



# Augustana News

## November 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this to you, Reformation Sunday is in the rear-view mirror, next Sunday is All Saints' Sunday with the time change, and then we are looking straight ahead to the Last Sunday of the church year (November 24<sup>th</sup> – Christ the King Sunday, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas), to say nothing about it being a general election for our country this year.

We all know what these next two months mean stress, stress, and more stress. It has been reported that November and December are the two most stressful months of the year. Now I am not saying that any of these individual holidays or holy days are in and of themselves stressful...put them all together and they still wouldn't produce the kind of stress which most of us experience. Thanksgiving and Christmas provide us events with family and friends which cause us to pause and be thankful for our many blessings and share those blessings with others while at the same time they provide us opportunities to celebrate the mystery and miracle of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. You would think that these two months would bring us feelings of joy, peace, and hope. Isn't that what most of our Christmas greetings say? But all the stuff surrounding these months causes us to fret, become angry, impatient, cranky, and in some instances, we find ourselves becoming down right insensitive and nasty. My guess is that you can identify with at least some of the above. Everyone's stress is different and for different reasons which may include both negative and positive things, events, or people. We know that our stress can cause physical responses such as elevated heart rate, blood pressure, pain...emotional responses such as racing thoughts, mood swings, depression, anxiety, fears...and spiritual responses such as changes in belief, inability to pray, separating one's self from the faith community, not receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion out of feelings of unworthiness, or being so overwhelmed that scripture is too difficult to read, meditate, or reflect upon. None of these physical, emotional, or spiritual responses are what God could possibly want for his children whom he loved so much that he gave his life to save us eternally. So, what can we possibly do to prepare ourselves in order that we might find deep joy and positive experiences over these next eight weeks?

First, we must prioritize what we will do and how we will do it, identifying for ourselves that we are not able to do everything, and we cannot be all that everyone may expect of us. We need to look at this November/December cycle of days in the context of our whole life and the lives of our family. What are the challenges and struggles which we already bring with us into the holidays asking God to help us see each experience and individual who seems to stress us as a forgiven/loved child of God made in God's image. We are not the only person who is feeling stressed; others are probably feeling similar stress. We are after all human with a desire to appear in control while at the same time hoping others will love us, like us, and even approve of us. As a

*(Continued on Page 2)*

**God's  
Priorities  
and  
Perspective**

*(Dear Friends—Continued from Page 1)*

Christian we sometimes misunderstand religion as having a 24/7 happy face and believing that everything should be ok because “God is good;” but Jesus said he didn’t come to “fix the challenges and stresses” in our lives, but rather to offer us abundant life in the midst of it all. Christ’s life was anything but stress free and yet, He is the one who offers us His yoke is easy and burden light. Matthew 11:28-30 says, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Stress is part of life; and so just like every other part of life, we as Christian Lutherans must respond to it in a different way from the world. Rather than let the stress of the next two months rob you of the peace, joy, and hope of the season, let it give us the opportunity to elevate Jesus and all the Jesus tools which we have been given: Ask yourself each day and in preparing to participate in each event if this is in line with God’s priorities and perspectives. Survey what you are allowing in your life: what are you watching, listening to, and reading? When we edit some things out of our life that will allow more time for other things, like being in scripture which can help us handle the stresses of life better. If you, like me, are not very good at taking an intentional 24-hour Sabbath each week, this would be the time to do it. We all have more productive days, better sleep, and more positive mood when we are intentionally keeping the Sabbath. I pray that your holy days and holidays will be stress free; but if not, be kind and loving to yourself and others.

Blessings,  
*Sister Nora*

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### **What do you want? Do you know? Why does it matter anyway? Making Decisions before the End-of-Life**

My guess is that in some way each of us has started early on in our lives planning for retirement. But I can tell you after providing pastoral care for dozens of individuals and families just at Augustana and Grace alone, most people have not even started to think of end of life issues...not even when they are in the 70’s, 80’s, and 90’s.

