

Augustinian

Augustus Lutheran Church

An Historic Church for Today's People

DECEMBER 2025



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Christmas is the gift-giving season. Many of us will be asked, "What do you want for Christmas?" We, in turn, should be thinking about what we're giving to others. Even though the stores are super-stocked, it is often difficult to find just the right gift for every person on our lists. God had 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. God's 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). Now, that's a gift that can't be topped! Over two thousand years ago, the world received the greatest gift, and it's the gift that truly keeps on giving!

Jesus tells us, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35). God has given us his Son, which we celebrate each Christmas, and he has given us all other things as well. As recipients of God's gifts, are we discovering the joy that comes from giving back some of our gifts? Are we expressing our gratitude by sharing some of our blessings? We don't give to Jesus by going to the malls to shop for him, but we do give to him by sharing our love, time, talents, and money with those in need and our church. The best gift we can give Jesus is our hearts, showing him our love by faithfully and obediently doing what he asks of us.

As your pastor, I want to thank you for your generous giving to the Lord through our church. It is a wonderful blessing to have so many of you give so generously of your time, talents, and treasures. God is doing great things through you. Because of your generosity, we are able to share the Good News of our Savior, born on Christmas Day, with many people.

Our services on Christmas Eve and the Sunday after Christmas this year will follow the same schedule as recent years:

Christmas Eve Schedule (December 24, 2025)

- 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 28, 2025

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

May God the Holy Trinity bless you with his endless grace, peace, and joy.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Weleck

P.S. See you Sunday



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)"

From the Bench

December



A Festival of Lessons and Carols Sunday afternoon, December 14 at 3:00

Celebrate the Advent and Christmas seasons and join us for our Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday afternoon, December 14 at 3:00! And please invite as many of your friends and family as you can!

As many of you already know, Lessons and Carols is a service that tells the story of the Nativity from the Genesis reading of Adam and Eve in the garden to the birth of Jesus. Through seven scripture readings and a mix of carols, hymns, and anthems, we will celebrate the hope of Christmas.

The history of Lessons and Carols can be traced to Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, England, In 1880, Bishop Edward White Benson created the first Lessons and Carols service to offer a spiritual alternative to Christmas Eve celebrations that were taking place in local pubs! He wanted to draw people out of secular festivities and into the church to tell the story of Christmas.

The modern version of the service was adapted for King's College, Cambridge, in 1918 by Eric Milner-White. Its popularity spread globally after the BBC began broadcasting it in 1928.

At Augustus, our festivities will begin with the Augustus Bell Choir presenting the "Ukranian Bell Carol," followed by Ali Buckland presenting "One Small Child" by David Meece on flute, and Matthew Boatmon presenting an organ setting of the "Magnificat" by Marcel Dupré. Our treble choristers will join our adult singers in presenting a variety of carols and anthems, including Aston's "The Glory of the Lord," Warlock's "Adam Lay Ybounden," How's "An Advent Message," Phillips "People, Look East," Parry's "O Day of Peace," Philip's "There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying," and Lindley's "Ave Maria." Hymns will range from "Come, O Come, Emmanuel" to a setting of "Joy to the World" by John Rutter. The service will conclude with Matthew playing a setting of "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella" by Keith Chapman, who was the principal Organist at Wannamaker's in Philadelphia from 1966 - 1989.

A festive reception will follow the service. The choirs and I are looking forward to seeing you!

Thank you,

Darryl

For questions about this event or to place your reservations,
contact: brian.ohara24@gmail.com

**PREPARE AUGUSTUS LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR
CHRISTMAS**

*Annual Christmas
Decorating Party*



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

 **13**
DECEMBER
SATURDAY

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

 at **9.30**
am

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A social outing for all congregants, family, & friends of Augustus

SUNDAY SCHOOL NATIVITY PROGRAM

Participating youth attend
Sunday School at 9:00 AM

December 21, 2025
10:30 AM



Christian Education

Our Sunday school kids have completed lessons about the early Church and have moved into Advent and Christmas activities. We are currently learning about Advent, the beginning of the Church year and the season when we prepare for the holy season of Christmas.

