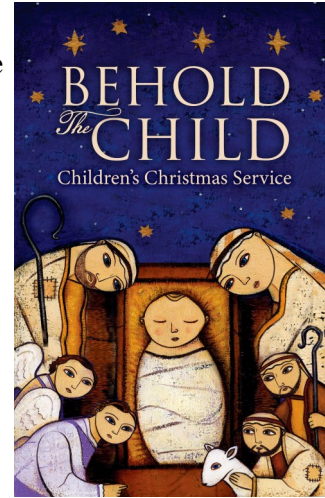
*Pancake
Breakfast*



*This year's Christmas Eve
Candlemass Service with Holy
Communion will be at
11:00 PM*

The Children's Christmas Program *Behold the Child*

The Children's Christmas Program will be on Christmas Eve at 6PM. The program practices will be on Sundays, Dec. 1,8,15, 22, immediately after church. A light meal will be served to the children who will be participating in the program. Please make every effort to have your children at every practice as we will need to assign parts and work through the songs and program each week. Darla English, Michelle Cody, & Pastor Cody will be directing the program this year. Please gather your children, grand-children, and neighbor children, etc. and bring them out to participate. The program will conclude with the children receiving their "goodie bags" to take with them as they turn in their costumes. For questions or input or if you would like to assist with the practices and program, please call or text Darla English at 940-733-1063 or email at english4@aol.com



Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible Study group will meet only once in the month of December. They will meet Thursday, December 12, at 9:30AM. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. See you there! Kathy Schkade (940) 867-2743



Sunday, December 23, will be our Festival of Hymns service during our normal worship time. What this service will be like is singing many of our favorite Christmas hymns intermingled throughout the liturgy. I like to do this as I know many travel over the Christmas holidays, and I know that many would like to sing Christmas hymns and songs here at the church during this wonderful season. I hope you will join us that Sunday as we get prepared to greet the Christ-Child once again!

Days to Celebrate in December

Birthdays

3rd	Abbey Wuthrich	20th	Alan Boyd
8th	Brittany Bernhardt	23rd	Kenneth L. Theimer
11th	Bob Wuthrich	25th	Dennis Hendrix
14th	Clyde Austin	31st	Cameron Cody
	Doreen Hendricks		
16th	Mariah Bernhardt		

Wedding Anniversaries

Dennis & Nina Keethler	23 years	Married on Dec. 3
James & Mary Ann Martinez	42 years	Married on Dec. 3
Richard & Sue Yost	48 years	Married on Dec. 8
Lynn & Donna Sharp	8 years	Married on Dec. 11
Kirk & Leah Horton	16 years	Married on Dec. 20
Tony & Joyce Gilleland	18 years	Married on Dec. 29
Ben & Darla English	35 years	Married on Dec. 29

December Meetings

There will be no meetings in the month of December except for the Board of Elders which will meet on Monday, December 2, 10:30AM

How Much Do You Really Know About Christmas?

By Steve Pettit

It's a sobering thought to us that Eastern astrologers were more in tune with the signs of heaven than were the religious "experts" of "Jesus" day. Unfortunately, we, too, often let tradition overtake truth. We've seen and heard the Christmas story scores of times and still don't have it right. It makes us wonder how many other places in God's revelation we have gotten something other than the truth.

Try our holiday quiz to determine if you know the difference between truth and tradition!

Dates and Mates:

1. For the journey to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph
 - a) walked
 - b) Joseph walked; Mary rode a donkey
 - c) Rode a bus
 - d) Who knows?
2. When Mary became pregnant, Mary and Joseph were
 - a) married
 - b) just friends
 - c) engaged
 - d) none of the above
3. When Mary became pregnant,
 - a) Joseph married her
 - b) Joseph wanted to dissolve their relationship
 - c) Mary left Nazareth for a while
 - d) An angel told them to go to Bethlehem
 - e) Both b and c
 - f) Both b and d
4. Christmas has always been observed
 - a) on December 25
 - b) on January 17
 - c) at Grandma's house

- d) none of the above

Kings and Wings

5. Who directed Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
 - a) Herod
 - b) an angel
 - c) Caesar
 - d) The IRS
6. Just what is a "heavenly host"?
 - a) an angelic choir
 - b) the welcoming angel in heaven
 - c) an army of angels
 - d) none of the above
7. How many angels spoke to the shepherds?
 - a) a multitude
 - b) two – Gabriel and Michael
 - c) one
 - d) Who knows?
8. What song did the angels sing?
 - a) "O Little Town of Bethlehem"
 - b) "Joy to the World"
 - c) "Glory to God in the Highest"
 - d) none of the above

Barns and Yarns:

9. The baby Jesus was born in a
 - a) cave
 - b) manger
 - c) hurry
 - d) barn
 - e) Who knows?
10. What animals were present at Jesus' birth?
 - a) cows, sheep and camels
 - b) cows, sheep and donkeys
 - c) lion and tigers and bears
 - d) none of the above

11. What is a manger anyway?
 a) a barn
 b) a place for hay
 c) a feeding trough
 d) a Greek term for the church nursery
12. When did baby Jesus cry?
 a) when He opened the wise men's gifts
 b) whenever babies usually cried
 c) when the cattle started lowing
 d) "No crying He makes"

Signs and Lines:

13. Joseph's family was from
 a) Jerusalem
 b) Nazareth
 c) Bethlehem
 d) None of the above
14. Who saw the star over Bethlehem?
 a) Mary and Joseph
 b) Shepherds
 c) The three kings
 d) Both b and c
 e) None of the above

