# Augustinian Augustus Lutheran Church An Historic Church for Today's People



DECEMBER 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a wonderful time Christmas is! Everyone adores the baby in the manger. Families gather together to sing "Away in a Manger" and wish each other peace on earth. Too often, however, after the season has passed, many go back to empty lives. They rush from one task to another, from one activity to another. They try to do good things, and, when doubts nag at them, they comfort themselves by arguing that they are "good people," after all.

As Christians, we have seen those who would measure themselves by the numbers of good deeds they have completed. These deeds are meaningless empty gestures without the love for God. The real message of Christmas proclaims the gift of the baby and in return we honor him by doing for others.

We should adore the newborn Christ child, but we should also worship him as our Redeemer, the one who did for us what our good deeds could not.

"For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering." Romans 8:3

The helpless baby grew up, suffered in our places, took the sin of the whole world in his body on the cross, and brought us salvation.

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to humans by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

This is the freeing message of Christmas. Without Christ, there is no peace on earth. Without Christ, there is no goodness in us. Without Christ, there is no purpose in life. Without Christ, there is no life at all.

Have a blessed Christmas!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

P.S. See you Sunday



#### Christmas Eve Schedule (December 24, 2024)

- 5:00 p.m. Living Nativity (Old Church Dress warmly and bring a flashlight)
- 7:00 p.m. Family Service of Lessons & Carols (Old Church Dress warmly and bring a flashlight)
- 9:00 p.m. Candlelight Carol Communion (Heated Brick Church Nave)

#### Sunday December 27, 2024

9:30 a.m. Lessons and Carols - One Service only today - No Sunday School today



# December

Dear Beloved Augustus Family,

As many of you know, December is my last month at Augustus. I write this last newsletter article with a mixture of gratitude and sadness as I say goodbye. While my heart is heavy with this decision, I am also filled with immense gratitude for the years I've spent serving alongside you.



When I first came to Augustus, I could not have imagined the profound impact you would have on me. The music we've shared has been more than just notes

and lyrics; it has been a way for us to worship, to express our faith, and to connect with one another in the most beautiful of ways. Every Sunday, every rehearsal, every special event, has been a reminder of the power of music to bring us closer to God and to each other.

Over the past twelve years, I have had the privilege of working with an incredible group of musicians of all ages – singers, ringers, and instrumentalists – and I've been inspired by the beauty of what we created together. The joy, passion, and dedication that each choir member brought to rehearsals and services has been such a blessing. Choir members, staff, and congregants have put up with my over-excited ideas, rambly soapbox mini -lectures, and my penchant for sarcasm, and yet have considered me a friend. I will forever treasure these memories.

To the congregation, thank you for your unwavering support of the music ministry. Your encouragement has been a constant source of strength, and it has been a joy to see how the music touches your hearts and spirits. I have always felt that our ministry together was not just about music but about creating a space where God's love and grace could be experienced.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Pastor Weleck and the Vestry for trusting me with this role, and for your guidance and care. You have made this journey such a fulfilling one, and I am truly grateful for your partnership in ministry.

As I move forward, I will carry with me all the wonderful moments we've shared. I trust that the music ministry will continue to grow and flourish in the hands of those who will follow. You are all in my prayers, and I will always hold a special place for each of you in my heart.

Thank you for the privilege of serving alongside you in worship. May the peace and love of Christ continue to surround and guide you all.

With deepest affection and thanks,

Laurie Mueller

## Join us for our annual CHRISTMAS CONCERT! Sunday, December 15th at 4 pm.

Laurie Mueller will direct a choir of 30 singers, an orchestra of 10, and Augustus' bell choir to present John Leavitt's "Festival of Lessons and Carols." There are many familiar Christmas carols and opportunities to sing along.

Join us for a light reception in Fellowship Hall following the concert.

Bring your friends and get here early for a good parking spot and a good seat! There are no tickets and no charge to attend, but a free will offering will benefit Augustus' music program.



