

# Life-Lines

919/772-9044  
DECEMBER 2017

## WONDERMENTS FROM PASTOR WAYNE'S WORLD

The Advent/Christmas season this year is somewhat unique this year. Where you may notice it most strikingly is on the 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve. It is like the front license plate that says a House Divided: UNC/NCSU. On Sunday morning, December 24, we will worship in the season of Advent as the 4th Sunday of Advent. Then sometime in the afternoon, it will become Christmas Eve and our 5:30 pm worship will be a family Christmas Eve Candlelight worship. Of course, the late evening worship will be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist with a choir concert at 10:30 pm and worship at 11:00 pm. with hope that the lighting of the candles will occur at midnight.

Our Sundays in Advent start as late as they can on December 3. Usually the first Sunday in Advent is the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This year, the Sunday after Thanksgiving is November 26, Christ the King Sunday, the Sunday I was ordained 37 years ago. It is good to end out Church Season when we "Worship the King All Glorious Above" and when we "Crown Him With Many Crowns."

The First Sunday of Advent, also known as the Church New Year, serves as a "wake up call" when Christ tells of His second coming while we anticipate His First Coming at Christmas. So the first candle of the Advent Wreath, which we might describe as the

candle of Hope, is lit. We get a double dose of John the Baptizer the 2nd Sunday of Advent and the 3rd Sunday of Advent both emphasizing that John was merely the one preparing the way for Jesus and one who bears witness to the Light but he is not the Light. The 3rd Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudate Sunday from Philippians 4:4 "Rejoice in the Lord Always and Again I Say Rejoice." So we will describe the second candle on the Advent wreath as the candle of Preparation, and the third candle as the candle of Joy. In the 4th Sunday of Advent, the angel Gabriel comes to Mary to give her final instructions, most importantly, He shall be called Jesus (He Saves), so we will describe the 4th candle of the Advent Wreath, the candle of Salvation.

It is obvious, you cannot miss any "episode" of this drama leading up to Bethlehem when God will become Incarnate or as the gospel of John tells us the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

So if you think the 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve combination is interesting, the only other Sunday of Christmas falls on, yes, New Year's Eve when we experience Jesus' purification in the temple. Thus, through God's Son we are purified once again to prepare for a new year sharing God's love to all in the community.

*Pastor Wayne*

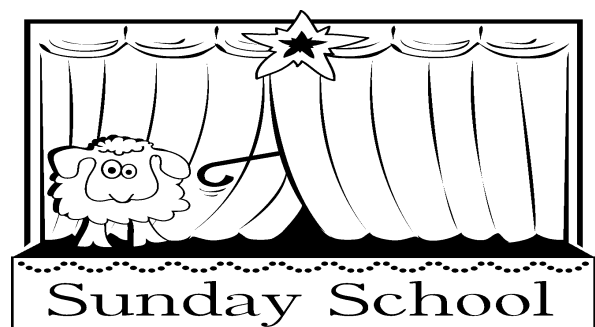
## Children's Sunday School Christmas Program

The Annual Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 17, in Sanctuary following the 10 am service. Please join us after the program for hot cocoa and cookies to follow in the Fellowship Hall. If you have a favorite Christmas Cookie we invite you to bring a dozen or two to share.

Parents of children interested in participating should talk to Linda Hash or Susan Steckel. It is helpful if they attend at least one of the December Sunday School classes. All children present on the 17th will be able to participate.

Thank you for your support of Christian Education.

*---Linda Hash, coordinator*



## Christmas Program



### December

December 5	Rebecca Swanson
December 7	Jim Rebbeor
December 8	Lisa Grayson
December 9	Neil Brennecke
December 14	John Nalepa
December 25	Jack Austin
December 26	Becky Babel
December 28	Karen Wright
December 30	Betty Zapata

### January

January 3	Dave Hash
January 6	Holly Hans
January 7	Becky Roof
January 8	Grace Barnes
January 9	Anne Marie Dubnansky
January 13	Carol Wallace
January 14	Jamie Bredell
January 15	Rita Clark
January 18	Gere Savolainen
January 21	Ryan Macurdy
January 24	Barbara Kyles
January 25	Pastor Wayne Dubnansky



*Happy New Year!*

*December 3 marks the start of the new church year!*

“The church year is a wonderful way in which we recall and celebrate the mighty acts of God in history and in our own lives and times. It is a reminder of God’s constant activity -- not only God’s interventions into human history, but also God’s grace filled activity among us now. Through the liturgical year we realize more and more deeply that we are a part of God’s ongoing saving and loving activity. Through a rich observance of the church year, each season and festival can make the fullest impact on the congregation.

