

# The Sentinel

December 2025

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community,  
centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent-  
to celebrate, serve and do justice.*



## **Visions of the Reign of God**

### **The Prophet Isaiah, Potluck, Wopila Gathering, what else?**

***Pastor Martha***

Our theme for Advent is “Visions of the Reign of God.” This season we will dwell in ancient visions of shalom from the prophet Isaiah, and we will invite one another to share our dreams and visions, too. What does a world healed and made whole by our loving God look like, smell like, sound like, feel like, taste like? Where do you catch a glimpse of the reign of God here and now?

Dwelling with and sharing our visions of the reign of God is holy work – and essential for our souls. If we can’t imagine the world we long for, we will let others define the world for us and constrict our hopes, our loves, our possibilities, our lives. We read in our Scripture, “without vision, people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). We also read in our Scripture that the Spirit has been poured out on all flesh – and young and old have been blessed with visions and dreams (Acts 2). I lament that too often, we do not dare to share our visions with one another.

I want to share two visions I have had lately of God’s reign. The first was on Sunday. Our Somali neighbors who have been targeted with hate invited us to join them for a potluck at Karmel Mall. And it was glorious! There were tears of fear and gratitude, lots of laughter, and a feast of sambusas, Norwegian waffles and so much more. As we shared life together, I could picture the mountaintop the prophet Isaiah spoke of. All peoples from all nations would gather together in peace for one great potluck – and oppression and death would be no more.

The other vision is anticipatory. Tomorrow I will attend the Wopila Gathering at All Nations with Pastor Esther and 10 other OSLC members. We will have 2 friendship tables and join with other congregations in a spirit of gratitude, mutuality, care, and celebration. As I picture us feasting together across culture around tables of friendship, I glimpse again a vision of the reign of God. In another article, please read Dr. Kelly Sherman Conroy’s theological reflection on living reciprocity. What visions do her reflections stir up in you?

This Advent, we remember how an angel appeared in a vision to Mary and told her that she was to bear a son who would be the Savior of the world. As a Jewish peasant, she was part of an oppressed minority; she was a woman in a very patriarchal culture. And yet she did not allow the Roman empire or religious establishment to constrain her hope and imagination. She said a bold and courageous YES to the Spirit’s work in her. Thanks be to God.

*Come, Jesus, come – into our world, into our homes, into our hearts, and yes, into our imaginations. Grant us visions of the reign of God, and unleash our hope! Amen.*



# **Visions of the Reign of God**

## **Advent at OSLC**

### **Las Posadas - Friday, December 19 at San Pablo**

We will join with partners and neighbors at San Pablo

### **Christmas Program and Caroling**

**Sunday, December 21**

Our children and youth will lead us in a Las Posadas-style program in worship.

Caroling will follow after the service.

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

4pm and 9pm services

### **Wednesday Evenings - Advent gatherings in homes and at church - December 3, 10 and 17**

On Wednesday evenings throughout Advent, we will gather in members' homes or at church to be in community with one another through a meal, prayer and bible study. Please see the weekly update for more information and instructions on how to sign up.



## **Adult Forums in Advent**

Join us for learning and formation time! Adult forums take place in the Hospitality Center from 9am – 10am. Most forums also have a Zoom option for participation. Zoom links will go out in the Sunday morning email.

### **November 30 – Indigenous Protector Movement with Rachel Dionne-Thunder:**

Rachel Dionne Thunder, VP of Indigenous Protector Movement, will be with us to share about IPM's community work. This is a great opportunity to continue to get to know IPM.

### **December 7 – New member orientation forum: Learn about OSLC ministries and some Lutheranism 101:**

What is OSLC about and what does it mean to be Lutheran? This will be a great conversation for everyone, especially geared at new members to OSLC who we will be receiving in worship on December 7:

### **December 14 – Getting Ready for Las Posadas + Welcoming Rachel Svanoe Moynihan:**

Rachel Svanoe Moynihan is a friend of the congregation and has led us before in forums on embodied antiracism. She is a Somatic Experiencing Practitioner and Internal Family Systems Practitioner. She will help us get ready to join our partners at Las Posadas on December 19 by sharing some embodied practices that help us to be more present, alive, and culturally attuned to the experience.

### **December 21 – Reflecting on Las Posadas Together:**

What did you learn / feel / experience at Las Posadas with San Pablo? We will reflect together and share with one another.

### **December 28 – No forum.**

If you'd like, bring leftover cookies to share after worship!

# **Theological Reflection: Living Reciprocity**

***Pastor Kelly Sherman-Conroy at All Nations Indian Church***

*This is an excerpt from Kelly Sherman-Conroy's study guide of Robin Wall-Kimmerer's book *The Serviceberry*. If you'd like a copy of the whole study guide, please ask one of the pastors and we will email it to you or print it as you desire.*

The Sioux tradition of the Giveaway (Wopila) calls on a person who has been blessed, say, at a wedding, naming, or graduation to give gifts to the community, thereby sharing their joy and good fortune. Honor is found not in how much you accumulate, but how much you give away.

This is profoundly countercultural in Western society, but it is second nature to our Native elders and, indeed, it was practiced by the early Christians empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our former pastor, Rev. Marlene Whiterabbit Helgemo (Ho-Chunk Nation), often reminded people: "Being a Christian means being a good relative." She meant that Jesus calls us to love one another as kin, *mitákuye oyás'íK*, all are relatives and therefore to care for one another's needs. Rev. Helgemo herself was a trailblazer: the first Native American woman ordained in the Lutheran Church, and she served All Nations for 30 years. She led by example in sharing resources. Under her guidance, if someone was struggling to pay rent or put food on the table, the church community quietly pooled funds to help. She partnered with organizations on Franklin Avenue to distribute food and clothing.