#### Laurie Mueller 132 William Penn Drive \$ West Norriton, PA 19403

Rev. G. Warren Weleck and Vestry Augustus Lutheran Church 717 W. Main Street Trappe, PA 19426

October 28, 2024

Dear Pastor Weleck and Vestry,

I am writing to formally conclude my term of service as Director of Music at Augustus Lutheran Church effective December 25, 2024. I have accepted a position at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in North Wales and will begin there on January 1, 2025.

This decision was not made lightly, as my twelve years at Augustus have been joyful and rewarding. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities I've had to grow both personally and musically during my tenure. The love and support I have received from everyone, the opportunity to play such a fine instrument and to work with the choirs has been a real joy and privilege, and I truly appreciate the relationships formed with all the staff, Vestry, and volunteers.

Having served among you for twelve years, it is now time to move into a new challenge, while I have the energy, health, and opportunity to do so. St. Peter's is very community minded and I'm looking forward to cooperating with the staff and volunteers there to participate in their traditions and start some new initiatives that simply are not possible here.

I have attached several documents that I hope will be helpful. If I can provide any further assistance in the transition, I am happy to do so. I will relinquish my A key and have all my possessions out of the Choir Room/Music Office and Sanctuary before December 24<sup>th</sup>. I will play all three Christmas Eve Services, and I have secured and will pay myself for an excellent substitute for Lessons and Carols on December 29<sup>th</sup>, unless you would like to handle that a different way.

Words are insufficient, but from my heart I thank you once again for being my worship home. Augustus and its people will always hold a special place in my heart. I look forward to staying in touch and wish everyone at Augustus God's continued blessings.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Janue Mueller.

# It's Augustus Lutheran Music Department Week at Captain's Market!



# Tuesday, December 10th through Saturday, Dec.14th

Please stop by or order online this week! Captain's Market is located next to the Trappe Tavern at 430 W. Main St. Trappe Store Hours: Tues-Fri. 11-6 & Sat. 11-5

# 15% of your total purchase will go back to The Augustus Lutheran Music Department

\*Just mention you're supporting the 15% week fundraiser at the register!\*

We are your Butcher, Baker, & Crab Cake Maker! Featuring Capt'n Chucky's Crab Cakes, Certified Angus Beef, Pellmans Desserts, Marchiano's Stuffed Breads, a full line of charcuterie and so much more!

Call 484-902-8030 or order online at ccstrk.com



# + Concert + AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN + + + CHURCH + + +

CHRISTMAS

NO TICKETS NECESSARY FREE WILL OFFERING 717 W. MAIN ST., TRAPPE, PA 19426

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**SOMETHING NEW!** Each family attending the 10:30 AM service will receive a special gift on behalf of the Augustus Sunday School Program and the Outreach Committee.



**Sunday School Nativity Program!** 

Nothing is more precious than watching a children's production at Christmas. You will not want to miss this event! The Augustus Lutheran Church Sunday School will perform their annual Christmas Nativity program during the 10:30 AM service on Sunday December 15, 2024 in the Brick Church. This is a fantastic church service for both adults and children alike and enjoyed by all. **Start your Christmas family tradition at Augustus!** 

# Christian Education

After fun learning activities on Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday, our Sunday school students continued with lessons from the Bible about David, Solomon, the tabernacle, the ark of the covenant and Solomon's temple. Then we learned about Advent and began practicing for our nativity program which will be presented to the congregation on December 15th at the 10:30 a.m. service.



After a break for Christmas, we'll return on January 5th with our annual Baby Shower for Jesus. The magi brought gifts for Baby Jesus, and to remember them we bring gifts for needy babies in our area. Everyone can participate so please bring diapers, wipes and other baby products to contribute. You can join us in Sunday school on January 5th or drop items off at the bottom of the stairs leading to my office (near the elevator beside fellowship hall).

