



November 2022



# The Disciple's Connection

## EVERY DAY



<sup>16</sup> Be joyful always; <sup>17</sup> pray continually; <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

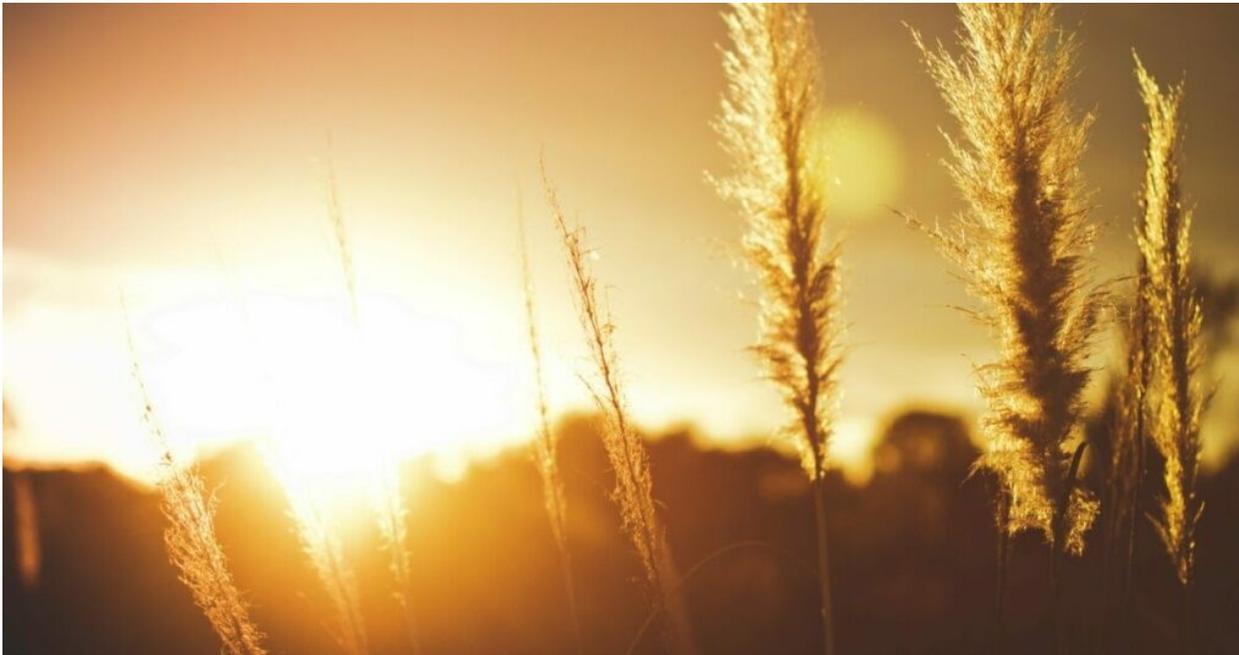
When the calendar turns to November, some people's mind also turns to the holidays that will soon be here. I often find that Thanksgiving is some times quickly breezed through on the way to something more important. Each family has their own Thanksgiving tradition, many involving turkey and football. Others are beginning a new tradition of giving to others on Thanksgiving. At it's heart, it's a day set aside to pause and reflect on the things we have in life to be thankful for. What are some things on your list? Thankful for family? Job? Health? That the election is almost over & no more political ads? I hope there are many things on your list. I hope that you continue to see and count God's blessings in your life

Read again what St. Paul is saying to us. Always joyful, always praying, always thankful. That's God's will for His Chosen people. So why take only the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November as a day of thanksgiving? Does God only bless His Chosen people on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of November? Does He not bless His Chosen people each and everyday? Joyful everyday, Praying everyday, Thankful everyday. Our circumstance should not dictate our mood, but so often they do. We look at one day of life in this broken, sin-filled world and we are tempted to throw a self-pity party. Do your circumstances in life change who you are in God's eyes? God does hate sin, but He loves sinners. He allows circumstances in our lives to draw us closer to Himself, to show us just how much we need Him each day.

