

# TIDINGS

November 2024

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*"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds." - Psalm 9:1*

Thanksgiving- a day set aside to be thankful for the bounty of the harvest. Over time, the focus of Thanksgiving has largely turned to family gatherings with turkey, stuffing (or dressing depending on where you live), pumpkin pie, football games and shopping.

This Thanksgiving Rachel will be in Los Angeles while Tim and I will be at a friends' house. Last Thanksgiving was spent at Disney World where Rachel and I did not leave the hotel and had a fabulous day with no turkey in sight. Some years, Rachel was with her dad's family and we were at home. Even when we were all at home, a turkey is too much for two (or even three) people, so we have had cheese fondue, fish and even Get Go Gobbler sandwiches on the holiday.

While we have grown to love the unique day where every year is different, it has made some people nervous. Aren't you going to eat turkey? (No. I actually prefer fish). Don't you miss Rachel? (Yes. But Rachel also has other family). Aren't you lonely? (I'll see thousands of people and a lot of friends at the Turkey Trot and thousands more when I start shopping). But that's not how Thanksgiving is celebrated!

It seems to make some people nervous that we are not following tradition every year. Tim and I look at the core of what is important about Thanksgiving- for us it is setting aside time to be grateful and spending time together. Although the other holiday traditions are nice (I love gluten free stuffing and he loves pie) they are added bonuses and the day is complete even without them.

As we come to the end of our 150th year, what are the core important elements of Holy Trinity? Who are we as Holy Trinity? What is central to who we are? If all else was taken away, what do we cling to? What are the most important parts of Holy Trinity? What is nice to have, but not essential? For what are we most grateful at Holy Trinity?

Please take time to reflect of these questions. As we take a day to thank God for all blessings, take time to thank God for the gift of 150 years of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and God's continued guidance going into the future.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Sarah*

# COMING EVENTS

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<sup>2</sup>And we bring you the good **Tidings** that what God promised to our ancestors<sup>33</sup>he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus;  
Acts 13:32-33a

- Nov. 3 All Saints Sunday, Planting Bulbs Outside at 10am
- Nov. 9 Men's Group Breakfast at Holy Trinity 10am
- Nov. 10 9:30am Acolyte Meeting and 25 – 45 Group Breakfast
- Nov. 10 Youth Zoom Meeting at 7:00pm, Code will be emailed
- Nov. 17 12:00pm Decorating OUTSIDE the Church for Christmas
- Nov. 18 Community Meal, Doors open at 5:00pm, Dinner at 6
- Nov. 26 Pub Theology at 7:00pm
- Nov. 30 9:00am Decorating INSIDE the Church for Christmas
- Dec. 6 Irwin Cookie Tour 5:00pm – 8:00pm, stop by Holy Trinity!
- Dec. 8 Chrismons at 9:30am
- Dec. 23 Christmas "Eve Eve" Service at 11:00am
- Dec. 20 Blue Christmas Service at 7:00pm, in the Chapel
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services at 4:00PM. AND 8:00 PM
- Dec. 29 ONE Service at 10:00am

January 26, 2025 - Annual Congregational Meeting, ONE service at 10:00am

The New Church Photo Directories have arrived! If you sat for a church photo session back in April, you are eligible to receive a directory. Please see Julie Kuhn before church services or stop in the office to see Danielle Mon-Fri from 9am till noon.



Remember to get your Commemorative 150th Pewter Ornament  
in the office, Monday to Friday 9am until Noon.  
Cost...\$15 each

## **Food Pantry**

2024 Dates: December 14

2025 Dates: February 8

August 9

April 12

October 11

June 14

December 13

### ***Special request Items:***

Pancake mix                      Syrup                      Sugar cookie mix  
Vanilla frosting                Chocolates or hard candy (not Halloween)  
Toilet paper                      Laundry detergent

*Soup IS NOT needed at this time*

### ***Items always needed:***

Mac & cheese/pasta	Applesauce	Baked beans	Cake/muffin/brownie mix
Canned fruit	Canned tuna	Cereal	Granola bars
Pasta Sauce	Oatmeal	Paper towels	Toilet paper
Peanut butter & Jelly	Potato/rice mix	pudding Cups	

