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December 1, 2016

Message from Lead Pastor, Don Haven



“...and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
(Micah 6:8)

In this Advent time of our church year, we prayerfully wait for the promised One to be born into our world and into our lives – God becoming flesh and dwelling in and among us in the one born Jesus. We wait with hope and anticipation. And in this Advent waiting, we also pause to reflect on the pain and groaning of the people of our world, our communities and our nation. The promised Christ will be born into places of poverty and war, into communities where hunger persists and shelter is scarce. We have come through a bitter election campaign, filled with innuendos and accusations and hate-filled proclamations by candidates as well as supporters. As neighbors and citizens, we have encountered those who are celebrating and even gloating about the results of the elections as well as those who are disappointed, saddened and frightened.

We hear the words from Micah entreating the people of God to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God. God through Christ longs to reconcile the world. That is God’s work. But it is through our hands and our voices, through our work for justice and peace that the reconciliation happens. You and I have no choice but to speak clearly and boldly against voices supporting attitudes and policies that promote racism, and sexism and fear of another nationality or faith. We cannot be silent.

The exaggerated and amplified fear mongering, isolationism and intolerance for those different from themselves that continues by some is a call for you and me to speak for justice and to invite those who disagree to sit at Christ’s table of peace and kindness. It is a call to humility...to being humble enough to listen to the other with compassion and care...to voice disagreement without resorting to labeling and triumphalism.

The words of Scripture speak to us about a God whose very being is Love. And the Word is clear that God’s love manifests itself in welcoming the stranger, reaching out to the excluded, feeding the hungry, clothing the unclothed, working for justice, binding up the wounded, and providing shelter for those without. In doing so we are doing justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with our God. So as we prepare for the celebration of Christ’s birth, I urge you to take this Advent time to pray...to listen to God as you prepare your heart and your whole being to receive the Christ, the One who, being born in us and into our world, will transform us into the just, kind and humble followers of Jesus we were created to be....always being made new.

May God’s Transformative Presence be with you in this Advent Season.

Pastor Don

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Holiday Schedule News!!

New this year...Advent Worship Services

This year Resurrection will celebrate the season of Advent with Wednesday evening worship services at **7:00 p.m.** in the church sanctuary. Services will be:

November 30 December 7 and 14

Christmas Eve Worship Services – (Note change of location for the 6:00 service!)

Please join us for a celebration of Christmas with traditional and contemporary carols, the reading of God's word and the sharing of Communion, as we remember the birth of Christ our Lord.

4:00 p.m. – Family Worship w/Candlelight in the Faith Center

6:00 p.m. – Candlelight Worship in the Faith Center

8:00 and 10:00 p.m. - Candlelight Worship in the Church Sanctuary

Christmas Day and New Year's Day – one service only at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary on these Sundays.

Children's Christmas Musical



Don't miss the Children's Christmas Program, "Jesus Means Christmas to Me" a Christmas pageant featuring our Resurrection children in a delightful retelling of the birth of our Lord Jesus on Sunday,

December 11. Celebrate the wonder of the manger scene as it teaches us all the real reason we celebrate the season at 9:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Faith Center. Traditional service in the Sanctuary at 8:00 a.m. only.

Christmas Cantata – December 18th

On Sunday, **December 18th**, we invite you to join our blended choral groups for this year's Christmas Cantata, **Emmanuel -- God With Us!** This is a contemporary Lessons and Carols work that presents a mixture of historic carols, newer compositions and Biblical narration to tell the ageless story of Christmas. Featured soloists will be Pastor Don Haven, Ken Newell and Jessica Neighbors, with Len Merkel and Tanda Ainsworth providing the reading of God's word. The Cantata will be presented three times, at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and at 9:30 a.m. in the Faith Center. Merry Christmas to all!



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BASKET PROGRAM

The Christmas Basket Program supports Lutheran Social Services by providing food and gifts for needy families. Many families have requested items that we consider basics of daily living such as sheets, towels, shoes, coats, and even diapers. No gift is too small! Even a \$10 Target gift card is much appreciated!

