



2025

Sharing the Joy

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

9:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday School & Fellowship

ELCA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

(715) 394 3472 oslcsuperioroffice@gmail.com

Pastor Sean Koos



PASTOR KOOS' REPORT

DECEMBER 2025

Greetings from your pastor and partner in ministry!!

'We're winding down yet another year of fruitful ministry. God has blessed both our congregations with great opportunities to grow in the last year. Concordia started the year very hopeful for the addition of a daycare to their building. Just as we were set to begin the necessary remodeling of the building to accommodate the daycare, the potential daycare provider pulled out of the negotiations. As disheartening as that was, we shifted our focus to alternative renters of the building space. We got rid of non-paying tenants, did some housecleaning, and welcomed two paying renters to the building this fall with more prospective renters waiting in the wings. Hopefully this is the beginning of a long and fruitful partnership. We finally added a fenced-in area to our front lawn for possible daycare play equipment. And with the help of some leftover federal funds from the pandemic, we were able to repave our desperately-in-need-of-repair parking lot.

Our Savior's also had an exciting year of growth. We confirmed a couple kids in the spring and restructured our education programs this fall with enhanced Bible study, Sunday school, confirmation, and mentor programs. We, too, took advantage of the leftover federal funds from the pandemic and replaced all the overhead lighting in our parking lot. It's amazing to see the lot finally lit up at night after so many years of darkness. And boy, what strong lighting it is..."Walmart strong" as one colleague suggested to me! We also are considering the possibility of adding a daycare to our building and have formed a committee to explore it. In both congregations, we've added new members, and our worship participation has increased. All in all, very fruitful years for both our congregations. God is pleased with our ministries, and I am hopeful He will continue to grow them in the year ahead. We just have to lean on his grace and generosity and give thanks for them. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,
Pastor Sean



Bible Studies December 2025
Wednesdays @ 10:30-11:30 am

12-03-25 Ezekiel 37:1-14

1. What do the "dry bones" symbolize about the state of the people of Israel during their exile?
2. What did Ezekiel mean when he responded to God's question, "O Lord GOD, You know," showing that only God had the power to bring life?
3. How does this vision represent the complete hopelessness of Israel's situation, where their hope was "lost"?
4. Why does God use Ezekiel's words to prophesy life into the dry bones?
5. What does this miraculous revival teach about the power of God's Word and the role of the Holy Spirit?
6. How does this story demonstrate that God can bring new life to people who seem spiritually dead or have been disobedient?
7. Why do you think God includes humans like Ezekiel in His miracle-working?
8. How does God's command for Ezekiel to prophesy impact the prophet himself and the people who are helped?
9. How is this vision a powerful message of hope for a despairing people?
10. What does the ultimate goal of this resurrection, as stated in verse 14, reveal about God's plan for His people?

12-10-25 Isaiah 55:1-13

1. Who is being invited in verse 1, and what is the meaning of "water," "wine," and "milk"?
2. What are modern-day equivalents of "spending money and labor on what is not bread" and "what does not satisfy"?
3. How does the promise of an everlasting covenant in verse 3 connect to King David?
4. Why is the call to "seek the Lord while He may be found" urgent, and what does it mean to "call upon Him while He is near"?
5. What specific changes is God asking for when he says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts"?
6. What does God's promise of "abundantly pardon" offer to those who fear their sins are too great?
7. How does the statement "my thoughts are not your thoughts" help us understand God's nature and the scope of His mercy?
8. How can God's word act as both the rain that nourishes the earth and a guide for our lives?
9. How does the transformation of nature in verse 13 (thorns into cypress trees) serve as a metaphor for your own spiritual journey?
10. How can the promise of "joy" and "peace" in the final verses give you hope in difficult times?

