

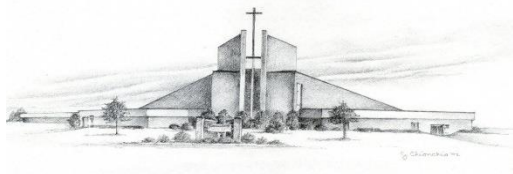
Grace English Lutheran Church
384 Oak Street, Berlin, WI 54923
*A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America*

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THIS NEWSLETTER PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR

Sunday Worship:
8:30 AM

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon
Hometown Broadcasting
WRPN AM 1600 at 12:00 PM



Worship Services

Facebook: www.facebook.com/gelcberlin

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLbOerRk5PMk1QWI9qtZ5_g



- November 5 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- November 12 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- November 19 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)
- November 21 - Ecumenical Worship at 7:00 pm (In person and online)
- November 26 - Worship at 8:30 am (In person and online)

**Grace Lutheran's Mission: We Gather to Worship, Grow, Care, and Share
"All Are Welcome In This Place"**

From the Pastor:

Psalm 100 - A psalm of thanksgiving. Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Serve the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name. For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations.



The superscription of the psalm says “A Psalm of Thanksgiving.” This psalm helps us to see that Thanksgiving is more than just a holiday we observe on the fourth Thursday of November. The idea of thankfulness covers all of life. It is our way of approaching the world and the attitudes with which we choose to live.

“Enter his gates with thanksgiving.” But what does that mean? Do we come to church with grateful hearts? Well, of course, we do. But more than that, we pass through every door with gratitude in our minds and hearts. We enter our own homes, grateful for the family of which we are a part. We go out into the world grateful for the abundance we take for granted way too often. We encounter others and give thanks for the gift of life that they are, even the ones we sometimes struggle to get along with.

“Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.” This isn’t about singing songs. Or maybe it is, but our songs may be spoken as well as sung. We are using our presence to bring joy into the world around us. And it only takes a quick look around to see how countercultural such an idea really is. We are called to worship the Lord with gladness. But the word translated as worship does not mean a worship service; it means a worship-centered life. Yes, what we do in the hour we gather with the body in the sanctuary of the church matters, and we ought to do it with as much gratitude and joy as we can muster. But to “worship the Lord with gladness” is what we do in our homes and places of work, in our neighborhoods, and on our playgrounds. We live out the worship of God by giving thanks anywhere and everywhere we can. As noisily as possible.

There are imperatives throughout this short psalm. Worship! Enter! Give thanks! Make a joyful noise! But there is one in the middle that looks different. *Know*. There are lots of things that we can do and need to do. But we are also commanded by the psalmist to *know*. There is something driving all that doing; there is something behind this joyful gratitude. We know that the Lord is God. Look at how the verse describes that knowing: “It is he who made us, and we are his.” The pronouns for God surround the pronouns for us and then are repeated: “We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.” It is this boundedness of our lives in God that brings forth the gratitude we are invited to express with joy. We have been gathered up; we belong; we are a part of something that is infinitely bigger than we can see. Of course, gratitude is the only proper response. Especially when the psalm concludes with a description of this God who has gathered us. The Lord is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever, and God’s faithfulness to all generations.

(from Discipleship Ministries “Our Grateful Hymns of Praise” <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/our-hymn-of-grateful-praise/twenty-fourth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/twenty-fourth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-preaching-notes>)

**GRACE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
9.11.23**

Council members present; Heidi Schramer, De Anna Lueptow, Cindy Wallace, Becky Olsen, Pastor Rebekah, Gene Hess, Sue Shemanski, Jody Ziemann, Bob Prellwitz. Absent Craig Chovanec. Congregation members present Sandy Peschke and Bill Bartlett.

President Heidi called meeting to order. Vice President De Anna Lueptow provided opening prayer

Approval of Agenda. Motion made by Cindy Wallace to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Sue Shemanski, motion carried.

Concerns from the audience. None.

Secretary's Report. Secretary's report circulated via email, one correction made. Motion made by Sue Shemanski to accept the report as written, seconded by Cindy Wallace, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report. Printed reports of treasurer's report, check detail and investment profile provided, reviewed and questions answered. Motion made by Sue Shemanski to accept the reports as written, seconded by Gene Hess, motion carried.

Unfinished Business.

Drawn to the Word Joint Service 9.24.23 at 10:00 am.

The building of the canvas has been completed by Bill Bartlett and Barb Bellmer. Potluck is planned. Heidi will request help from the Fellowship and Caring committee to set up on the Saturday prior to the event. No permits are needed for the selling of additional items by artist Paul Oman.