Many individuals are still in need of gifts. Please consider signing up to donate a gift for one or any number of the family members listed, to donate some of the food items, or to donate money to purchase items that are not donated. You may also [sign-up to volunteer your time](#) by helping with the assembly and delivery of the baskets on Saturday, December 17.

Sign-ups are available in the Resurrection Faith Center after first service and second service and outside the sanctuary after third service. [You can also sign up for gifts online.](#) See Barbara Peterson, Carroll Fingar, or Lisa Rasico for more information.

In addition to supporting LSS, the Christmas Basket Program supports Home Start by providing food baskets for each family and purchasing specific items needed for the individual apartments at Home Start.

It Takes All the Saints; Past and Present!

On All Saints Sunday, Nov. 6th, we celebrated the communion of saints by remembering those who have died and by expressing appreciation for the influences of the *living* saints who, through their daily lives, show us the Christian walk of faith. Michelle Larsh created a photo display of Resurrection saints to view along the education building breezeway and also a continuous loop of photos of Resurrection saints which can be viewed at this link on the website. [Click here](#)

Community Listening Panel & Pot-Luck – Sunday, Dec. 4

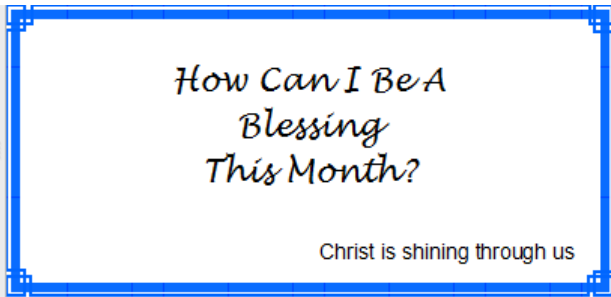
As a part of our Purpose Mapping Listening we will host several leaders from our community to hear from them what God is doing all around us. This will be an incredible opportunity to align ourselves with key organizations and work that can be more profound together than by ourselves.



As we've invited leaders from a broad spectrum of specialties, we've heard how impressed these groups were that a church was hoping to share in ministry happening in the community. Our guests will include Mary Green, Coordinator of Placer Country D.A.'s Multi-Disciplinary Interview Center, Chris Silver, Coordinator of the Discovery Shop, Steve Garcia, Founder and manager of Syner.g Communications, Karla Gustafson, Chair of Gerontology Dept. at

American River College and member of Older Adult Commission, Bonnie Gore, member of the Roseville City Council and Kirk Uhler, Placer County Supervisor for District 4.

Please plan to join us Sunday, December 4 from 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. and bring a dish to share. Immediately following lunch we will hear from leaders in politics, business, law enforcement, children's services, elder care, and more on their work, concerns, needs, and opportunities.



How Can I Spread Joy This Season?

- *Bake cookies for a neighbor who I don't know well*
- *Invite a friend to the Cantata at Resurrection*
- *Invite a friend to the Children's Musical at Resurrection*
- *Gather together to sing Christmas carols in my neighborhood*
- *Offer to grocery shop for an elderly acquaintance*
- *Share a copy of the Resurrection "Words of Advent" devotional*
- *Bring someone with me to worship on Christmas Eve*

"I look forward to participating in the Christmas Cantata every year. It is my way of spreading joy to those around me." - Sharing from a member of Resurrection

2017 Dinner with Friends



fellow church members.

Just pick a month that you would like to host and you'll be on your way to meeting new friends, renewing old friendships, and having a lot of fun.

In December & January we are taking sign-ups for fellowship, food and folly with Resurrection's round robin dining for the new year. It's a quarterly potluck dinner opportunity with your

Sign-ups will be December thru January and can be done by submitting your sign-up sheet in the offering plate, to the church office or by sending the form to me by email – **Mike Haag** mike@haagfamily.com. Sign-up sheets available Sunday mornings or [click here](#) to download.

Last year we had almost 80 people participating, let's see if we can beat that number this year. Don't want to host, please sign up to be a substitute and you may get a call to join a group and only need to bring an appetizer, salad or dessert.

Remember, this is for fellowship, not haute cuisine. We look forward to dining with you. If you have any questions, please call or email, **Mike Haag**, mike@haagfamily.com or 916-765-3410.