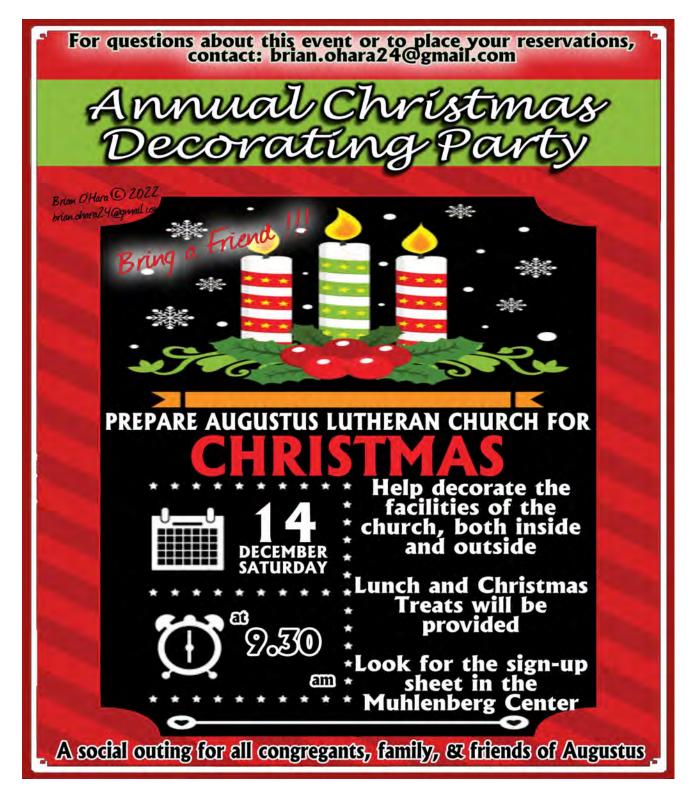
Our confirmation students have finished up their study on the Ten Commandments and have been learning about the Lord's Prayer. First communion and confirmation students will present a Living Nativity at the 5 p.m. service in the Old Church on Christmas Eve.

Our Sunday school, first communion, and confirmation students enrich our Christmas services. Thanks be to God for their ministry to us!

Grace & peace,

Sonya Sowards, Director of Christian Education





# Annual Augustus Family Christmas Party!

Join the Augustus Family in preparing the House of the Lord for the Christmas Season. It takes many hands to get the church ready and we definitely need your help to make it happen! From decorating the tree in the nave, to hanging the garland and wreaths, there is lots to do in a short period of time. All of the holiday enhancements around our campus entice visitors that are looking for the 'old fashioned family Christmas'. We will also be serving lunch and a light continental breakfast...because a party without food is just a meeting. Look for details in the near future and a sign-up sheet in the Muhlenberg Center. Contact Brian O'Hara or 610-489-0417 for more details. The event is sponsored by the **Outreach Committee** and is open to the entire Augustus Lutheran Church Family.



### **Christmas Poinsettias!**

The **Outreach Committee** is once again hard at work preparing the church for Christmas. We have an opportunity for every member of the congregation to join in this church-wide endeavor. Every year, the **Worship & Music Committee** provides a vehicle for every congregant to facilitate the decorating of the church for Christmas. We are asking that you prayerfully consider buying at least one poinsettia this year to entrench the sanctuary in red and white. If you can do multiple poinsettias, that would be even more fantastic and appreciated. These embellishments can also be seen by those patrons who are watching our Christmas Services at home. Additionally, if you do not wish to take your poinsettia home with you after the Christmas Day service, please let us know on your form. The Outreach Committee will tag any donated plants with the Augustus Logo and a message of hope. The plants are then taken to assisted living homes and distributed to let the residents know that Augustus cares about them. So, every donation is greatly appreciated and nothing goes to waste. We hope that you will join us in this endeavor.