Challenge yourself to find joy in each day, to pray each day, to be thankful for each day. It won't be easy to begin, but the more you live it out, the easier it gets. Doing so forces you to look beyond temporary circumstances to see God's great, gracious, eternal plan for you. The time we have here on earth is but a dot on a piece of paper. The eternal life that is ours in Christ is a line that goes on forever. Be joyful in each day God gives you. Pray in each day that God gives you. Be thankful in each day that God gives you.

In Christ

*Pastor Sundbom*



## O give thanks to the Lord

by David H. Petersen

At the popular level, in a semi-secular sense, an American Thanksgiving is meant to remind us that we are dependent upon God, or something like God. Ingratitude is distasteful. Instead, therefore, Americans should be thankful to something for body and soul, eyes, ears, and all the stuff needed for earthly life. It is the duty of all decent people to be thankful.

That sentiment is not contrary to Christianity, but it is certainly not Christianity itself. The fuller reality is that without the mercy of the Holy Trinity we would not only be dead; we would be damned to Hell. From a biblical perspective, if body and soul, house and home, wife and children, and the like are to bring us any real satisfaction or joy we must first reckon with the punishment that our sins deserve. Without mercy, without forgiveness and grace, without Christ, there is nothing much to give thanks for since it is all going to be destroyed or sent to perdition.

Thus the biblical call for thanksgiving, which finds its way into Divine Service III (*LSB*, p. 201) and also into the readings for Thanksgiving Day: *O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good. And His mercy endureth forever.*

This particular call to thanksgiving, "*O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good. And His mercy endureth forever,*" shows up six different times in the Bible: in 1 Chronicles 16:34 and in Psalms 106:1; 107:1; 118:1, 29; and 136:1. It is programmatic for us. It is what we do. We give thanks for the particular goodness of God's mercy.

The Lord's goodness isn't simply a matter of His morality or decency or competence, as though He were simply a good God or good at being God. His goodness is His mercy. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the life of the world. That sacrifice is His competence and morality, in a sense; that is, He can do and does this because He is God. But more to the point, judged in the ways of men, this sacrifice is somewhat insane.

**O GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD** *continued*

What rancher dies for his cows? What vineyard owner pays workers for not working?

The point that Jesus makes in calling Himself the Good Shepherd is not that He is good at being a shepherd, that He brings a lot of sheep to market for wool or understands how to be a shepherd, but rather that He is good for us. He is good for the sheep. He dies for His sheep because His mercy endures forever. That is His goodness.

Whatever unsung and unknown Englishman coined the phrase "Good Friday" for the day of the Cross was probably the best theologian in the history of Englishmen. Here we Lutherans must step back and admit with uncharacteristic humility that English serves better than the German or Latin. Good Friday is good not because the day is lovely with the sun shining and birds singing or because all of our family is back home and gathered around the table for a feast and no one is yet fighting; rather, Good Friday is good because it is good for us. It is the day of God's mercy, the day of atonement and salvation.

That is the goodness of Good Friday, the goodness that colors the words of the Psalm in the cry after Holy Communion. The minister says, "*O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good.*" He is not at this point calling upon us to thank God for daily bread or for all the things we need for this bodily life. Rather he is calling us to thank God for the peculiar mercy that He has bestowed upon us in the Holy Communion by giving us the risen Body and Blood of Jesus. The congregation's response is almost a corrective, or at least it is a reminder of this. The laity don't want the minister to forget the rest of the sentence or the character of the Lord's goodness. Here is the very reason we can give thanks at all, in any situation. Here is the definition of His goodness that elicits our thanks: "*His mercy endureth forever.*"

The goodness of God that loved us to the end, the mercy which sent a Substitute and Atonement in the person of His Son in our flesh to die our death and win us back for Himself, is the fount of Christian thanksgiving. God does not punish us as the Law would demand. Instead, He has mercy on us for Christ's sake. He welcomes us to Himself and feeds us with His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

Luther teaches us to look upon the gifts of creation in this way. He teaches us in the Small Catechism that God gives us all the stuff we need for this body and life "only out of Fatherly Divine goodness and mercy without any merit or worthiness in us."