Ecumenical Service on 11.21.23 at 7:00 pm.

Churches included in this service will be the Methodist and River Shores. The Fellowship and Caring committee will provide fellowship following.

Shared Ministry Covenant. Tabled until December Joint Council meeting.

Winter Bingo. Committee will be formed to plan for the upcoming event.

New Business.

Executive Member Joint Council Meeting is 9.18.23 at Grace starting at 6:30 pm.

Discussion on ideas of extending Soul Food type events to possibly attract more families to Grace.

Bob Prellwitz presented an idea to be held on Friday October 13th prior to the football game vs Ripon. Upon much discussion, a motion was made by Bob Prellwitz to plan the event, seconded by Sue Shemanski, motion carried. The event, entitled Soul Food Supper will be planned for Friday October 13th from 5:00-6:30 pm. Activities being planned include a light meal and interactive games for youth middle school and older. Discussion on the cost for the event, financial and budgeted items reviewed. Jody will contact the school for advertising. Motion made by Gene Hess to utilize money from Vacation Bible School finances to finance this event, seconded by DeAnna Lueptow, motion carried. A committee will be formed.

Holy Conversations Document.

Discussion held on the Holy Conversations questionnaire and subsequent reflective question, Where is your congregation afraid? Discussion included fear of lack of youth members, our aged congregational membership and finances. Discussion also included additional activities and events to promote our church. Members will continue conversations at further meetings.

Terrorism Risk Insurance.

Discussion held on a proposal from Church Mutual Insurance Company for an additional premium cost for acts of terrorism. Motion made by Sue Shemanski to pay the additional \$59.00/year premium, seconded by Jody Ziemann, motion carried.

Puppet Service.

Gene Hess shared in depth information about the Scott Street Puppet Ministry. The group originates from Ripon, has an extensive group of dedicated members with up to 20 puppeteers. A service is planned for the Scott Street Puppet Ministry on 1.28.24. Members will discuss a possible joint service with First Lutheran for the event.

Absentee Members.

Discussion held on council members contacting absentee members, inviting them to the Drawn to the Word Service on 9.24.23, and to request updated contact information. Council members agreed to contact absentee members once the list is available.

Roy Chadwick Memorial Plaque.

Discussion held on a plaque to be placed by the donated tree. This will be tabled until the October meeting to provide time to research the style of the plaque and where to purchase the plaque.

Committee Reports.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Rebekah reported on Official Acts and ongoing activities at both Grace and First Lutheran. Official Acts included; Funeral Services for Lucy Leach and Roy Chadwick. Baptismal Service for Hudson Murkley. Visitations to June Lubbert and Jim and Georgia Lee Laird.

Ongoing activities at Grace included; preparing Sunday sermons, writing an article for the newsletter, and meeting weekly with staff. Met with the Mutual Ministry Committee, the Christian Educational Committee, met with a family about Baptism, the Berlin Pastors and Synod Zoom meeting for pastors. Worked with the Drawn to the Word planning team, worked with Penny to take over posts for the Facebook page, and helped with Soul Food.

Building and Grounds. Bob Prellwitz reported on the continued maintenance of the lawn and shrubs. The new Autumn Blaze maple tree, in memory of Roy Chadwick, has been planted. The doors have been repaired and painted. Future projects include touch-up painting in hallways, top dressing of lawn and lawn cleanup. Next meeting is 10.9.23 at 6:00 pm.

Christian Education. Sue Shemanski reported that the group met 9.7.23 to finalize Sunday School plans and the October 15th Tailgate Party. She reported that Sunday School started yesterday, with kids ranging from age 4 to 11, the group also hosted fellowship following service. The October 15th Tailgate Party will run from 3-6pm. From 3-5pm a variety of activities are being planned including; refreshments and popcorn, pumpkin bowling, ring toss, corn hole, a selfie booth, and prizes. The last hour of the event will include a devotion and a grilled tailgate meal. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the kiosk. Sue also reported that Pastor shared the Synod Youth activities for the upcoming year. She reported that the group has discussed planning some of their own activities and possibly participating in some of the Synod activities. She also discussed inviting youth that attend Soul Food to these possible activities. Pastor provided the group a booklet of Advent activity ideas. They will host an Advent family activity night including a meal on November 29th, more information to come! Next meeting is 10.9.23 at 4:30 pm.

Fellowship and Caring. Jody Ziemann reported that the group has not met in person since the last council meeting. The group is planning for fellowship following the Ecumenical Service on 11.21.23. They are also looking to complete a shut-in activity in the future.