Many thanks for the generous donations to date! If you would like to donate, please mark "food pantry" in the subject line on your check or you may use one of the pew envelopes if you would like to donate cash. Food pantry contact: Jodi Waugaman at 724-516-9680 or [waugawoman86@comast.net](mailto:waugawoman86@comast.net)

## ***Church Finances***

### CONGREGATIONAL AVERAGE OFFERING SEPTEMBER 2024

<u>2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET NEEDS WEEKLY</u>	<u>AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING</u>
\$391,718	\$7,533.00	\$6,001.34
<u>2024 IMPROVEMENT FUND</u>	<u>WEEKLY GOAL</u>	<u>AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING</u>
\$24,000.00	\$461.00	\$139.60
<u>2024 Roof ORGAN FUND</u>	<u>WEEKLY GOAL</u>	<u>AVERAGE WEEKLY OFFERING</u>
\$40,000.00	\$770.00	\$203.40

**Online Tithing** ....The church has set up online giving through **Tithley**. (the church incurs approximately a 3% fee or you may add the fee into your donation to cover that 3%). To donate through online giving please visit: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1399928>

**Trinity Lutheran Care Fund (TLC)** is a ministry of the church that offers assistance to members of the congregation experiencing financial need, due to extreme, unusual and/or medical circumstances. If you'd like to request help, please contact Pastor Sarah, Julie Kuhn, or Jodi Waugaman.

## Council Briefs, September 11, 2024

### Reports of the Financial Secretary and Treasurer

Reports provided. The Roof is paid off. It was noted that both the front porch and the organ need to be replaced. The estimate for the front porch is ~\$83k. The estimate for a new organ is ~\$100k. Jerry Kuhn made a motion to revise the green "ROOF Fund" envelopes to "Organ Fund" and transfer existing Roof funds to the new "Organ Fund."

### Youth Ministry

- Zoom meetings with youth once a month. Will also pursue service-related activities for youth.

### Property Committee

- Motion made and passed to propose a plan for redecorating the walls of the Miller Parlor and uncluttering the room.
- Motion made and passed to accept the proposal of Bill Thomas' Painting & Staining to reapply missing vinyl strips to the affected Educational Building awning windows, at a cost of \$1500.
- Motion made and passed to accept the proposal of Premier Concrete Concepts, Inc. to perform the concrete repair and replacement of the front porch and stairway of the Educational Building.

Motion made and accepted to accept the proposal of Bella Railings to install new powder coated aluminum railings to the porch, steps, and ramp of the church's Educational Building, at a cost of \$36,321.



Sunday School meets at 9:30am every Sunday! All are welcome!

#### IN OUR PRAYERS IN SEPTEMBER:

DYLAN KUNKEL	MICHAEL TOMASELLO	NANCY BOYD	MICHAEL SHOTTS	RACHEL FAULKNER
RUTH PORTER	ELAINE RHODES	PAT GRANNY	ANN DRURY	SKIP SMITH
KARL KUNKLE	CONNIE BERG	BEN AND ELLIE BRATTON	ROCHELLE BELAK	RON BRENTZEL
LINDA BONACCI	SUZANNE BREIG	SALLY CARTER	RON AND KELLY BERGMAN	
RHONDA CHAPPELL	KORRY AND MARIA CLARK	COLLEEN COCHENOUR	JIM AND BEV COULTER	
ANNE COINER	MARK AND HALLE COPEMAN	ROBERT AND JAMIE CESSNA	LOIS BROWN	
WESLEY CARTER	JOSH AND ANGELA BRITTINGHAM			

#### WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER THE FOLLOWING MILITARY PERSONNEL:

SHANNON DAWSON    ZACHARY ZEHNER    BROOKE NEWELL

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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*May the Lord Bless  
Skylar Lynn Campbell and Kayden Anthony Passino  
Baptized on October 13, 2024*

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***Affirmation of Baptism:  
God Bless Brice Goodman, Ty Cessna, and Will Little  
Confirmed on Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup>***

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*Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeffrey Jones and family.  
His wife, Laura passed to life triumphant  
on October 23, 2024.*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with Terry and Carol Newell and family.  
Their daughter, Sondra passed to life triumphant on October 17, 2024.*

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**WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:**

**Christopher Kochanov**

**Tim and Janis Kljun**

**William Huey Jr.**

**Anthony and Rosemary Sladky, son Wally, daughter Elyse (joining Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>)**

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

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The Operation Christmas Child collection has started! Pick up your shoeboxes and packing labels in the narthex.