Ask yourself right now if you have a Will. (Who will be your executor of your property, belongings, and financial wealth no matter how small it might be?) Have you designated where memorials should go...your church, outreach program, etc.? Have you signed a Living Will? (This is a medical document dealing with artificially supplied nutrition and hydration.) Have you named a Health Care Power of Attorney? (If you are unable to speak or think for yourself, your HCPOA would make the decisions that are important to you. This need not be a family member but should be someone you trust.) Have you talked with a Doctor about an Out of Hospital DNR or POST document? (If you are at home and your heart stops, do you want CPR and to be put on life support? If this document is in a lock box at the bank, that will not help you.)

There are other important documents and decisions which need to be considered. Have you filled out the paperwork we have at the church which helps you determine what kind of service you want? What hymns and scripture would you want used? Do you want visitation with casket (open or closed), cremation, or cremation following a visitation with a casket? Do you want a service at church, at a funeral home, graveside only, memorial, or celebration of life someplace else?

Have you been to a funeral home or cremation services to make arrangements? Have you chosen your casket? Do you have a cemetery plot or a spot in a mausoleum which is pre-paid? Have you written your obituary? Sister Nora can give you the paperwork for that as well.

These are all things we can spare our families trying to figure out after our death. They will already be grieving; and if we can spare them more grief, shouldn’t we do that?

The point is that each of us needs to be responsible for our end-of-life decisions as much as we have been for our day-to-day existence or our retirement planning. These are not just ethical or moral responsibilities, but they are spiritual issues which touch the very depth of our being.



<b>November 3 - All Saints' Sunday</b>	<b>November 10 - Pentecost 25</b>	<b>November 17 - Pentecost 26</b>	<b>November 24 - Christ the King Sunday</b>
Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 24 Revelation 21:1-6a St. John 11:32-44	I Kings 17:8-16 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:24-28 St. Mark 12:38-44	Daniel 12:1-3 Psalm 16 Hebrews 10:11-25 St. Mark 13:1-8	Daniel 7:9-14 Psalm 93 Revelation 1:4b-8 St. John 18:33-37

### Pastoral Information

Sister Nora Frost, Interim Minister

#### Sister Nora's Office Hours

Monday 9AM – Noon ~ Augustana  
 Tuesday, 9AM – Noon ~ Grace  
 Wednesday, 9AM – Noon ~ Augustana  
 Thursday, 9AM – Noon ~ Grace  
 Friday, 9AM – 10:30AM ~ Grace  
 10:30AM – Noon ~ Augustana

Saturday & Sunday ~ Call for an appointment.

There are meetings on some mornings, as well as Zoom meetings, so please call in advance to make sure that Sister Nora is in before coming.

Please Call the Church Office or Sister Nora Directly if You are Hospitalized or Having Surgery.

Pastoral care is a ministry of Pastors and Deacons and one of the ways healing can be offered to the body of Christ. It is important for you (or someone else if you are not able) to contact the Church office or Sister Nora directly. When we are sick, have had an accident or having surgery, we need not only physical healing but spiritual healing as well. These are times when your church family can be holding you in prayer which sometimes is the best and most important thing which we can do for each other.

PLEASE allow your Interim Minister and members of your church family be part of your healing process.



### PRAYER LIST

*Please contact us with updates, praises, & requests.*

#### Health Concerns

Doris Koontz  
 Jerry & Judy Duck  
 Sharon Butler  
 Deb Ludlow  
 Ken Davis, Deb  
 Rowland's son-in-law  
 Fred Simmons  
 Gina Iannarelli  
 Zach Havens, Nichole Metz'  
 cousin's son  
 Kathy Miller  
 Aaron Lobbly's friend  
 Jason Smith & Jason's  
 mother, Gloria Pillars  
 Jay Rice  
 Blake Iavagnilio, daughter-  
 in-law of John & Nichole  
 Metz  
 Larry Jr., Barbara Hillyer's  
 son  
 Mike Iavagnilio  
 Mike, friend of John Metz  
 Ryan Drummond  
 Dwight Gerber  
 June, mother of  
 Melanie Watson

#### Those who mourn

For the families of:  
 Chuck Bybee  
 Jane Kantner

#### Other concerns

Victims of war, violence,  
 natural disasters  
 Pioneer Faith Ministries  
 Council & Call  
 Committee  
 Future Pastor