“This is the festival half of the year and it has two divisions of its own. The Christmas cycle consists of the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. During this time the church focuses on the prophecies and events surrounding the incarnation.

“Advent consists of the four weeks before Christmas. The name of the first season of the liturgical year comes from a Latin word meaning ‘coming’. Advent focuses on this ‘coming’ in three ways; the infant Jesus coming into the past two millennia ago in Bethlehem, Christ coming in the present by word and sacraments and in the fellowship of communion of the church, and Christ coming again in the future at the end time. In Advent we prepare for the celebration of Christ’s coming in the incarnation, but more importantly we prepare for his second coming, when he will make all things new and judge the world in righteousness. The preferred color for Advent is blue, the color of hope.

“The Advent Wreath, which originated in home use in Europe after the Reformation, is a wreath on which four candles are placed near the altar. The Jesse Tree is decorated with symbols portraying the spiritual heritage of Jesus. It is a kind of family tree that was suggested by Isaiah’s prophesy: ‘A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse’ - Isaiah 11:1”<sup>1</sup>

Members of the Altar Guild will meet on Sunday, December 24, immediately following the worship service (Fourth Sunday of Advent) to set the church for the Christmas Eve service that evening at 5:30.

The next meeting of the Altar Guild will be Saturday, January 13, followed by a post-holiday luncheon in the fellowship hall.

---Carol Wallace

<sup>1</sup>Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook, S. Anita Stauffer

## Our cup runneth over . . .

Social Concerns Ministry members were overwhelmed by the outpour of love evidenced by the recent answer to a call for Thanksgiving food for Garner Area Ministries. For the past four weeks a delivery has been necessary every week due to the volume of food donated. Every item on the list was given. Not only turkeys, hams, potatoes, etc., but cake mixes, tea, coffee, extras of everything. Please know that you have touched the hearts of people who were in desperate need, not only of food but in knowing somebody cared.

Above and beyond the food, someone remembered babies’ needs -- they donated diapers. That is something a mother will be thankful for.

When you sit down to your Thanksgiving feast and bow your heads in prayer of thankfulness, remember there are others doing the same thing because of you.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Social Concerns Ministry Members

Alecia Harrison

Gale Isaacs

Helen Holderman

Rita Clark

Sarah Watkins

Council Rep, Carolyn Watkins

Paula Pickler

Connie Fortmeyer



Communion

# Advent is Coming!!!!

Advent is a wonderful, fun, exciting time of year. We look forward to family gatherings and exchanging gifts. We also anxiously await the "arrival" of the Christ Child. The One who was promised from the beginning of the scriptures, who came and is still interceding for us today! Thank you LORD for remembering us every day!

I recently saw a family of deer (a doe, a buck and 2 fawns) on the way to church. They were standing in the middle of a cleared field that was a forest just a few weeks ago. They looked completely lost and vulnerable. I imagine this is how our refugee family also feels. They are a long way from home and will not be able to return to their home in the Republic of Congo. They still have family there. They just have to go on each day and pray that all of their family is safe. They left the Congo because it was NOT safe for them to live there anymore. Imagine if this was your story . . . how would you feel? What would you think? What would your hopes and dreams be? Possibly safety for all your family members.

Advent is a perfect time to consider those in your community that will not be able to spend time with family members because of illness, jobs or distance. How can you help? Jesus lived among us to show us how we should treat each other. There are many agencies that are willing to use your time, talent or treasure to support their clients. Prayerfully consider who you can help this Advent!

"Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless." Isaiah 10:1-2, NIV

Our Angel Tree is now set up in the Narthex. As in past years, sign the paper copy of the gift with your name and phone number. Place this paper in the basket located on the gift table. Please return your UNWRAPPED gifts by December 3. We once again are supporting children in four Garner elementary schools: Timber Drive, Rand Road, Creech Road and East Garner. Can you provide at least one gift to a child in need? Remember past Christmas mornings and the excitement of the surprise of getting something your really wanted as well as something that you really need!