This reciprocal care extended beyond our immediate circle; for instance, during the Standing Rock pipeline protests in 2016, All Nations gathered supplies and sent members (including Rev. Helgemo) to support the Water Protectors, standing in solidarity as relatives. To us, reciprocity is lived out in these acts responding to the gifts we have (money, time, voice) by showing up for others and for Mother Earth.

In the Christian tradition, we see reciprocity in Jesus's actions. He fed the hungry, healed the sick, and ultimately gave himself for the life of the world. Jesus taught, "Freely you have received; freely give" (Matthew 10:8). There's a harmony between that gospel mandate and our Native values of generosity.

Both confront the spirit of selfishness what Kimmerer calls the "Windigo" mindset of taking too much. In Ojibwe stories, the Windigo is never satisfied, always consuming without giving back.

Kimmerer warns that modern capitalism can turn us all into Windigos if we're not careful. But our faith and heritage equip us to resist that. We do it by fostering mutual aid and remembering that real wealth is having enough to share.

# Wednesday Night Gatherings in Advent in Homes and at Church, Sign up with Hosts

**Pastor Martha**

We have a number of folks who are opening their homes in Advent for a shared potluck meal or dessert and to share in conversation and a bible study practice called Dwelling in the Word. We make room in community to welcome one another and to welcome the presence and promise of Christ. If you would like to add your name as a host, please reach out to one of the pastors. This is a great opportunity to invite not only OSLC members, but neighbors and friends. Hosts are listed below – please email or text the host if you would like to join their gathering. One of the gatherings will be at the church with the choir. Everyone is welcome to join that gathering!

Host	Dates & Time	Host contact to RSVP	Location
Choir – Plus, <u>All</u> are Welcome!	Dec. 3, 10, 17 5:30 pm	<a href="mailto:kent@oursavioursmpls.org">kent@oursavioursmpls.org</a> , <a href="mailto:alyssa@oursavioursmpls.org">alyssa@oursavioursmpls.org</a>	Church
Nokomis Square Cooperative OSLC members + friends	Dec. 3, 10 only 5pm	<a href="mailto:crdevereaux@gmail.com">crdevereaux@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:tezra.osthus@gmail.com">tezra.osthus@gmail.com</a>	South Minneapolis
Renate Willer and Joel Beard	Dec. 2, 9, 16 ( <i>Tuesdays</i> )	<a href="mailto:rwiller13@gmail.com">rwiller13@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:beard.joel@gmail.com">beard.joel@gmail.com</a>	St. Paul
Aneesa Parks	Dec. 3, 10, 17	<a href="mailto:aneesamparks@gmail.com">aneesamparks@gmail.com</a>	South Minneapolis
Bardwell family	Dec. 3, 10, 17 5:30pm	<a href="mailto:martha@oursavioursmpls.org">martha@oursavioursmpls.org</a>	North Minneapolis
3 rotating hosts: Eric Molho & Tal Anderson, Suzanne Burke + Bob Hybben, Krista and Nathan Lind	Dec 3 Linds  Dec 10 Burke/ <u>Hybben's</u>  Dec 17 <u>Molho/</u> Anderson's  All 6:00pm	<a href="mailto:nathanlind@gmail.com">nathanlind@gmail.com</a>	Downtown <u>Mpls</u> and South Minneapolis

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## Synod Youth Choir - sign ups + dates

***Martha, Alyssa, & Kent***

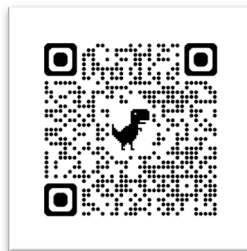
Last year we had a lot of OSLC kids and youth participate in Synod Youth Choir led by our own talented Kent and Alyssa. Here's more info on the form it is taking this year. We will pay through church budget for all our participating youth - it's free for all of you. More from Alyssa and Kent:

### How it works

Youth from participating congregations will gather once a month from January through April 2026 to learn songs, connect with other young people from Lutheran congregations, and prepare to sing together at the Synod Assembly on Saturday, May 2nd @ 9am.

- **Rehearsal Schedule:** 10:00 a.m. on the 4th Saturday of each month January - April: 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25.
- **Locations:** Rehearsals will rotate among four congregations within the Synod (locations announced soon).
- **Who is invited:** All young people ages 5–18, regardless of musical experience, are welcome! Come make music, make friends, and grow in faith together.
- **Two Public Singing Engagements:**
  - \* May 2 2026 - The Synod Assembly Saturday Worship – 9:00 a.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church (14501 Nowthen Blvd NW, Ramsey, MN 55303)
  - \* May 17, 2026 - End-of-Year Concert

Please visit the Synod Youth Choir website to register and learn more about the Synod Youth Choir by clicking this QRCode:



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## Breck School's Advanced Concert Chorale in Worship on December 7

***Alyssa & Kent***

We are delighted to welcome Breck School's Advanced Concert Chorale - the school's premier auditioned SATB upper school ensemble - to OSLC for worship on December 7. Under the direction of Dr. Camilla J. Horne, the chorale is preparing for an upcoming performance of George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* and will share selections that reflect the spirit of the Advent season. We look forward to sharing in worship enriched by their beautiful voices.

### **George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* – Concert Details**

Members of Breck School's Chamber Players, directed by Claudette Laureano, and the Advanced Concert Chorale, directed by Dr. Camilla J. Horne, will join together to perform selections from George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*.

This free concert is open to the public and will take place on **Wednesday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Chapel of the Holy Spirit** at Breck School (123 Ottawa Ave. N, Golden Valley, MN 55422).

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# **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Foundation: Supporting Our Shared Future**

***Eric Molho***

Through the generosity of donors across generations and the thoughtful stewardship of those who have served on its board, the Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Foundation resources have grown to more than \$800,000.

