

November 5, 2023 All Saints Sunday

The Feast of All Saints

The most fundamental purpose for this feast is to show the unity of the church on earth with the communion of saints and their constant intercession on behalf of us, the Pilgrim Church. Listen to the words of our liturgy as they constantly refer to the saints who pray for God to forgive our sins. These saintly women and men give us a pattern for holy living which helps us as we now prepare to know the joy of God's kingdom.



Saints may be defined as those who make the ordinary extraordinary, and the extraordinary credible. In the beatitudes from Matthew's gospel, it is the common, almost insignificant people who are to become the most cherished and blessed by God. In John's recounting of Lazarus' raising from the dead, Jesus demonstrates the hope for life found through faith, in the face of sorrow, death, pain, and separation. It is these people whose very ordinary lives often made undramatic biographies who are now called the saints of God.

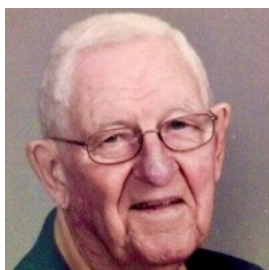
The saint is the one led by faith and faith's vision to perceive that in the present she or he is called to live the demands of God's kingdom. Saints are revealers of who God is to others. This feast makes sense because it recognizes all the unnamed champions of faith and witnesses to God's grace through time. The saints make us realize that we who are undergoing the trials in this life are called to holiness, and this holiness resides in revealing the Lord to others in the everyday situations of life.



Bob Hora
11/21/1934—2/19/2023



Marge Bohlken
2/9/1946—3/9/2023



Hank Biere
9/6/1933—3/14/2023



Steve Smith
1/7/1945—6/23/2023



Bob Goodyear
5/12/1938—8/6/2023

Greater Community All Saints

Craig Brunssen
Dennis Brunssen
Kim Brunssen
Russ/Mardelle Dornbusch
Brenda Downing
Blanca Edward
Wally/Louise Fegebank

Richard Heaverlo
Mary Herb
Maurice Klahn
Terry Lewis
Elenor Schultejans
Darel Secrist
Peter Wooten

Idea Café's: Collated Data in no particular order.

In attendance –Marlene Serbousek, Carol/Colin Stiffler, Michele Lubben, Nancy Stout, Valerie/Shawn Lambertsen, Ralph/Sandra Andresen, Dale/Pat Jensen, Kristi Fortune, Brian/Jill Darrow, Rose Folken, Carlene Vavricek, Linda Kenny, Vickie Wacker, Cindy/Lynn Decious, Ken & Pam Humpal, Janel & Donna Martensen, Jeff & Barb Switzer, Marylou Schipper, Myra Powell, Gary & Vickie Behnke, Barry/Wilma Andersen, Barb Kleis, Steve & Kathy Dornbusch, Don & Deb Hardersen, Sally Clapp, Nancy Lyon Douglas, Dan & Marilyn Lambertsen, Dan Rickels, Jerry Crowe, Virginia Daniels, Stacey & CJ Sullivan, Donna & DJ Condry, Nancy & Mike Bickford, Orlyn & Kathy Brunssen, Kaileen and Curtis Weaver, Darla & Bob Algae, Mary Achenbach, Tom Sabotta, Sherri Evans, Fred Austin, Jim & Delores Albrecht, Candy Shada, Verna Lewison, Susan K, Ed Gerst, Marna Gaye Kettelson, Doug Fairbanks, Dee Ihlenfeldt, Jeanette Clayton, Lois Ocenosak, Paula Sisler, Marlene Prout, Greta Vaughn, Shawna Giegerich, Summer Parks, Laura & Dean Niklasen, Aaron & Deb Zumbach, Betty Hunter, Scott Chrisman, Dustin Paulson, Amy Fuller Belding.