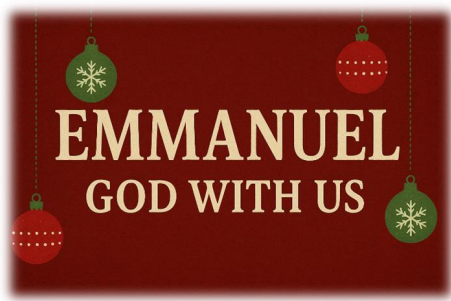
12-17-25 John 1:1-18

1. What are some of John's major points of emphasis in his prologue?
2. How do verses 12,13 fit with his stated purpose in John 20:31?
3. What are some of the bad "guesses" you have heard regarding humanities purpose, problem, and solution?
4. When we guess wrong about the problem, we guess wrong about the solution. What are some consequences in this life, not in eternity, of guessing wrong?
5. Do we struggle with dividing the world/our lives into component parts? Do we sometimes see certain things we do as being more "spiritual" or "meaningful" than others? Is this a biblical view or not?
6. Do we have trouble reading the Bible as a "real" book? Do we read it as actual history and actual people or do we tend to go into a different mental mode when reading Scripture? How does reading the Bible as other than "real" impact how we apply it to actual circumstances in our lives?
7. Read Exodus 40:24-38. Jesus "tabernacled" among us. How does the Exodus story of the tabernacle "prefigure" or look forward to Christ?
8. Following Jesus means going at his pace and with his priorities. Just as Israel camped when the Lord's glory descended and moved when the Lord's glory moved. Are we currently impatient with God's pace and priorities? Have we been in the past?
9. If we have learned contentment and have had some success in dealing with the demanding nature of our hearts, what has been helpful? If we are not dealing well with demanding hearts, what can we do differently or better?
10. Have we believed the gospel and received Christ as Lord and Savior?

12-24-25 NO BIBLE STUDY-CHRISTMAS EVE

12-31-25 NO BIBLE STUDY-CHRISTMAS BREAK





BISHOP HALOM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP

As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The

first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin

EDUCATION CORNER



Confirmation

NO Confirmation on Dec 21 & 28.

Sunday School

Christmas Story on Dec 14, during the service, with all the children.

NO Sunday School on Dec 21 & 28.



Adult Education—Bible Study 10:30am on Wednesdays

We had a FIRST COMMUNION on Nov 16.

- Charlie Marcus Hanson

It was a very busy day for Charlie. A first communion and a baptism.



Welcome to our Newest Members!!

We had two Baptisms in November...

Nov 9th - Everett James Pool

Parents: Steven & Justine Pool

Sponsors: Ron & Michele Sznaider

&

Nov 16th - Charlie Marcus Hanson

Parents: Craig & Alexis Hanson

Sponsors: Jesse Sundahl & Shawn Hanson



Service Attendants for DECEMBER

Steward: Carol Roberts

Deacon: Bonnie Wentzel

Altar Guild: Bonnie Wentzel

Acolytes: Jamie K, Trevor D, Nelson N, Lincoln K

Narrative Lectionary for December 2025

Dec 7: Exekiel 37:1-14 “Exekiel: Valley of Dry Bones”

Dec 14: SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM during the service
(Isaiah 55: 1-13 “Word Accomplishes God’s Purpose”)

Dec 21: John 1: 1-18 “Work Made Flesh”

Dec 24: Luke 2: 1-14 (15-20) “Birth of Jesus”

Dec 28: John 1: 19-34 “A Voice in the Wilderness”

**YOU CAN GIVE TO OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
by scanning either of the QR Codes below.**

General Fund

QR Code for
GENERAL OPERATING



Building Fund

QR Code for
BUILDING FUND



OSLC Cooks

Taste and See That the Lord is Good!

Psalms 34:5



OLD-FASHIONED FRUITCAKE COOKIES

2 cups chopped pecans
½ pound candied pineapple, chopped
½ pound red and green candied cherries, chopped
½ pound golden raisins
¼ cup all-purpose flour

½ cup butter or margarine, softened
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
4 large eggs
2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
¾ teaspoon ground cardamom

Combine first 5 ingredients in a large bowl, tossing to coat fruit and nuts with flour. Beat butter at medium speed with an electric mixer until creamy; gradually add brown sugar, beating well. Add eggs and beat well.

Combine 2 ½ cups flour, baking soda, and cardamom in a bowl; gradually add to butter mixture, beating well. Stir in fruit mixture.

Drop dough by heaping teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart onto lightly greased baking sheets. Bake at 350° for 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool slightly on baking sheets; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

★ **christmas** ★
memories

OATMEAL CRANBERRY WHITE CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES

2/3 cup butter, softened
2/3 cup brown sugar
2 large eggs
1 ½ cups old fashioned oats
1 ½ cups flour
1 tsp baking soda
½ tsp salt
1-6 oz Craisins Sweetened Dried
Cranberries
2/3 cup white chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375°F. Beat butter and sugar together in mixing bowl until light and fluffy. Add eggs, mixing well. Combine oats, flour, baking soda and salt in separate mixing bowl. Add to butter mixture in several additions, mixing well after each addition. Stir in Sweetened Dried Cranberries and white chocolate chips. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until golden brown.