**This year, church council has approved paying the \$10 per box donation for shipping (up to \$500)!!**

Boxes are due back by November 17 or join women's group on November 20 for a packing party!

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

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*Join us in planting bulbs in celebration of All Saint's Day Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00am. ALL ARE WELCOME!!*

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## **Christmas Decorating**

*Please join us to decorate Holy Trinity for the Christmas Season on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 9AM.*

*We will decorate **OUTSIDE** on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 12:30PM  
ALL help is welcomed and appreciated!!*

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There will be an **acolyte meeting** on Sunday, November 10th at 9:30am.

All new and current acolytes should plan to attend.

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Enclosed is the  
2024 Christmas Poinsettia (6.5" flower) Order.

Please turn in your order **by December 1<sup>st</sup> for flowers**

No FLOWER orders can be taken after the 1<sup>st</sup>!

The price is \$12.00 per flower (red, white, or jinglebell )

Donations in any amount may be made to World Hunger.

Also, in this mailing is your 2024 Advent Coin Folder.

Please return to the box in the Narthex. Thank you!!

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**The Endowment committee is now accepting requests** for the distribution of funds for the year ending 2024.

By constitution, the funds are to be distributed ***as follows:***

**-Capital Improvements 30 to 50%**

(capital improvements, debt reduction of building projects)

**-Scholarships up to 33%**

(members of Holy Trinity for the purpose of attending college, seminary, nursing or medical school, church related camps and conferences)

**-Community Outreach up to 33%**

(grants to ELCA colleges, camps, social services and agencies for those persons in our parish area)

**-ELCA Missions up to 33%**

(ELCA missions at home and overseas, new mission development in the USA, professional leadership, educational ministries, world mission and TV evangelism)

All requests for funds must be **in writing** and mailed/emailed to the church office no later than **January 12 2025**. Please call Danielle in the office with any questions.



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**BIBLE STUDY**

**BIBLE STUDY** on **THURSDAY** at Noon is studying 1 Corinthians.

**BIBLE STUDY** on **MONDAY Evenings** is at 7:00PM in the Miller Parlor. We are studying Psalms.

**Join us for one or both!**

**All are invited Mondays at 6:00pm for PRAYER**



## Holy Trinity CHOIR

**There is always room for new singers!** Choir rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7:00 in the Bob Kunkle Music Room.

No experience is necessary!

See David after any service if you are interested.

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## WOMEN'S FAITH and FRIENDSHIP GROUP:

Our Next meeting is November 20 at 7:00pm.  
We will be packing our Operation Christmas Child Boxes!

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## YOUTH GROUP TO MEET:

7-12<sup>th</sup> grade will meet via Zoom for Youth Group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 7:00PM. A Zoom link will be sent to all families.

The next meeting is November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

Youth are also invited to help distribute hot chocolate for Light Up Night at 5:00pm, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>.

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## WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AT OUR MONTHLY GATHERING FOR THEOLOGY ON TAP

Have you wondered what Theology on Tap is all about? If your answer is "yes", we invite, encourage, and welcome you to join us for our next monthly gathering on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, at 7:00 PM**. We meet at the home of Angela and Josh Brittingham, 875 Lockport Drive, in North Huntingdon, PA.

**What is Theology on Tap all about?** This offers a unique and refreshing opportunity to bring discussion, faith, fellowship, and fun together in a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. We invite you to join us

in talking about our faith and how we can live it in our modern world.

**Join us in conversation, build meaningful relationships, and share questions and views of our faith! If any questions, please see Pastor John or Josh and Angela Brittingham.**

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## SERVING A MEAL TO OUR BOROUGH STAFF AND POLICE

On Thursday, November 21, we will be serving a meal in our Fellowship Hall to all the Irwin Boro staff and police as they prepare for a long night on Light-Up night.

**What can you do?** We would welcome any cards or notes of appreciation to those who work to protect our boro (police, boro staff) and keep the various events running smoothly. A box will be placed in the narthex of the church beginning November 3. If you have any questions, please see or contact Pastor John.

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## COME AND JOIN US IN THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS! WE WELCOME YOU!



We welcome all of Holy Trinity's high school students to join us for a Sunday School class on Sundays at 9:30 AM.

