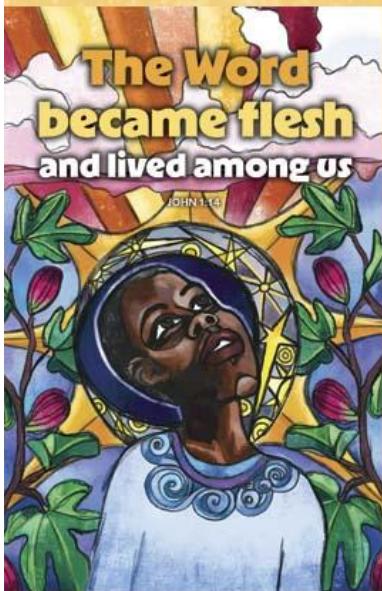


ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
127 YORK STREET, HANOVER, PA



SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2026

Rev. Jason Northridge, Pastor

srpastor@stpaulsyorkst.org

717-467-1644

Rev. Jack R. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus

Steven Ruppright, Director of Music Ministries

Lori Rebling, Director of Hand Bells

Gretchen Walter, Director of Children's Music

Ministers: The Members of St. Paul's

Missionaries: Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson and family

Church Office: 717-637-5941

Email: stpaulsyorkst@comcast.net

Website: www.stpaulsyorkst.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpaulsyorkst

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

If you are seeking a faith community, exploring faith, desire to be a part of our ministries, or have questions; please feel free to speak with the pastor.

Our Purpose:

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously.

Guiding Principles:

As instruments of God's love, when you see us at our best you will see us:

- Generously** stewarding God's gifts of resources, time, and talents
- Serving** as God's hands & feet in ministries & missions of outreach to all
- Providing** for the care of God's people, both physically and spiritually
- Growing in Faith** through worship, study, and discernment
- Praising** God through music, word, and service
- Welcoming** all people into fellowship with God

Important Worship Notes

All liturgies are printed within this bulletin.

Children's activity bags and children's bulletins are located on the podium in the hallway on the pulpit side of the sanctuary. Children's activity bags are also located on the coat rack behind the door of the choir loft side of the sanctuary.

P: Pastor

C: Congregation

L: Lay Reader

A: Assisting Minister

If you are communing, please be sure to fill out a communion record card, for our church records, and place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

+ 2nd Sunday of Christmas +
January 4, 2026

INTRODUCTION

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

THE GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C **Amen.**

Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Reconciling God,

we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.

God's grace upon grace flows over you. **☩** Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

ANGELS, FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.
- 4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

GREETING

P The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
C **O come let us adore him.**
P May the light and peace of Christ be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

1. Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

2. Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Refrain

3. *Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*

Refrain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

L The First Reading according to Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, Says the Lord.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 147:12-20

(read responsively)

A ¹² Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

13 who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.

¹⁴ God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

15 God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.

¹⁶ God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.

17 God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.

19 God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

A Holy wisdom, Holy word.
C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

L The Second Reading according to Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

"Your Little Ones, Dear Lord"
Verses 1 & 2

ELW 286

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are as follows:

1	Your	lit	-	tle	ones,	dear	Lord,	are	we,	and
2	With	songs	we	has	-	ten	you	to	greet,	and
3	Oh,	draw	us	whol	-	ly	to	you,	Lord,	and
4	Un	-	til	at	last	we	too	pro	-claim,	with

*GOSPEL

John 1:10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

P The Holy Gospel according to John 1:10-18

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

ELW 295



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 A - men.

THE PRAYERS

A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERTORY

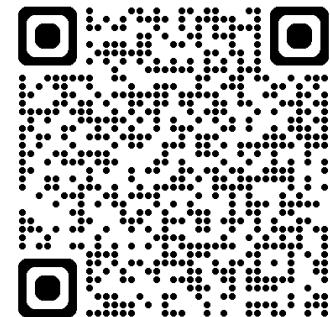
There are several ways of making your offerings to God during this time.

One is to place your offering in our offering plates as they are passed.

You can give electronically at <https://stpaulsyrkst.org/give> or scan this QR Code and when the plate passes by, you may simply meditate on the gifts that you are currently making online or monthly. We do have cards that you can put in the plate indicating that you give electronically. A supply of those cards is available at each entrance to the sanctuary.

If you are not able to give monetarily during this time, know that your prayers and praise are a pleasing offering to God. If you can give a little more during this time, please consider doing so as a way of supporting your fellow disciples who are not able to.

