



Thanksgiving Eve & Day
November 26-27, 2025

Who's the Fool?

St. John's Lutheran Church
Red Bud, Illinois

Did you give thanks for your last meal? Most people—even Christians—often “forget” to give thanks. When we do not give thanks, we are like the rich fool of the parable, thinking it was his work that brought the grain, when in fact it was God who gave it to Him. When we do not give thanks, we become fools, forgetting who gave us what we have and all we are. Have you been foolish? That is what Jesus calls the rich man. Give thanks always—that is the advice of Paul. Above all, give thanks for the cross and the empty tomb, which opens heaven to us.

PRELUDE: (Wednesday) “Give Thanks”
(Thursday) “Now Thank We All Our God”

Bell Choir
arranged by Lani Smith

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.

OPENING HYMN:

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” (LSB 892)



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.
2 All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to His praise to yield;
3 For the Lord, our God, shall come And shall take His har - vest home,
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All be safe - ly gath - ered in Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown.
From His field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way,
Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin,



God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied.
First the blade and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear.
Give His an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
There, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy gar - ner to a - bide:



Come to God's own tem - ple, come; Raise the song of har - vest home.
Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
But the fruit - ful ears to store In His gar - ner ev - er - more.
Come with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

INVOCATION:

P: In the name of the Father,

C: who created this world and each of us, a reason to give thanks;

P: and of the ✠ Son,

C: our ultimate reason for giving thanks because through His love and sacrifice on the cross we are saved;

P: and of the Holy Spirit,

C: who calls, gathers, and enlightens us in the one true faith in Jesus. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES:

Psalm 136:1–4

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,

C: for His steadfast love endures forever.

P: Give thanks to the God of gods,

C: for His steadfast love endures forever.

P: Give thanks to the Lord of lords,

C: for His steadfast love endures forever;

P: to Him who alone does great wonders,

C: for His steadfast love endures forever.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Psalm 14:1; Romans 3:12; Psalm 136:1

P: The fool says in his heart,

C: “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.

P: We want to think it is other people David refers to in this verse. Yet Paul puts us all in the same category when he writes to the Romans, “All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.”

C: Forgive us, Lord, for the sins we have committed in thought, word, and deed. We deserve Your punishment, both now and for eternity.

Silence for reflection

P: I have the best news for you as we celebrate and give thanks to God for all He has done this year. He has given us the greatest thing to be thankful for today—the forgiveness of all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: “Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” Amen.

INTROIT:

Psalm 104:24, 27–28, 30; antiphon: v. 33

P: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

C: I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

P: O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom have You made them all;

C: the earth is full of Your creatures.

P: These all look to You,

C: to give them their food in due season.

P: When You give it to them, they gather it up;

C: when You open Your hand, they are filled with good things.

P: When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created,

C: and You renew the face of the ground.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;

C: I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

KYRIE:

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord;

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For thanksgiving for all that comes from above, especially our salvation, let us pray to the Lord;

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For thanksgiving for all that You have created, and for the well-being of the church of God, let us pray to the Lord;

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For thanksgiving for all, and that you would bring unity and peace to Your people, let us pray to the Lord;

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: In thanksgiving for this holy house and all who offer You their worship, thanks, and praise, let us pray to the Lord;

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

HYMN OF PRAISE:

“Now Thank We All Our God” (LSB 895)

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you. **C:** **And also with you.**

P: Almighty God, we thank You for all the mercies You have shown to us. You give us food and drink, a place we can call home, and most importantly, the sacrifice of Your Son on the cross to give us forgiveness, life, and salvation through His atoning death and resurrection, which conquered death and the grave forever. Help us not to be fools, that we instead give You thanks on this day and every day. We pray this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

ANTHEM: *(Wednesday) “For the Beauty of the Earth”*

Bell Choir

(Thursday) “Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Choir

- 1. Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near; Join me in glad adoration.*
- 2. Praise ye the Lord, Who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth; Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth. Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth?*
- 3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him. All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him. Let the Amen sound from His people again. Gladly for aye we adore Him, Gladly for aye we adore Him, Gladly for aye we adore Him.*

OLD TESTAMENT READING:*Deuteronomy 8: 1-10**("The Lord your God is bringing you into a good land.")*

L: "The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that He might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not. And He humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in His ways and by fearing Him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and 4 pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity, in which you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. And you shall eat and be full, and you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land He has given you."