**PLEASE NOTE: OUR NEXT CLASS IS NOVEMBER 10.** We will lead the acolytes in a Scavenger Hunt during the Sunday School hour.

**What do we do there? We learn and put our faith into action!** During October, we learned about St. Francis of Assisi (He loved animals!) and then put together kits of dog and cat treats which were distributed in downtown Irwin's pet Trick or Treat. When we learned about St. Luke, the Physician, we put together donated items for Lutheran World Relief Care Kits which are cherished by the person who receives it in their time of need. Each student has also learned about the about the person whose Feast Day is closest to the students' birthday.

**Anything special coming up in November?** In addition to our weekly class on Sunday's at 9:30, we will go shopping on November 24! The class will be sponsoring an area child for Christmas. Following the 10:45 worship service on November 24, we will go to lunch and the Walmart for shopping for the child we sponsor. **We welcome all of you and hope to see you soon! Questions? See Pastor John.**



**Meet  
for  
Breakfast**

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### YOUNGER ADULTS MONTHLY BREAKFAST SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 – 9:30 AM

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS AGES 25-45!!!** Are you ready for a great time of fellowship, community, conversation, and discussion? We invite all of you to join in our monthly breakfast. The next opportunity for this group is **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10 at 9:30 PM.**

Though breakfast is served at 9:30 AM, we start gathering at 9:15 AM.

**It will be our joy to welcome you!** Please sign up.  
You may also contact Karly Kunkle, Halle Copeman, or Pastor John.  
**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

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### COMBINED MEN'S GROUP BREAKFAST IN NOVEMBER

The next men's group breakfast will be **Saturday, November 9, at 8:00 AM at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.** Joining us will be men from First United Church of Christ, Brush Creek Lutheran, Zion's Lutheran Church, and Immanuel Lutheran Church.

If you plan to attend, please sign up. Questions? Please see or contact Pastor John.

We thank Matt Williams of Fight the Blight and leader of a support group for hoarders. Thank you for a very informative presentation.

**We hope to see many of our men at this wonderful monthly event! It is a great time of fellowship, communication, learning, and sharing of church information.**

## COMMUNITY MEALS AT HOLY TRINITY

We continue to welcome many people to our monthly Community Meals. This group welcomes those who hunger, are lonely and appreciate the company, or simply want a good cooked meal. **OUR NEXT COMMUNITY MEAL IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18.**



Those serving for the November 18<sup>th</sup> dinner are:

Coordinator: Victoria Hillier Drivers to Irwin Manor: Pastor John Smaligo, Doug Hillier

Cooking: Georgia Stewart, Andrea Stewart, Sandy Tomko, and Diane Kowalski

Set up/Clean-up/Serving: Michele Klingensmith, Nancy Woodring, Jen Fitzgerald

We need more assistance for the December 16 dinner. There are open slots in each area of service for this meal. Please sign up. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

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## FIRST DINNER CHURCH TO BEGIN AT HOLY TRINITY! Sunday, December 1 – 6:00 PM



**WHAT IS DINNER CHURCH?** It is reaching people in the way the Christian church, gathered around a table for meal and Sacrament. This is a service designed to be an instrument of hospitality.

In order to help us prepare, while it is not necessary to sign up, you are welcome to sign up.

Questions? See or contact Pastor John.

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## OUR OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY

### IRWIN MANOR

Once a month, Pastor John provides an opportunity for the residents of Irwin Manor to get together to celebrate by participating in various activities.

**On Thursday, November 21 at 11:00 AM,** Pastor John will lead a Thanksgiving Service for the residents and anyone who attends. At the conclusion of the service, there will be the lighting of their community Christmas Tree so they can connect with Irwin which will celebrate their light-up night that evening.

**How can you help?** If you would be willing to donate some Thanksgiving-type of dessert, please see Pastor John.

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## HOLY TRINITY RECYCLES!!

*The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)*  
To offer our care to God's creation, we have recycling bins in various places in the church.