However we celebrate Thanksgiving, with our families, our neighbors, or even alone, let it be with this in mind: We give thanks to the Lord whose mercy endures forever.

*The Rev. David H. Petersen is the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.*

Petersen David H., (2019, November 26). O Give Thanks to the Lord . *The Lutheran Witness-Articles*. <https://witness.lcms.org/2019/o-give-thanks-to-the-lord/>



## Life Quotes for November

**November 6** “Tune out the NOISE of the lies, bury yourself deep into God’s Word of truth, and go forth with the life-affirming message, dressed in Christ’s priestly armor and standing as sentry in prayer!” *Lynette Auch, president of Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)*

**November 13** “Respect for God’s chain of authority holds true with the police, legislators, governors, presidents, and judges who have been placed over me. Some I may have chosen willingly, while others I may have voted against or had no say in. Still, we believe God has given them their authority. I may feel a responsibility to oppose their plans or how they perceive and execute justice, but even then, I owe them respect and honor.” *Pastor Dan Guagenti, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Shelbyville, Kentucky – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)*

**November 20** “In the Christian calendar, secular time is swallowed up in Sacred Time, which is a foreshadowing of the eternal Day of the Lord, when all that we have foolishly sought after and worried about will vanish as will the night vanish on the dawning of the Lord’s Day. Rejoice, the Lord is near.” *James M. Kushiner, executive director, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)*

**November 27** “These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand.” *Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)*

# Announcements

## LWML Ohio District Mission Goal



The LWML Ohio District Mission goal for the 2022-2024 biennium is \$190,000.00. Since April 1, 2022 (the start of the fiscal biennium) \$32,922.38 has been collected (as of September 30). 25% of all mite offerings given to the district is sent to national LWML. So, each time you add coins and bills to your hungry mite box you are prayerfully supporting missions within our district and around the world. Learn more about the mission work of the Ohio District at

<https://lwmlohio.org> and about the LWML at <http://lwml.org>. Both sites have so much information available, so stop by and learn more about the LWML.

## Women's Bible Study

Join the women of St. Paul's for their Bible Study on November 9th from 6:30-8:00 pm. Please note that this will be the last Bible study of 2022, Women's Bible Study will resume again on January 11, 2023.



## Order Your Poinsettias Now!!!



Poinsettias will again be used to decorate the altar for Christmas. As in the past you will be able take them home after Christmas. The cost for each is 6.25. The colors available this year are:

- ☼ Red
- ☼ Pink
- ☼ White
- ☼ Marble (pink & white)
- ☼ Jingle Bells (red & white)

The order sheet has been posted on the double doors at the back of the church. Please place your check in the offering plate, marked "Poinsettias". **The last day to order is Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>.**

## Outreach Movie Matinee Series



Craig and Kristi would like to apologize for being unable to run the movie matinee Sunday, October 23rd. As a result, the schedule for the remaining episodes has been modified. So, mark your calendars!!

**November 6th @ 2 pm—Episode 5 & 6**

**November 20th @ 2 pm—Episode 7 & 8**

**December 4th @ 2 pm—Episode 9 & 10**

**December 11th @ 2 pm—Episode 11 & 12**

## Trunk-or-Treat Update

The Outreach Committee would like to thank all who volunteered and donated to the Trunk-or-Treat. It was a great success. They had over 100 children that attended the event and most were accompanied by both parents or grandparents. The estimated total in attendance is 300, which is far more than last year. In addition, people reported that they had to wait for someone to leave in order to find a parking space! Many thanks to all for helping to make this such a great success!