1. What prevents people from fully participating in the life of St. Paul Lutheran today?

Busyness. Lack of invitation/knowledge. Lack of a welcoming environment. Conflicts with scheduling. "Need" for entertainment worship. Need for childcare? Individualism and the lack of feeling a need for God. Separation from God. Worldly desires. Skewed priorities. Questionable theology. Mobility. Specific service time (8 vs 8:30). Athletic events on Sunday. Follow thru when you see a need. Not reading the Pulse. Age. Accessibility, School activities conflict with Church, Health, people not thinking/feeling they would fit in. They have a difference of opinion. Personality differences. Feeling that they aren't wanted. Fear of judgment from others. Disabilities. Covid (people replaced church with other commitments, routines)[3x]. Easily accessed on-line services. Obligations elsewhere. Laziness. Watching tv services from other denominations/churches [3x]. Life choices. Awareness. Not ringing the church bell at all services. Put church times and activities offered in the newspaper quarterly. Lack of outreach/invitation to church and activities. Work. Sports. Kid's activities. Mobility issues to get to church. Age. History of judging people. History of abuse (churches at large). Restroom accessibility. Business shutdown. Illness prevention among elderly. Society removing/using Wed and Sunday for things other than church. Busyness – competition for time, schedules, activities. Two spouse income required; economic changes/challenges; home schedule changing worship priority; "isolation" working from home environment is reclusive not inclusive. Afraid of being pulled into more responsibility than are willing to do. Elevator issues. Outside Time demands. Priorities are elsewhere. Sundays are no longer prioritized as a day of rest or Lord's Day. Physical limitations. Hesitant of Bible knowledge (uncomfortable). Feeling of disconnect. Mismatched levels of comfort. Draw of the world – different perspectives. Family stress levels have increased. Work schedules. General apathy towards all things. Community not aware of how accepting of all walks of life the ELCA and St. Paul are.

2. Should St. Paul look into building a new worship space? If yes, what would make it better than the current space?

Keep church as a small worship center. Consider selling to a Christian fellowship. If we build a new church, get rid of this building or we will have to maintain it. So why not just maintain it now? Don't let it fall into disrepair like most unused spaces. The buildings currently serve the number of people in our community adequately. The size reflects everyone who desires to be a part of the community. Are there other groups we can invite to use our space? No – we don't use the space we have available in the church [4x]. Current church is structurally sound. Facelift – more handicap accessibility. Fiscal responsibility. No – with more members add more services, like Sat. night or other times. No— Renovations are needed for current church. Entertainment venue vs. church? May stimulate interest, especially with new housing being built in town. Accessibility. Up to code. Modern (with old world charm if possible). Eliminates fixing the older building. Opens up possibilities. If not a worship space, another option would be just the multi-purpose room and/or kitchen = great for VBS, education ops, youth activity while adults meet, host other cmtty events, can rent out to other groups with similar mission statements (scouts, 4H, FFA, Food Pantry) [4x] - appealing to non-members – working together. Could divide a congregation if there isn't ownership/buy in from the beginning? Focus on acquiring the property to the north and expanding access and/or sanctuary. Big IF, need accessible gathering space (build relationships). Perhaps. Build it all on one level with adequate restroom facilities. Nervous about the budget and finances but Yes, look into it and present some drawings and numbers [4x] Look into Baptist Church building near Mexican Rest. Dishwasher. Upstairs bathroom. Eliminate elevator. No pews. Round tables in Fellowship Hall. Concerned that younger members will end up paying for a new church; what is their commitment? Only build if there is money already raised – do not carry a debt. Sell lumberyard property for money to use in new building or renovations. Share space *with other churches to share cost (build a new worship space for all Protestant congregations in Anamosa*

More question/answers will be printed next week.

Bibles & Brownies



Come Join us on Wednesday, November 8th as the St. Paul Community will follow through with our promise, we as a Congregation, made at their Baptism by gifting our young people with an Adventure Bible. May they know and feel God's love and may it be a light in their faith journey. Come enjoy some fellowship & share Your favorite Bible stories as a child or memories of receiving your First Bible after the service with Brownies in the fellowship Hall.

Feel Free to reach out to Kaileen if you have any questions!



Anamosa Lunches for Youth News

November is St. Paul's month to pack ALY bags. We will meet in the large lower room in the Ed building at 10:00 AM on Thursdays, November 2, 16, and 30. The packing takes about an hour and a half. If you are interested in helping, please contact Virginia Danielson. Thank you.
Home 319-462-4625
Cell 319-481-0466
Email virgdanielson@aol.com

Creatively Connect and build new relationships this Advent!

We occasionally hear from folks that they would like small group studies, but leadership has been frustrated when trying to find the right times and days to offer them. This Advent, we are going to offer a four week devotional entitled *Now In Flesh Appearing* for the entire congregation to engage beginning the week before Dec. 3 (the first Sunday of Advent). The devotional will have a scripture passage followed by commentary and a set of discussion questions. The same readings will be prayed with in worship and WD4. We would encourage you to think about creating your own small group for this four-week season (Dec. 3-24). Decide a time, day, and place and start inviting. It can be as simple as getting together, reading through the devotional and having some discussion. Food and beverage and additional activities are up to you.