15. What sign were the shepherds to look for?
 a) a star over the stable
 b) a barn outlined with Christmas lights
 c) a baby in a manger
 d) both a and c
 e) none of the above

16. What did the innkeeper say to Mary and Joseph?
 a) "I have a stable out back."
 b) "Come back after the holidays."
 c) "There's no room in the inn."
 d) both a and c
 e) none of the above

Wise Guys and Testing Lies:

17. How many wise men came to see Jesus? _____

(Write in correct number)

18. What in the world are Magi?
 a) Eastern kings
 b) magicians
 c) astrologers
 d) wise enough to follow the star
 e) none of the above

19. When the wise men brought their gifts to Jesus, they found Him in
 a) a manger
 b) a house
 c) Vacation Bible School
 d) None of the above

20. In what books of the Bible will you find these fascinating facts?
 a) Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
 b) Matthew and Luke
 c) Mark and Matthew
 d) Matthew, Mark and Luke

**Answers continue on
 page 14**

Answers:

Dates and Mates:

1. d The Bible gives no record of their means of travel.
2. c Matthew 1: 18
3. b and c Matthew 1:19; Luke 1:39, 56\
4. d December 25 was selected late in the 4th century as the day to celebrate Christ's birth

Kings and Wings:

5. c Luke 2:1

Christmas Trivia Continued from page 12-13

6. c
7. c Luke 2:10 (“the angel said to them”)
8. d Luke 2:13 (They didn’t sing; they said. OK, if you picked c we’ll give you a point.

Barns and Yarns:

9. e Luke 2:7 (We aren’t told where Jesus was born, only that after His birth He was laid in a manger.)
10. d The Bible doesn’t say anything about animals being present.
11. c
12. b He was fully human as well as fully God.

Sings and Lines:

13. c Luke 2:4
14. e none of the above (Three kings are not mentioned in the Bible. Only in songs.)
15. c Luke 2:12
16. e An innkeeper is never mentioned in the Scriptures.

Wise Guys and Testing Lies:

17. The Bible doesn’t say how many – only that Magi came bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh (see Matt. 2:12).
18. c Astrologers who dabble in the natural sciences..
19. b Matthew 2:11
20. b Check it out!

Scoring:

19-20 correct: Congratulations! You can separate fact from fiction.

18-16 correct: Not Bad! Truth wins over tradition.

15-11 correct: Uh oh! You’ve been to too many Christmas plays.

10 or below correct: Ouch!

The Kitchen and Meals on Wheels

Do you know what an impact our donation to The Kitchen has on our community?

Approximately 850 meals are delivered by almost 100 volunteers across 62 routes in Wichita Falls daily!

Surveys from Meals on Wheels clients in 2019 show that:

35% see no one except the Meals on Wheels Volunteer each day

37% are retired veterans or spouses of a deceased veteran

51% would be rationing food from their week day meal for weekend consumption prior to the launch of our weekend meal program.

63% live on less than \$12,400 a year

71% live alone

79% are frail or disabled

94% would be unable to live in their homes without our daily meals and wellness checks.

Thank you:

- ▲ To each of the Elders, Greeters, Ushers, Soundman, PowerPoint & Videographer who give of their time each Sunday!
- ▲ For the Bell Ringers on Sunday to begin our call to worship!
- ▲ To the members of the Altar Guild for their fine service to the Lord throughout the year.
- ▲ For any and all who volunteer your time helping to clean and maintain our beautiful church.
- ▲ To all who serve on a Board or Committee at our church—you help make a difference!
- ▲ To any and all who help with Sunday school each week to make a difference in our children’s lives.
- ▲ To those who help to clean and maintain the Church Family Center (a.k.a. The Church Camp)

Memorials

In Memory of Evelyn Wood to by Ruth Rathgeber.

In Memory of Evelyn Wood to the Window Fund by Ken & Kathy Schkade.

In Memory of Janet Halvorson to by Ruth Rathgeber.

In Memory of Janet Halvorson to by Ken & Kathy Schkade.

In Memory of Evelyn Wood to by Hank & Judy Hancock.

In Memory of Wanda Schnitker by Randal Schoppa.

In Memory of mom, Norma Flick, to the North Campus by Ben & Darla English.

In Thanksgiving of dad, Jesse Flick, to the North Campus by Ben & Darla English.



The *St. Paul Epistle* is published monthly by:
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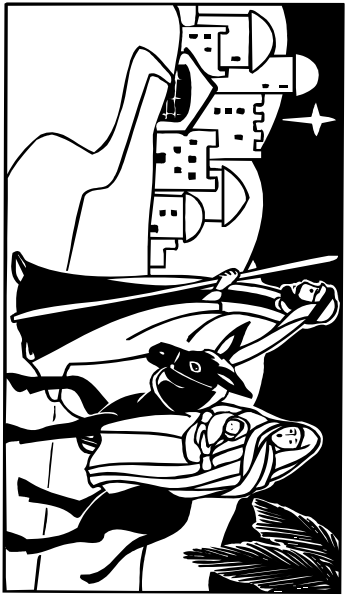
Kathy Schkade.....Organist

Secretary.....Lisa Schur
 Email: stpaulwf@att.net



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Address Label



Our special services will include:

December 4, 11 & 18	12:00/7:00 p.m.
Midweek Advent Services	
December 24	6:00 p.m.
Children's Christmas Program	
December 24	11:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Candlemass	
December 25	No Service
December 31	No Ser-
vice on New Year's Eve	