## *Thanksgiving Worship Service*

St. Paul's Thanksgiving Worship Service will be held Thursday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm. Hope you will join us for this service of thanksgiving.



## November Meeting Minutes

- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor reported making 14 calls, 3 shut-in and 2 hospital visits, and performed 2 baptisms. At Circuit Forum, Pastor Ziemann (Zion) Pastoral and Jeremy Ziemann (St. John's) Lay Delegates and Pastor Sundbom (Alternate Pastoral) and Ed Nelson (Lay Alternate) were selected to Synod Convention next year. He also announced the passing of Audrey Butzin.
- 2) President's Report: Eric will write a letter to the congregation concerning our financial situation.
- 3) Vice-President's Report: Brian is in contact with Morley Mowers about snowplowing this winter.
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Russ reported that our cash situation is down \$4,683.60 from last year, with income up \$7410.82 and expenses down \$1575.05 YTD, thanks to a generous increase in offerings in Sept. He remains concerned about this winter's utility costs.
- 5) Education Report: Erin reported Rally Day was 9/11 to kick-off the fall Sunday School & Adult Bible classes, weekly average attendance in Sept. was 17. Jack Lelle subbed for the teen class, and the Adult classes began a study on Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus. She also reported the children's Sunday school class sang "This Little Light of Mine in church on 10/2.
- 6) Preschool report: Star reported enrollment this year is 36, with 20 families having no church, Popcorn Fundraiser will be Oct. 3-17, and Grandparents' Day will be Nov. 16/17, and that Bible Buddy donations will be needed next year. She also said the Backpacks were a huge success (nearly all students use them every day), Trunk-or-Treat will be Oct. 16, and that the Preschool will "Adopt-a-Church-Shut-in", and Preschool Family Picnic will be Oct. 6.
- 7) Elders Report: Dale reported continue to monitor COVID cases in the area, and to review membership protocols.
- 8) Stewardship Report: Ken has received 24 Time & Talents forms and will reach out those who haven't yet responded. He has some ideas on making our entrance vestibule more inviting, and to use Trunk-or-Treat to showcase St. Paul's to visitors.
- 9) Financial Secretary: Jenn reported a few months still need help with collection counters.
- 10) Outreach Report: Kristi reported backpacks were well received by Preschool students, Movie Matinee will continue in Oct/Nov showing "2000 Years of Christianity", and Trunk-or-Treat will be Oct. 16 with good response with cars, candy, toys, and volunteers. Dennis presented a couple of items that explain true history of All Hallows Eve that could be handed out. Future activities will resume in the new year.
- 11) Building & Grounds Report: Craig reported replacing several light bulbs in classrooms, kid's drinking fountain needs more work, AED pads are installed, a key box has been installed so Fire Dept. can get in if needed, trim and paint for outside stained-glass windows have been purchased (will be painted & installed soon), and that Dennis helped clean out air ducts in Amy's classroom after a foul odor was noticed as well as moisture noticed in the cement blocks.

---

**CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued**

12) Contribution Secretary Report: Dennis reported that contributions thru 39 weeks is up \$1,235 from last year, thanks to a generous contribution in Sept. (Sept. contributions were up \$9,646 from last year); but he said the number of contributors remains at 26, which is down over the past few years, but most months we continue to fall short of budget.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1) Dennis asked about By-Law changes, and Pastor mentioned District needed the whole re-write not just the changes. Sending shortly.
- 2) Pastor announced the results of Circuit Forum, as listed above.

**NEW BUSINES:**

- 1) Semi-Annual Meeting: Sunday, Nov. 20 following 10:45 service (10:50). Reports due before Oct. 13.
- 2) Organ repair: Pastor reported the organ power supply has failed and that repairs will cost about \$1700. Jenn made a motion to spend up to \$2000 to replace the organ's power supply and other repairs if needed and to bring to congregation at Semi-Annual meeting a request to use unused funds from other designated source(s), such as youth group gathering. Craig 2nd. During discussion it was suggested that this repair could come Building Fund, which has a sizable amount in it. Erin made a motion to amend the original motion to take funds from the Building Fund, with congregational approval. Craig 2nd. During discussion it was agreed that congregational approval shouldn't be necessary since these funds should be used for repairs & maintenance to building, grounds, and contents. Motion failed. Erin made motion to use Building Fund to pay for repair of organ up to \$2000. Jenn 2nd. Motion passed.

**NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 2, @ 6:30pm.**

---

## Lutheran Endowment & Aid Fund Annual Appeal

Friends and Supporters of Our Shepherd,

This year marks the 35th year the Lutheran Endowment & Aid Fund (LEAF) has provided financial assistance and a dependable income source to Our Shepherd Lutheran School. As the school struggles to regain its enrollment due to COVID shutdowns, increased competition, and recession concerns, this fund is being called upon even more than in recent years to help the school meet its expenses. This year Interim Principal Paul Goodwin, teachers, and staff have welcomed 91 students to experience **Strength in the Lord** (Nehemiah 8:10) through and in their studies and activities. We again come to you this time of year asking for your support.

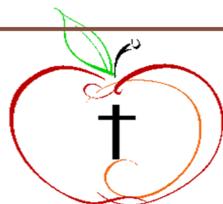
LEAF was established in 1987 to provide financial assistance to Our Shepherd. In years when the

### Lutheran Endowment & Aid Fund Annual Appeal continued

school's revenue doesn't meet its expenses, LEAF helps fill the gap. A board manages and oversees this fund. St. Paul's is represented on the Board by Russ Walton and Terry Wakelee, if you have any questions or how to donate. Gifts we receive from your generosity are invested in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and CDs, which produce interest and dividends that we turn over to OSLS as they have need. Every year since 1987, this fund has produced income and will every year in the future. That is how endowments work.

Our Shepherd is an outreach mission into our community, providing in many cases students' first or only exposure to the Gospel and God's many blessings. Its quality education meets and exceeds state requirements in a safe and caring environment--some local schools do not. Parents in failing schools can choose to send their kids to passing schools, like Our Shepherd, under a state-financed program called Ed-Choice. For these reasons, LEAF comes to you for your support, as this is our only source of income. No gift is too small and all are truly appreciated. We ask that you prayerfully consider a gift to LEAF. We thank you for your past support and hope you will keep LEAF and OSLS in your prayers.

God's richest blessings,  
The LEAF Board



## From the Preschool

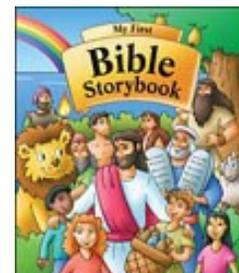


### Popcorn Fundraiser

The Preschool would like to thank the congregation of St. Paul's for participating in and continued support of the Popcorn Fundraiser. It was a success, If you ordered popcorn your orders can be found in the kitchen.

### Bible Buddies

During the first Chapel time on October 4 the preschool presented Bibles to 25 of their new students. We will be in need of Bibles for the 2023-2024 school year.



# November Birthdays

Matt Davis	1st
Meridan Vosicky	8th
Cooper Vosicky	12th
Harold Dennison	17th
Nicholas Kerver	20th
Kay Lucas	20th
Jennifer Drake	27th
Mathew Javins	28th



# November Anniversaries

Joe & Leigh Wojkowski

32 years on Nov 24th

# Altar Flowers

Is there a date or event you would like to celebrate or a special someone you would like to honor. Donating altar flowers is a great way to do that! All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend, add the occasion or person being honored and who the flowers are from. Be sure to print clearly. The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the wall in between the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. Altar flowers are \$40.00. The cash or check can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the date of the weekend and place it in the collection plate.