**And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.**  
 ~ 1 John 5:14-15  
 NLT

## NOVEMBER 2024 SERVER SCHEDULE

### November 3 – All Saints' Sunday

*Assisting Minister:* Scott Watson

*Lector:* Scott Watson

*Server:* Leah Moyer

*Technology Server:* Mark Moyer

*Ushers:* Dave & Janet Ermis

### November 10 – Pentecost 25

*Assisting Minister:* Nancy Tinder

*Lector:* Nancy Tinder

*Server:* George Scupham

*Technology Server:* Mark Moyer

*Ushers:* Jerry & Judy Duck

### November 17 – Pentecost 26

*Assisting Minister:* Mark Moyer

*Lector:* Mark Moyer

*Server:* Cayden Abner

*Technology Server:* Mark Moyer

*Ushers:* Gunnar & Diane Erickson

### November 24 – Christ the King Sunday

*Assisting Minister:* Maralee Macumber

*Lector:* Diane Erickson

*Server:* Jill Scupham

*Technology Server:* Cayden Abner

*Ushers:* Janet Moyer & Deb Rowland

### **November Altar Guild**

Gina Iannarelli & Nancy Tinder

*Please let the office know of any changes.*



We need persons who are willing to serve as well as help live-stream Sunday morning worship. After the sound is turned on, you may use the iPad from your pew in the sanctuary. Please let Sister Nora know if you are so willing to serve in any capacity. Thank you.



## November Altar Flowers

November 3 – Given by Sister  
Nora In Memory of Richard Frost

November 10 – In Celebration of the Birthday  
of Brad VanValkenberg

November 17 – Given by  
Mike & Linda Iavagnilio

November 24 – Given by Deb Rowland  
In Memory of her father, James Todt

*Please check the Altar Flower chart for openings to sign up to sponsor altar flowers throughout the remainder of the year. The easel is at the back of the pews. Choose your date and use the envelope provided for your \$25.*

*Thank you.*

## FIRST WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST

**Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 9 AM**  
**(Always the first Wednesday)**

Meet at Perkins on Cassopolis Street.  
Call Deb Rowland for reservations.

## LAST THURSDAY LUNCH BUNCH Gathering Wednesday, November 27~ Noon (because of Thanksgiving)

Come and join your Augustana friends for lunch at the **Golden Egg Pancake House** on Nappanee Street across from the Drive and Shine Car wash. Bring a friend or neighbor with you. *Phone your reservation and the number coming to the church office by Tuesday, November 26.*

## Thanksgiving Feast Game Night

**For Augustana & Grace**  
**Friday, November 15 ~ 5:30-8 PM**  
**Grace Fellowship Hall**

**Bring a dish to pass.**

**Games provided but welcome to bring your favorite game with you.**

**Questions? Contact Grace at 574-294-1951**



## *Financial/ Attendance Report*

[Fiscal Year Runs Feb. 1 thru Jan. 31]

\*\*Information thru October 28, 2024

<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Budget Requirement</b>	<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Actual Funds in General Fund</b>
\$99,028.00	\$61,775.97
<b>October Monthly Budget Requirement</b>	<b>October Actual Offering to General Fund</b>
\$11,838.00	\$9,617.00
<b>NOVEMBER Weekly Amount Needed to meet Budget Requirement</b>	<b>Noisy Offering Fiscal Year-to-Date</b>
\$5,089.50	\$222.00
<b>October Average Sunday In-Person Attendance</b>	<b>October Average Sunday Facebook Attendance</b>
29	38

## **Approved Augustana Lutheran Church Council Minutes Highlights Of September 10, 2024**

Present: Jerry Duck, Diane Erickson, Gunnar Erickson, Dave Ermis, Gina Iannarelli, Maralee Macumber, Mark Moyer, Randy Tinder, Sister Nora

Minutes from the August council meeting were presented & unanimously approved.

**\*Financial reports** from August were presented along with the 2025 Proposed Budget. Giving was down \$1700.00 for August. Reports were unanimously approved.

**\*Sister Nora's reports** were presented. The new Bishop will be installed October 12.

**\*Unfinished Business:**

Organist Update - The applicant did not work out.