If you would like some suggestions on people to invite, give us a call in the office or work your way through the new directory. We have some new young families who we bet would love to be invited.

Your small group could also be your own family unit. Commit to a set time and Intentionally Grow together this Advent!

St Paul Finance Committee Report

We give Thee but Thine own,
Whatever the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

This hymn recognizes the order of giving. First, God, the Father, gives to us. He gives to us all that we have to support this body and life. He gives these things that we might use them, and especially that we would use all good things for giving glory back to Him.

Thank you for your generous donations to St. Paul. Your support is vital to our ongoing efforts to create a welcoming and inclusive space where individuals can experience God's love and find solace and strength. Your faithfulness in supporting St. Paul is deeply appreciated. Your gifts of time, talent, and treasures help us to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

Monthly Financials:

August 2023	Operating Contributions: \$27,616.19	September 2023	Operating Contributions: \$13,923.89
	Operating Expenses: \$22,787.57		Operating Expenses: \$25,351.31
	Net Income: \$2,264.88		Net Income: (\$8,864.18)

Attention: St. Paul Celebration Singers and all interested musicians

We weren't able to gather enough singers for a Reformation choir, so will not be meeting this week.

But the good news is that plans are underway for a Community Christmas concert, with a tentative date of December 17th. Many have asked that we bring back this wonderful tradition, and I'm confident we can offer an ensemble for the program.

We will also sing at St. Paul during the Advent season, beginning on December 3rd. We have so many great groups meeting, studying, and making music, that choir rehearsal times are limited. If you are interested in singing, please reply to virgdanielson@aol.com.

Please watch this space for further information.

Lutheran World Relief Update...

- Kits and Quilts were blessed last week and are on their way. Final count for the fall shipment was 32 Quilts and 79 School Kits
- The next quilt tying day is scheduled for November 14, beginning at 1:00 PM. Yes, we are already preparing for the Spring 2024 shipment.
- This truly is an opportunity to be Christ's hands and feet for the world. Please watch this space for details.
- Your team also learned recently that the 4 quilts we donated to the Camp EWALU auction brought in \$380 for the work of the camp.

First Reading: 1 Kings 18:17-39

When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing. Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let Baal's prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire—he is God." Then all the people said, "What you say is good." Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made. At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention. Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which had been torn down. Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood." "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench. When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!"

Elijah has long been referred to as the greatest prophet of the Israelite people. He was raised up by YHWH to challenge the growing cult of Baal in the northern kingdom of Israel. Queen Jezebel the pagan wife of King Ahab, paid the prophets and priests of Baal. This caused a division in the household of Israel because King Ahab was supposed to be the model of a covenanted life with Yahweh. In a dramatic face-off at Mt. Carmel, the priests of Baal were destroyed by fire and Yahweh was declared the great king over all the gods. Strangely, Elijah felt defeated because the king was evil, the land was evil, the people had become disloyal to YHWH, the prophets before him were dead, and Jezebel had threatened his very life. And so Elijah became a fugitive.

Psalms 34:1-10, 22

I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips. I will glory in the LORD; let the afflicted hear and rejoice. Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together. I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant; their faces are never covered with shame. This poor man called, and the LORD heard him; he saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Fear the LORD, you his holy people, for those who fear him lack nothing. The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-4

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

What are we to make of a “transfigured” Jesus? His clothes became dazzling white and he shimmered with the glory of God. Perhaps this event occurred to strengthen Jesus’ disciples by further revealing Jesus as the chosen one of God; Jesus had just told his disciples that his messiah-ship was going to be filled with suffering, rejection, and death in Jerusalem. Peter had rebuked him, reminding Jesus that the messiah was to be a powerful warrior king. In response, Jesus told his followers that they would be called upon to daily pick up their crosses, deny themselves, and even lose their very lives. The questions swirling through their minds included: “Am I still going to follow this guy?” “What does he mean, raised from the dead?” “He does powerful deeds and I have my hopes up, but is he really the Messiah?” The fact that Jesus stood with Moses and Elijah told them that he was the fulfillment of the Law and the prophecies concerning the kingdom of God. In their meeting, the unending kingdom of God becomes real, here, now! No more waiting.