Worship and Music. Gene Hess reported that the group has not met since the last council meeting. He reported that Jeremy and Jess have the weekly music organized through the end of the year, including the Cantata which the choir has started rehearsing. The next meeting is 10.4.23, following choir rehearsal.

Mission and Outreach. Craig Chovanec provided a report regarding the September Mission, 'Funds for Leaders'. Craig wrote that the ELCA Funds for Leaders scholarship program supports students attending seminaries. By making seminaries more affordable the ELCA enables more future ministers to graduate with less debt, empowering those who God called into ministry to and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads. Funds for Leaders has been offering scholarships for students at ELCA seminaries who are pursuing rostered ministry in the ELCA since 2000. Last year alone the Fund provided over \$3.4 million in scholarships to 375 students. We are the church and each of us has a unique role to play in furthering the mission and ministry of our church. Your gift to Funds for Leaders ensures that highly talented individuals will be able to answer the call to leadership for this church and for our future.

Pastor Rebekah also conveyed that Craig suggested bringing one food item for the food pantry, in hopes of increasing the collection for the food pantry. Discussion also held on collecting food items for the pantry at our Ecumenical Service on 11.21.23 and a 'Souper Bowl Sunday' collection in 2024.

Meeting adjourned.

Pastor Rebekah led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Olsen

9.14.223

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Cindy Wallace – Treasurer	920-229-3772	cindy_wallace@charter.net
Becky Olsen – Secretary	920-290-4485	olsenfamilyshorthorns@gmail.com
Gene Hess– Music/Worship	920-290-2023	gene2023@outlook.com
Sue Shemanski – Christian Education	920-361-4506	shemanski5@yahoo.com
Jody Ziemann – Fellowship/Caring	920-361-1326	lajirafa@hotmail.com
Craig Chovanec – Missions/Outreach	920-361-3727	craigfchovanec@centurytel.net
Bob Prellwitz – Building/Grounds	920-361-0669	bobprellwitz@yahoo.com



All Saints Sunday - November 5, 2023

Join us for a special service for All Saints, “For All Your Saints, O Lord.” This service will provide an opportunity to name before God those who have died during the past year and allows time to name “personal saints”—past and present—who have been God’s special gifts to us.

An Ecumenical Service will be held at Grace Lutheran Church on
Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00 p.m.

And

A Poy Sippi Community Thanksgiving Service
will be held at New Hope (formerly Poy Sippi Methodist Church) on
Wednesday, November 22 at 6:30 p.m.



All are Welcome



Thankoffering Service

The Women of the ELCA will lead worship on Sunday, November 19 and collect the Thankofferings to support the work of the Women of the ELCA. Any women interested in taking part in this service should contact Cindy Wallace or Pastor Rebekah.

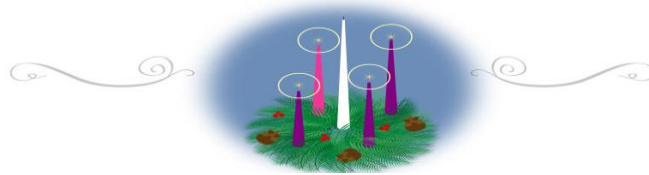
If you have not already done so, please return your Thankoffering envelope on Sunday, November 19. This year's offering will be split between the Soul Food Program and the Good Samaritan Fund.



Family Advent Event for All Ages

On Wednesday, November 29, from 5:30 pm-7:00 pm, the Christian Education Team will be hosting a special Advent Event for all ages. We invite all families of all sorts to participate, parents and kids, grandparents and grandkids, baptism sponsors and godchildren, aunts and uncles with nieces and nephews, and neighbors and friends.

Everyone is invited! We will begin with a spaghetti supper at 5:30pm followed by a short learning event and the making of an advent wreath to take home and use during the season of Advent. To ensure we have enough food and wreath supplies, sign up at the kiosk or by calling or emailing the church office by Sunday, November 26.



Confirmation Classes

There are four students in the confirmation class this year. This fall they have been covering the Old Testament story and will soon be shifting to the New Testament.

There will not be a class on Wednesday, November 29 so that students and families can participate in the Advent Event and no class on November 22 due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Poinsettias for Christmas

We will be ordering poinsettias to decorate the church from a fundraiser at Berlin High School. More information will be provided as soon as possible.

Please watch the bulletins, weekly email, and kiosk for more information on sizes, color, and prices.