Resurrection's Good Gifts Fair: Dec. 4th

Since Christmas is right around the corner it's time to start making your gift lists, but this year, why not do something a little different? Most of the people on our lists already have everything they need, so why not give gifts that could help people survive? Why not give gifts that give life?



On December 4th from 9:00 – 12:30 the foyer of the Faith Center will be transformed into a marketplace where you can buy Ethiopian Christmas cards, or things you can wrap, like coffee, tea, chocolate, purses, placemats, wooden toy trains or children's books that provide income or services through ELCA or Equal Exchange for people who are struggling to just stay alive. Or you may purchase beautifully crafted gift cards from ELCA. Some of these gifts are available for just \$10, like mosquito nets, school supplies, chicks, fruit trees, or health care for a child, or \$12 to purchase a Bible. Some are more expensive like \$25 for farming tools and training, \$30 for vaccinations for a child, \$40 to send a girl to school, \$50 for an energy efficient cook stove, up to \$125 certificate to help start a small business.

For the people on your list who are hard to buy for because they really already have almost everything they need (grandma and grandpa, aunt and uncle, sister, brother, teacher, postman, hair dresser, etc.) we encourage you to give gifts that will make a difference in people's lives this year. Please give this prayerful consideration, and maybe you can get all your shopping done in one day! Bring your cash or check book on December 4th and help change lives this Christmas. If you have questions please call Kathy Wood at 619-890-3087 or Nancy Fiorini at 916-989-6819.

No Gathering Inn in December

See you on January 17!



Fellowship Breakfast

Join us for a delicious **FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**, Saturday December 10th. At **8:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This month enjoy a Festive Christmas Breakfast, with ample time for fellowship, followed by thoughts on Advent & Christmas, and singing of Christmas Carole's. Out by 8:55 for choir members who have rehearsal.



Daylighters Invitation!



The Daylighters extend a cordial invitation to all seniors to their annual, festive Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 20th, 12:00

p.m. **in the Faith Center.** On the menu is a sumptuous Turkey Feast with all the trimmings, prepared by Doc Wright. There will be special music, Christmas stories, birthday celebrations, and a raffle. Cost per person is \$15. Please look for a Daylighter after the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. services to purchase your ticket. You may also reserve a place by sending a check payable to LCR (memo Daylighters) to Elizabeth Bieniek, 1001 Tamarack Court, Roseville, CA 95661. 916-780-0472. Receipt of payment and **reservation deadline** is Friday, December 16th.

Priceless Purls:

Priceless Purls meets Monday Dec. 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be packing hand knitted and crocheted hat and scarf sets for the Christmas Baskets. Hats for new babies and chemo patients will also be packaged and sorted for distribution to local hospitals. If you are interested in learning more about prayer shawls, that activity will start around 11:00 a.m.



Children's Ministry News

☆ **"Friday Flash" Weekly Children's Ministry E-news**

☆ For the most up to date and detailed information on Children's Ministry, ask to be included on the "Friday Flash" by contacting Adriana Findlay, Director of Children's Ministry.

☆ **Children's Musical on Sunday, Dec 11th 9:30 and 11:00 Services**

☆ Childcare will be available if preferred for children 1-5 years, but no Sunday school will be held that morning.

☆ **Class Photo to be taken in Sunday school December 18th, 9:30 am!**

☆ As part of the "Thinking of You" cards the classes have been creating for Church members who are unable to come to worship, it'd be nice to enclose a group photo of the children. Hope you can be here to have your child be included! We'll also be having festive fun and fellowship that morning.

☆ Heifer Project International

- ☆ On November 20th, offering boxes to collect contributions for the Heifer project were handed out in Sunday school. If you missed that day, more are available on the cart with stuffed animals outside of each Service!
- ☆ **Book Fair book orders have arrived!**
- ☆ Once sorted and bundled, they will be available for pick up.

Teen Ministry

> Confirmation Pot-Luck Dec 11

I hope you've been enjoying the pot lucks and discussions as much as I have. Please continue to sign up for main dishes to fill out our meals.