We will begin rehearsals for our nativity program on December 7th, and all children are invited to be part of it! Our regular Sunday school students will have the most prominent parts, but our pageant also needs lots of angels, sheep, and even narrators who can easily be added to the cast. This is a great opportunity to invite grandchildren, neighbors and any children you know to join us at Augustus. Practices for the pageant will be on **December 7th, December 14th and December 21st** during Sunday school (9-10:15 a.m.) Attendance at all practices is mandatory for everyone except angels and sheep. The pageant will be presented on December 21st at the 10:30 a.m. service.

After the pageant, Sunday school will be on hiatus until January 4th, when we'll come back for our Epiphany celebration, a visit from the magi, and the annual baby shower for Jesus.

Our confirmation kids are also getting ready for Christmas during Advent. They have prepared worship bags for children attending church in the coming year, as well as Advent chains to help the Sunday school children count down to Christmas. They will also present a living nativity at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Meanwhile, our Senior High Youth Group is keeping us well fed with Thanksgiving pies and Christmas cookies. All proceeds go to benefit the SHYG programs, including their annual mission trip. This means that by eating pies and cookies, you're doing God's work in the world! Thank you to SHYG and their wonderful leaders.

Please contact me at education@augustustrappe.org or (904) 476-4409 if you have any questions. Thank you for your prayers and support for the children and youth of Augustus!

Blessings,

Sonya Sowards
Director of Christian Education





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.

Dolores Allebach
Parkhouse Rm. 215, B2
1600 Black Rock Road
Royersford, PA 19468

Nancy Bunting
Parkehouse
1600 Black Rock Road
Royersford, PA 19468

Nancy Clelland
560 Iron Bridge Road #102
Freehold, NJ 07728

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

Peg Dewane
23231 Shannondell Drive
Audubon, PA 19403

Donna and Ken Fagley
720 Linen Drive
Trappe, PA 19426

Alice Franks
277 East Third Avenue
Trappe, PA 19426

Dave and Fran Ivarson
602 Greenwood Avenue
Collegeville, PA 19426

Mr. & Mrs. James Lorah
145 Seventh Avenue
Collegeville, PA 19426
Jim Cell: 610-761-4866

Eugene Frank
1222 Shannondell Drive
Audubon, PA 19403

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

Caesar Gorski
Laurel House Rm. 147
Meadowood Sr. Living
Lansdale, PA 19446

Mary Hammel
24 South Fifth Avenue
Royersford, PA 19468

Shirley Heist
709 Chestnut Street
Collegeville, PA 19426

Cheryl Holcombe
PO Box 26806
Collegeville, PA 19426

Renata Markert
1152 Ben Franklin Parkway East
#219
Douglassville, PA 19518

Helen Newton
837 South Trappe Road
Collegeville, PA 19426

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

Ron and Carol Oelschlager
32 Trappe Road
Collegeville, PA 19426

Ethelyn Perkins
555 Michelle Lane
Trappe, PA 19426

Janice Reiff
304 Cameron Drive
Douglassville, PA 19518

Dot Rieger
c/o Sharon Rieger Winterton
2051 Warwick Drive
Oldsmar, FL 34677

Bob and Alice Rodenberger
1113 Pleasant View Town
Square, South
Manheim, PA 17545

Mary Saylor
70 Goldspire Drive
Elkton, MD 21921

Janet Saylor-Rhoads
111 Oak Street
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Sara Jane Shaffer
20 1/2 Carhart Avenue
Binghamton, NY 13905

Jane Whitman
419 Park Avenue
Collegeville, PA 19426
910-489-9063



*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*



2025 Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Mail to: Karen Lachenmayer Phone: 610-715-4850
412 Dartmoor Road E-mail: karenlachenmayer@gmail.com
Schwenksville, Pa. 19473

ORDER DEADLINE: December 7, 2025

Make Checks payable to Augustus Flower Fund

NAME _____

CONTACT INFO: _____

COLOR	QUANTITY	TOTAL \$
RED	_____	@ \$11.00 ea _____
WHITE	_____	@ \$11.00 ea _____

Check One:

_____ I will take my plants after the 9:00 P.M. Service 12/24.

_____ Please distribute my plants to others.

I would like the bulletin acknowledgement to read: (please print)

AUGUSTUS' CHOIR & FRIENDS
Conducted by Dr. Darryl Roland
Organist Accompanist: Mr. Matthew Boatmon