<b><u>DUTIES for November</u></b>		<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Altar Flowers</b>
<b>Sunday, Nov. 3</b>	8:15AM	Maria Clark	Dave and Jodi Smith	Hannah Glenn	Fran Sivonek	Jen Fitzgerald
	10:45PM	Jodi Waugaman	Susan Siems Diane Kowalski	Grace Darby	Lynn Smith	
<b>Sunday, Nov. 10</b>	8:15AM	Chris Karpinksy	Debbie Gilkey Lois Brown	Landon Hillier	Lori Pheil	Pat Walt
	10:45PM	Colleen Cochenour	Kira Zyvith Hannah Amantea	Ty Cessna	Nancy Woodring	
<b>Sunday, Nov. 17</b>	8:15AM	Tracy McNelly	Connie Berg Glenda Wendling	OPEN	Donna Yusko	
	10:45PM	John Howell	Eric Walt Mike Stark	Will Little	Mary Smaligo	
<b>Sunday, Nov. 24</b>	8:15AM	Heather Newell	Dave and Jodi Smith	OPEN	Danielle Dally	
	10:45AM	Jen Fitzgerald	Samantha and Zack Tinsley	Grant Darby	Jeff Horvath	

### **Altar Guild**

Nov. 2 Set Up Rochelle Belak and Vicki Rutkowski  
 Nov. 3 8:15 Rochelle Belak and Vicki Rutkowski  
           10:45 Andrea and Brian Smith  
 Nov. 9 Set Up Andrea and Brian Smith  
 Nov. 10 8:15 Vicki and Doug Hillier  
           10:45 Nancy And Doug Woodring  
 Nov. 16 Set Up Nancy And Doug Woodring  
 Nov. 17 8:15 Rochelle Belak and Vicki Rutkowski  
           10:45 Andrea and Brian Smith  
 Nov. 23 Set Up Rochelle Belak and Vicki Rutkowski  
 Nov. 24 8:15 Vicki and Doug Hillier  
           10:45 Nancy And Doug Woodring  
 Nov. 30 Set Up Andrea and Brian Smith

10:45 Greeters:

- Nov. 3 Susan and Marcia Kramer
- Nov. 10 Debbie Rominski & Pastor Bob Schlotter
- Nov. 17 Susan Richardson and Anne Coiner
- Nov. 24 Luella Tomasello and Sandy Tomko

Please note....  
 ROOF FUND envelope donations will be now be directed to the ORGAN FUND.  
 Your 2025 box of offering envelopes will reflect this change.

# NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3 All Saints</b> 8:15 Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:00am <b>PLANTING</b> <i>BULBS OUTSIDE</i> 10:45am Worship	4  <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 6:00PM  <b>Bible Study</b> 7:00PM	5  <b>Property Committee Meeting 7:00PM</b>	6  Boy Scouts Fellow. Hall 6:30-9	7  <b>Bible Study at Noon</b>  Ladies Night in Irwin	8  Seton Hill in Fellow. Hall 8-11am	9  <b>Men's Breakfast 8:00AM at Holy Trinity in the Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>10 Pentecost 25</b> 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Acolyte Meeting 9:30am 25-45 Group Breakfast 10:45am Worship 7:00PM Youth Group via Zoom	11  <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 6:00PM  <b>Bible Study</b> 7:00PM	12  <b>Stewardship Meeting at 7:00PM</b>  <b>Men's Group</b> 7:00PM	13  <b>COUNCIL at 7:00PM</b>  Boy Scouts Fellow. Hall 6:30-9	14  <b>Bible Study at Noon</b>  <b>Worship and Music Committee Meeting at 7:00PM</b>  <b>Choir Rehearsal at 7:00PM</b>	15	16
<b>17 Pentecost 26</b> 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:30 Decorate - OUTSIDE	18 <u><b>Community Meal at Holy Trinity 5:00pm w/dinner @ 6:00PM</b></u>  <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 6:00PM  <b>Bible Study</b> 7:00PM	19  Choir 7:00PM	20  <b>Women's Faith and Friendship 7:00PM</b>  Boy Scouts Fellow. Hall 6:30-9	21  <b>Bible Study at Noon</b>  Irwin Light Up Night	22	23
<b>24 Christ the King</b> 8:15am Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	25  <b>Prayer Meeting</b> 6:00PM  <b>Bible Study</b> 7:00PM	26  <b>Pub Theology 7:00PM</b>	27  Boy Scouts Fellow. Hall 6:30-9	28 Happy Thanksgiving  Office Closed	29  Office Closed	30  9:00am Decorating the church for Christmas