Acolyte and Crucifer Spots open

Sign up on the teen ministry page

> Upcoming Retreats

Western States Youth Gathering

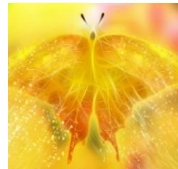
June 28 - July 2, 2017

\$100 deposit due Dec 11

> Jr High Winter Retreat Cancelled!

Mt Cross will not be hosting a January retreat. I don't know why. We are looking into other options including a different weekend retreat, going to Mt Cross in the spring instead, or a parent-led day event.

Adult Faith Formation Ministry Team



The Adult Faith Formation Team says a big "Thank You!" to all who helped make our Reformation Book Sale a big success. It was a great cooperative venture. Patty Beers from our own Carlson

Library; Adriana Findlay, from Children's Ministry; Beryl Bakken from Resurrection Readers; and Sally Callahan and Linda Johnson from the Adult Faith Formation Team minded the table. We look forward to receiving the books in two or three weeks, just in time for Christmas giving.

Also, Joy Rowland, thank you for teaching the very illuminating and interesting class on the Reformation. The importance of that movement to the world we live in today is difficult to fathom – thank you for helping us understand.

During this Advent season, please take the opportunity to grow your spirituality freestyle! In lieu of our usual 9:30 class on Sunday morning, we encourage you to take advantage of some or all of these opportunities.

First, be inspired by The Words of Advent: Devotions for Advent by members of the Congregation of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection! Joanne Auerbach deserves a loud shout-out for compiling the writings of many

members of our own congregation into a devotional guide for this season. Watch for it now.

Or, you might want to look into online offerings from Luther Seminary. "God Pause" (www.luthersem.edu/godpause/default.aspx?m=6350), is a daily devotional based on the readings for the coming Sunday. If you are feeling beaten down by the frenetic pace of the holidays, take a God Pause, and allow yourself some personal, spiritual reflection. If you want something more long-term, try the "Enter the Bible" (www.luthersem.edu/lifelong_learning/bible.aspx) study series. This online Bible study features videos and podcasts as well as the written word. Accounts are free, and make it possible to keep personal notes on the studies, and to track your learning.

Linda Babcock, welcome to the Adult Faith Formation Team! We are very glad to have you join us. We would like to have a larger committee membership, so if you feel the need to deepen your spiritual life, or to help others increase theirs, please do as Linda has and join our committee.

HELPING HANDS: Social Ministry Committee Update:

October: We provided 62 new duffle bags/suitcases to Koinonia Family Services for foster children as they move through the foster care system and emancipate. These bags replace the black garbage bags that have been a cymbal for foster children. The Koinonia staff is so pleased to be able to give the youth new luggage. Thank you Resurrection family!

November: Helping Hands has provided warm winter clothes for Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and Gathering Inn. Again, you opened your hearts to help keep these people warmer throughout the winter. THANKS!!!

In addition, we collected money for Heifer International to support struggling families to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. To date we have approximately \$576 to donate and have purchased a pig, part of a water buffalo, chicks, ducks, fish and seedlings as requested by those who donated.

December: Good Gifts Fair we will be accepting donations for Heifer International. It is our hope that many people will want to purchase a share of an animal or even an entire animal to give as a Christmas gift. Gift cards are available. Also at the Fair we will be offering Equal Exchange tea, coffee, and chocolate, gift cards from the ELCA gift catalogue, children's books, toy trains, and textiles from Tanzania, all gifts that will enrich other people's lives and enable amazing things to happen for others less fortunate than ourselves

As you all know our Helping Hands project in December is **Christmas Baskets!!!** Our congregation provides food and gifts to LSS and other organization that help those less fortunate

than us. You can sign up to assist at the church or on line. *Remember no gift is too small!!!!*

The Ahmad's Journey Continues

The LCR Good Neighbor Team continues to support the Ahmad family as it moves toward independence in its new country. Members of the team visit the family three or more times each week, providing transportation for shopping, Brishna's OB appointments and (hopefully) Javeed's driver's license application. In addition, members of the team are providing English Language training for Brishna. The two oldest children, Warda and Faizan, attend preschool. Fortunately, the preschool is close enough for Javeed to walk them there. As soon as he receives a green card he will be able to apply for a job. He already has some good leads provided by team members and participants in a forum the *Sacramento Bee* put on for refugees, sponsoring organizations and volunteers. Once Javeed obtains a driver's license, an automobile and a job the family will require less support from the Good Neighbor Team, but team members will continue to provide English language lessons for Brishna and remain in contact with the family because they are now our friends.