Perhaps this event occurred to strengthen Jesus who had just realized again that his very closest companions and followers still didn’t understand the nature of his message and mission. Like anyone who has a soul-searing encounter with God, Peter wanted to avoid the painful trip to Jerusalem by just staying on the mountaintop with the heavenly vision. To hear the message: “This is my beloved Son. Listen to him,” must have been comforting for Jesus. Like his baptism, when he was faced with the desert and the many decisions about his life, Jesus is at a crossroads. He senses in his heart that his venture to Jerusalem will bring him suffering and pain at the hands of unbelieving people. It was not an easy choice to follow this path, even for one as passionate and strong as Jesus. This mountaintop experience was for him a reminder of God’s covenant. God called Jesus His “Beloved” and like Abraham, was ready to let go so the beloved could sacrifice himself for the sake of others. Jesus own humility and willingness to sacrifice what was dearest to him brought an eternal reward for everyone who follows in his path, and an experience of the Kingdom of God for those who have the eyes to see.

Taking it home:

- Which of these sins most plagues your life: greed, selfishness, rudeness, apathy, inappropriately expressed anger, self-pity, chronic doubt, mistrust, possessiveness, negativism, thievery, dishonesty, lust? Admit to God that you realize it, and admit it to people close to you and ask for help in avoiding that sin.
- Tell about a time you were at a crossroads but an experience of God’s presence strengthened you to make a tough choice.
- Have you ever felt tested by life’s situations and blamed it on God as an explanation? How did you get through the “test?”

Mindfulness (set aside three minutes. breathe and read through three times. Which words or ideas hold energy for you? What images emerge in your imagination?) “Committing myself to the task of becoming fully human is saving my life now...to become fully human is something extra, a conscious choice that not everyone makes. Based on my limited wisdom and experience, there is more than one way to do this. If I were a Buddhist, I might do it by taking the bodhisattva vow, and if I were a Jew, I might do it by following Torah. Because I am a Christian, I do it by imitating Christ, although I will be the first to admit that I want to stop about a day short of following him all the way.

In Luke’s gospel, there comes a point when he turns around and says to the large crowd of those trailing after him, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple” (14:26). Make of that what you will, but I think it was his way of telling them to go home. He did not need people to go to Jerusalem to die with him. He needed people to go back where they came from and live the kinds of lives that he had risked his own life to show them: lives of resisting the powers of death, of standing up for the little and the least, of turning cheeks and washing feet, of praying for enemies and loving the unlovable.”

— Barbara Brown Taylor, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*

Two new prayer opportunities at St Paul led by Pastor Rodney!

Drumming Circle: Join others in the church chapel from 5:30-6:30 pm the last Monday of the month for drum prayer (see dates below). 10 hand drums are available, first come, first to choose. We will begin with sharing gratitudes and intentions, then drum, ending with a drum wash to those who wish it.

Drumming is a form of contemplative prayer that invites us to be present to the Heartbeat of God. As we listen to and feel the drums, we experience the One pulse that gives rise to all the rhythms and energies of life. It is actually from the feminine energy of the divine that drumming emerges, and men drum to draw themselves from the head into the heart, seeking harmony.

Upcoming dates for 2023 will be: Mondays, Nov. 27, (no Dec date)

Upcoming dates for 2024 will be: Mondays, Jan. 29, Feb. 26, March 25, April 29, May 27

Create some intentional time for Focused Communal Silence (Meditation) - The benefits of meditation are real, but it is often difficult to make room for silence in our lives. Communal accountability can help uphold the commitment. Join with others in the St Paul Church on Monday and/or Thursday mornings, 6:30-7:00 a.m. for Meditation Prayer. We will pray out loud the Welcoming Prayer, have 21 minutes of silent meditation, then close with the Canticle of Simeon.

Please Pray for the Following

(Why people want prayers isn't important, *the prayers are!*)

We pray for all who need healing, strength or comfort those who are grieving especially Barry Anderson, Scott/Annette/Weston/Miken/Easton Wheeler, and Rose Flaig (Hubler) (mother of Shelby Hollett). For peace in our nation & world, for safety in our schools and communities and for those seeking a safe home. To add a name call or email Kathy at 319-462-4841/stpaulanamosa@gmail.com. Names will be listed for 4 weeks and may be renewed.