Christmas Concert

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14
3:00 PM**

FREE WILL OFFERING

Brian O'Hara © 2025
brian.ohara24@gmail.com

OLD TRAPPE CHURCH CHRISTMAS CARDS

Featuring the watercolor by local artist Julia Longacre

Printed on archival paper suitable for framing

Verse: "Unto Us a Child is Born, Unto Us a Son is Given" Isaiah 9:6
contact Brian O'Hara at brian.ohara24@gmail.com

Now Available
in the church office



\$ 20.00
per box of 8

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services & Family Traditions



HISTORIC OLD TRAPPE CHURCH

December 24, 5:00 PM Candlelight Living Nativity
Candlelit pathways, Lessons & Carols

December 24, 7:00 PM Candlelight Family Service
Candlelit pathways, Lessons & Carols

FREE GIFT!!!
for all attendees

HEATED BRICK CHURCH

December 24, 9:00 PM Candlelight, Lessons, Carols, & Communion
Traditionally decorated main Sanctuary

Step back in time with our candlelit pathways, gas lamps wrapped in greens, and candlelight Christmas Eve Services in Historic Old Trappe Church! All services in Old Trappe Church are in a 1743 unheated and un electrified Colonial Church.

Please dress accordingly and remember your flashlights!

Enjoy a traditional Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service in the heated Brick Church with lessons, carols, and special music



717 W. MAIN STREET
AUGUSTUS

WWW.AUGUSTUSTRAPPE.ORG
LUTHERAN

610-489-9625
CHURCH

Sunday Services: 8:00 AM Communion * 9:00 AM Sunday School * 10:30 AM Communion

Gracious Givers

In God's Plan Nothing Is Insignificant

Lots of jokes have been made about the “begats” in the first chapter of Matthew. We have updated that word now and use the more understandable “*was the father of.*” Still, we tend to skip over those seventeen verses with their hard-to-pronounce names. Yet we know that we can benefit from reading these verses, for we are told, “*ALL Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*” (2 Timothy 3:16). Insignificant as those names may at first seem to us, each represents a person from whom Jesus was directly descended.

Bethlehem was considered an insignificant little town. Nothing much was going on there. When the Wise Men went looking for Jesus, Bethlehem was not their first stop. No, they stopped in Jerusalem. They inquired of a king in a king's palace for “*. . . the one who [had] been born king of the Jews*” (Matthew 2:2). Yes, the prevailing view of Bethlehem was that it was a pretty insignificant place. However, God chose Bethlehem to be Jesus' birthplace. “*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah . . . out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel . . .*” (Micah 5:2).

Then there's Nazareth. When Nathanael was told about Jesus, he sneered, “*Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?*” (John 1:46) It was just an obscure, insignificant town, but it was the place God chose to be Jesus' hometown.

Looking back, we see God's wonderful plan. We realize that nothing is insignificant to him. “*'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts'*” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

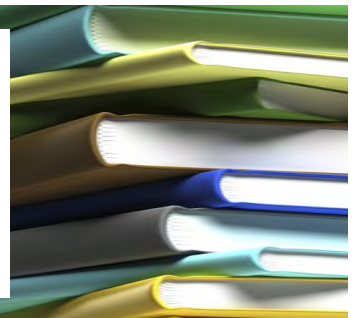
Just as, in the past, God used seemingly insignificant people, places, and events to carry out his plan, he is today using us where we live and where we work, throughout our daily lives, to be stewards of his message, stewards of his gifts, stewards of the lives he has given us.

As we worship the Christ Child this Christmas season and hear again the wonderful chain of events God put in motion to fulfill Scripture, let us be prepared to be used by him as his ongoing plan for the salvation of all people unfolds.

Augustus Book Club

The next meeting of the Augustus Book Club will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025 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.

