

# Zion Lutheran Monthly

December 2022

# Pastor's Corner

# "Come, Lord Jesus."

**P:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He Comes.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(DS II, LSB pg. 179)

During this past month we have been saying the above portion of liturgy every week. How fitting that during this past Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent, we also spoke these words. These words seemed to be a little more significant during the Season of Advent. Advent is that time of

year we remember Jesus once came as a baby in the flesh and will come again as King of Kings.



And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...

How important we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." I find that to be one of the most concise prayers we Christians can pray, and should pray, because we know without a shadow of a doubt Jesus will indeed come again. And since we know Jesus will keep His Word and come again, we should pray this prayer as often as possible. We should pray, "Come, Lord Jesus". Why? Because we need Jesus to come back. We desperately need Him to come back and fulfill His work of

redeeming all of creation through the resurrection of the dead. We need Him to come back because life itself can be very hard for us Christians. So, when we are in the hospital, we should pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." When we are wrestling with temptations of the flesh we should pray, "Come, Lord Jesus." When we are in a funeral home staring down at a loved one we are not ready to let go of, we should pray from the deepest depths of our souls, "Come, Lord Jesus."

Jesus will answer this prayer for you. We do not know the exact day or hour, but we do know He will answer it. In many ways, Jesus has also answered this prayer already. We speak these words in church right after hearing the Words of Institution; words that promise Jesus is physically present among us. And one day, our Lord will be among us. But He won't come to us physically in bread and wine. He will come to us physically in the flesh when He returns. As Jesus promised in Revelation:



"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star." <sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come... <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 22:16-20)

# **President's Report**

# A "Word" of Thanks and Praise

Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported and worked for our ministries here at Zion since January 2019, when my first term as President began. I am grateful for everyone's efforts to make Zion a worthy place to hear and practice our religion as my last two years serving you begin in January. Let's stand strong in our faith and be a wonderful example of what a Christian community should look like in today's world. Feel that calling in your soul.

We've certainly endured some interesting times and unique situations, but we've come through and continue to enjoy the sacraments and fellowship of our parish here at Zion, anchored in the LCMS doctrine. We are blessed and chosen people. Let us all give thanks to the Lord for placing us here in this church and let's keep working to honor our Lord God. Pray for the Christian church and our LCMS church and missions, our district, circuit and our home here at Zion! God hears our petitions so pray often and have faith.

With the busy Advent and Christmas season upon the church, I hope you and your families are blessed with a joyous December and a wonderful New

Year. Let's all keep focused upon what is important to our eternal existence and not so much on the situations here on this orb of confusion, corruption and tribulations. Don't let the outside world make your hearts heavy with anxieties, but keep prayer and faith in the forefront of your minds as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and the fulfillment of God's promise to mankind!!! Let Zion be a refuge and place to find peace and happiness as we approach the coming new year.

In the Gospel of John, we read in the opening Chapter verses 1 through 14 an introduction of who Christ is. We're so blessed to be a part of this story as Christians who are called and chosen! Take some time to read it as Advent begins. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1, 14)

Praise the Lord. Thanks be to God. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

# **Mission Moment:**

Promoting Zion's Internal, local, and international missionary efforts

Pastor Philip & Deaconess Rachel Jaseph

# Jumping into Life and Service: The Jaseph's Uruguayan Spring in Pictures





Spring is a season in which we often think about new life and new beginnings, and in Montevideo Pastor Phil and Deaconess Rachel have had many reasons to rejoice this spring (although it feels a bit strange to them that temperatures there are warming, while everyone up north is living with cold autumn temperatures!). Two women of different generations received and remembered God's welcome into the family of the Church through the waters of Holy Baptism in October. Join them in praising God for the lives of faith of our sisters in Christ, Sandra, recently baptized, and Agustina, as she remembers hers daily!

Pastor Phil and Deaconess Rachel are pictured here in their new apartment in the neighborhood of Centro, Montevideo. They are thankful to God for quickly providing their new home, which they are enjoying! *Did you know?? ...* There are eight times as many cows as people in Uruguay, so high-quality, grass-fed beef is never lacking. Pictured here is the Uruguayan-style "Parilla", or wood-fire grill at Pastor Andre's home.

# Contact us anytime ... we would love to hear from you!

To learn more about our work or to support us financially, please go to **lcms.org/jaseph**. You may also send a check made out to "LCMS" with "Jaseph Mission Support" in the memo line to either The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166, or Mission Central, 40718 E 16, Mapleton, IA 51034.



# Celebrate the coming of our Lord at these seasonal worship and fellowship opportunities!

# Saturday 12/3

**Church Decorating Party and Luncheon** — 11:30 am (RSVP to events@zlcb.org)

# Wednesday 12/7

*Midweek Advent Worship Services* — 2:00 & 7:00 pm

# **Sunday 12/11**

Youth Assemble Luminaria -- 11:45 am
Women's Ornament Exchange & Dinner -- 6:00 pm (contact Tevia Grimenstein)

# **Sunday 12/14**

 ${\it Midweek Advent Worship Services} - 2:00 \& 7:00 pm$ 

# **Sunday 12/18**

Sunday School Christmas Party -- 9:15 am Sunday School Christmas Carol Singing -- during 10:30 worship Special Sunday School Christmas Video -- following 8 & 10:30 am worship



Christmas Eve Worship -- Sat. 12/24

2:00 pm (prelude begins 1:30) 7:00 pm (prelude begins 6:00)

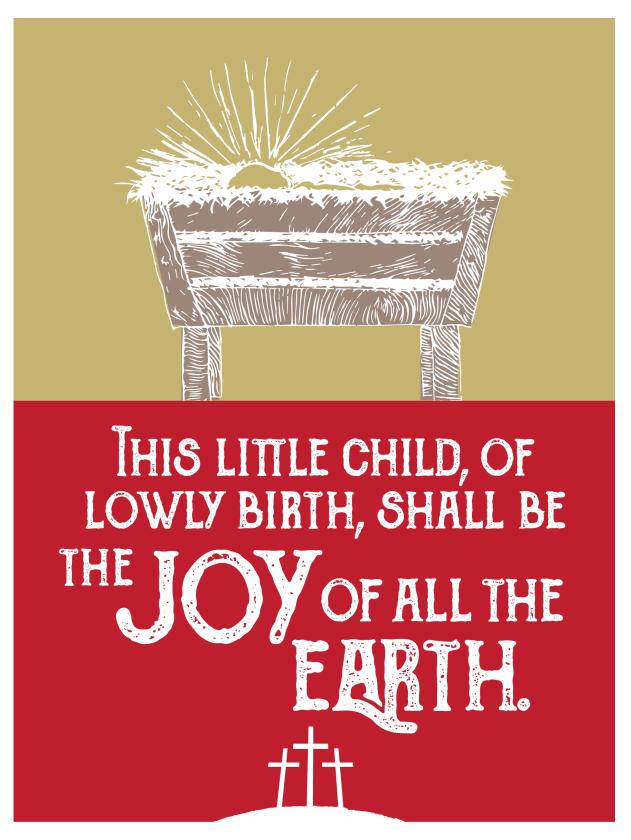
<u>Christmas Day Worship -- Sun. 12/25</u>

10:00 am (no Bible Study or SS)

<u>New Year's Eve Worship -- Sat. 12/31</u> 2:00 & 7:00 pm

New Year's Day Worship -- Sun. 1/1
10:00 am (no Bible Study or SS)





# **CHRIST CAME FOR YOU.**

Come join us to receive His forgiveness, life and salvation.