	Karen LachenmayerPhone: 610-715-4850412 Dartmoor RoadE-mail: karenlachenmayer@gmail.comvenksville, Pa. 19473
	ORDER DEADLINE: December 8, 2024
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CONTAC	T INFO:
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Pl	vill take my plants after the 9:00 P.M. Service 12/24. ease distribute my plants to others.
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#### OUTREACH COMMITTEE ADVENT REMEMBRANCE DOVES

A Pair of Doves spiritually represent love, friendship, and peace. When two doves couple together, they enter into partnership for a lifetime. A pair of doves can signify a union of two or more people or entities with a positive outlook for the future. At Christmas, people tend to remember those that have gone before them.

If you are thinking of someone special this Christmas Season, we will be offering you two free remembrance doves in memory of that person. One to keep to adorn your Christmas Tree reminding you of their presence throughout the season, and one to leave at Augustus adorning the Christmas Tree in the nave to remind you that they are with Jesus, the one we are celebrating at Christmas. The doves will be made available on the first Sunday of Advent on December 01, 2024.Be present to receive yours!



#### Ten Important Dogmas of the Lutheran Church By Bo Kristian Holm, Associate Professor, Systematic Theology, Aarhus University



#### 4. Sin

Without God, a human being is an unforgiven sinner. The sinfulness of each human being is a common theme in both the Old and the New Testament. The notions of sin and sinfulness vary according to different church denominations. In the theology of the Evangelical Lutheran church, sin is not first and foremost sinful acts. Rather, it is what – within a human being – separates that person from God, e.g. selfishness and egoism. In that sense all human beings are sinners, even the most devout. See Article II of the Augsburg Confession.

#### Augsburg Confession: [Article II. Concerning Original Sin]

"Furthermore, it is taught among us that since the fall of Adam, all human beings who are born in the natural way are conceived and born in sin. This means that from birth they are full of evil lust and inclination and cannot by nature possess true fear of God and true faith in God. Moreover, this same innate disease and original sin is truly sin and condemns to God's eternal wrath all who are not in turn born anew through baptism and the Holy Spirit.

Rejected, then, are the Pelagians and others who do not regard original sin as sin in order to make human nature righteous through natural powers, thus insulting the suffering and merit of Christ."

**One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time.** Contact the church office to help with our weekly worship. 610-489-9625 or office@augustustrappe.org





#### Sharing the Christmas Story

The season of Advent has provided opportunity for us to reflect on God's great love for us fallen sinners that has caused him to send his very own Son who came for the ungodly, even for those who will never acknowledge his sacrifice and who reject his free gift of salvation.

Along with the joy that we have in our Savior, especially at this time of the celebration of his birth, the knowledge that not all experience this joy brings a sorrow to us as it does to the heart of our Lord.

Just as God in his love sent his Son into this world to save the lost, so we are now sent to tell others of that love. Our church's mission is to follow Paul's admonition to Timothy:

"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers."

#### 1 Timothy 4:13, 16

Together we preach and teach the Word from the pulpit and through our Bible classes. Together we strive to live as Christ would have us live, persevering by grace, in order that we might bring glory to God and extend his Kingdom. We are grateful for this partnership in the Gospel and for your gifts of time, talents, and financial resources that you so willingly share in order to carry out God's work on earth. God's blessings on your Christmas worship and celebration with loved ones.

#### Giving to Jesus

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year because we get the opportunity to celebrate the wondrous gift of God's Son, Jesus. Because of God's gift to us on the very first Christmas, Christmas has become a gift-giving season. With so many people to give gifts to such as sons and daughters, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, grandmas and grandpas, etc., it is difficult to find the right gift for everyone. God has no such problems. He knew exactly what each person needed. In fact, he knows our needs better than we know them, and he knew them before we were ever born. And the timing of his most indescribable gift was perfect.

"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." Galatians 4:4

How do we respond to what God has given us? Shouldn't we be asking, "What have I given to him?" Certainly, we don't go to the malls to shop for Jesus. The greatest gifts we can give him are not found there anyway. The best gift that we can possibly give him is our hearts and to show him our love by faithfully and obediently doing what he asks of us. God is pleased when we allow him to work through us as channels of his love to others. We will remain his channels when we stay focused on the most indescribable gift, the gift of Jesus.