The primary beneficiary of the Foundation's resources is our congregation itself. The Foundation makes a meaningful gift to the church's operating budget annually. Additionally, the Foundation has made grants and loans to both Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and Our Saviour's Community Services.

In October, the Foundation approved a loan to the church to help manage costs related to the new roof and solar. This loan will be repaid by the congregation at highly favorable rates on a manageable monthly schedule - another example of how the Foundation helps sustain our ministry and mission.

We extend our gratitude to the current members of the Foundation Board of Directors: Paul Batalden, Gabe Herrick, Jakob Johnson, Ethan Kehrberg, Kara Lattu, Linda Thorson, and Mike Troutman.

As our congregation begins a major capital campaign, the Foundation will be a key partner - helping to manage cash flow and supporting the church through thoughtful gifts and loans.

Many members choose to support the church through planned gifts or bequests - a meaningful way to leave a legacy of faith and generosity. Such gifts can be made to the congregation directly (for Church Council to steward) or to the Foundation. If you have questions about how to make a planned gift directly to the congregation or through the Foundation, please contact me or another member of the Foundation board for more information.

In the months ahead, as you prayerfully consider your annual giving, your campaign participation, and our congregation's bright future, we invite you to keep the Foundation in mind.

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## **Call for Tax Volunteers!**

***Pastor Esther***

Debra Richardson is a dear friend of OSLC! She currently works for Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County to provide free tax return preparation for individuals who need assistance—such as those with low to moderate income, people with disabilities, seniors, military members, students, and individuals for whom English is a second language.

Debra is looking for **more volunteers** and a host site for the upcoming tax season to serve in roles such as preparer, reviewer, interpreter, greeter, and site coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Debra at [drichardson@caphennepin.org](mailto:drichardson@caphennepin.org) or call (952) 697-1310





**Community Action**  
Partnership of Hennepin County

## **Call For Tax Volunteers!**

**Community Volunteers are the heart of free tax services!**

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), program is an IRS sponsored partnership with Community Action Partnership of Hennepin County (CAPHC) to help people with lower incomes complete their annual tax returns at **NO COST!**

**Free tax services are important!**

- These services help people and families keep more of their money when every dollar counts!
- They provide access to valuable tax credits only available through filing a tax return, supporting households that need those credits the most!

## **LEARN A NEW SKILL WHILE SUPPORTING YOUR COMMUNITY**

**No tax experience? No problem!**

### **BENEFITS**

- Become an IRS-certified tax preparer
- Free Tax law training/certifications
- Get internship hours and
- College credit
- Build your resume
- Network with other tax and Finance Professionals
- Help your community
- Flexible volunteer hours
- Required technology is provided
- Greeter
- Screener
- Interpreter
- Computer Specialist
- Marketing Specialist
- Instructor

**Ready to take the next steps? Please contact CAPHC VITA Site Coordinator.**

Debra Richardson

she/her/hers

**CAPHC VITA Coordinator**

(952) 697-1310 (office) | [caphennepin.org](http://caphennepin.org)

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## **Mission of the Month: Helping Hand Fund**

***Pastor Esther***

This fund is used at the discretion of the pastors for folks who come to our doors – whether members or neighbors - with financial needs.

We have helped several people with things like rent assistance, bus rides, release a car from a compound towing, utilities and medical bills, transportation for family emergency, and income assistance from loss of work. We are not a social service agency, but sometimes people fall through the cracks of our systems, and we are a compassionate place to turn. When we give, the gift of money is accompanied by a listening, compassionate ear; prayer, and invitation to Christian community (as appropriate). Thank you in advance for your generosity and for the mercy and compassion that flows from our God to those in need.

There will be No DABS and Bible Study on Wednesdays December 24 and 31. DABS will resume on Wednesday January 7, 2026!

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## **Lilly Grant Update: Sensory Prayer Experiences for Advent and Beyond!**

***Sarah Frank Lindley and Pastor Esther Sianipar***

This past November the OSLC Lilly Grant Cohort has introduced youth ages 0-12 with multisensory opportunities to engage with prayer. Preschool and kindergarten youth made Prayer Snack Mix during the Sunday school hour. Each item in the snack mix was connected to a part of the world or their life for which they might pray. We heard children munching on crackers while offering up prayers of healing for their dance teacher's cold and remembering a pet who had passed while tasting an M&M.

Youth of all ages are bringing prayer into their bodies and voices on Wednesday evenings during Children's Choir with Kent and Alyssa. They joyfully share these songs of prayer with the OSLC community during Sunday worship. These rhythms and songs are a part of them now, and several families have mentioned noticing their children singing these melodies at home while coloring or doing a puzzle.

This past Sunday during the Reign of Christ, the Lilly Cohort hosted At-Home-Prayer-Wall-Kit making before and after worship. Families filled paper bags with twinkle lights, mini clothespins, and slips of blue paper. A guide offers ideas for families to build at-home rituals around prayer, encouraging families to launch these moments of connection at the start of the Advent season. We'd love for families to take pictures and short videos of their family's prayer wall and submit them to Kent Goodroad. He'll compile and share them as a way to be witnessed to, supportive of, and inspired by one another's prayer journeys. Missed last Sunday's Prayer-Wall-Kit assembly? There will be premade kits available in the Narthex this coming Sunday (look for the blue bags with handles). Please take one for your home!

On Saturday December 6th, all cohort leaders from our three congregations, along with pastors and staff, will gather for our first cohort retreat! We will focus on building relationships with one another as partners, reflecting on this year's programs, mapping out the gifts and resources within our churches and neighborhoods, and breaking bread together. We are truly looking forward to this retreat and the conversations it will spark.