Over the next few months we will be in a position to support another World Relief refugee family. We are thinking of splitting our team into two and adding additional congregation members who wish to join this ministry. Four have already indicated an interest. With just two more we can continue to support the Ahmads and another family. The experience affords each team member the opportunity to know and deeply appreciate people whose lives have been much different from our own.

For All the Saints

FOR ALL THE SAINTS features stories of the lives of Resurrection members some of whom, for a variety of reasons, are no longer able to worship with us. We continue to hold these saints in our thoughts and corporate prayers and reading about them is one way our entire community can get to know them also! Thanks to our interviewers, John Frith and Karen Murbach, who contact and set up interviews and write the newsletter articles.

If you have a person you would like to have interviewed FOR ALL THE SAINTS, please email Director of Shared Ministry, Karen Idler, at karen@lcrchurch.org or phone the church office at 916.791.4661 ext. 225.



Elizabeth Bieniek
by Karen Murbach

Love, Powered by a Smile

It's a damp, chilly morning in Roseville,

but Elizabeth Bieniek's cozy kitchen is filled with warm welcome and a fresh pot of tea as she describes several craft projects she has underway. She apologizes for the stubborn remnants of glitter clinging to the table, and a smile lights her face all the way up to her sparkling blue eyes.

Elizabeth creates specialness in everything she does, and for everyone she serves. Long active with Resurrection's Daylighters and Priceless Purls, she adds flair to the Daylighters' monthly luncheon (especially around the holidays!) and a flourish to each soft cap and scarf she knits. She's experienced hardship and loss in her life, and she knows firsthand that every tiny bit of joy and love we create defeats a little more pain and sadness.

Though born in Washington, DC, Elizabeth spent much of her childhood in Leipzig and the rural villages of Thuringia, Germany. Her parents, Erich and Louise Mueller, emigrated from Germany in the 1920's but were sent back in exchange for American diplomats when WWII broke out. ([Read more](#))

Church Council – November Highlights

- We had a great turnout for the Solar Power dedication and ribbon-cutting on Reformation Sunday. Thank you to the Solar Power team for their hard work.
- We continue to deeply appreciate our Lay Communion Ministers and for those they serve.
- Thank you to the Shared Ministry team and Josie Freiberg and Sharon Blomquist for the beautiful All Saints Sunday celebration with its gallery of photographs, Blessing Bowl, Artisan's Faire, liturgical decorations, and flowers.
- We are advertising to hire permanently for the Teen Ministry post. In the meantime Sway Phal's work with our teens is much appreciated.
- Soon we will post pictures of council members on bulletin boards at LCR so that the congregation can get more familiar with who is representing them.
- The next Community Listening Panel is Dec. 4. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Potluck lunch at 12:30, Panel at 1:15. Questions will be held to the end to emphasize the nature of the listening process.
- Additional parts of the Mapping Process – Kristen Wiersma will interview Resurrection staff members. The related Leadership Summit will be January 21, with a report to the congregation during services on January 22.
- Council will meet with Bishop Mark Holmerud Dec. 13 to discuss the Interim process related to Pr. Don's retirement.

In His Service, Lynne Larock

Resurrection Readers

On the 3rd Thursday each month our book club meets in the library at 2:00 p.m. Contact Beryl Bakken at 916-791-1582. **Please join us!**



What we'll be reading:

Dec. 15 – Happy Holidays (no meeting)

Jan. 19 – *Eat Sleep Seek Stride*, Theodora Wilner (the author will be with us)

Feb. 16 – *Brown Girl Dreaming*, Jacqueline Woodson

Mar. 16 – *When Breath Becomes Air*, Paul Kalanithi

Apr. 20 – *Leaving Time*, Jodi Picoult

May 18 – *Dead Wake*, Erik Larson

Jun. 15 – *America's First Daughter*, Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie

Jul. 20 – *Look Again*, Lisa Scottoline

Aug. 17 – *Whistling Season*, Ivan Doig

Sept. 21 – *The Nightingale*, Kristin Hannah

Shared Ministry Matters

From the Director of Shared Ministry, Karen Idler

Resurrection church groups are encouraged to begin our meetings and other gatherings with a brief devotion. Groups may choose a devotion for themselves or use the devotion provided in the monthly newsletters. This month's group devotion is adapted from a devotion written by Pamela C. Hawkins from "*Introduction, Prepare the Way: Cultivating a Heart for God in Advent*" (Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2016)



The Message of the Prophets and the Advent Season:

In my home church, we seemed to leap in worship from Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, bypassing the elegant and essential bridge of Advent built on God's prophetic word. But since that time, I have discovered and grown close to the words of Isaiah and other prophets whom God called to speak truth and promise to God's people, even when they blatantly and destructively lived outside of their covenant with God. So powerful in message and beauty, the words of God's prophets shine through the darkness of the people of their times as well as through our contemporary darkness that descends when we, God's people, continue to stray from covenantal faithfulness to God.

To approach Christmas only by way of the Advent Gospel readings will leave us ill-equipped to live in the post-Christmas world that is not all stars and angels, but is, in fact, rife with both destruction and possibility. Humanity cannot take Advent and God's coming among us to heart if we bypass the prophets. God's people struggled mightily with faithfulness

and faithlessness. Their struggle and lack of discernment often brought dire and desperate consequences. Yet through the cacophony of pleas, arrogance, and wars, God's prophets spoke to the people of a redemptive future of joy, kindness, and peace—all made possible by God's steadfast love born into the world. When we allow God's prophets to speak a word to us, alongside those of the Gospel writers, we discover an even more stellar and glorious gift in the manger: Because of the darkness, the Light comes to us.

Because of sin's death-dealing ways, the life-giving ways of faith in Jesus the Christ can reassure us that "all things are possible" because God is with us. For me, Advent's message finds its integrity by placing the Prophets next to the Gospels—darkness against light, despair against hope, fear against love

PRAYER: God of exiles, keep calling us home. You know the yearnings of our hearts. You also know how easily we can lose our way. May this Advent season be a time of coming home to the best of who we are. We walk this season with hopeful hearts, believing that your justice and compassion will bring comfort and freedom to all who are in exile. Amen.

Current Opportunities to Serve. [Click here!](#)

December Community Events

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection has long been the center of community activities in Granite Bay. Here's what's happening in December:

- **Sierra Kronan** meets Dec. 5 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **American Association of University Women** meets Dec. 7 at 3:00pm in the Carlson Library.
- **Northern California Accordion Society** meets Dec. 7 at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome. \$3 donation at the door. Food and entertainment provided.
- **Private party** in the Fellowship Hall, December 10 from 11am – 6pm.
- **Piano Recital** in the Sanctuary, December 10 from 1pm – 6pm.
- **Al Anon** meets Dec. 18 at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Troop 121** meets Dec. 8, 10, 13 & 22. Times and locations vary.
- **AA** meets each Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday each week in the Fellowship Hall. Times vary.
- **Al Anon** meets at 7:00pm every Saturday evening in Classroom 10. New members are always welcome.
- **Mankind Project** meets each Wednesday at 6:30pm in Classroom 8.
- **SLAA** meets each Friday at 7:30pm in Classroom 8.

November Average Attendance 353



Mark your calendars!

Friday, December 9 – Hanging of the Greens – 9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 10 – Fellowship Breakfast – 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 11 – Christmas Children's Musical - (9:30 & 11:00 a.m. in the Faith Center) 8:00 a.m. services in the Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 20 – Daylighters Christmas Luncheon – 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 17 – Assemble/deliver Christmas Baskets – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 18 – Christmas Cantata - 8:00 & 11:00 in the Sanctuary. 9:30 Cantata will take place in the Faith Center

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship: 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. in the Faith Center. 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 25 – One service only – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday, January 1st - New Year's Day – One service only – 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary