

# THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522

Ruth F. Doty, Pastor

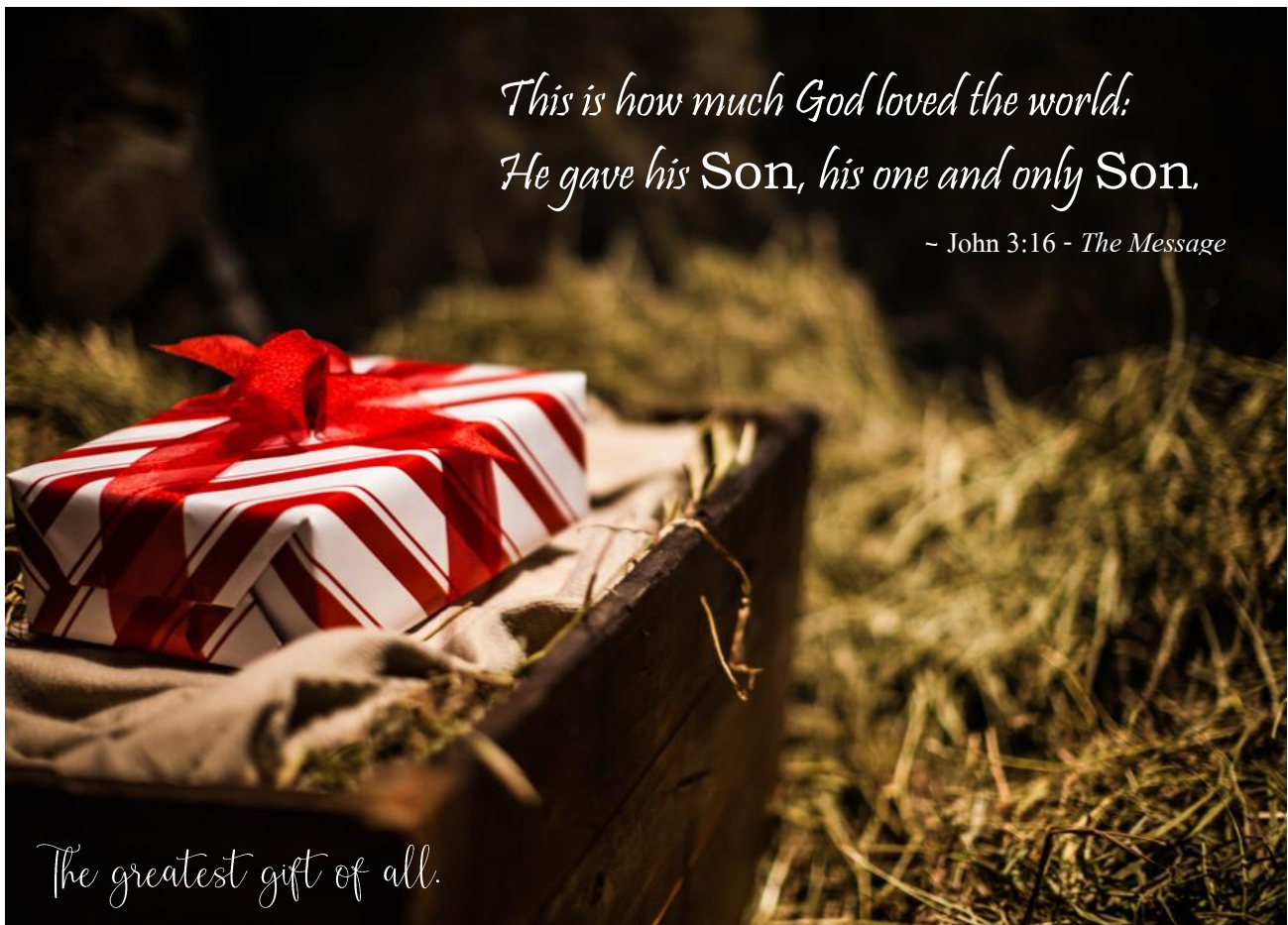
E-MAIL: [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net)

WEBSITE: <https://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com>

OFFICE PHONE: 610.682.6064

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

*(Monday 7:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m., Wednesday 7:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., Thursday 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Please call ahead to make sure someone is there.)*



*This is how much God loved the world:  
He gave his Son, his one and only Son.*

*- John 3:16 - The Message*

*The greatest gift of all.*

## THE MISSION OF NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

*We are a group of people who  
gather together in friendship and love  
to worship God, to spread God's Word,  
and to care for God's people.*



Dear Friends,

As I write this in early November we have been hearing “warnings” to shop early because otherwise, due to disruptions in the supply chain, we may not be able to find what we want for holiday meals or gift giving. This ought to make us question, “What do I, what do we, *really* need?”

God’s answer to the question is simple: “What the world needs now, is love, sweet love. It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of.”<sup>1</sup>

God created the world with great love. As soon as things went “sideways,” God promised to send love, powerful love, to set things right. The essence of the directives God gave God’s people on how to live together is, “Love the Lord with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself.” During Advent we express how we long for the fullness of God’s love to come among us and set things right, to fill the world with love. And at Christmas we celebrate the Feast of the Father’s Love, the gift of God’s only Son born as a human.

Gift giving at Christmas originated as a reflection and reminder of the gift of love God gave us. Since gifts are a reflection of God’s love, the best gifts don’t have to be things, nor do they necessarily need to be something the recipient wanted. The best gifts are what the recipient needs and what we all need is love, love conveyed in words and in actions.

That brings us to the supply chain. God is love. God is full of love. God’s love is big enough for the whole creation, for every creature. The challenge is, how to get that love out so that it can meet the needs of the world God loves, to meet the needs of each creature, of every human being. God’s answer is human beings. Human beings are to be the transport and delivery part of the supply chain, bringing Gods’ love to others in the ways others need and can receive.

Where and how do *you* pick up the love you need? How do *you* transport and deliver God’s love?

During Advent we encourage you to “stock up” on God’s love by taking time to light candles and ponder devotions, to listen to hymns and join in worship. These can help you be ready and able to do your part in “delivering the goods,” the good news of God’s acceptance, of God’s and desire and determination for all to prosper.

You have a unique role to play in the supply chain. In this newsletter you will find suggestions for ways to stock up and ways to deliver. May God’s Spirit fill, guide and encourage you to find and play your part in “delivering the goods.”

*Pastor Ruth*

<sup>1</sup> The song, “What the world needs now is love, sweet love” was written by Hal David.

# NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our Council Meeting on November 8th:

- A sandwich sale by the Scout Troop was approved.
- Property Committee reported that additional carbon monoxide detectors have been installed, new doors for the rear of the church building have been ordered, and a defective part in the water purification system is being replaced.
- The Cemetery Board has identified and is working to clarify issues regarding which property is owned by the church and which by the Cemetery Board. They are in the process of finalizing changes to the Constitution, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.
- Council will be working to clarify the church's property lines and who has what responsibility for the part of the driveway that is adjacent to the house at the entrance to the drive.
- The date for the Annual Meeting will be Sunday, February 6, after the worship service.

## ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS

Now that we are going to be worshipping in our church building every Sunday, we need volunteers to sign up for Altar Guild. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex if you are able to help. Thank you!



## DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

On **Sunday, December 19th**, after the worship service, we will be taking the Advent decorations off the tree and putting the angels on it. Please plan to stay after church to help with this project.

**JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is **Sunday, December 19th**. Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by this date.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

will be held at on **Friday, December 24th, at 7:00 p.m.** Masks are expected.

## SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

will be held on **Sunday, December 26th**.

## COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Annual Reports from the Council President, Worship & Music, Property, Stewardship, Fellowship & Activities, Mutual Ministry, Communion Set-up, and Altar Guild Committees are due to the church office by **Sunday, January 9th**.

## ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 6th** immediately after our worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the annual reports from the committees.

## WORSHIP AT NEW JERUSALEM

We are now worshipping in our building every Sunday.

Bulletins will continue to be mailed or emailed to those who request them so that those who cannot be present can join in worship at home. If you would like to receive one, please let us know at 610.682.6064 or [njelchurch@windstream.net](mailto:njelchurch@windstream.net).

Bulletins are also available on our website.

We are continuing to explore possibilities for connecting people through Zoom to worship in the building.

Meanwhile, if, for some unforeseen reason (e.g. inclement weather, a rise in the risk of infection, etc.) we are not able to worship in the building we may be able to temporarily revert to Zoom. In this case you will be able to connect with Zoom worship via internet, phone, and other devices. Links will now also be listed in the bulletins or you can call the church office if you need more information. Those not able to join a Zoom service, can watch them later on our Facebook page or on our website under the "Zoom Worship Services" tab. Website: <https://newjerusalemlutheran.weebly.com>.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION  
HANDY IN CASE WE NEED TO USE ZOOM  
FOR WORSHIP**

New Jerusalem Sunday Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89499550266?pwd=Mnl3bmxCMkI3TDIHZGlrNXVaVVlmZz09>

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**; Passcode: **27**

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,89499550266# US (Chicago)

Dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: **894 9955 0266**

**UPDATED GUIDELINES FOR WORSHIP AT  
NEW JERUSALEM**

Our current guidelines are listed below but may change as the infection rate changes around us. The guiding principle is love of God and love for our neighbor, including the vulnerable among us.

- 1) For the time being, seating will be every other pew.
- 2) Masks are expected to be worn as an act of love for others.
- 3) Communion will be held the first Sunday of the month in your pew.

The Worship and Music Committee, the council and our Task Force will continue to monitor the situation and will make modifications as they deem it wise.

**BIBLE STUDY**

Our Bible Study group continues to study Paul's letter to the Romans. This month we will meet on **Monday, December 6, 13, and 20 at 11:00 a.m.** in the church building. Let Pastor Ruth know if you would like to join.

**COLORING GROUP**

Our Coloring Group continues meeting monthly to color Bible-themed pages while visiting with one another. The next meeting is **Thursday, December 2, at 10:00 a.m.** Pages and supplies provided, but feel free to bring your own. There is plenty of room to maintain a safe distance from one another. Participants are asked to wear masks. Friends are welcome.

Not able to get to church or don't feel comfortable getting together there? Just let them know and pages will be sent to you and you can visit with other members by phone. If you are interested, please let Phyllis Fenstermacher (610.682.2423) or Diane Keller (610.682.4152) know.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS**

End-of-year contribution statements for 2021 should (hopefully) be arriving in your mailbox by the end of January. Please check them over and notify the church office if there are any discrepancies. Thank you!

**DECEMBER WORSHIP SPONSORS**

The cost to sponsor bulletins for a week is still \$7.00 and sponsorship of the Sanctuary Candle is \$15.00 for a month. If you would like to sponsor any of the available dates below, please leave a message on the church answering machine with your dedication. Thank you!

We are mailing bulletins to many members. The cost for that is about \$45.00 per week. Any contributions to help offset this cost are appreciated.

**Altar Flower sponsors for December:**

December 5 – *sponsor needed*

December 12 – *sponsor needed*

December 19 – *sponsor needed*

December 26 – *sponsor needed*

**Bulletin Sponsors for December:**

December 5 – Gladys Kline

December 12 – Phyllis Fenstermacher

December 19 – Rodney and Diane Keller

December 26 – *sponsor needed*

**Sanctuary Candle Sponsor for December:**

*sponsor needed*

**Children's Bulletins for December:**

*sponsor needed*

**HEAVEN AND NATURE SING: DEVOTIONS  
FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS**

This devotional is now available for pick up on the table in the narthex. Explore the Advent season and celebrate the joy of the twelve days of Christmas and the day of Epiphany. *Heaven and Nature Sing* includes daily devotions for Sundays and festival days, and Epiphany. In addition to devotions, the book offers household blessings and



prayers to enrich your preparations and celebrations. During these days of Advent and Christmas, may the good news of Jesus' birth fill our lives and our world with joy and peace. Also available as an e-book for Kindle, Nook, and Google for \$1.99 on Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or Google.

# Stewardship Updates

## THANKSGIVING BOXES

This year, in addition to the two boxes of supplies for Thanksgiving meals, which our congregation normally provides, with the help of a Thrivent grant, we filled an additional twelve. The boxes are being delivered through Friend, Inc.

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR CHILDREN

Twelve members from New Jerusalem purchased Christmas gifts for children through the Christmas Cheer Program by Friend, Inc. A \$250 Thrivent grant was obtained which allowed for the purchase of eight additional gifts, making a total of 22 gifts (2 members each purchased two gifts).

## CHRISTMAS AT SEA

Have you been hearing about ships stuck out in the harbor, waiting to unload their goods? Ever wondered about the workers that are stuck on board as well?

Seafarers International House is a Lutheran ministry dedicated to caring for these workers. When ships are in port, chaplains connect with those on board ministering to their concerns no matter their faith. For those sailors not allowed off the ships, volunteers shop for personal items and deliver them to the vessel. They have also been able to assist some of them who want to obtain vaccinations.

Once again members of our congregation have been busy knitting and crocheting hats and cowls for these essential workers and, through the generosity of our members and the help of a Thrivent grant, we are filling Christmas at Sea Satchels with shirts and socks and other personal items. Watch for a report next month on how many satchels we have been able to fill.

## SUPPLIES FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

A poignant spot in Luke's version of the Christmas Story is that there was no room for the family in the inn.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) is working with the Allentown office of Bethany Christian Services Ministries to resettle Afghan refugees in our area. Basic household items are needed by these brothers and sisters, most of whom have come with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Below is a list of basic household items needed by these brothers and sisters, articles which we can collect to help them feel welcome. We have also obtained a Thrivent Grant to supplement donations by our congregation.

1. Twin blankets – new
2. Twin comforters – new
3. Glass cleaner – new
4. Toilet bowl cleaner – new
5. Toilet bowl brushes – new
6. Dust pans and brushes – new
7. Trash cans – tall kitchen and desk size – new
8. Sharp kitchen knives sets – new or gently used
9. Pots and pans – new or gently used
10. Large kitchen trash bags – new

Please bring your donations to church.

## SUPPLIES FOR KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

The Lutheran Center at Kutztown University distributes food, personal care items, and gently used clothing to members of the KU community through their pantry. Please bring your donations after Christmas. We will get them to the university in time for the students' return after the holidays. We are also applying for a Thrivent Grant to supplement donations of our members.

## GOOD GIFTS TREE

Whoever heard of decorating a tree with pigs and goats and cows and chicks and honeybees, seedlings, latrines, and vaccinations? New Jerusalem has.



Once again, our congregation is offering the opportunity to donate useful gifts for our siblings around the world through the ELCA Hunger Appeal. Catalogues of things to choose from have been mailed to members and can also be picked up in the fellowship area. You can also help decorate the tree with ornaments indicating items you have chosen to sponsor. Ornaments and cards are available at the nearby table.

Check out the tree. Join the fun. It can be a *mooving* experience.

## WITH SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Verna M. Guinther who passed away on Saturday, October 30, 2021. A funeral service was held at Walbert Funeral Home, Fleetwood, on Thursday, November 4.

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.

John 3:16-17 – *The Message*

# Thank You

**THANK YOU** to everyone for your phone calls, visits, cards, and prayers, during my time of recuperation. – *Elaine Seip*



- 3 Sheila Gehman
- 5 Sarah Bailey
- 6 Pastor Ruth Doty
- 6 Vikie Seyfert
- 6 Amanda Herman
- 10 Dawn Wengert
- 11 Jennifer Musser
- 15 Randall Cleaver
- 15 Jared Keiser
- 16 Elwood Cleaver, Jr.
- 20 Sheila Long
- 21 Clinton Allen
- 22 David Moyer
- 26 Marleise Matz
- 31 David Wartenluft



- 2 Rodney and Diane Keller (49 years)

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

**PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those with Limited Mobility or in Care Facilities:** Anna Angstadt, Bertha Bennecoff, Shirley Hertzog, and Irene Noll.

**PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND SUPPORT Members:** Myles Angstadt, Sara Jane Beshore, Erma Guinther, Family and friends of Verna Guinther, Virginia Guinther, Lucille Jones, Sheila Long, Forrest Merkel, Edna Miller, Grace Miller, Lloyd and Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Horace Rothermel, Family and friends of Joyce Rothermel, Gabriele Sanders, Dale Schwoyer, and Elaine Seip.

**Friends of the congregation:** John Arndt, Michael Basta, Carrie Bausch, Adam Bell, Darlene Bogert, Bob Bright, Thelma Bright, Mitch Burkhart, Mark Derr, Randy Dreibelbis, Lori Eck, Jennifer Engle, Dennis Grof, Jason Grof, Betty Gruber, Mamie Guinther, Shirley Hahn, Nancy Harnish, Johnson-Agiri Family, Debra Kenny, Angie Kistler, Kelly Kline, The Koontz Family, Cayden Kresge, Michelle Kurtz, Catherine Lenio, Ella Loose, Joe M., Mike Mattiuz, Rodney Miller, Harry Naugle, Johnathan Naugle, Ruth Ramsey, Lexi Recke, Tierney Schmeer, Family and friends of Roger Schollenberger, Patricia Sigfried, Cleon and Jean Smith, Shawn Sptaz, Robert Taylor, Leticia Weaver, Linda Wegman, Richard Weller, Terry White, Althea Young, Barry, Gabby, Lynn, Meaghan, Pat, Sam, and Tim.

**OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS:** We pray for: all seeking to respond lovingly and responsibly to COVID-19, especially healthcare workers; those recovering from and responding to disasters; migrants and refugees; our nation, including our president, congress, judicial system, and leaders of our communities; an end to the many ways prejudice and racism maintain inequality between people and injustice; an end to threats between nations; peace in the world; and our military personnel serving around the world.

**LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST:** Nancy Bennecoff, Gary DeWees, Don Gajewski, Erma Gajewski, Lorelai Gold, Denise Haage, Amanda Herman, Janis Kershner, Mary Kring, Michelle Meck, Arlene Reider, Leilani Rodriguez, Andrew S., Donna Schwoyer, and Leah Wiest.

**New Jerusalem Lutheran Church  
Statement of Accounts**

**October 31, 2021**

<u>Asset Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Memorial	\$ 21,868.82
Thrivent	11,193.04
Checking	6,465.61
Youth	406.58
Fidelity	62,110.68
Cash Reserve	24,416.24
Mission Investment Fund	11,608.79
Local Care	<u>2,160.31</u>
	Total: <u>\$ 140,230.07</u>
Total Balance of Asset Accounts from <b>October 31, 2020</b> <u>\$ 154,544.07</u>	

**October 2021 – ‘Actual’ vs. ‘Required’ Income**

	<u>Income</u>		
	<u>Required</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
<u>Income</u>			
<u>Used For:</u>	<u>Per Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Operating Expenses	\$ 9,651.25	\$ 4,541.82	(\$ 5,109.43)

*Income Required per Month — Based on 2021  
Budget Passed by Congregation  
Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution*

**IT’S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS**

*Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you.” -  
Luke 6:38*

Why is it so hard to find that all-too-elusive “perfect gift” for the loved ones in your life? For many of us, it’s because they already have everything they need and most of what they want.

It sometimes feels impossible to find a gift that won’t be banished to that closet for unwanted, unneeded, and unused presents—alongside the loud ties, the strong perfumes, the unread books, and the garish sweaters.

When it comes to gift-giving, it’s often said, “It’s the thought that counts.” If that’s true, why do we still put so much emphasis on the gift?

This year focus on the thoughts behind your Christmas gifts. Thoughts in keeping with the season. Thoughts of meeting real needs and giving where it will be much appreciated. With so many disadvantaged people in the world, at least some of our Christmas budget would be well spent helping our needy neighbors.

If you are buying for a loved one who has everything, consider instead giving a monetary donation in their honor to a worthy charity that helps the poor. Some charities, such as Heifer International and ELCA Good Gifts, let you buy a specific item – such as a goat or pig for a family, or a water well for a village – to help people in the developing world.

Make the gift in your loved one’s name or honor, and then describe it in a card attached to a low-cost “token” gift, such as a small box of chocolates or a bottle of wine. The better part of your gift will go to someone who truly needs it, and your loved one will share the joy of loving and helping your neighbors in need.

Just remember, ‘It’s the thought that counts!’”

Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for [www.stewardshipoflife.org](http://www.stewardshipoflife.org). He blogs at [www.thestewardshipguy.com](http://www.thestewardshipguy.com)



**to our church family and friends!**



## SIMPLE SYMBOLS

Create personalized initial ornaments for family and friends.



### What you need:

- Small twigs (various shapes and sizes)
- Hot glue
- Yarn
- Scissors
- Adult help

### What you do:

1. After gathering twigs, arrange them to create uppercase letter shapes. Cross, bend and break twigs, as needed.
2. Glue "letters" together at the intersections.
3. Cut an arm-length of yarn and wind it around twigs to add color to each letter.
4. Create a loop of yarn and tie it to the top of the ornament for hanging.

## PUZZLE



F M K N L A D E G S C E J A T S  
H → → → U E L W B A R V H P Q E F L S R Z M

### What's in a name?

An angel told Joseph what to name Mary's baby. Solve the puzzle to discover the name's meaning.

*Directions: Begin at the circled H below and follow the arrows. Circle every other letter, and then place them in order to complete Matthew 1:21.*

"S\_e w\_ll \_\_ve b ir\_\_  
to \_ s\_n, and \_\_u a\_e to  
gi\_e \_i\_ the \_\_me J\_\_us,  
b\_c\_u\_\_ he \_ill s\_\_e his  
\_\_op\_e f\_o\_ t\_\_ir s\_n\_."

MATTHEW 1:21, NIV

← ← ← START HERE → → →  
A I N G F I P (H) S C I B E J H A

Answer: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21, NIV



# DECEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	2 10:00am-Coloring Group	3 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	4
5 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00am-Worship in the building w/ Holy Communion	6 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	7	8 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	9	10 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	11
12 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00am-Worship in the building	13 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Council Meeting	14	15 12:00pm-Tentative Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	16	17 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	18
19 4th Sunday in Advent 10:00am-Worship in the building • Christmas Decorating after worship  <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	20 11:00am-Bible Study 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	21	22 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	23	24 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg. 7:00pm-Christmas Eve Worship Service  Christmas Eve	25  Christmas Day
26 1st Sunday of Christmas 10:00am-Worship in the building • Service of Lessons & Carols	27 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	28	29 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.	30	31 12:45pm-1:45pm-AA Mtg.  New Year's Eve	