We also invite all families with small and young children to join us for our Shared Event, hosted by San Pablo–St. Paul Lutheran Church, on December 19th at 6:30 PM for **Las Posadas**. This is a short neighborhood

procession filled with hope and peace as we sing traditional songs in Spanish and English. Afterward, enjoy traditional food, a piñata, and tentatively, live music.

Use the QR Code for the [sign-up sheet](#) if you would like to register with your family. Please note that **there is no childcare**, so parents and caregivers must always stay with their children.

If you register for Las Posadas, you are **required** to attend the Adult Forum on **Sunday, December 14th**, which will focus on cultural competency and somatic work. We have invited Rachel Svanoe Moynihan, a somatic coach and does anti-racism work, to help prepare us as we enter a different space with different cultures and languages.

We also encourage you to return for the Adult Forum on **Sunday, December 21st**, where we will reflect together on your experience at Las Posadas and the feelings and insights that arose for you. This forum will be facilitated by Allyson Green.

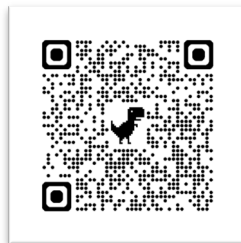


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## Stewardship Sunday update

***Nancy Nygaard Johnson***

Thanks to everyone who turned in a pledge card or made an online pledge by the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We still have many more pledges to come in, so please try and do your pledge by Sunday Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. You can mail your card to the office, drop it off in the office (there is an envelope in the Stewardship slot to put your card in), send me an email with your pledge ([n2j2@comcast.net](mailto:n2j2@comcast.net)) or fill out the online pledge card by clicking the QRCode below. Thank you for your continued support of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.



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## Robbinsdale City Band – Holiday Concerts

***Nancy Nygaard Johnson***

Get in the holiday spirit by enjoying a concert by the Robbinsdale City Band. There are two concert options.

**Thursday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm** – Crystal Community Center at 4800 Douglas Dr N.

**Thursday Dec 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** – Faith United Methodist Church, 2708 33rd Ave NE.

This concert will also be livestreamed. The link will be in the Thursday update on the 11<sup>th</sup>.



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## Youth Gathering

***Pastor Esther, Patrick Herson, Scottie Osthus and Laura Twedell***

Bring your Christmas stories, questions, and wonderings, and join us as we dwell together in the spirit of the season on **Sunday, December 7, 2025**, after worship in the conference room. We will also begin planning holiday gift bags for our OSCS shelter residents.

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## Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events

***Pastor Esther***

- **Friday, December 19 at 6:30 PM – Las Posadas at St. Paul’s–San Pablo Lutheran Church** on 2742 15th Ave. S, Minneapolis Las Posadas is a short neighborhood procession filled with hope and peace as we sing traditional songs in Spanish and English. Afterward, enjoy traditional food, a piñata, and tentatively, live music.
- **Sunday, December 21 – Children’s Program at OSLC** We need youth to help lead and participate, sharing reflections on our Las Posadas experience from December 19.
- **Sunday, December 27 – Christmas Gathering (time will be shared soon)** We’ll celebrate the season with a joyful gathering, tentatively at Patrick Herson’s home!

If you have any questions, please contact:

**Patrick Herson:** [patrick.herson@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.herson@gmail.com)

**Laura Twedell:** [laura.twedell@gmail.com](mailto:laura.twedell@gmail.com)

Come and share in the warmth, joy, and wonder of Christmas!

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## Being Present with Our Partners in Action, Fundraising, and Conversation

***Pastor Esther***

Over the past two weeks, on behalf of OSLC, I attended the CTUL Action Fund event with our Outreach co-leader, Joel Abrahamson; the Align Minneapolis fundraiser, where I met Amy Blumenshine; and a GMCC Healing Circles conversation. Each gathering filled me with deep gratitude and renewed conviction.

Standing alongside our partners reminded me that we are part of something bigger—bold, persistent work for justice. CTUL continues to advocate fiercely so immigrant workers receive the wages and benefits they deserve. Align Minneapolis works tirelessly so that our unhoused neighbors can access dignity, mental-health support, food, and safe shelter. GMCC creates sacred space to listen to hard and honest stories from our unhoused neighbors around warm meals.

Our presence at these events was not just symbolic; it was a commitment to unity, solidarity, and shared hope. I left feeling humbled, inspired, and proud that OSLC is walking with courageous leaders who are transforming our neighborhood with love and justice.

For more information:

CTUL: [ctul.net](http://ctul.net)

Align Minneapolis: [alignmpls.org](http://alignmpls.org)

Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC): [gmcc.org](http://gmcc.org)

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## **Save the date for an Intergenerational Dance!**

**Saturday, January 24 at 3pm**

**followed by a Potluck**

*Pastor Martha*

Get ready to kick up your heels and do some group dances led by dance caller Robin Nelson!

It's a good time and a great way to spend a cold winter day.



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## **Save the Date for the Women's retreat! February 20 - 22**

**Dunrovin Retreat Center, Marine on St. Croix**

*Pastor Martha*

Save the date for our women's retreat with our partners at Valley of Peace Lutheran Church! More information is coming later in December.

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## **OSLC Property and Capital Campaign Update for December**

*Pastor Martha*

If all you wanted for Christmas was to not hear doors slamming in the sanctuary – well, Christmas came early! Big thanks goes to Jim Johnson for coordinating the installation of our new door closers in the sanctuary and Hospitality Center. We should be seeing solar go up on our roof soon here.

We continue steadfast work in the quiet phase of our capital campaign. Please pray for our campaign and the many leaders involved. And keep the ideas coming for what we might name this joint campaign. Please also reach out to me, Cara Herrick, Jim Unglaube or Mike Troutman if you would like to talk more about the capital campaign. Onward with boldness!

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## **Luther Crest Bible Camp Week - August 2 – 7**

*Pastor Martha*

The Our Saviour's week for Luther Crest Bible Camp will be August 2 – 7. We have several kids and youth interested – and families and folks of all ages are welcome as well to sign up for All People Camp that same week. If you want to be part of the week or have questions, please contact Pastor Martha.

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# Reparations Report

## *Reparations Team*

This congregation has been on a committed journey of reparations for several years. To live out that goal we follow five interconnected commitments: spiritual practice, political solidarity, grief and truth telling, building relationships, and wealth distribution. As part of those commitments, we have included an item dedicated to reparations in the church budget for the past four years. Due to the generosity of the Our Saviour's community, the 2025 budget for reparations is \$18,000, double the amount we began with the first year.

At the recent meeting of the reparations team we rooted ourselves in this quote from *The Serviceberry* as we decided how to re-gift this abundance: "In a gift economy, wealth is understood as having enough to share. The practice to deal with abundance is to give it away. The currency in the gift economy is relationship which is expressed as gratitude, interdependence and the on-going cycle of reciprocity. In a gift economy we nurture the bonds of community mutual well-being."

The reparations team is heartened by how the congregation has embraced economic repair and environmental stewardship into its broader ministry. Relationships begun in recent years with the Indigenous Protectors Movement, the Minnesota Immigrant Movement, City of Lakes Land Community Trust and Unidos have blossomed in the property reimaging project underway with OSCS. Core components of the vision include land back, wealth building opportunities for BIPOC families and environmental justice for this neighborhood.

As you review how we discerned to allocate this year's reparations commitment, you will see both continuity with past allocations and some new frontiers. Along with many others, we're disappointed with the obstacles that EPNI has faced in the Roof Depot redevelopment. We decided to seek new initiatives, such as the Indigenous Food Network as additional ways to support healthier and more sustainable food systems. Stay tuned for more ways for our congregation to be engaged.

### *Special events:*

--\$1000 to the Wopila Dinner hosted by All Nations Indian Church on Tuesday, November 25. OSLC was invited to fill at least one table at this event as they celebrate their building and the relationships that made this feast possible in their space.

--\$1000 to a Takes-Giving Feast and Round Dance hosted by IPM at the American Indian Center on Thursday, November 27. IPM describes this as "a truth-telling event. We feed our relatives because... sharing food is an act of resistance and survival. Feeding people is sovereignty."

### *Organizational Support:*

--\$6000 to the [East Phillips Neighborhood Institute](#) (EPNI) to continue their work in our neighborhood for environmental justice and a more sustainable and healthy community.

--\$4000 to the [Indigenous Projectors Movement](#) (IPM) to support their work of healing and justice for our indigenous neighbors.

--\$4000 to the [Indigenous Food Network](#) IFN is a program of Dream of Wild Health, a collaborative of Native-led community organizations in the Twin Cities (many of our Phillips/Ventura Village neighbors!) who are working together to rebuild a sovereign food system by identifying and leveraging organizational and community assets.

--\$2000 to the Minnesota Immigrant Movement (MIM) and support their work empowering our immigrant neighbors.



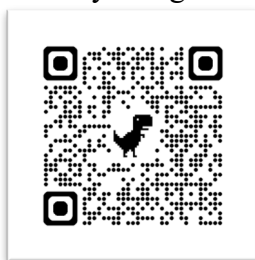
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## Advent resource from Palestinian Christians

**Michael Troutman**

Our brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) have created a valuable resource for congregations and families for our use during Advent. The resources include a four-part Bible study featuring the stories and experiences of Palestinian Lutherans, which is appropriate for adults and youth. There is also an illustrated booklet available for download that offers an accessible story for the children in our congregation.

The materials were produced in collaboration with Sumud for Justice in Palestine and Israel, the ELCA's ministry addressing injustice in Palestine and Israel. (Sumud is the Arabic word for "steadfastness".) The resources can be found on the ELCA website by using the QRCode. From this page go to the bar labeled "View Lent & Advent Resources" where you can view on-line and download any and all of what is available. May your Advent experience be deepened and enriched by this good work offered us.



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## Daily Work

Dear Our Saviour's Congregation,

Thank you for your generous support of Daily Work as your October Mission of the Month. Your gifts totaled more than \$1,800 and came at a challenging time for immigrants and newcomers in our community.

Nearly 30 people attended the October 12 adult forum with Peter Rogness, SPAS Bishop Emeritus and Daily Work Board Member, and Julie Hoff, Executive Director of Daily Work, who reflected on Scripture's call to welcome the stranger and how that calling is lived out through Daily Work.

Our Saviour's helped found Daily Work 25 years ago, and your generosity continues that legacy of welcome and hope. To learn more, visit [daily-work.org](http://daily-work.org).

With gratitude,

**Daily Work Board of Directors**

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## Calendars for the Shelter

**Nancy Nygaard Johnson**

If you get 2026 Wall Calendars in the mail, and don't have use for all of them, we are collecting them for the shelter. A box will be in the church office on the volunteer desk to drop them off thru the end of the year, or until we have enough.



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# Hello Hospitality TEAMS

***Jeanne Heer***

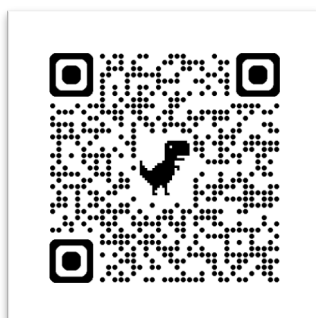
The church is continuing the holy experiments related to hospitality.

- We'll have coffee and tea (beverages only) at 9:00 during the forum through 10:30am.
- Then after worship (about 11:30am) there will be beverages and treats. This allows us to greet newcomers as we share in hospitality time. This includes announcements and celebrations in the Hospitality Center

In addition Pastor Esther and Pastor Martha would like you to keep in mind the following to be welcoming: "Sometimes we'll have newcomers, elders, youth, or children with special needs who may ask for something different than what's currently being offered. When this happens, let's respond with love, flexibility, and care and do our best to meet these needs—reflecting God's abundance and hospitality in all we do."

FIRST Letter of last name	Team Leaders	DATES
A - B	Joel Beard & Elaine Johnson	Dec. 2025
C - G	Dave Comstock & Jeanne Heer	Jan. 2026
H - K	Craig Johnson & Laura Kehrberg	Feb. 2026
L - R	Sarah Lindley & Eric Molho	Mar. 2025
S - Z	Paula Keller & Lucy Selander	April 2025

Please use the QR Code to go to the signup Genius to help or bring treats, or contact this month's hospitality leaders: Joel Beard [beard.joel@gmail.com](mailto:beard.joel@gmail.com) 202-669-8784, Elaine Johnson [ejohnson1775@gmail.com](mailto:ejohnson1775@gmail.com) 612-801-5826



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## **Mark your calendars for January 24, 2026**

### **Intergenerational Dance and Potluck**

#### **MCFF Table**

*Jeanne Heer*

MCFF Table is excited to invite you to a lively and fun-filled intergenerational dance and potluck on Saturday, January 24th. Dancing 3:30 to 5:30 pm and potluck to follow.

Whether you're a seasoned dancer or taking your first steps onto the dance floor, Robin Nelson will call and guide you accompanied by live music.

See you on the dance floor.

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## **Making Mats for Unhoused People**

*Cynthia Devereaux*

OSLC has been so faithful is contributing plastic grocery bags to be turned into sleeping mats for unhoused people in our neighborhoods. While we have already made and donated over 625 mats, we are still moving forward and making MORE mats. Your bag contributions may be left in the tubs in the coatroom.

Please be sure that bags are clean and without holes. The best way for us to use them is if you keep them flat or folded into quarters. Please do not crush them or tie them into knots.

Interested in joining the group in the photo to learn how to make mats?

We gather at the Inver Grove Heights Veterans Community Center on the first and third Tuesdays from 1:00 until 2:30.





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# The Law and Illegal Orders

**Amy Blumenshine**

The current news about the right/obligation to refuse illegal orders\* triggers some memories from the past Coming Home Collaborative Vets Ministry Roundtables. Those concerned about the souls of service members would gather in the OSLC hospitality room to hear a speaker and each other.

There were many stories of moral injury and also, occasionally, of moral courage. The moral injury stories are hard to speak, due to confusion, shame, and traumatic amnesia. One Vietnam veteran was shaking as he described the near assault on a building assumed to be full of combatants. They were just about to slam the building with destructive force when a woman came out with a white flag. Some wanted to shoot her as a Viet Cong, but instead she was allowed to communicate. The building turned out to be a school full of children. Decades later the vet was still troubled by what he and his comrades had almost done. I think that most of us present were aware that such “mistakes” (or worse) had been perpetrated too often in our wars.

Another veteran told the story of a comrade in his unit who was abusing Vietnamese civilians, acting like a thug. (Something seen in current ICE raids.) He told the thug that if the abuse happened again, the abuser could expect punishment from him. The abuse stopped. Around our table of listeners, there was a palpable sense of respect, even awe, with a tinge of regret. Many wished they’d had the courage to intervene to stop both unnecessary harm and the decades of moral injury consequences that followed.

Today we have had six members of Congress (Six) -- all with prior military or intelligence experience--publicly remind those under oath to the Constitution of their right and obligation to refuse illegal orders. I applaud them for intervening. This Six may have stopped not only harm inflicted by the state, but also the harm felt over later decades by the perpetrators. As Jesus noted: “They know not what they do.” Unfortunately, too many people don’t know they have a conscience until they’ve violated it.

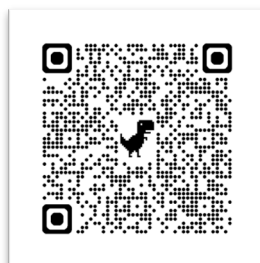
Here in Minneapolis, we’ve highlighted the police "duty to intervene." Those entrusted by the state with the use of force to protect and serve have the legal and ethical obligation to stop the misconduct, excessive force, or constitutional violations by another officer. I am sure that those sentenced for the failure to protect George Floyd wish that they had been stopped before all the harmful consequences.

Now is the time to calmly review the law. The U.S. public is not an enemy against whom our military can use force to--purportedly --defend the U.S. public! Unfortunately, this highlighting of the law by the Six has resulted in serious threats of violence against them, including by the president. I invite you to call their offices in support (Information follows), to thank Sen. Amy Klobuchar for speaking supportively, and to urge Sen. Tina Smith to do so as well.

This is the season for thankfulness! I will also note the calendar synchrony with the awareness of the Nuremberg trials—where following orders was determined to not be a sufficient defense. Also, November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Increased violence at home is one of the personally tragic consequences of having practiced violence against others.