Our recent Ministry Fair was again successful. Each committee presented the best of what their committee work comprises. Thanks to Gale Isaacs for the slideshow of pictures of our church at work!

The Annual Mary Jo Albert Christmas Concert will be held on Monday, December 11, 2017, in the sanctuary. Dr. Brad Hunnicutt has secured Ray Green and a harpist to serenade us. This is an event NOT to be missed! There will be refreshments available in the library immediately after the concert. Really hope you can come!

Our "Pennies" collection has already purchased a Simple Water Well and a Family Farm! Thank you everyone for your generous donations. These items will benefit families that are food insecure -- those that have no idea from where their next meal will come. With these gifts they will be able to grow and produce food for their families and possibly have extra to sell at the market. What a gift! God is good everyday!

I was able to attend "A Celebration of Common Prayer" on October 27, 2017, at St. Thomas More Catholic Church. NC Synod

Bishop Tim Smith and Bishop Luis Rafael Zarama of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh brought Lutherans and Catholics together in worship to celebrate what we have in common. What an awesome night! I even got my picture taken with Bishop Smith! We are called to be the body of Christ. What are you doing to be the face of Jesus to the people of your community? What are you doing in with our fellow Episcopalian, Catholic, Methodist and American Episcopal Zion Christians to bring a greater good to our community? Challenging questions but we all have something that we can do. What will you do?

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10, NIV

Social Concerns Ministry  
Alecia Harrison, co-chair  
Gale Isaacs, co-chair



At Lord of Life as we begin our Advent observances, this is a time of expectancy that culminates in the celebration of our Savior's birth on Christmas day. Though this is a busy time of year with shopping, decorating, and celebrating, may all of us take time to reflect on the greatest of all gifts, Emmanuel, God with us.

Since Christmas is typically when more visitors attend church, please take time to greet newcomers to Lord of Life and give them a welcome brochure. Welcome folders are located next to the visitor register in the narthex. Please also invite newcomers to our after-church fellowship, or better yet, accompany them to the Fellowship Hall so you can get acquainted with them and introduce them to others.

An update of the members and friends directory will be printed soon. If you have recently moved or changed your contact information, please let us know. You can note any changes on the bulletin insert and place it in the offering plate. Current contact information is especially important if the Lord of Life phone tree is activated in the event of an emergency.

All of us on the Parish Committee extend our warmest wishes to the Lord of Life community of faith for a joyful and blessed Holiday season.

Grace Barnes  
Terry Barnes  
Tim Clark

Council representative, Don Craig  
Cecilia Flickinger  
Dave Hash  
Barbara Kyles  
John Nalepa  
Rebecca Swanson  
Vince Wright



## Prayer Requests

We pray for our world and those in it with hope for our future.

**Grief** . . . family and friends of Susan Steckel's stepfather Bud Webster who died November 8, 2017; and

**Health Concerns** . . . Carol Wallace, Corrine Wichti, Dan Stamm, Mona Stamm, Betty and John Nalepa, Dennis King, Betty Zapata, Christine Brennecke, Bob Baxter; and

**Family and friends** . . . Dennis King's sister, Beverly, broken vertebrae; Don and Carol Wallace's daughter, Carol Sclafani, recovering from surgery; Lorrie, kidney cancer; Julia Lochra's father, Albert, recovering from knee surgery, and her friend Sian McLean who has cancer; Holly Hans' sister, Heather House and family; Karen Post's husband, Ken, snake bite; Geri and Paul Savolainen's friend, Dave, open heart surgery; Clyde Cook's brother, thyroid cancer;

Lisa Grayson's mother, Betty Hooker, and uncle, Bill Winterbottom; Dan and Roxie Hayes' friends, Jacob and Cynthia Sterling; Susie, Benjamin and Bryce Lowe; Camille Morris' mother, Ola Morris-Jones; Don and Carol Wallace's friend, Dan Grazewicz, lung cancer; Don Wallace's nephew, Chuck Wallace, and sister Marge; Shirley Poole's niece, Pamela Chrissinger; Barbara Kyles' niece, Sandy Blackburn; Shannon Thomsen's niece, Kylie Garner, and nephew, Nickolas; Kate Beck's friend, Lisa Gauger; Mary Cook's niece Sarah, nephew Will, son Daniel; Paul and Kerri Blanchard's son, Jason; Dave Hash's mother, Lucille Hash Stewart; Esther Bredell's sister-in-law, Marti Swanson; family of Michael Horvath; Mary Ann de Leon; Beth Owen; Darcy Williamson; Jack and Alice Austin's friends, Bob Anderson and Sam Mansour.