L: This is the Word of our Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL:*Psalm 34:8; 147:9, 11*

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!

C: He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.

P: The Lord takes pleasure in those who fear Him,

C: in those who hope in His steadfast love.

EPISTLE:*2 Corinthians 9:6-15**(We are called to be overflowing in our thanksgiving to God.)*

L: The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

L: This is the Word of our Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

VERSE:

1 Thessalonians 5:18

P: Alleluia. Give thanks in all circumstances;

C: **for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 12:13–21

(A rich man becomes a fool because he does not see God as the reason to give thanks.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus], “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?” And he said to them, “Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” And he told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man produced plentifully, and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest” (LSB 893)



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, Sing songs of love and praise;
2 God makes the clouds rain good - ness, The des - erts bloom and spring,
3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar The gifts His good - ness gave,



With joy - ful hearts and voic - es Your al - le - lu - ias raise.
The hills leap up in glad - ness, The val - leys laugh and sing.
The gold - en sheaves of har - vest, The souls Christ died to save.



By Him the roll - ing sea - sons In fruit - ful or - der move;
God fills them with His full - ness, All things with large in - crease;
Your hearts lay down be - fore Him When at His feet you fall,



Sing to the Lord of har - vest A joy - ous song of love.
He crowns the year with bless - ing, With plen - ty and with peace.
And with your lives a - dore Him Who gave His life for all.

SERMON

NICENE CREED:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY:

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart” (LSB 806)

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the

Ho - ly One, Give thanks because He's giv - en Je - sus

Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give

thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks because He's giv - en

Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am

strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," Be - cause of

what the Lord has done for us. And now let the

weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am

rich," _____ Be-cause of what the Lord has done for us.

Give thanks, _____ give thanks. _____

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition ends "Lord, in Your mercy" and we respond, "hear our prayer.")

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT:

- P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**
 P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**
 P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
 P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, for You sent Your Son to this earth, overcoming sin, death, and the grave, removing the title of "fool" from those who believe and replacing it with sons and daughters of the King, assuring us that by faith in Jesus, we have everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS:

"We Praise You, O God" (LSB 785)

1 We praise You, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship You, God of our fa - thers, we bless You;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

In grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 Through tri - al and tem - pest our guide You have been.
 And glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore You, we kneel and a - dore You;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, You will not for - sake us,
 With You, Lord, be - side us, Your strong arm will guide us.

We bless Your ho - ly name, glad prais - es we sing.
 And with Your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To You, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

P: We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have given us all we need for this body and life. We especially give You thanks for the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that we have been forgiven on the cross. As we come to partake of His true body and blood shed for us, help us to do it not just with sorrow for our sins but also with thanksgiving for salvation received and strength to live a new life filled with thankful hearts every day; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Matthew 6:9–13

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD:

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PAX DOMINI:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI:

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell” (LSB 791, vs. 1-2)

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are as follows:

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His
aid He did us make. We are His folk, He
praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - jice.
doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

(Thursday) Anthem: "Bless This House"

Choir

1. Bless this house, O Lord we pray, Make it safe by night and day;
Bless these walls, so firm and stout, Keeping want and trouble out;
Bless the roof and steeple tall, Let thy peace lie over all;
Bless this door, that it may prove ever open to joy and love.
2. Bless these windows shining bright, Letting in God's heavenly light;
Bless the Word and Sacrament, May our prayer to heav'n ascend,
Bless Thy flock which dwells within, Keep them pure and free from sin;
Bless us all that we may be fit O Lord, to dwell with Thee,
Bless us all that one day we may dwell, O Lord, with Thee.

(Wednesday) Anthem: "Praise and Thanksgiving"

Bell Choir

(Thursday) "Praise and Thanksgiving"

(LSB 789)



1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

"Forgive Us, Lord for Shallow Thankfulness" (LSB 788)



1 For - give us, Lord, for shal - low thank - ful - ness,
2 Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace,
3 For - give us, Lord, for self - ish thanks and praise,
4 Teach us, O Lord, true thank - ful - ness di - vine,



For dull con - tent with warmth and shel - tered care,
For life and vi - sion, for a pur - pose clear,
For words that speak at var - i - ance with deeds;
That gives as Christ gave, nev - er count - ing cost,



For songs of praise for food and har - vest press,
For Christ Your Son, and for each hu - man face
For - give our thanks for walk - ing pleas - ant ways
That knows no bar - ri - er of "yours" and "mine,"



While of Your rich - er gifts we're un - a - ware:
That shows Your mes - sage ev - er new and near.
Un - mind - ful of a bro - ken broth - er's needs:
As - sured that on - ly what's with - held is lost.