Next Week November 12th Readings
Hosea 11:1-9
Mark 10:13-14

GriefShare is available upon request. Please contact Nancy Douglas if interested 319-551-3358.

AA meets in the lower level of the CE building on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

Jones County Food Bank: Help is always needed at the Jones County Community Food Bank - food and funds have fallen critically low. For the last few months, the number of families and individuals requesting foods has been increasing and the shelves are almost bare. Funds are also being diminished by the demands of purchasing food at higher prices.

To donate money, checks may be written to Jones County Community Food Bank and mailed to 105 Broadway Place, Anamosa IA 52205. Items needed this week: Peas, pancake mix and syrup, canned tuna, Mac & Cheese and personal care items. **Please place items in the back of the church for collection by St. Paul volunteers OR call the Food Bank to make delivery arrangements (462-4343)**

Recorded services are found on St. Paul website, YouTube page or Facebook page.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
Available 24 Hours
Languages: English, Spanish
800-273-8255

Bread Bakers:

November: Dee Ihlenfeldt
December: Sheri Evans
3 Communion Eve Services: B&M Lubben

Deliver Food to Food Bank:

November: Ralph & Sandy Andresen
December: Myra Powell
January: Barb Kleis

Wednesday, November 1

* 8:00 am Men's Worship Group—CE Building

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Comm Prep: Marlene Serbousek
Greeters: Summer Parks
Readings & Prayers: Sara Chrisman
Comm Server: Marlene Serbousek
PowerPoint: Beth Hora

Sunday, November 5

* 8:00 am Service

Comm Prep: Ed Gerst/ Susan Koppenhaver
Greeter: Ed Gerst/ Susan Koppenhaver
Readings/Prayers : Virginia Danielson
Comm Server: Ed Gerst/ Susan Koppenhaver
PowerPoint: Deb Hardersen
Livestream: Skylar

* 10:30am Service

Comm Prep: Nancy Lyon Douglas
Greeter: Nancy Lyon Douglas
Readings/Prayers: Nancy Lyon Douglas
Comm Server: Kathy Dornbusch/Nancy Lyon Douglas
PowerPoint: E. Lambertsen
Livestream: D. Lambertsen

Tuesday, November 7

- * 1:30pm Scripture Study
- * 6:00pm Grief Support by request, call Nancy Douglas
- * 7:00pm AA—LL CE Building

Wednesday, November 8

- 8:00 am Men's Worship Group—CE Building
- 6-7:30 WD4

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Comm Prep: Ken/Pam Humpal
Greeters: Ken/Pam Humpal
Readings/Prayers: WD4
Comm Server: Ken Humpal
PowerPoint: Beth Hora

Sunday, November 12

* 8:00 am Service

Comm Prep: Jeff/Kristi Fortune
Greeter: Nancy Lyon Douglas
Readings/Prayers : Nancy Lyon Douglas
Comm Server: Jeff/Kristi Fortune
PowerPoint: Lois Ocenosak
Livestream: Skylar

* 10:30am Service

Comm Prep: Dave/Deb Oldham
Greeter: Austin Family
Readings/Prayers: Bryan Austin
Comm Server: Aaron/Deb Zumbach
PowerPoint: G/L Chrisman
Livestream: S. Goldsmith

Tuesday, November 14

- * 1:30pm Scripture Study
- * 6:00pm Grief Support by request, call Nancy Douglas
- * 7:00pm AA—LL CE Building

Wednesday, November 15

- 8:00 am Men's Worship Group—CE Building
- 6-7:30 WD4

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Comm Prep: Darla Algoe
Greeters: Darla Algoe
Readings/Prayers: Beth Hora
Comm Server: Beth Hora
PowerPoint: WD4

Mailing Address:
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
103 East Cedar Street
Anamosa, IA 52205



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Nov 5	Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back 1 hour)
Nov 5	All Saints Day
Nov 10	Veterans Day
Nov 12	Confirmation 3-5 pm
Nov 13	Council Meeting 6:30 pm
Nov 18-19	Can Drive for CYFM
Nov 22	Thanksgiving Service of Gratitude
Nov 23	Thanksgiving
Dec 11	All Leadership/Council Meeting 6:00 pm
Dec 18	Blue Christmas 5:20-6:30 pm
Dec 24	4th Sunday Advent 9:00 am Service Christmas Eve 3, 5, 7:30 Service
Dec 25	Christmas Day