Want more info? Contact Karen McClain 610-489-9625 or
office@augustustrappe.org.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Richard Althouse Robert Price	Charles Interrante Sarah Wagenseller Raymond Waltz	Cindy Bouchard Deborah Harley Pr. K Kochenderfer	Matt Kerr	Chilly Lyaro
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sam Dogonniuck James Lorah		Bruce King	David Cornish Danielle Halteman	Barbara Rice Amber Whitman	Landon Raupp	Debra Augustine
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Joseph Fargo Drexel Madden Christine Napier Lilly North	Sara Jane Shaffer Dan Smith Cindy Valko	Allison Christy Justin Maurer Colin Smith	Laura Schlegel	Rachel Schaffer Jennifer Wentworth	Cheryl Anderson Brendan Cooney	Liam Depaul
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Vicki Gallagher Meagan Squartino	Susan Schatz			Bill Weaver	Judy Bubeck	Cooper DeWane Karen McClain Chloe Rose
28	29	30	31			
Dale Ehret Matthew Schweitzer Ann Walker	Reese Coldwater Christia Keim Kaitlyn Mülle Anthony Scelza		Stephanie Matoney			

December Birthdays

Needed! Packing Boxes!

Do you order on-line? Have you wondered what to do with the boxes? The Augustus Quilting group needs clean, undamaged boxes for quilt storage and shipping. The boxes can be flattened. The boxes should be between 20" X 15" X 12" and 36" X 25" X 18" inches. Please leave the boxes in Room 24 in the Parish House.

Sample sizes (with Amazon box codes):

34" x 22" x 13.5" (Q2)	25.75" x 20.75" x 16.5" (P5)
23" x 15" x 12" (PB)	20.75" x 17.75" x 15.5" (P2)
22.25 x 18.25 x 12.25 (S5)	



Since Lutheran World Relief wants the boxes to weigh less than 40 pounds, the boxes get too heavy if they are bigger.



Trappe Historical Society Candlelight Tours

**Saturday, December 6, 3 to 9pm &
Sunday, December 7, 12 to 4pm**

Admission includes a timed ticket for the Candlelight Tour of the Muhlenberg House plus entrance to the Dewees Tavern and Speaker's House.

Savor the sights, sounds, and smells of a Pennsylvania German Christmas as you travel back in time at the Muhlenberg House for a candlelight tour, where interpreters in authentic period clothing will share stories from the Muhlenberg family in each room. Chat with Pastor Muhlenberg in his office and then step into the dining room, where a festive meal awaits. Don't miss the Speaker's House, where you can warm yourself by the fire and see what our hearth cook is preparing in the newly-restored kitchen wing. You will also get a sneak peek at the ongoing restoration work in the main house. At the Dewees Tavern, the galleries are decorated for Christmas with German Erzgebirge woodcarvings, a Moravian Christmas pyramid, Noah's arks, and much more. Parking is at St. Luke's Church, 200 W. Main Street. Tickets available at <https://historictrappe.org/events/>

Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Telling Others about Jesus

At the birth of a child, most parents make numerous telephone calls to relatives and friends to tell them about the wonderful news. In addition to telephone calls, announcement cards are often sent. When Jesus was born, there were no telephones or mail service. However, God had a better method of announcing the birth of his Son. He used his angels:

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger' " (Luke 2:8-12).

God, in his sovereignty, did not choose the rulers of the time nor the wealthy to be among those who were the first to hear of Jesus' birth. Interestingly, he chose a group of people who, in many ways, were considered outcasts. Upon hearing the good news of the Christ Child, the shepherds went to Bethlehem to see Jesus in the manger.



After seeing Jesus, the shepherds went out and *"spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child"* (Luke 2:17). God used these people to be his ambassadors. The people who heard the shepherds talk about Jesus were *"amazed at what the shepherds said to them"* (verse 18).

Like the shepherds, we are called to be faithful witnesses of Jesus and his love. Once we begin to comprehend his love for us, we will be compelled to share that love with others. In telling others, we reflect our gratitude for his love, grace, and mercy. God hears and sees our gratitude through the way we live our lives.

Jesus Is Our Treasure

In the Christmas story, we are told that the Magi followed the brilliant star in the sky to find Jesus. These noblemen were seeking the *"king of the Jews"* (Matthew 2:2). The star led them to Bethlehem and *"on coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh"* (Matthew 2:11).

When the Magi entered the house and saw the baby Jesus, they immediately *"bowed down and worshiped him."* Before they gave their gifts, they first showed their reverence. In essence, they gave themselves. Their hearts were filled with joy to be in the presence of the King. After they had shown Jesus their adoration, they gave their gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh.