Constitution Corner

Our congregation has a constitution, that in addition to the Bible, serves to guide our life together as a church. This constitution reflects the theology and polity of this church as it organizes itself to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, share the sacraments, reach out to the neighbor with good news, and share the love of God in the world. Each month we plan to highlight a part of our constitution. The full constitution is found under resources on the website.

- C12.04.** The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:
- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
 - b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
 - c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
 - d. To maintain supportive relationships with the rostered minister(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
 - e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
 - f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
 - g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
 - h. To emphasize support of the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - i. To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.

Mission of the Month - Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an interdenominational Christian Sports Ministry that touches millions of lives. Since 1954 it has worked with athletes on pro, college, high school, junior high, and youth levels to use the powerful platform of sports to reach coaches and athletes with the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

The organization focuses on local communities across the globe. It seeks to unite, inspire, and transform the world through the gospel. Its goal is to encourage every athlete to have a relationship with Jesus Christ. Emphasis is placed on values like integrity, service, teamwork, and excellence. A major goal is to honor God in all that we do.

Some of the programs in the organization include daily meetings, devotionals, team building, Bible study, and more. Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an international organization that has now expanded to 114 countries across the globe. Please support our mission cause this month.

December 24 Worship

Christmas Eve is a Sunday this year. Grace will not have a Sunday morning worship service that day as most people surveyed wanted Christmas Eve only.

Please join us for our Christmas Eve worship service at 4:00 pm. First Lutheran will be having Sunday morning worship at 10:30 am and invite you to join them.



The Grace Book Club has chosen the book **“A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety”** by Jimmy Carter as their book for November. In this “warm and detailed memoir”, Carter tells us what he is proud of and what he might do differently. He discusses his regret at losing his re-election, but also tells how he and Rosalynn pushed on and made a new life and second and third rewarding careers. Jimmy Carter has lived one of our great American lives – from a rural peanut farmer to a world-famous figure. “A Full Life” is a wise and moving look back from this remarkable man.

We will meet to discuss “A Full Life” on Tuesday, November 14th at a location to be determined. If you have already read this book, please consider joining us for discussion. If you would like to read “A Full Life” and join in the discussion on the 14th please contact Cindy Wallace and she will get you a copy. We would love to have you join us.

Thank You

A **huge** thank you to the church council, the women of Grace, and to all of you that wrote notes, and provided gift cards for Clergy Appreciation Sunday.

I am overwhelmed by your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Thank you so much for this special recognition.

Pastor Rebekah



Maggie the Church Mouse

As if the walls and rafters sense my longing for peace and quiet, the hush which fills this room draws me in. I make my way down the center aisle, the curvature of the pews feeling like arms reaching to embrace me. The late afternoon light is fading but a warm glow remains.

There is something very special about being in this sanctuary at this time of day. Is it because I am seeking rest after a long day of running and rambling? Is it the soft lighting? Or is it the silence that allows me to feel like God is focusing on me alone? All these things work together to make me feel at peace in my church home.

You and I will soon have an opportunity to worship with others in the evening beauty of our sanctuary. On November 21st Grace will host the annual Berlin community ecumenical Thanksgiving service. On that evening it won't be a silent worship space: rather we will rejoice together in gratitude for all our blessings. There will be Bible readings, prayers, pastoral messages, and an ecumenical choir – and no doubt there will be much mingling and greeting of friends and neighbors. But we will also enjoy resting at the end of a busy day and reflecting on the significance of being a community in worship together.

I'll be inviting my friends and relatives in the mouse communities around the local countryside; why don't you spread the word, too? Let's make others aware that we welcome participation in this special gathering of praise and thanksgiving. At Grace, all are welcome.

And remember: after every worship service there is always a time of fellowship and refreshments. Your faithful church mouse promises to be sure the floors are licked clean before AND afterward!

The sanctuary is nearly dark now. It's time for me to sleep after a busy day. I pitter-patter up the aisle, turning back toward the towering cross to whisper a little prayer:

*God bless Grace,
God bless the community we are a part of,
God bless us all.
Amen*



Women's Advent Party

Please mark your calendar for our annual Women's Advent Party on Sunday, December 3, 2023.

Our event will start with a women's business meeting at 11:30, followed by a delicious meal at 12:00 noon and then a Christmas Recital performed by Jess Fritz's music students at 1:00pm.

More detailed information will be available on the kiosk closer to the date.

~Fall Greetings from the Fellowship and Caring Committee~

The Fellowship and Caring Committee at Grace has a variety of duties outlined in the constitution. One of our committee's functions is to provide and solicit assistance for members in need.