# November Word Search

## Thanksgiving

U	A	L	G	R	A	T	E	F	U	L	A	L	M
C	B	B	O	U	N	T	I	F	U	L	U	N	A
U	K	L	T	E	W	D	E	S	S	E	L	B	I
C	C	A	H	U	V	R	C	P	I	S	G	T	R
T	O	D	A	L	Y	C	O	I	O	A	S	E	M
N	R	A	N	E	W	E	R	L	C	E	T	N	A
N	H	Y	K	F	A	D	N	G	O	C	H	G	Y
U	T	R	S	A	M	U	I	R	L	H	A	L	F
K	U	C	G	M	P	T	A	I	O	E	N	I	L
T	O	F	I	I	A	I	C	M	N	E	K	S	O
E	M	E	V	L	N	T	O	S	Y	R	F	H	W
L	Y	A	I	Y	O	A	P	W	A	F	U	S	E
N	L	S	N	G	A	R	I	S	P	U	L	P	R
M	P	T	G	N	G	G	A	T	L	L	O	N	K

- GRATEFUL
- GRATITUDE
- TURKEY
- CORNIACOPIA
- BLESSED
- ENGLISH
- BOUNTIFUL
- FEAST
- MAYFLOWER
- CHEERFUL
- PILGRIMS
- PLYMOUTH ROCK
- THANKSGIVING
- COLONY
- FAMILY
- WAMPANOAG
- THANKFUL

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/4232547/>

## Those Who Serve: November 2022

### ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Dale Kerver  
9:30 A Sunday Rich Szoradi

### COUNTERS:

Terry Wakelee, Debbi Davis,  
Laurie Srebernak

### LECTORS:

11-05-22 6:00 P Saturday Dave Murphy  
11-06-22 9:30 A Sunday Jack Lelle  
11-12-22 6:00 P Saturday Pastor Sundbom  
11-13-22 9:30 A Sunday Craig McConnell  
11-19-22 6:00 P Saturday Dale Kerver  
11-20-22 9:30 A Sunday Ken Chaffe  
11-23-22 7:00P Thursday TBD  
11-26-22 6:00 P Saturday Dave Murphy  
11-27-22 9:30 A Sunday Eric West

### GREETERS:

6:00 P Saturday  
9:30 A Sunday

SIGN UP IN MARCH TO GREET  
YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the  
double doors at the back of the  
Sanctuary.

### St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Preschool

250 Bowhall Road Painesville, OH 44077

(440)354-3000 | [www.splcpainesville.org](http://www.splcpainesville.org) | [office@splcpainesville.org](mailto:office@splcpainesville.org)

#### Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor  
Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music  
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

#### Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm  
Sunday 9:30am

#### Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am  
Children 10:45am

#### St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director  
[preschool@splcpainesville.org](mailto:preschool@splcpainesville.org)  
[www.stpaulspainesville.com](http://www.stpaulspainesville.com)

## Also Supporting



250 Bowhall Road  
Painesville, OH 44077  
440-354-3000



508 Mentor Avenue  
Painesville, OH 44077  
440-357-7778

# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm</p> <p>Nov Birthstone: Topaz &amp; Citrine</p>	<p>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p> <p>Nov Flower: Chrysanthemum</p>	<p>1 All Saints Day 7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>2 6:30 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>3 7 pm Virtual Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5  International Redhead Day</p>
<p>6   2 pm Movie Matinee</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8  7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>9 6:30 pm Elder's Meeting 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study</p>	<p>10 7 pm Virtual Bible Study</p>	<p>11 </p>	<p>12 </p>
<p>13 </p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7 pm Virtual Bible Study 6 pm Outreach Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19  International Men's Day</p>
<p>20  2 pm Movie Matinee</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>23 International Jukebox Day 7 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service</p>	<p>24  Church Office Closed</p>	<p>25 Church Office Closed Black Friday</p>	<p>26  Small Business Saturday</p>
<p>27  1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>28 Cyber Monday</p>	<p>29 7 pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p>	<p> COMMUNION SERVICE</p> <p><b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b> Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am &amp; 10:45am</p>		