*Please note: prayer requests that have been listed for several months have been removed. If you have current requests or updates of those listed, please e-mail them to: paulampic@aol.com*

## Effort by Example

Remember when we went to church every Sunday? I mean every Sunday! This happened primarily because our parents took us (uhh, made us go) when we were kids . . . choice was never part of the equation because we knew what Sunday meant. What happened? Our parents still go . . . why don't we? I'm not talking about the occasional drop-ins, or Easter, or Christmas, or maybe Mother's Day. I'm talking about regular attendance for the express purpose of teaching our children how to maintain a focus on the One without whom NOTHING happens on earth and in heaven. We've all heard the 'there-are-more-things-for-kids-to-do these days' spiel, but it's really all relative. The outside activities that we had as children were just as important to us then, as today's activities are to children now. Sometimes we have to draw the line and ask ourselves, are the activities really that important to the kids . . . or to us? Especially since the children don't drive themselves to wherever it is that they go.

I fully understand about exercise, physical activity, and peer interaction; but what about spiritual exercise, spiritual activity, and spiritual interaction? Given the recent tragedies across our country and world, one would think that maybe we should remove church-going from the occasional-activity category in comparison to other activities. Are we trying to raise professional athletes? Are teenagers' weekend jobs adding to their college funds? Extenuating circumstances aside, let's try harder to keep church in the mix . . . you know, put forth a little effort by example. In a few weeks a whole new year will be upon us and with it comes a fresh-start-availability; mark your spiritual calendar to take advantage of the Children's Sermons AND Sunday School.

It's not just the children's focus that bears mentioning; age doesn't play into this at all. Many of us more seasoned churchgoers have a similar 'schedule-imbalance'. Sometimes our trinity plays like 'Christmas-Easter-and some important life event that we want to share' (I won't say showboating). I get it; I really do, but (and that's a BIG but) we have to try harder . . . all of us. Yes, I know simply going to church doesn't make you a better Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car, but the irrevocable joy of celebrating Christ Jesus with our church family is great. We must show the children what's important . . . on a continuum; not just at Easter and not just at Christmas.

So, here's hoping to see you at Christmas (unless it's on a Sunday) . . . and into next year and beyond.

Be blessed.

---Gale J. Isaacs

## Congratulations to Jean Marie and Claire

. . . to Jean Marie for her new job following graduation in the spring at Eastman Company in Tennessee;

. . . to Claire for her spring semester internship in Florence, Italy.

From proud parents  
Pastor Wayne and Anne Marie



The Council met on November 5, 2017, with most members present.

Barry Brown, treasurer, was absent but Patrick Niemann mentioned that Barry would be asked to

consolidate DF16 and DF17 and DF34 into one fund code.

Loz Vos di Dios is in the process of developing nursery guidelines since they are now responsible for the area.

Pastor Wayne brought up two items that Council needs to decide on funding (1) Randy Tallent global mission to Japan; and (2) MOPS (Mothers with Preschoolers). Shannon Thomsen suggested passing the MOPS idea to the Christian Education Committee to evaluate congregational interest and Pastor will talk to Linda Hash. Council agreed that supporting Randy for the 2018 budget is something that we may want to support. Council discussed that \$200/month in 2018 would be a good level of support for the budget.

Michael Flickinger reported that trees were removed, drainage issue was resolved in October. Michael explained that there is a trailer that Lutheran Services of Carolinas requested be parked in our lot, but he was unsure if there is room as there the lot is sometimes full. The last two Sundays have been very crowded with parking. Pastor suggested parking it at a spot where he can park his personal car in front of it so it doesn't take up a spot. Council agreed that this would be acceptable. Shannon asked Michael to discuss with the Property Committee where the overflow parking is located and longer-term parking lot plan. The trailer be allowed to be stored in our parking lot.