Annual Meeting/Commitment/Consecration Sunday will be 10:15AM Sunday, November 3 with Time & Talent Sheets.

Bishop Visit - Maralee will contact the Bishop's Office to schedule a visit here.

Scholarship Update - Five scholarships were given.

**\*New Business:**

Council Members' Terms - Terms will end in November 2025.

Newsletter Facebook & Website Postings - The decision was made to remove all personal contact information on our Facebook page and our Website to protect privacy.

Joint Council to be held at Grace on Monday, October 21, 6:30 PM.

*(See full minutes on the Bulletin Board outside of the Fellowship Hall)*



### **Augustana Annual Meeting & Consecration Sunday November 3, 2024 10:15 AM**

Per our revised Augustana Constitution, the Annual Congregation Meeting will now take place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of the calendar year. See Section C10.01.01.

Annual Reports and Updated Constitution are in the narthex for pick up.

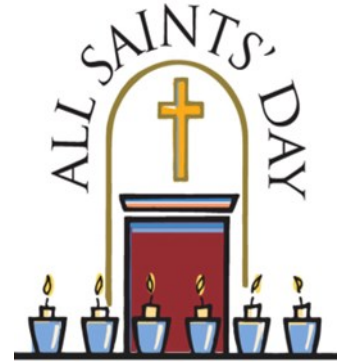
Please bring your Time & Talent Sheets and Commitment Cards for this special service.

We hope everyone will mark their calendars now and plan to attend.

## November 1<sup>st</sup> - All Saints' Day

Observed on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 AM

On all Saint's Sunday we remember by name all who have died in our congregation during the last year; but we also remember all dear to us who have died in past years. Their names will be read, a candle lit and a bell will toll. We set aside a remembrance table where photographs, newspaper clippings or other mementos of our dear ones are displayed so that all may recall their life and honor their memory. As we remember our blessed dead and all who have gone before us, we contemplate the enormity of Christ's body with those of every time and every place – the whole company of the Saints – all who have been baptized into Christ's death. As Lutherans we know that all saints are sinners and every sinner is a saint. You have heard me say it many times before "simul Justus et peccator"...At the same time both saint and sinner. We especially remember that it is God's grace, not our good works, that



make us a saint. On this Day of ALL Saints we proclaim a mystery which we proclaim every Sunday during the Eucharist: "Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again." We celebrate All Saints' Day on November 1<sup>st</sup> when much of the North American landscape appears to be dying. Days are shorter, trees are becoming bare as they lose their last leaves, and the sun is sinking lower in the sky with each new day. As we trace the cross on our foreheads or over our body we recall the one whose death and resurrection has formed this company of all the saints, hallowing all our lives. On Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we reimagine the world. Even in death, God makes all things new. These are the saints who have died in the faith since last All Saints' Day:



Marlyn (Marly) Dean Rydson  
John Williams  
Pam Gentle  
Kay Case Hoffmeister  
John Davenport  
Chuck Bybee

### HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

at Augustana

6:30 PM ~ November 20

This is a quiet and reflective service with scripture, music, and a brief homily. It is a wonderful way to bring a hectic day to a close. The service is about 40 minutes in length.

### Did you know???

- Our Gods Gifts Food Pantry...
  - ⇒ cannot use expired food. Please check the expiration date prior to bringing your items.
  - ⇒ cannot use glass jars for any items. Please bring only plastic jars.

Thank you for your help!!



### Successful Surprise!

Thank you so very much for the wonderful after church reception with all my favorite foods. Thank you for the theater tickets to the Lerner and for the many lovely cards, kind expressions of gratitude, the diet cokes, and the chocolates. I had no idea it was "Clergy Appreciation Day." You are so very much appreciated and loved. Thank you for your love, generosity, and thoughtfulness. You certainly surprised me and no one spilled the beans on the secret email that was sent out. You are good—very good. God bless you.

~ In Christ's Service,  
Sister Nora

PS ~ The Judy Collins concert was great. I had heard her at a homecoming concert at Valparaiso. She sounds the same.

### THANK YOU

Thanks a Bunch—"Thank you so much for your donation of school supplies and everything you donate all year long! We appreciate your support!"