# Share the Joy of Christmas with our homebound members ... Send them a card this Season!

# Mr. Tom Bicusky

Elmcroft of Bridgeville 3275 Washington Pike Bridgeville PA 15017

### Mrs. Florence Boehme

McMurray Hills Manor 249 W McMurray Rd McMurray PA 15317

### Mrs. Gladys Cimarolli

103 Greenwood Drive Bridgeville, PA 15017 (extra-large print, please)

#### Mrs. Lois Dittmer

Strabane Woods 319 Wellness Way Rm 117 Washington PA 15301

# Mrs. Dottie Heslop

Country Meadows 3580 Washington Pike Apt. 110 Bridgeville PA 15017

#### Mr. & Mrs. Ted Siek

1290 Boyce Rd. Apt C321 Pittsburgh, PA 15241

#### Mrs. Rose Steranko

1139 Peachtree Road Carnegie, PA 15106

#### Mr. & Mrs. Ron Valentino

12 Stratford Court Carnegie, PA 15106



# Zion's Anniversary in 2023



Next year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation!

All throughout the year we'll be commemorating this milestone in some very special ways. Stay tuned for announcements about special anniversary events, historical articles and vintage photos in our newsletters, and how you can get involved in the celebration!



Early members of Zion (then known as Zion Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's German Church) circa 1920.



Join us & lend a hand!

# Zion Decorating Party

Saturday 12/3 @ 11:30 am Lunch & Drinks Served

Pls sign-up in the Narthex or RSVP to Megan Glasser at events@zlcb.org

# **Chrismons at Zion**



Chrismons from L-R, top row – Cross in Eternity, Son of Righteousness, Cross atop Orb; bottom row – Cornerstone, Greek Cross, Iota Chi, Latin Cross.

You may notice that the Christmas tree at Zion looks a little different this year. This year the tree will be decorated with Chrismons. What are Chrismons? The word is a combination of the words "Christ" and "Monogram", so Chrismons are signs and symbols of our Lord Jesus Christ. They are always white – symbolizing the innocence, purity and perfection of our Savior; and gold – a symbol for the glory and majesty of God and the Son of God.

Some Zion members have been hard at work making Chrismons using beads and styrofoam. We plan to have Chrismon workshops throughout 2023 and will be using many different materials, including Styrofoam and felt. Our goal is to make enough Chrismons to fill Zion's Christmas tree in the years to come. If you are interested in making Chrismons, please talk to Tracey Harris or Tracey Johnson.

# Beware E-mail Scam!

Unfortunately, once again fake emails and text messages have been circulating to Zion members .... the emails/texts appear to come from "Pastor Edward O. Grimenstein" and requests "a favor" OR "money and/or gift cards".



THESE ARE A SCAM. PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THEM!
Unfortunately these scams have been on the rise in recent months.

# Bridgeville Area Food Bank

It is a great joy to have such an outpouring of generosity from the members of Zion congregation.

On behalf of the Bridgeville Area Food Bank (BAFB) I thank everyone who is participating in the Christmas Angel Tree project. Please return your unwrapped gift costing around twenty dollars with the gift tag attached by Sunday, Dec. 11. May those who give and those who receive be blessed with knowing that Jesus is the best gift of all. -- Barb Oechslein



The December collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is **Sunday**, **Dec. 11**<sup>th</sup>. The "item of the month" is HOT DRINKS. Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack.

You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church (contact Barb Oechslein for

more information). Many families in our area are in need due to the financial downturn. Please continue to support the Food Bank with your donations and volunteer service!



# **Altar Flower & Eternal Light Sponsorships ...**

For dates in 2023 are available in the back of the sanctuary! Members may sponsor in honor of (or in memory of) a loved one ... or in celebration of a special occasion.

Sign-up today!





# We have two special events coming up on *Sunday, December 18th*. Be sure to mark your calendar now!

# **Sunday School Christmas Video & Song Performance**

Tess Carter is once again developing a video that features our Sunday school children sharing the story of Christ's birth through the reading of Scripture, artwork, and the nativity. The video will be presented in the sanctuary immediately after both services on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. *You won't want to miss it!!!!* 



Also, Music Director Mark Killinger will be leading our kids in a performance of Christmas songs that same Sunday during the 10:30 worship service. Mark will be having short practices with the students in early November at 9:15, right at the start of the Sunday School hour.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS SUCCESSFUL -- PLEASE HAVE YOUR CHILDREN ARRIVE IN THE PRESCHOOL WING ON SUNDAYS BEFORE 9:15 am SO PRACTICE CAN BEGIN ON TIME! THANK YOU!