May we all keep Christ as the heart of our Christmas and make Jesus the reason for our joy

#### **Tell the Good News**

Here we are, ready to celebrate the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don't believe in him. Today this celebration is heralded back in October, or at least November, by merchants filling their shelves with enticing gifts, decorations, cards, and all the trappings of Christmas.

How different from the first Christmas! Mary and Joseph settled down in an inn.

There were no photographers waiting outside to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages, spreading the news? No, to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands who were so low on the social scale that they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law. They weren't even allowed to come into the Temple.

Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These wretched creatures saw

the angels with "... the glory of the Lord [shining] around them "

They heard the message the angels brought:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord ... you will find a baby ... lying in a manger." Luke 2: 9, 11, 12

They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they spread it.

"When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." Luke 2:17-18

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? "All who heard it were amazed," Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and "spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this child."



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	2 Richard Althouse Robert Price	3 Charles Interrante Sarah Wagenseller Raymond Waltz	4 Cindy Bouchard Deborah Harley Pr. Kochenderfer	5 Matt Kerr Rachel Yost	6 Chilly Lyaro	7 Sam Dogonniuck James Lorah
3	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Bruce King Ali Murray	David Cornish Danielle Halteman	Barbara Rice Amber Whitman	Landon Raupp	Debra Augustine	Joseph Fargo Drexel Madden Christine Napier Lilly North
.5	16	17	18	19	20	21
ara Jane Shaffer Dan Smith Cindy 'alko	-	Sara Schlegel	Jack Neborak Rachel Schaffer Jennifer Wentworth	Cheryl Anderson Brendan Cooney	Liam DePaul	Vicki Gallagher
2	23	24	25	26	27	28
usan Schatz			Bill Weaver	Judy Bubeck	Cooper DeWane Karen McClain Chloe Rose	Dale Ehret Matthew Schweitzer Ann Walker
29 Reese Coldwater Christia Keim	30	31 Stephanie Matoney	Dec	ember	Birth	days
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Step back in time lamps wrapped in Eve Services in Hi services in Old Tra	with our candlelit p greens, and candle storic Old Trappe ( appe Church are in Colonial Church.	athways, gas elight Christmas Church! All		Chr Con in th	by a traditional istmas Eve Holy munion Service heated Brick rch with lessons,	and the second second

Whether you join us for Christmas Eve or not, the staff and volunteers of Augustus would like to extend warm, blessed, and merry Christmas greetings to the community and their families.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13)"



## Gracious Givers Lay Reader Message

#### Do You Have a Room?

"And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

As these familiar words are read every Christmas, we repeat them in our minds. Having heard them so often, we know them by heart. And every year, pastors try to come up with novel thoughts about an age-old story. Sadly, as much as we love to hear the story, we too often put it out of our thoughts as soon as we put up the calendar for the New Year. Like the infamous innkeeper, we cannot find room for the newborn Baby.

We are creatures of habit, and it seems that it's quite difficult to change old habits, most of them not very beneficial. If we keep our focus on that simple message, though, we might be able to create new habits. Instead of hurriedly scanning our devotions for the day, we might make it a habit to remind ourselves that it is God speaking to us through his Word.

Instead of uttering a quick, "Morning. How are you?" we might actually take a few minutes to wait for the answer and offer encouragement and maybe even pray with a colleague, a friend, a family member. Instead of setting our own schedules, we might ask God to teach us to number our days so that we can go ahead in his wisdom (Psalm 90:12). What other good habits could we establish if we focused on "our Lord Jesus Christ, [who] though he was rich, yet for [our] sake[s] became poor, so that [we] through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9)?

Do you have room? By his grace, God will warm our cold hearts and give us the desire to be his stewards with room in our day to serve him, room in our finances to give what is needed, and room in our lives for him to work his will in and through us.

## Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the home of one of our members. We will discuss our favorite books, have some refreshments, and generally relax and have fun. We might even do a craft! Want more info? Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or office@augustustrappe.org.