MN Senators: Klobuchar (612) 727-5220, Smith (651) 221-1016

The Six : Senators Mark Kelly (202) 224-2235 AZ and Elissa Slotkin (202) 224-4822 MI; Representatives Jason Crow (202) 225-7882 CO, Chris Deluzio, male (202) 225-2301 PA, Maggie Goodlander (202) 225-5206 NH, Chrissy Houlihan ([202\) 225-4315](tel:202-225-4315) PA



## Lectionary Text for Home Devotions

### December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10  
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19  
Romans 15:4-13  
Matthew 3:1-12

### December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:5-10  
Luke 1:46b-55 (alternate)  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

### December 21

Isaiah 7:10-16  
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
Romans 1:1-7  
Matthew 1:18-25

### December 28

Isaiah 63:7-9  
Psalm 148  
Hebrews 2:10-18  
Matthew 2:13-23

#### How to Reach Us

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church  
2315 Chicago Ave  
Minneapolis MN 55404  
612-871-2967  
[oursavioursmpls.org](http://oursavioursmpls.org)

#### Pastors:

Martha Schwehn Bardwell                      Option 3

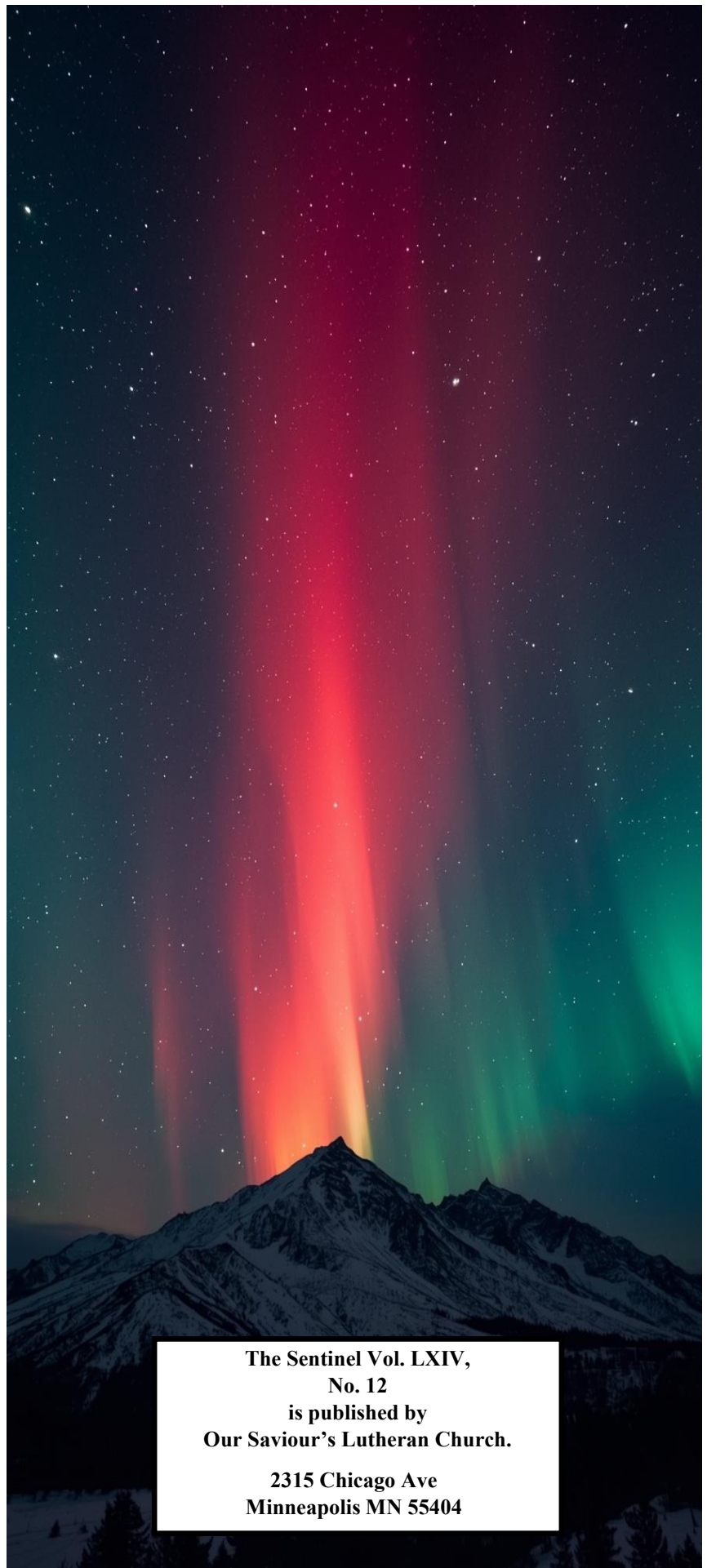
Esther Sianipar                                      Option 4

**Music Directors:**  
Alyssa Schwitzer                                      option 6

Kent Goodroad  
**Office Manager:**  
Marcin Cienski                                      option 7  
**OSCS**                                      612-871-5900

#### Executive Director:

Michael Huffman                                      option 1



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## PRAYER LIST

Praying for our Somali and immigrant neighbors who are feeling fearful about their legal status and unsafe due to the current administration.

Rebekah Fergus' friend and business partner, Dan, recovering from a fall off a ladder.

Kathleen Olsen's friend Laurie, grieving the death of her daughter Elizabeth who lived with muscular dystrophy for 37 years

Alexandra Locke, wife of Noah and daughter-in-law of Burce Pederson, had a stroke and is currently in speech-language therapy. The stroke did not affect her body movement. Pray for healing and a full recovery of her communication abilities.

Cam Rogers, is doing well and plans to return to her home. Pray for healing and strength.

Janet, Sheryll Mennicke's aunt recently died. Janet is Joy Mennicke's twin sister. Pray for Janet's family as they grieve during this time of loss.

Kiki, Marki Wogstad-Hansen's sister's husband, passed away unexpectedly. Pray for healing and comfort as they grieve and navigate this time of loss.

Paul Hnath, for strength and endurance.

Marco, one of the ELC students who recently been detained by ICE. Pray for his safety and release so he can be reunited with his family.

Pray for an end to gun violence and all kinds of violence in our neighborhood, and for the safety and well-being of young children and youth during this difficult and divided political world.

Pray for Elaine Doorenbos, mother of Laura Kehrberg, who has been diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia. Pray for both of Laura's parents who are now in Wayzata. Pray for Elaine's comfort and healing, and for strength and peace for her husband and family during this difficult transition.

Our unhoused neighbors, who are spread out, seek shelter, mental health and stable housing.