The Magi willingly gave their gifts because they had first given their hearts to Jesus. In much the same way that the Magi gave, the Apostle Paul refers to the giving of the people in the Macedonian churches. In his letter to the church in Corinth, he asks the church to give to the needy church in Jerusalem. As an encouragement for their giving, he refers to the

grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. *“Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord . . .”* (2 Corinthians 8:2-5).

Both the Magi and the people in the Macedonian churches gave themselves before they gave their gifts. Stewardship is self-giving before it is money-giving. Jesus said, *“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Matthew 6:21). Through Word and Sacrament, Jesus reveals himself to us as our treasure, and for that our hearts are eager to respond in generous giving.

For a Godly Church

Leadership may determine the church’s level, but you and I determine its character. Someone has suggested:

- ✚ If the church grows, it is because your attendance is regular and you invite and bring friends regularly.
- ✚ If it is an active church, it is because you are committed to her ministries and give your time and influence to them.
- ✚ If it is a scriptural church, it is because you insist on nothing short of biblical preaching and teaching.
- ✚ If it is a friendly church, it is because you are friendly. You take the initiative to meet and greet new and old alike each week.

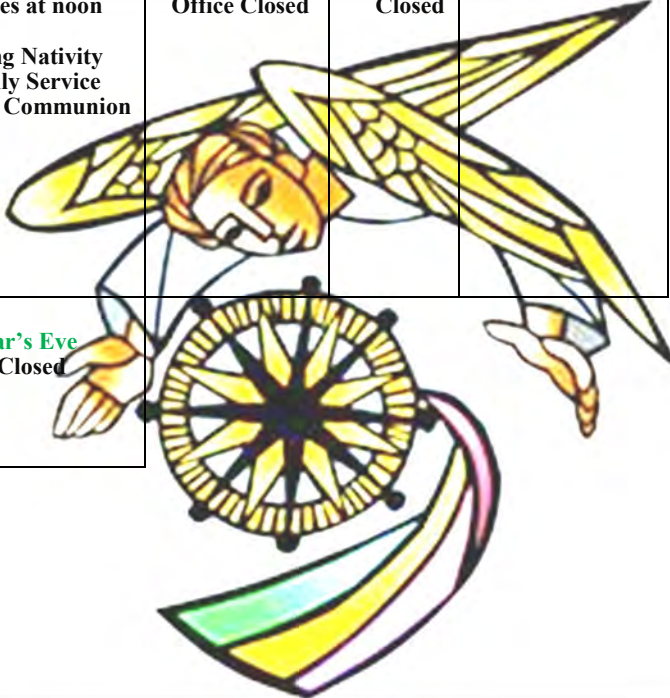
- ✚ If it is a soul-winning church, it is because you are a soul winner and you are interested in bringing others to Christ.
- ✚ If it is an educated church, it is because you attend the Bible School and other educational opportunities and desire to learn the Bible.
- ✚ If it is a giving church, it is because you give, not just of your tithes and offerings, but of your God-given abilities and time.



Let’s work at making the church that kind of church. It takes all of us working together with our leaders and with each other. Our concern for others must be evident, and our burden for a lost world must have top priority.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	3 9:00 am Quilting 2:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3-in-1	4 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	5	6
7 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion	8 7:00 pm Knitting	9 7:00 pm Community Club	10 9:00 am Soup Kitchen 6:00 pm 3-in-1	11 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	12	13 9:00 am Christmas Decorating Party  5:00 pm Youth Group Cookie Making & Christmas Party
14 8:00 am Holy Communion 9:00 am Sunday School 9:00 am Adult Bible Study 10:30 am Holy Communion 3:00 pm Christmas Concert	15 7:00 pm Book Club	16 9:00 am Quilting	17 1:00 pm Christmas Staff Luncheon 6:00 pm 3-in-1	18 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Vocal Choir	19	20
21 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	22 7:00 pm Knitting	23	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 9:30 am Lessons & Carols Service	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed			

December



Church Office Hours Over the Holidays

The Church Office will close at noon on December 24th and 31st.
The Office will be closed at noon on December 24 through January 4, 2026.
Normal Office hours resume January 5, 2026