# REMEMBER OVER CHRISTMAS

During the Holidays, consider sending a Christmas card to Augustus Family members who are ill, alone, or homebound.

Let them know they are in our thoughts during this special time of year.

Janet Saylor-Rhoads 111 Oak Street Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Dave and Fran Ivarson 602 Greenwood Avenue Collegeville, PA 19426

Helen Newton 837 South Trappe Road Collegeville, PA 19426

Muriel Ludwig 800 Maple Avenue 143 Westview Court Harleysville, PA 19438

Caesar Gorski 147 Bluebird Crossing Meadowood Sr. Living Lansdale, PA 19446

Marsha Llewellyn Phoenix Ctr for Rehab & Nursing Room 322 833 South Main Street Phoenixville, PA 19460 610-909-3449

Hazel Giera Frederick Living 2849 Big Road Zieglersville, PA 19492 3rd Floor Cedarwood Room 527 Dolores Allebach Parkhouse Rm. 224, B2 1600 Black Rock Road Royersford, PA 19468

Phyllis Oehlert 51 W. Arcadia Drive #401 Limerick, PA 19468

Elizabeth Rutter 30 Hockle Road Schwenksville, PA 19473

Peg Dewane 23231 Shannondell Drive Audubon, PA 19403

Jane Whitman 419 Park Avenue Collegeville, PA 19426

Ron and Carol Oelschlager 32 Trappe Road Collegeville, PA 19426

Alice Franks 277 East Third Avenue Trappe, PA 19426

Nancy Clelland 560 Iron Bridge Road #102 Freehold, NJ 07728 Sara Jane Shaffer 20 ½ Carhart Avenue Binghamton, NY 13905

Mr. & Mrs. David Cornish 85 Sixth Avenue Collegeville, PA 19426

Mr. & Mrs. James Lorah 145 Seventh Avenue Collegeville, PA 19426

Frank DePaul 58 Saylor Road Schwenksville, PA 19473

Ethel Geist 620 W. Valley Forge Road King of Prussia, PA 19406 Peach Unit Room 24

Bob Hallman 107 Blossom Way Pottstown, PA 19465

The Reverend William Fluck 325 E. Church Street, Apt. 216 Telford, PA 18969



Start your Christmas family tradition at Augustus with our candlelit pathways, gas lamps wrapped in greens, and Candlelight Christmas Eve Services in Historic Old Trappe Church! A Living Nativity will be presented at the 5:00 PM service, a family service with carols and lessons at 7:00 PM, and a communion service in our heated and traditionally decorated Brick Church at 9:00 PM. All services in Old Trappe Church are in a 1743 unheated and unelectrified Colonial Church. Please dress accordingly and remember your flashlights!

\*\*\*ALL ATTENDEES TO THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES WILL RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT, COURTESY OF AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH! \*\*\*



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion/ Holy Baptism 1:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	2	3 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	4 9:00 am Quilting 1:30 pm Staff Christmas Luncheon 6:00 pm 3-in-1	5 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	6	7
8 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion 1:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00 pm Knitting	10 7:00 pm Community Club	11 9:00 am Soup Kitchen 6:00 pm 3-in-1	12 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	13	14 9:00 am Christmas Decorating Party 5:00 pm Youth Group Cookie Making & Christmas Party
15 Children's Christmas Program 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion 2:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 4:00 pm Christmas Concert	16 7:00 pm Book Club	17 9:00 am Quilting	18 6:00 pm 3-in-1	19 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	20	21
22 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Holy Communion	23 7:00 pm Knitting	24 Christmas Eve Office closes at noon 5:00 pm Living Nativity 7:00 pm Family Service 9:00 pm Holy Communion	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28 Office Closed
29 9:30 am Lessons & Carols Service	30 Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed		ece		<b>ber</b>



## **Church Office Hours Over the Holidays**

The Church Office will close at noon on December 23rd. The Office will be closed on December 25th, 26th, 27th, 30th, 31st, and January 1, 2025

Normal Office hours resume January 2, 2025