Carol Buhr, Laura Hauer's mother, is doing well after knee surgery.

Bruce Bakke is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer - pray for healing and strength

Anton Moore is experiencing medical issues. Pray for healing and support and safety.

Pray for our LGBTQIA+ siblings that they find the restoration of a community, justice and equity in this divided world.

Peace and justice in Israel and Palestine, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, Indonesia, the United States, and around the world. May the global economy and conflict be reconciled with the needs of people.

Undocumented adult immigrants in Minnesota who have just lost access to full health coverage and essential services through MNCare, that they may be guided to alternative sources of care for their physical and overall well-being.



Dave Hawkinson, a friend of Cindy Deveraux, suffered multiple fractures in a car accident and is currently in assisted living for his recovery. Pray for a full recovery.

Those who have lost their jobs due to executive administrative decisions. May they find strength, hope, and confidence as they seek new opportunities.

Mulki, daughter of our quilting neighbor Kadrah, is dealing with a genetic skin condition for which there is still no cure. Pray for strength and healing.

Gene, father of Kara Lattu, is undergoing radiation treatment for recurring prostate cancer. Please hold Gene and Kara's family in your prayers.

For our members working in government during these challenging times: Deb Swenson-Klatt, Tal Anderson, Nate Blumenshine, Ken Lewis (in county government), those working in city governments, and our teachers and school administrators. Also pray for federal employees, especially those in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion roles, which are being dismantled along with the vulnerable children, families, and communities they serve.

Those experiencing mental illness, isolation, and anxiety especially for Mateo Baumgartner, son of Ralph, struggling with mental illness.

Joy McDonald Coltvet has breast cancer. Pray for effective treatment.

Carolyn Green is recovering from chemotherapy and prays to remain cancer-free following her recent ovarian cancer diagnosis.

Noah, son of Bruce Pederson, is experiencing vasculitis and is responding well to cancer treatment.

Erica Larson, a dear friend of Tal Anderson and a colleague of Pastors Martha and Esther in the synod, who is undergoing treatment for stage 4 breast cancer.

Julia Klatt Singer, sister of Dan Swenson-Klatt, is still recovering after a hit-and-run accident. She is back at work, but her heel has not fully recovered. Please also pray for the driver involved.

Jim, uncle of Sophia Stout, has been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

Carmen Borgen, sister-in-law of Lynn Borgen, is fighting cancer.

Carmen Wesch, a friend of Lynn and Mary Borgen, is going through major medical challenges.

International students whose visas have been revoked, for the safety and justice of prisoners detained in El Salvador, Sudan and elsewhere, and for immigrant families living in fear — may they find protection, support, and hope in the face of uncertainty and hardship.

## December at Our Saviour's

Tuesday, December 2	12:45pm-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	4pm-6pm	GMCC: Caring Community Weekly Dinner (1100 East Lake Street)
Wednesday, December 3	8:30am-9:30am	Donuts at the bus stop (DABS)
	10:15am-12pm	Bible Study in Person and on Zoom
	5:30pm	Advent Meal (HC)
	6:00pm	Advent Liturgy (HC)
	6:30pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Friday, December 5	7am-8am	Men's Breakfast @ Butter BakeryCafe
Sunday, December 7	9am	Faith formation for all ages – Nursery, Godly Play, Sunday School, Adult Forum
	10:30am	<b>Worship in Sanctuary and Online</b>
	11:30am	Hospitality, announcements and fellowship (HC)
Tuesday, December 9	12:45pm-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	4pm-6pm	GMCC: Caring Community Weekly Dinner (1100 East Lake Street)
Wednesday, December 10	8:30am-9:30am	Donuts at the bus stop (DABS)
	10:15am-12pm	Bible Study in Person and on Zoom
	5:30pm	Advent Meal (HC)
	6:00pm	Advent Liturgy (HC)
	6:30pm	Choir (Sanctuary)
Saturday, December 13	9am-Noon	Quilting (HC)
Sunday, December 14	9am	Faith formation for all ages – Nursery, Godly Play, Sunday School, Adult Forum
	10am	Youth Choir rehearsal
	10:30am	<b>Worship in Sanctuary and Online</b>
	11:30am	Hospitality, announcements and fellowship (HC)
	2pm-6pm	Indonesian Christmas Fellowship (Sactuary and HC)
Tuesday, December 16	12:45pm-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	4pm-6pm	GMCC: Caring Community Weekly Dinner (1100 East Lake Street)
Wednesday, December 17	10:15am-12pm	Bible Study in Person and on Zoom
	5:30pm	Advent Meal (HC)
	6:00pm	Advent Liturgy (HC)
	6:30pm	Choir (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 19	6:30pm	Las Posadas at St. Paul's-San Pablo Lutheran Church (2742 15th Ave. S, Minneapolis)
Sunday, December 21	9am	Faith formation for all ages – Nursery, Godly Play, Sunday School, Adult Forum
	10am	Adult Choir rehearsal
	10:30am	<b>Worship in Sanctuary and Online</b>
	11:30am	Hospitality, announcements and fellowship (HC)
	12:30pm	Caroling after the Service
Tuesday, December 23	12:45pm-2pm	Staff Meeting (CR)
	4pm-6pm	GMCC: Caring Community Weekly Dinner (1100 East Lake Street)
Wednesday, December 24	4pm	Christmas Eve Service
	9pm	Christmas Eve Service
Thursday, December 25		Christmas Day (Office Closed)
Saturday, December 27	9am-12am	Quilting (HC)
Sunday, December 28	9am	Faith formation – Nursery, Godly Play, Sunday School, No Adult Forum
	10:30am	<b>Worship in Sanctuary and Online</b>
	11:30am	Hospitality, announcements and fellowship (HC)
Wednesday, December 31		New Year's Eve