The Children's Holiday program is scheduled for December 17.

Cecila Flickinger asked for Council support of a midweek bible study prayer group. The group will meet at noon each Wednesday.

Mary Cook reported that she will check with Carlton on the status of the renovation plans. Mary will ensure that Tim, as a representative of the Property Committee, and Carlton are in touch over these plans as well.

Karen Post reported Laura created a page to post some of Pastor's sermons on-line. Pastor will get her some more of his sermon's to post. Pictures were also added to some parts of the webpage.

Don Craig discussed our social media efforts and legal requirements for privacy and posting pictures. Don suggested that a "web master" be appointed for handling these sorts of issues. Don suggested having waivers for church members at the next Annual Meeting to determine who can and cannot have pictures taken. All kids will require a legal release. Don and Karen will work to develop a policy for pictures and social media in the future. Karen will ask web host if there is an opportunity to pay for web master capabilities.

Church Council Nominations and the Nominating Committee. Pastor reported three candidates for Church Council for 2018: Lindsay Crocker, Paula Pickler, and Dan Hayes. A few additional

folks were asked, but declined for various reasons. Council is still searching for a fourth candidate. Per the LOL Constitution, the 2018 nominating committee recommendations will be elected at the Annual Meeting. Outgoing Council members eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee include Karen and Mary. The Nominating Committee members thus far are Don Stang, Karen, Mary, and Pastor. We need at least one more nominee for this committee as there are five needed.

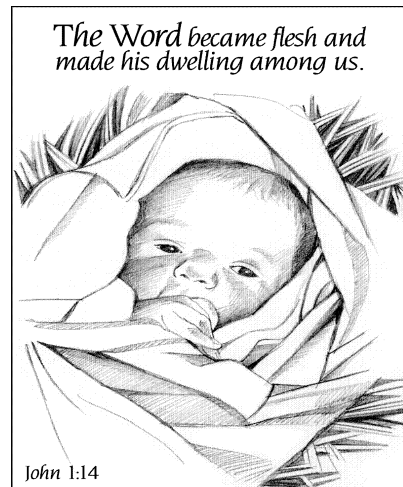
Congregational Meeting will be after worship on January 28, 2018.

Leadership Retreat will be February 28, 2018. Updates to LOL Constitution will be a major topic.

Next meeting is December 3.

The Council meets the first Sunday of each month right after worship in the church library. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend. If you have anything you wish to discuss, please let the interim president of the Council, Shannon Thomsen, know ahead of time.

---from minutes submitted by Lindsay Crocker



**Thank you! Thank You!  
Thank you everyone!**

The North Carolina Women of the ELCA chose ELCA Good Gifts to be the recipient of our "pennies collection" for January 2017 until January 2018. I presented \$73.02 at our conference meeting in October collected from Lord of Life. We will continue to collect money until the end of January. A new recipient will be chosen at that time.

Together with money collected across the state we have raised over \$3,000 and have already purchased a Simple Water Well and a family farm, which includes a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training and support.

Who knows what else we can provide for a family with no idea of what or where their next meal may be!

Blessings,  
*Alecia Harrison*

## ***Beatriz at Dinner/ Victoria and Abdul: a review***

Some would say the gap between the rich and poor has been rapidly expanding. This can even be seen in Russia where there are now oligarchs just a generation after the fall of the Soviet Union. In China, still currently a communist country, there are billionaires while many people in both Russia and China are very poor. *Beatriz at Dinner* is the story of an immigrant, Beatriz, played by Salma Hayek, who has used all her skills and personality to build a career as a health practitioner. A broken down car results in her being invited for dinner at the home of one of her clients. Another guest at the same dinner is a billionaire, Don, played by John Lithgow, who has used extremely cutthroat tactics to get to where he is. We don't see his lifestyle, never seeing his home; however, Beatriz knows of him and their conversations show him never showing any kindness toward her and she loathes him. The time period in which *Beatriz at Dinner* takes place is the present. It is fiction, but Don and Beatriz can be seen as "any man of wealth and any hard working, outspoken woman", respectively.