Eggnog Truffles

Ingredients

- 1 lb (16-oz) baker's white chocolate, divided
- 4 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon imitation rum extract



Instructions

1. In a small bowl, cream together cream cheese, powdered sugar, nutmeg, and rum extract.
2. In a microwave safe bowl, melt 1/2 lb (8 oz) of the white chocolate for 30 seconds. Remove from microwave, stir, and repeat in 30 second intervals until the chocolate is smooth.
3. Add the chocolate mixture to the cream cheese mixture and beat until smooth.
4. Refrigerate for about 2 hours or until chilled and slightly more firm.
5. Melt the remaining chocolate.
6. Remove the cream cheese and chocolate mixture from the fridge, and roll into one-inch balls. Roll each ball in the white chocolate, and place on a wax-paper lined cookie sheet.

Recipe Cranberry Salad

1 can jellied cranberries

$\frac{1}{4}$ c. powd. sugar

1 tsp. vanilla

1 c. chopped nuts

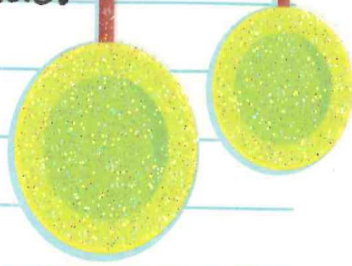
$\frac{1}{2}$ pint whipped cream

Mash cranberries, whip cream + sugar. Add vanilla + nuts.

Put in sprayed Loaf pan and freeze.

Slice + serve.

Keep Frozen





BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

Alex & Sharon Kotter	15-Dec
Del and Karen Kangas	18-Dec
Scott & Joanne Emberson	21-Dec

Heidi Hoff	03-Dec
Jennifer Johnstad	04-Dec
Jonathan Rhodes	05-Dec
Rick Gilbertson	07-Dec
Benny Carlson	09-Dec
Sandy Garlie	12-Dec
Jean Larkee	13-Dec
Pat Thompson	13-Dec
Kelsey Krob	15-Dec
Cassie Stank	15-Dec
Jack Stank	15-Dec
Scott Emberson	21-Dec
Richard Gran	22-Dec
Ryan Nelson	24-Dec
Daniel Shea	28-Dec
Dan Streu	28-Dec
Tom Simon	29-Dec
Karina Skudstad	29-Dec
Joni Westlund	29-Dec
John Hendricks	30-Dec
Tina Thompson	30-Dec
Myrna Raisanen	31-Dec



Mission and Outreach Donations

DECEMBER 2025

RUTH HOUSE

Dec 7: Coffee, sugar, hot cocoa mix (kind that adds water), chili powder, ramen & cup of noodles, soup base

Dec 14: Disinfecting wipes, trash bags (13 gallon), paper towels

Dec 21: Hand & boot warmers, hats & mittens for adults

Dec 28: Men's & women's clothing in common sizes, hoodies, long sleeve shirts, jackets

Threads of Hope Children's Clothes Closet

The Clothes Closet has seen **an increase in use for November**. Thank you to all of you that help with keeping it organized and to all that donate clothing. Thank you to the congregation for their large number of donations in November. Also thanks to Thrivent for their donations.

379 items were given out in NOVEMBER.

Contact Diane (715-817-8180) or Carol (218-940-0073) if you are willing to help them. Even if you can only give a few hours, we would love the

2nd Annual OSLC Fall Pie Fundraiser **was a success.**

We raised \$ 2,799 to help cover insurance.

Finishing up the pie process..



PIE process cont.



Our Master Crust maker hard at work

**AND the last step....
selling the pies**



HAVE YOU NOTICED..

The Parking Lot
Lights are a lot
brighter??

A HUGE THANK YOU
TO :

Rick Gilbertson,
Billings Park Electric

For all the work of pur-
chasing and installing
the new LED lights.



From the Quilters

NOTICE ALL THE BAGS OF BLANKETS IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH?

IN EACH BAG THERE ARE 4 SMALL FLEECE BLANKETS.

TWO DIFFERENT BLANKETS NEED TO BE SEWN TOGETHER IN TIME TO
BLESS THEM ON DECEMBER 14th.

WE NEED EVERYONES HELP!!

THERE WILL BE A BLESSING OF THE QUILTS ON December 14th.

SCRIP CARDS

The HOLIDAYS are here! Get your order in for Gift Cards..

NEXT Scrip order will go in on DECEMBER 12th. Last order before Christmas

As of November 31st, the use of Scrip cards has raised \$ 1987.00 for the church.