Organ Solo



OFFERTORY RESPONSE "In The Bleak Midwinter"

verse 3

3. What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of glory,

C great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up 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 and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(tune of “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” at “Holy, holy”)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of heav'n and earth adored.
O how blest is He who comes In the holy name of God.
Joyful, all you nations rise; Join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P 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:

**C 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**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

C **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**

P A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

All are welcome to commune. If you wish to receive communion from your seat, please let an usher know. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

COMMUNION HYMN

"What Feast of Love"

ELW 487



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last - ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent"

ELW 490



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' nly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, [☩] bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"Let All Together Praise Our God"

ELW 287



DISMISSAL

P Glory to God in the highest!

C **And peace to God's people on earth!**

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

We are called through Christ to praise God and love generously. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

* Stand if you are comfortable

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	<u>January 4, 2026</u>	<u>January 11</u>
Saturday night Worship	Pastor Jason Northridge (1/3)	Russ Kaltreider (1/10)
Guest Organist	Becky Ellis	
Assisting Minister	Russ Kaltreider	Donna Lehman
Acolyte	Matthew Kaltreider	Leah Kaltreider
Lay Reader	Jon Shaw	Betty Sheets
Communion Distributors	Suzanne Butler	Cindy Schmidt
	Donna Lehman	Sally Lovelace
Ushers	Bob Colehouse	Bob Colehouse
	Dan Furhman	Dan Furhman
Altar Committee	Becki Davis	Becki Davis
	Norma Lucabaugh	Norma Lucabaugh
	Janet Haack (Linens)	Janet Haack (Linens)

THE RADIO BROADCAST, ALTAR FLOWERS, WORSHIP BULLETINS and THE ETERNAL FLAME are sponsored to the glory of God and in memory of Cletus and Doris Smeak's Wedding Anniversary on January 1st by the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

THE COMMUNION BREAD AND WINE is sponsored to the glory of God and in honor of Russell Kaltreider's 86th birthday by his grandchildren.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE: Please contact Carmen Buckley in the church office or at assistant@stpaulsyorkst.org

Radio—Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (\$60 per date or any portion you desire per date)

Altar Flowers- Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (2 vases at \$20 each)

Communion Bread and Wine- Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (\$12 each date)

Worship Bulletins- Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (\$20 each date)

Eternal Flame- Jan. 11, 18 & 25 (\$10 each date)

JANUARY'S DESIGNATED GIVING will go to the Hanover Area Council of Churches.

PASTOR JASON WILL CONTINUE MID-WEEK DEVOTIONS ON WEDNESDAY, January 7, from 12:15 – 12:35 pm. All are welcome to join us in the church lounge.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPE BOXES are available to pick up in the hallway.

ST. PAUL'S MEN IN MISSION are sponsoring a "Healthy Steps for Older Adults" in conjunction with the York County Office of the Aging. This is a 2-session class to be held in our fellowship hall on Monday, March 23rd and 30th, from 10am-12 noon. More details and a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from Pastor Jason's office. Class is limited to 15 people.

SUN., JAN. 4	8:30 am	Radio Broadcast – 95.3 FM & 1280 AM
	9:30 am	Worship Service – 2nd Sunday of Christmas
Immediately following Worship		Coffee Hour – lounge
		Faith Formation – Children - 2 nd floor
		Daily Discipleship class – nursery across from lounge
MON., JAN. 5		Girl Scout troops – 2 nd floor
TUES., JAN. 6	10:30 am	L.I.U. Class – Fellowship Hall
WED., JAN. 7	12:15 pm	Midweek Devotions – Lounge
THUR., JAN. 8	6:00 pm	Bellchoir rehearsal – Balcony of the Sanctuary
	6:30 pm	Cub Scouts – 2 nd floor
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 102 - Youth Room & Gym
	7:00 pm	Adult Choir rehearsal – Choir Loft in Sanctuary
FRI., JAN. 9		P.A.L. Team #1
	3:00 pm	Grocery Ministry prep – Gym
SAT., JAN. 10		Private Use – 2 nd floor
	9:00 am	Grocery Ministry – Boy Scout Troop 102
	5:00 pm	Saturday Evening Service
	6:15 pm	Narcotics Anonymous – Fellowship Hall
SUN., JAN. 11	8:30 am	Radio Broadcast – 95.3 FM & 1280 AM
	9:30 am	Worship Service – Baptism of Our Lord
Immediately following Worship		Coffee Hour – lounge
		Faith Formation – Children - 2 nd floor
		Daily Discipleship class – nursery across from lounge
		Adult Choir II rehearsal