# **Sunday School Kids Christmas Party**

A holiday party for students will take place the same day -- Sunday, December 18 -- during the SS hour in the PreSchool, room 205. No Sunday School lesson that day, but we will be reading the Christmas Story, and will be celebrating Jesus' birthday with a cake! Assistance from teachers and parents will be appreciated. We will have our regular Bible Class for Teens and Adults that day in the fellowship hall.





**Sunday, January 1** there will be NO Sunday School or Bible Study. We will have ONE worship service at 10 am that day.



# JOIN US FOR CONCORDIA'S TENTH ANNUAL LIVE MATIVITY

\* Sunday, December 11 148 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023 (Entrance #5, Haven II)

Performances at 4:30, 5:15 and 6 p.m.

- Featuring Concordia staff and residents
- Live animals
- Hot beverages and refreshments
- · Gift for children 12 and under
- Live Christmas music
- Free admission



This will be a "walk-through" nativity, so guests are encouraged to dress warmly. Parking at entrances 5 and 6. For more information, call 724-352-1571, ext. 8268 or visit www.concordialm.org.





# What About...

# **Christian Families**

Greetings to you in the name or our Lord Jesus Christ. Christian families face enormous pressure in our world today. It is important that they have a good understanding of what God intends for the family and how they best can respond to the many challenges that confront them.

#### What does God say about families in His Word, the Bible?

In the beginning, God created men and women to live together with one another as husbands and wives, and through their marriages to bring children into the world. We read in Gen. 2:22-24: "The Lord God made a women from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called "women," for she was taken out of man.' For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." Our Lord Jesus Christ affirmed the divine institution of marriage during his earthly ministry (Matt.19:5)

Through the Apostle Paul, the Lord revealed that Christian husbands and wives are to love and serve one another, modeling before the world the love Christ has for His bride, the church. In Ephesians 5, St. Paul wrote: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior.

"Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her to make her holy... In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of His body.

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband" (Eph.5:21-33).

In this powerful description of marriage, there is no room

For husbands to "lord it over" their wives, nor for wives to disregard their husband's role. The key is mutual submission to and love for one another.

Parents are to provide discipline with love and compassion, doing what is best for their children. We read in Eph. 6:4 "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Children are to honor and obey their parents, as the Lord commands, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.' 'Honor your father and your mother' - which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth" (Eph. 6:1-2).

### What are some cultural trends impacting families?

As we review what the Bible says about families, we quickly realize how far many of our cultural trends are from God's will for families.

Christian families are bombarded by signals which contradict God's Word. Movies, music, magazines, books and especially television inundate us with wrong messages. The signal is sent that a sexual relationship outside of marriage, or before marriage, is perfectly natural, or that even homosexual lifestyle is merely an alternative to "traditional" marriage. Children are led to believe that being disobedient and disrespectful to parents is normal, even amusing, or that the elderly are to be viewed as a burden, or subjects for humor. So much of popular culture appeals to humanity's most sinful inclinations, and encourages them in a barrage of images and words.

The pressure on our young people to do whatever is necessary to be "popular" is sometimes difficult for parents to understand and appreciate. They may be caught up in destructive lifestyles and behaviors, encouraged by popular music, which encourages rebelliousness and disdain for life and the dignity of their fellow human beings. As our teenagers grow older, they are given the impression that "living together" without marriage is perfectly acceptable. How tragic it is when their own families do nothing to resist this behavior!



What About...

# **Christian Families**

Men in our culture are encouraged to indulge their lusts and selfish desires. So little respect or attention is given to the man who wishes to be a faithful husband or father. How many children today grow up without a responsible father in the home? The horrendous consequences of this trend will only become greater as we move into the future.

Women too are pressured to take a dim view of what God has given them. They are pressured to view childbearing as less than fulfilling, something only to be tolerated, rather than enjoyed as a gift from God. They too face temptations to disregard God's expectations for them when they are wives and mothers, or to view marriage as something to be abandoned when it becomes convenient for them.