The Companies that have good bonuses in the next two weeks are:

Kwik Trip Gas & Grocery

Barnes & Noble

Home Depot

Starbucks

Old Navy

McDonalds

Chipotle

Tx Roadhouse

Applebees

Dominos

Marcus Theaters

JC Penney

Arby's

DSW

Dairy Queen

Papa Murphy

Burger King

Outback Steakhouse

Ace Hardware

Jersey Mike

Walgreens



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Those serving in the military, those returning home with mental and physical scars, and for all military veterans. For the health of all unborn children and grandchildren, all those recovering or in nursing-home care, and for those struggling with addiction.

Worship Support Congregation Members: Jim and Marcy Rigstad, Steve & Amanda Shaw, Ralph Rolson, Gretchen Lisdahl, Cheri Splinter

Family Member: Dorothy Huffman, Cathy Carlson, Tori K, Mickie Cooke, Gary K, James Wermter, Gary Wanek

Friend/neighbor: Jamie B, Sue Weber, John Manion, Cade M, Jane Farmer, Pastor Schwantes, Danny Steen, Tony Gravening, Amanda Adolphson, Tim Meal

(Keeping Names on for 4 weeks. Let the office know if you want them put back on.)

Call the church office 715-394-3472 to add, or remove individuals to the prayer list.

Festive Creations

Saturday, December 6, 2025



9 am—2 pm



Handmade Crafts/Items sold by Local Artisans and Vendors



Bake Sale... satisfy that sweet-tooth!



Chance Tickets (Themed Baskets)

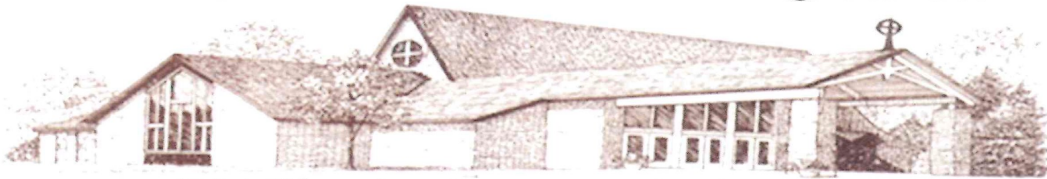


Rolls, Coffee, and Lunch Available—Walking Tacos



Come check out more than 30 tables!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church



1924 Wyoming Avenue Superior, WI 54880

(For Information Call 715-394-3472)

Many of the same vendors as last year will be there plus some new ones.. Come and shop!! Maybe you'll find some Christmas presents.. We also need helpers.: greeters, manning craft table, selling pasties and burritos, selling chance tickets, serving lunch and bake sale. Morning helpers should be there by 8:45 a.m and afternoon by 11:00 a.m. Call the office or Linda Clark for more details.



OSLC Council Meeting
November 18, 2025
5:20

Present: Steve Shaw, Bonnie Wentzel, Kandee Rosburg, Stephanie Shaw, Linda Clark, Donna Liebaert, Carol Arthur, Jeff Skrenes, Cheri Splinter, Jim Erickson, Gary , Ben Gaard, Dawn Wicklund, Pastor Sean Koos

The Board meeting started at 5:25 and opened with our Mission Statement, a devotion, and prayer.

Secretary's Report: as written in the board reports. Motion to approve the minutes, second and passed (M/S/P).

Treasurer's Report: Income for October was \$15,186.44; expenses were \$12,722.97 with a gain of \$2,463.47. Total loss for the year is \$5,842.67 through October. Pie sale was just under \$3000 and was designated for insurance

Board Reports:

Board of Education

Baptism and First Communion for Charlie Hanson on November 16th.

Met with Pastor to discuss mentors for confirmation students.

The Christmas program will be on December 14th. The children will be reading a Christmas story book and singing songs.

Deacons

Advent will be starting on November 30th.

Christmas Eve services will be at 3:00 pm & 10:00 pm.

Pastor will be gone on January 4th. We will have a Hymn Sing.

Kids program will be on December 14th.

Thanksgiving Worship will be at Pilgrim Lutheran at 6:30 with offering going to SAM. There will be a joint choir. There will be a Chili Cookoff happening at Pilgrim Lutheran that afternoon.

Mission and Outreach

There were 249 items given out from the Clothes Closet in October. There are some concerns with the number of items one person should be able to take so we are looking into some options.

December's collections will be for the Ruth House.

Due to the recent SNAP issue, \$200 will be donated to Second Harvest and \$100 to Faith United Food Pantry.

There is a new group we can collect donation for – Highlands Restoration & Recovery.

Stewardship –The 2026 budget will be \$100 to purchase stamps. The job description was updated.