5 Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast,
For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,
For walls and wars that hide Your mercies vast
And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:

6 Open our eyes to see Your love's intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;
May thankfulness be days in service spent,
Reflection of Christ's life and love and light.

“For the Fruits of His Creation” (LSB 894)



1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.



For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done. In our
For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the



plow - ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep-ing,
world-wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair-ing,
won - ders that as-tound us, For the truths that still con-found us,



Fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, Thanks be to God.
In the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.
Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE: *“All People That on Earth Do Dwell” (LSB 791, vs. 5)*



△ 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom



heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the



an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING:

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord,

C: **for His mercy endures forever.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord,

C: **for His mercy endures forever.**

P: We pray. We give You thanks, almighty God, that through Your wisdom You sacrificed Your Son, and through His death and resurrection, we now have peace with You. Help us not act as fools, scorning our salvation or considering it a trite thing, but to be wise and receive the great gifts of life and salvation now and for the age to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION:

Numbers 6:24–26

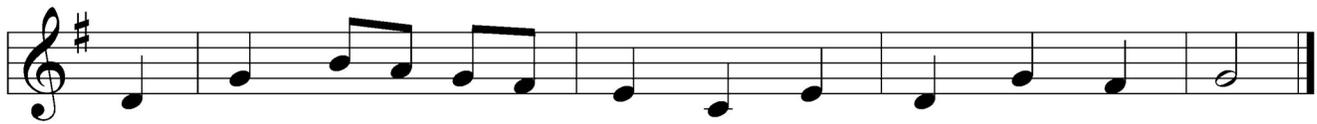
P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (LSB 643)

1 Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,
2 With praise and thanks-giving To God ever-living,
The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.
The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.
The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,
The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.
The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
U - nite us as one in this life that we share.
His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing



To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

POSTLUDE: "Triumph and Thanksgiving"

arranged by Franklin Ritter

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Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Winkelman

(Thu.) Lector: DCE Bill Becker

Organist and Choir/Bell Director: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak

Acolytes: (Wednesday) Blake Horrell; (Thursday) Lucy Kuehn

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

We are especially happy that we have visitors with us today. St. John's Lutheran is a congregation which follows the historic order of Christian worship. Even if you do not have a Lutheran background, you may recognize many of the elements of worship from your own tradition. During the offering, please sign the black friendship register at the end of the pew. We ask our guests to please fill out the red side of the card marked "Guests" in the attendance book and give it to an usher. We invite you to worship with us again very soon.

WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION:

In this Supper of our Lord we receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the earthly forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. Since this Holy Communion is also a sign of how we commonly confess the Christian faith, we welcome to the Lord's Table those who are confirmed members of congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The individual cups of white wine in the center of the cup tray contain non-alcoholic wine for those who prefer this. Please place a finger to your lips if you prefer an individual cup.

DOOR OFFERING:

We support our local ComWell (aka "Human Service Center") with a door offering following each of our Thanksgiving services.

POINSETTIA GARDEN:

The Poinsettia Garden will be on display again this year. We thank the Altar Guild for taking on this project each year as it is such a beautiful addition to our chancel as well as a heartfelt way to remember our loved ones or just give thanks to the glory of God for His many blessings to us. You may find the Poinsettia Garden forms in the back of church in the Epistle basket. The cost is \$8 and you may return it to the office or by way of the offering basket by Friday, December 19. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:

Deuteronomy 8:7 – **“For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land.”** Have we received any less than the sons of Israel in this great and glorious land? We are so very blessed! Let us then outdo even the sons of Israel in giving thanks!

UPCOMING SPECIAL SERVICES

Wed Dec. 3	9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. K – 5th Grade Christmas (school)
Wed Dec. 10	9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Daycare – PreK Christmas (school)
Thu Dec. 11	3:00 p.m. Holy Communion Service (church)
Sun Dec. 14	6:00 p.m. Sunday School Christmas Service (church)
Wed Dec. 17	9 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. 6th-8th Grade Christmas (church)