Yes, we surely do recognize that popular cultural trends often convey messages totally contrary to our Lord's Word and His will for Christian families. This needs to be recognized and resisted.

#### How can a Christian family deal with today's challenges?

Openly facing the issues is the first step. Pretending that problems do not exist will certainly not help. Nor will it do for a family simply to hope that they will not be faced with problems. Ignoring reality will not make it go away.

It is crucial for Christian parents to spend both quality and quantity time with their children. Reading with their young children, discussing the questions they have and being there to support and encourage them is extremely important. Husbands and wives need to take time out of

busy and hectic schedules to simply talk to one another, discussing the needs they have and the problems they are experiencing, working together to grow in their love for one another, and for their children.



Christian families need to make <u>every-Sunday worship an</u> <u>absolute priority</u>. As families are gathered by God around His Word and Sacraments, they receive forgiveness, life and salvation—the strength they need to cope with the challenges of daily life.

# What role do daily devotions have in Christian families' lives?

One of the most important things a family can do it spend time together in the Word of God. Key ingredients for the family's devotional time are the Scriptures, the hymnal and the Small Catechism. These are excellent resources for meaningful time together in the Word of God.

Parents should begin reading the chief parts of the Small Catechism with their children when they are young, helping them learn the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the Apostles' Creed, and then working on the explanations, building as time goes on.

Parents need to discuss their faith with their children, pray with them and encourage them in love to do what is right, not hesitating to say "no" when necessary. And always, parents will want to be a model of the Heavenly Father's love in Christ Jesus.

#### How can parents help children resist temptations?

Parents often overlook the very important role they play simply by the way they themselves handle life. A parent can provide an important role model for his or her children.

If a man constantly displays a harsh and fierce temper at home, uses foul language and acts disrespectfully towards his wife, it is little wonder why his son would grow up with similar attitudes and behaviors. If a women constantly gripes and points out every fault, again, there is little surprise when her children do the same when they grow up.

Christian parents need to model the faith, both to their children and others around them. St. Paul wrote that a Christian marriage is to be an image of Christ's love for the church. This is both an awesome responsibility and a joyous privilege.

-Dr. A. L. Barry Past President, The LCMS



# www.lutheransforlife.org 888.364.LIFE

Lutherans for Life witnesses to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God. It serves through individuals who volunteer at pregnancy care centers, with hospice, through prayer, and in a wide variety of caring activities. It educates and encourages through conferences and workshops, printed resources and newsletters, Life Sunday materials and Bible studies, curricula, video, and through the website www.lutheransforlife.org

# Life Thoughts in the Church Year

Based on appointed readings from Lutheran Service Book

December 18 – Advent IV – Surprise pregnancy once redeemed the whole world. Joseph would have aborted the undertaking, but the Lord explicitly forbid it (Matthew 1:19-21). Even human limitations could not prevent the Heavenly Father from keeping His promises (Romans 1:2-3). So, every surprise pregnancy we encounter—along with our lives and everyone else's (Psalm 24:1)—belongs to Almighty God, and we may rejoice to say so.

December 25 – Nativity of Our Lord – The Lord bared His holy arm (Isaiah 52:10) not just by appearing in the form of a full-grown man. The Word became flesh (John 1:14) first as an embryo and a fetus. The clearest revelation of God's glory (Hebrews 1:2-3) also designates every human life precious, no matter what age, appearance, or ability. We can no more keep quiet about the sanctity of life than we can leave out Christmas or Jesus from the Gospel!