Trustees – Report as written.

Old Business:

Parking lot lights are all in. They come on at dark and shut off at 8 pm. They are all LED and very bright. There should be no issues seeing at night!

We used Badger in the past for plowing, but sold the business. The new company will do the plowing for us. Linda will call when we need the plowing done. They will keep the office area open all the time.

New Business:

Day Care meeting on November 6th, focused on what we would need to have a daycare rent from us on the premises. Discussion on what type of updates would need to be made and visiting some other churches that currently have daycares.

A worksheet was given out with the previous years for the boards to figure out their 2026 budgets. Please have them back to the trustees after the next board meeting on December 9th.

We will be getting an estate gift from Leroy Johnson. It is currently with the state and could take a while to get settled.

M/S/P to accept the board reports.

Pastors Report:

Requesting vacation the weekend after Thanksgiving. Randy Olson is available to fill in.

Requesting vacation between Christmas and New Year's with January 4th off.

Mentor program slipped by over the past couple of months. Difficult to connect with schedules so looking at having a regular meeting time to meet one Sunday a month around the confirmation class. If they cannot meet that day, they will need to schedule their own meeting. M/S/P

Vision Victories:

Pie sale.

Good month financially

Day care committee started.

Lights are finished in the parking lot.

Mentor program.

Two baptisms and a first communion.

Ongoing Business:

Upcoming Events:

Burrito and Pasty sale – available on November 30th.

Vendor Fair on December 6th.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

All Board meeting – 12/9/25

Council meeting 12/16/25

Staff support meeting tentatively scheduled for 12/7/25. Meet with staff after the service and Pastor when he is done with the Concordia service.

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 (M/S/P), ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Wicklund, Council Secretary





UPCOMING EVENTS

Ours & other churches, organizations

-Dec 5th: Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner at St. William Catholic Church, 4-7pm. Tickets are \$25. Only 100 dinners are being served. Call Joannie at 715-399-2743 to reserve.

-Dec 6th: OUR VENDOR FAIR is happening, 9am-2pm. Sign up to volunteer. It's a fun day!

-Dec 13th: Holiday Cookie & Craft Sale at Zion Lutheran, 9am-2pm.

-Dec 13th: St. Francis Xavier Annual Cookie Stroll, 9am-11am. Cookies & Candies \$10/lb, Breads/Jams priced separately. (2316 E 4th St, Superior)

-Dec 14: Christmas Program at OSLC, 9:30am

-Dec 14: Vesper Tea at Pilgrim Lutheran, 4pm, Pilgrim Choir & Choral Friends from the Twin Ports area. Directed by Curtis Hanson. Free will offering.

-Dec 21: Blue Christmas Service at Zion Lutheran at 7pm

-Dec 24: Christmas Eve Worship at OSLC, 3pm & 10pm.

-Dec 25: Christmas Dinner at Zion Lutheran at 1-3pm Donations accepted to cover the cost. 2 meals=\$13, 4 meals=\$26, 8 meals=\$52

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2025

1924 Wyoming Avenue, Superior, WI
715-394-3472 oslcsuperioroffice@gmail.com

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 9am NP Service 10:30am Bible Study 1:30pm Harmony Hs 4:30pm Choir	4	5	6 VENDOR FAIR 9am-2pm
7 8:45AM Choir 9:30am Service 10:30am Sun Sch Fellowship 5pm Confirmation 5:30pm Free Community Meal at Pilgram Church	8 9am Quilting	9 5:15pm All Boards Meet	10 9am NP Service 10:30am Bible Study 4:30pm Choir	11	12	13
14 8:45am Choir 9:30am Christmas Pro- gram 10:30am Sun Sch Fellowship 4pm Mentor Meeting 5pm Conf - Bentlyville Blue Christmas Service	15 9am Quilting	16 4pm Trustees 5:15pm Council Mtg	17 9am NP Service 10:30am Bible Study 4:30pm Choir	18	19	20
21 8:45am Choir 9:30am Service 10:30am NO Sun Sch Fellowship 5pm NO Confirmation	22 9am Quilting	23	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed Merry Christmas	26	27
28 8:45am Choir 9:30am Service 10:30am NO Sun Sch Fellowship 5pm NO Confirmation	29 9am Quilting	30 PastorVac	31 Office Closed PastorVac	Jan 1 Office Closed PastorVac	2 PastorVac	3 PastorVac
4 8:45am Choir 9:30am Service, Sing Fest 10:30am Sunday Sch Fellowship 5pm NO Confirmation PastorVac						