Unfortunately, we have members of the congregation experiencing health crises, which prompted the committee to brainstorm on how we could assist. At our October meeting, members of the committee came up with an idea on how to assist, not only members with health crises, but any member who may be in need of a little help.

We are creating, '**Grace's Caring Closet**'. The 'Closet' will be a storage area for household (non-food) and hygienic type items. It will be located in Intern Kathy's old office. The door will be kept open, there is no need to notify anyone, just come and take it if you need something.

This is where all of you come in.... we are asking for your generosity to make this new ministry a success. With your support, we hope to stock the 'Closet' with toilet paper, kleenex, laundry soap, paper towel, shampoo, body soaps, etc. While out shopping if you could pick up an extra item for the 'Closet' it would be greatly appreciated.

All donated items can be placed directly in the closet or dropped off at the office. Thank You in advance for your continued generosity and for making our church a wonderful place of support for all who enter her doors.

Sincerely,
Members of the Fellowship and Caring Committee



On Saturday, December 2 at 2:00 pm, Diane and Patti from First Lutheran will host "Surviving the Holidays" at Grace Lutheran. More information to follow as the date gets closer.



Radio Ministry

- November 5 - Sponsored by the Goettl Family
- November 12 - In Memory of Henry Grams by the Grams Family
- November 19 - Open
- November 26 - Open

Flowers

- November 5 - In Honor of Vic & Jean Dretske's 59th Wedding Anniversary
- November 12 - Open
- November 19 - Open
- November 26 - In Honor of Jim & Mary Gropp's 63rd Wedding Anniversary

Bulletins

- November 5 - In Honor of Caelyn Fritz's 15th birthday by Jessica
- November 12 - Open
- November 19 - Open
- November 26 - In Honor of Jim & Mary Gropp's 63rd Wedding Anniversary

Fellowship

- November 5 - Bartlett's
- November 12 - Jeff & Anita Lind
- November 19 - Open
- November 26 - Open

Greeters

- November 5 - Open
- November 12 - Open
- November 19 - Mary Lou Neubauer
- November 26 - Open





*Happy
Birthday*

November Birthdays

- 1 Marcus Peschke
- 2 Mary Falk
- 3 Timothy Magdanz
- 4 Caelyn Fritz
- 5 Barbara Born
- 6 Brandon Schenk
- 8 Timothy Krentz, Jr
- 9 Bryn Hermanson
- 10 Henry Stark
- 11 Rachel Cox
- 12 Joan Koch
- 12 Robert Roggow
- 13 Laura Nelson
- 16 Jack Johnson
- 16 Jon Pierstroff
- 17 Sabrina Pierstroff
- 19 Allen Schmidt, Jr.
- 21 Michael Falk
- 23 Robert Jahn
- 23 Jerome Luttrupp
- 24 Alexandria Johnson
- 26 Sandra Peschke
- 27 Justin Mildebrandt
- 29 Penny Bahn
- 29 Ava Pierstroff
- 30 Donna Kirk
- 30 Ariana Rozek

*Happy
Anniversary*



November Anniversaries

- 3 Keith & Kathy Fredrick
- 7 Vic & Jean Dretske
- 11 Alan & Valerie Hinz
- 24 James & Mary Gropp

**If any birthdays or anniversaries were missed
please let the office staff know.**

November 11, 2023



November

2023

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30 pm Crafters Group 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	2 12:40 pm Soul Food All Saints Host	3	4 Daylight Savings Time Ends 
5 All Saints Sunday 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	6 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	7 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilters	8 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	9 12:40 pm Soul Food River Shores Hosts	10	11 8:00am Men's Breakfast at First Lutheran 
12 8:30 am Worship-with Communion and Sunday School	13 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran 7:00 pm Congregation Council Meeting	14 9:00 am Staff Meeting	15 5:30 pm Crafters Group 6:00 pm Joyful Noise 6:30 pm Confirmation Class 7:00 pm Choir Practice	16 12:40 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts	17	18
19 Thanksgiving Sunday 8:30 am Worship with Communion and Sunday School	20 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	21 9:00 am Staff Meeting 9:00 am LWR Quilters 6:00 pm Ecumenical Choir Practice 7:00 pm Ecumenical Service	22 No Choir Practice or Confirmation Class	23 	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship with Communion - No Sunday School	27 1:30 pm Bible Study at First Lutheran	28 9:00 am Staff Meeting	29 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm Family Advent Event 7:00 pm Choir Practice	30 12:40 pm Soul Food Grace Hosts		