~ Mary Daly Elementary Staff  
Hannah

## Pre-Advent Study Opportunity

### PRE-ADVENT: “Hidden Christmas: The Surprising Truth Behind the Birth of Christ” by Timothy Keller

Cost of the book is \$9.00 - Let Sr. Nora know asap if you want a book.

Timothy Keller takes readers on an illuminating journey into the surprising background of the nativity. By understanding the message of hope and salvation within the Bible's account of Jesus' birth, readers will experience the redeeming power of God's grace in a deeper and more meaningful way.

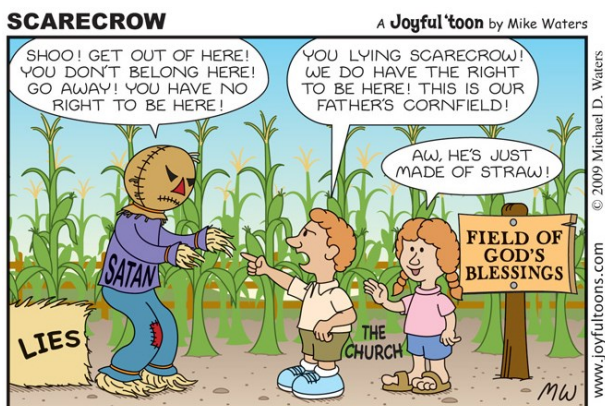
The author was the founding pastor at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Manhattan. When he stepped down from there, he became the chairman and co-founder of Redeemer City to City which trains pastors for service around the world. He was renowned for his clear, reasoned approach to Christian apologetics.

Tuesdays at 1:30 PM Grace Lutheran Church	Chapters to Read	Thursdays at 6:30 PM Augustana Lutheran Church
November 5	1 - 2	November 7
November 12	3 - 4	November 14
November 19	5 - 6	November 21
November 26	7 - 8	*November 27 <i>*Note: This date is Wednesday.</i>

**Bells are Ringing Bazaar**  
**Saturday, November 9**  
**8:30 AM – 1 PM**  
Grace Lutheran Church  
9<sup>th</sup> and Marion, Elkhart



Brunch will be served, Decorated Cookies, Baked Goods, Crafts, Christmas Booth, Celebrative Baskets for various occasions, and much more!



Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.  
— LUKE 12:32 NIV



## Looking Ahead

**Sunday, December 1 - After worship**  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Meal a Month

**Saturday, December 7 -**  
10 AM - Noon - 25¢ Sale at Augustana

**Thursday, December 12 -**  
Winter Scholarship Deadline

**Sunday, December 15 -**  
11 AM - Santa Lucia  
3 PM - Longest Night at Grace

**Tuesday, December 22 -**  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
4:30 PM - Augustana  
7:00 PM - Grace  
10:30 PM - Augustana

**Sunday, December 29 -**  
11 AM - Service of Lessons & Carols

## ELCA News

### FREE ONLINE National Lutheran Choir's 2024 All Saints Concert Sunday, November 3rd | 5:00pm ET

Featuring Alex Berko's *Sacred Place*

Hear this excerpt from Alex Berko's *Sacred Place*, "IV. Mi Shebeirach," from our most recent rehearsal to prepare for this season's All Saints concerts. "Mi Shebeirach" is a traditional Jewish prayer which asks for healing and blessing.

*"Bless those in need of healing,  
the renewal of body,  
the renewal of spirit."*

We invite you to take some time in your busy life for music and contemplation with the National Lutheran Choir.

Join us online no matter where you are via the available-to-all livestream at NLCA.com! Better yet, have a watch party!

Go to: [www.NLCA.com](http://www.NLCA.com) and click the "click here to watch livestream" button. There will be an option to donate. You may choose to donate or click "No" to get to the livestream.

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### It's that time of year!

The cost for 6" poinsettias for this upcoming season is projected to be \$8.50 each. Please use the order form below to place your order. Bring or mail it to the church with your payment. Thank you!

**Deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>!**

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### Poinsettias for the Holidays Augustana Christmas Flower Order Form

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Number of 6" Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_ at **\$8.50** each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



**Deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>!**

(\*Note: Poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas Eve services.)