*Victoria and Abdul* is about royal wealth in the form of Queen Victoria, played by Judi Dench, and the unusual circumstances that brought her and Abdul, played by Ali Fazel, together. Abdul had chosen some Mohair rugs for the royal family which were shipped to England. As a result of his choices, he is asked to travel to England

to receive the Mohair medal, on behalf of his country, India. The other major consideration for his being chosen is he is tall for an Indian. The queen almost immediately takes a liking to him, and he becomes her confidant much to the chagrin of her house staff and family. The time period in which *Victoria and Abdul* takes place is the end of the 19th century. In contrast to the way Don, the billionaire in *Beatriz at Dinner*, treats Beatriz; Queen Victoria treats Abdul "royally", again much to the chagrin of her family and the household staff. Don and Beatriz' relationship revolves around only one dinner in the house of one of Beatriz' clients and the husband who is opposed to Beatriz even joining them for dinner. Victoria and Abdul's relationship evolves over a number of years which included some very human challenges, one of which is religion. Abdul is Muslim, and, as Queen of England, Victoria is head of the Church of England. *Victoria and Abdul* is based on what little historical records remain of their relationship.

The endings of both films are tragic -- one indirectly related to Don, the other not related to Victoria at all but household staff and the family of Victoria.

Outstanding performances by Lithgow and Hayek in *Beatriz at Dinner*. The same can be said of the performances of Dench and Fazel in *Victoria and Abdul* with a bonus of beautifully depicted settings both in India and England. I recommend both films highly but without children, however, because of the subject matter.

*---Pastor Wayne*

## **Greetings from the Men's Group!**

On November 10 we gathered and enjoyed a Thanksgiving-lite meal. Thanks to everyone who helped make this a great dinner!

O' Holy Night! We have secured 30 tickets to O' Holy Night at Camp Agapé. We are booked for the 7:00 p.m. show on Friday, December 15. Tickets are almost gone. If you are interested in attending, please see David Hash. If you aren't familiar with this event, it is an outdoor, candlelit, musical telling of the Christmas story that involves a short walking journey and audience participation. It is a wonderful family event, and the camp serves heavy hors d'oeuvres before the performance. It is a must-see Christmas experience!

Christmas Party. We are sponsoring the church Christmas Party on December 8 at 7:00 p.m. We will provide ham, turkey, gravy, dressing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, and wine. There will be a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to RSVP, and for any side-dishes or desserts that you would like to bring and share. There is no gift exchange, but we will have caroling after the meal. All are invited to attend, and Sage Weatherwax will provide childcare.

Our next business meeting will be January 12 at 7:00 p.m. This

will be our election night. Please make sure you attend! If you don't, you might be elected! All men are invited to attend, and bring a beverage of your choice. If it is your first time joining us, your meal is on the house.

Thanks.

*Gray Anthony*, president  
Lord of Life's Men's Group


### **New member Sunday**

On December 24, during morning worship when it is still the 4th Sunday of Advent, we will have a New Member Sunday when anyone wishing to do so, may formally join Lord of Life. See Pastor Wayne if you're interested.



# DECEMBER 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	<b>10:00 a.m. 2 SETTING UP &amp; DECORATING TREES</b> (volunteers needed)
3 <b>First Sundry of Advent</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Council Meeting	4	5	6 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast  6:00 pm Simple Supper 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	7	8 <b>7:00 p.m. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY</b>	9
10 <b>Second Sundry of Advent</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	11 <b>7:00 p.m. MARY JO ALBERT MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT</b>	12	13 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast  6:00 pm Simple Supper 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	14	15 <b>O HOLY NIGHT CAMP AGAPÉ 7:00 p.m.</b>	16
17 <b>Third Sundry of Advent</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Parish  <b>CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</b>	18	19 7:00 pm Inspirational Book Club	20 6:00 pm Simple Supper 7:00 pm Advent Service 7:30 pm Choir Practice	21	22	23
24 <b>Fourth Sundry of Advent</b> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Property  <b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 5:30 pm • 10:30 pm</b>	25 	26	27 7:00 am Rotary Breakfast  7:30 pm Choir Practice	28 11:30 am LUNCH BUNCH site t.b.a.	29	30
31 First Sunday of Christmas 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship  <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>						