For those who have had an abortion, a Word of Hope ... 888.217.8679 • info@word-of-hope.org • word-of-hope.org







@ 9 AM ET

# Conference and March **OPEN TO ALL ADULTS!**

# BLESSED WITH HOPE @ 6 PM ET

#### Thursday

**January** 

- Registration and Exhibits
- Opening Devotions: Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller
- Conference Session 1: Rev. Mark Chavez

# BLESSED FROM THE BEGINNING

Friday

January

- Pre-March Devotion: Rev. Harrison Goodman
- March for Life: Rally, March, and Testimonials
- Dinner on own
- Exhibits, Social Time
- Conference Session 2: Dr. Donna Harrison

# Saturday

**January** 

Conference Session 3: Rev. Greg Schultz

BLESSED FOR SERVING @ 9 AM ET

 Conference Session 4: Chaplain Craig Muehler

Closing Devotion: Rev. Michael Salemink

Conference ends @ noon ET.

Location:

Hilton Crystal City at Reagan National Airport 2399 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202

Cost:

Register for \$50. Rooms cost \$120 per night with group rate, up to 4 people per room. Breakfast

<mark>included. Limited</mark> avai<mark>labi</mark>lity.

Register at lutheransforlife.org or call Registration:

515-382-2077

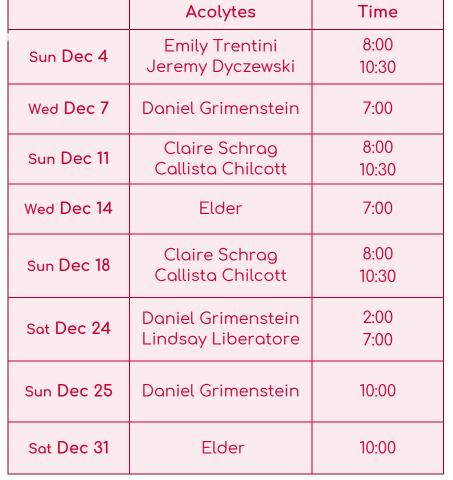
CONFERENCE REGISTRATION CLOSES DEC. 15, 2022

For more information, visit: LUTHERANSFORLIFE.ORG Or email Events Coordinator, Erika Peterson, at:

EPETERSON@LUTHERANSFORLIFE.ORG

# December Service Participants









	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Dec	Bob Schmidt, Roger Diederich, Bill Bishop, Jim Neill	Janet & Marian Oelschlager, Barb Oechslein	Jason Trentini, Bill, Ken & Will Schrag	Susie Bishop, Mike Kozak, John & Luke Lemonovich
Jan	TBD	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Joshua Grimenstein, Tim Sheldon, Larry & Janet Zreliak	Bob Bonacci, Aaron & Mike Kozak, Chuck LaJeunesse



1 <sup>st</sup>	Tess Carter
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Romy Carter
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Coyle
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Augie Bishop
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Linda Seibel
9 <sup>th</sup>	Michele Wallace
10 <sup>th</sup>	Megan Glasser
10 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Kozak
13 <sup>th</sup>	Susan Stone
14 <sup>th</sup>	Benjamin Taylor
15 <sup>th</sup>	Tristan Chilcott

17 <sup>th</sup>	John Gresh
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Casper Carter
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Ed Hajduk
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Megan Pasquini
24 <sup>th</sup>	Michael Dyczewski
24 <sup>th</sup>	Jeremy Dyczewski
25 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua Grimenstein
27 <sup>th</sup>	Alex Yellig







22nd Jesse & Tess Carter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	9:00 am Trustees Fall Clean-Up 11:30 am Church Decorating Party (lunch served)
4 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	5 7:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program	6 7:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program	7 2:00 pm Advent Week 2 7:00 pm Advent Week 2	8 7:00 pm Preschool Christmas Program	9	10
8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Women's Dinner & Ornament Exchange (Napoli)	6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	13	2:00 pm Advent Week 3 7:00 pm Advent Week 3	15 7:00 pm Council Mtg.	16 EM	rome,
18 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/Teen Bible Study & SS Christmas Party 10:30 am Worship SS Christmas Video after both services 11:45 Youth Assemble Luminaria	19 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 2:00 pm Worship (prelude begins at 1:30) 7:00 pm Worship (prelude begins at 6:00)
25 Merry Christmas 10:00 am Worship	26	27	28  G to the NEWE	29  e BORN  T  ing	30	31 New Years Eve 2:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Worship