Join us each Sunday morning  
for Fellowship in the Narthex  
before & after Worship.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday ~ 8AM-Noon  
Tuesday ~ 10:30AM-1:30PM  
Wednesday ~ 8AM-Noon  
Thursday ~ 8AM-Noon  
Friday ~ OFFICE CLOSED

GOD'S GIFTS PANTRY

Sack of food & personal items  
distribution every 2nd & 4th  
Thursday of the month.

## Augustana Lutheran Church

1133 Kilbourn Street  
Elkhart IN 46514

Phone: 574-294-3823

E-mail: secretary@augustana.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.augustanaelkhart.org

### Augustana Mission Statement:

As the Body of Christ,  
we are called to Love All, Serve All, Welcome All.



## Take-Along Page

*Take this page with you to the grocery store  
to help Augustana serve those in need.*

179 People  
Served in September

### God's Gifts Pantry Needs Your Help

**Thursday, November 14,** and **Wednesday, November 27,** will be our next sack distributions. Thank you to all who have brought items! We continue to serve more people each week, so your contributions are very much needed and appreciated! Please bring items to the church Sunday mornings or any time during the week during office hours, placing them in the barrels by the office. The following items are needed:

Canned chicken or tuna  
Canned fruits & vegetables  
Cereal & Oatmeal  
Ritz or other crackers in sleeves  
Pork and Beans  
Boxes or bags of rice  
Boxed potatoes  
Peanut Butter & Jelly  
Spaghetti or other pasta  
Canned spaghetti sauce (red) - no glass jars  
Cake mixes and frosting  
Pudding - jello  
Cookies (individually wrapped)  
Juice - no glass jars  
Non-dairy milk  
Cooking oil - butter

Toothpaste & toothbrushes  
Shampoo  
Toilet Paper & Kleenex  
Dish Soap & Laundry Detergent (not pods)  
Cleaning supplies

\*The following items are found at Dollar Tree:

\*Mac & Cheese with foil pack  
\*Boxed cereals (any size or kind)  
\*Spaghetti-O's – pull top  
\*Pork n' Beans & Dogs – pull top  
\*canned Kid meals  
\*Bags or boxes of rice  
\*Dinty Moore Stew  
\*Bags of beans  
\*Tuna

Cans with pop-tops are preferred though we know many cans do not come that way.

**NO GLASS JARS and NO EXPIRED FOOD**

# November 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Join us each Sunday morning for Fellowship in the Narthex before &amp; after worship.</p>						1	2 Change Clocks 
3 10:15 AM-Fall Annual Congregation Meeting 11 AM-Worship All Saints' Sunday Consecration/Commitment Sunday 5 PM - NLCA Concert	4	5 1:30 PM - Pre-Advent Book Study at Grace	6 9 AM-Breakfast Club at Perkins 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	7 6:30 PM - Pre-Avent Book Study at Augustana	8 6-8 PM-Pioneer Faith Youth Group	9 8:30 AM - 1 PM Bells are Ringing Bazaar at Grace	
10 11 AM-Worship	11	12 1:30 PM - Pre-Advent Book Study at Grace 6:30 PM-Augustana Council Meeting	13 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace	14 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry 6:30 PM - Pre-Avent Book Study at Augustana	15 5:30-8 PM-Thanksgiving Feast Game Night at Grace	16	
17 11 AM-Worship	18	19 8:45 AM - Noon Ministerium Meeting 1:30 PM - Pre-Advent Book Study at Grace	20 Newsletter Articles Deadline 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace 6:30 PM-Holden Evening Prayer	21 6:30 PM - Pre-Avent Book Study at Augustana	22 Sr. Nora at Deaconess Annual Assembly 6-8 PM-Pioneer Faith Youth Group	23 →	
24 Poinsettia Order Deadline 11 AM-Worship Christ the King →	25 X	26 1:30 PM - Last Pre-Advent Book Study at Grace	27 10-11 AM-God's Gifts Pantry Noon-Lunch Bunch at The Golden Egg 4 PM-Holy Communion at Grace 6:30 PM - Pre-Avent Book Study at Augustana	28 Office Closed 	29 Office Closed	30	