



ZION NEWSLETTER

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)
SERVING THE LORD FAITHFULLY
IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS
SINCE 1882.
766 S. HIGH ST. (GERMAN VILLAGE AREA)
COLUMBUS OH 43206

Serving Christ &
Serving You:

Pastor

Rev. Wes Hromowyk

Please use Pastor's Cell phone
to contact him: do not leave a
message on his office phone.

Secretary

NEW Office Hours are:
Tuesday work from home
Wednesday & Thursday
9:00AM - 3:00PM

Please call the office
before stopping in, to
make sure someone is in
the office.

Office: (614) 444-3456

Email:
office@zionlcms.org

Website:
www.zionlcms.org

Zion Newsletter

January 2026

Churchmanship

The following is a paraphrase of many similar churchmanship stories I have heard over the years at Winkels and pastors conferences: *St. So-and-so Lutheran Church has been in existent for x-number of years, and has seen its membership go down in recent times, and that means so have the Offerings. We'll call the man in our story Simon (after Simon the Zealot!). Simon has been a member of St. So-and-so his entire life. He has an opinion about everything, but rarely speaks publicly until the annual Voters' Budget meeting. His voice carries a lot of weight. The mood at the meeting is tense. Discussion has gone back and forth about how much to spend and on what to spend it. Finally, everyone looks at Simon, waiting for his input. He gives a short, but punctual plea. He thinks the congregation should vote "no". Unlike the last 40-something meetings, however, this time the congregation votes, "YES!" Everyone including the pastor is concerned that this will cause Simon and his followers to leave the Church. But, to everyone's amazement, Simon does something no one saw coming. He raises his hand, and says, "The voters' have spoken. Now, let's get to work!"*

That's churchmanship; when a person whose ideas, views, or desires get "voted down" at a meeting but is the first in line to lead the charge anyways. Churchmanship is being the ultimate team player. Churchmanship is really hard to practice especially if you think your way is the best, most faithful way. Churchmanship is what every church needs.

Over the years, I have observed essentially two philosophies of stewardship at Zion. I am going to call the one the "careful steward" and the other the "generous steward." The names are pretty obvious. The "careful stewards" want to strategically plan for the future, using their sanctified reason and logic to ensure the congregation stays "open" for many decades to come. The "generous stewards", while not unconcerned about the future, have a more front lines approach to the mission facing the church *now*. They use their cheerful, generous spirit to help those in need in the moment, trusting that God will bless their current efforts and faithfully provide in the future.

It can appear as if these are two opposing sides. As a congregation, though, we vote together. We decide. We collectively pass the budget. There is no "they" when we talk about matters within Zion's walls. "They" is a straw-man. We are united as the Bride of Christ. We can have differing opinions and vote in different ways, but at the end of the day, we are on the same team. Our mission is unified.

My personal opinion is that the Church needs both philosophies, and for both to work together, because both have biblical principles behind them. The "careful steward" can cite the Parable of the Talents, where Jesus commends the stewards who were given two talents and five talents, having doubled their assets by investing them (see Mt 25:14-30). The "generous steward" can point to the example of the widow who gave the only two copper coins she had, whom Jesus commends for giving more than the rich did, who gave out of abundance, whereas she gave everything she had to live on (see Lk 21:1-4).

Churchmanship behooves us to listen to the cares and concerns of those who have differing opinions, and find a way to compromise. It makes swallowing a "lost vote" that much easier as well. We need to be cheerful in our giving, trusting the Lord to provide through increasingly generous hearts of the saints. We also need to be careful, wisely planning and investing for the future that only God knows. He ultimately opens and closes congregations. He also works through the means of the wisdom and generosity of His people. Let's be generous. Let's also be careful. Rarely in the church is something either/or. It's usually a both/and. Wisdom requires both.

In Christ,
Pastor Hromowyk

Worship Schedule

Thank you to our Altar Guild members serving for the month of JANUARY.



Sunday, January 4, 2026, 8:00 & 10:30 AM;
Setting 3 w/Holy Communion
Second Sunday after Christmas



Sermon: (Pastor Hromowyk)

Lessons:

Genesis 46:1-7; 1 Peter 4:12-19; Matthew 2:13-23

Hymns:

390 - "Let Us All with Gladsome Voice"

385 - "From East to West"

Distribution Hymns:

624 - "The Infant Priest was Holy Born"

372 - "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is"

370 - "What Child Is This"

360 - "All My Heart Again Rejoices"

384 - "Of The Father's Love Begotten"



We hope you'll join us for the Christmas program & potluck on January 4th at 4pm

All members of the congregation are invited to take part in this special service, and all are welcome to enjoy a time of food and fellowship afterwards. The potluck sign up sheet can be found in the fellowship hall.

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



*Wise Men Still
Seek Him!*

Epiphany Service

Wednesday, January 7, at 7:00 PM.

6:15 Private Confession & Absolution

7:00 Divine Service; Setting 3
with Holy Communion.

8:00 Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall



Sunday, January 11, 2026, 8:00 & 10:30 AM;
Setting 3; w/Holy Communion
Baptism of Our Lord

Sermon: (Vicar Mars)

Lessons:

Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 3:13-17

Hymns:

405 - "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"

407 - "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord"

Distribution Hymns:

596 - "All Christians Who Have Been Baptized"

467 - "Awake My Heart with Gladness"

601 - "All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

590 - "Baptized into Your Name Most Holy"

918 - "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"



Sunday, January 18, 2026, 8:00 & 10:30 AM;
Setting 3 w/ Holy Communion
Epiphany 2

Sermon: (Pastor Hromowyk)

Lessons:

Exodus 33:12-23, Ephesians 5:22-33; John 2:1-11

Hymns:

408 - "Come, Join in Cana's Feast"

402 - "The Only Son from Heaven"

Distribution Hymns:

633 - "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

859 - "Lord, When You Came as Welcome Guest"

394 - "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

704 - "Renew Me, O Eternal Light"

399 - "The Star Proclaims the King Is Here"



Sunday, January 25, 2026, 8:00 & 10:30 AM;
Setting 3 w/Holy Communion
Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sermon: (Pastor Hromowyk)

Lessons:

Exodus 34:29:35; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

Hymns:

414 - "Tis Good, Lord, To Be Here"

413 - "O Wonderous Type! O Vision Fair"

Distribution Hymns:

358 - "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" vv.1-7

633 - "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

537 - "Beautiful Savior"

358 - "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" vv.8-15

417 - "Alleluia, Song of Gladness"



Worship ATTENDANCE

Wednesday, November 26
Worship - 71

Sunday, November 30
Worship - 164
Holy Communion - 124
Sunday School - 77

Wednesday, December 3
Matins - 18 (Advent 1)
Evening Prayer - 71

Sunday, December 7
Worship - 175
Holy Communion - 140
Sunday School - 111

Wednesday, December 10
Matins - 25 (Advent 2)
Evening Prayer - 58

Sunday, December 14
Worship - 148
Holy Communion - 99
Sunday School - 79

Wednesday, December 17
Matins - 28 (Advent 3)
Evening Prayer - 88

Sunday, December 21
Worship - 209
Holy Communion - 173
Sunday School - 94

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24
4:00 Worship - 116
6:00 Worship - 99

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25
Worship - 164
Holy Communion - 122

- ♥ Those sick and suffering;
- ♥ Those Who have lost loved ones;
- ♥ Those serving in the military;
- ♥ Our shut ins;
- ♥ Expectant Parents;
- ♥ Parents of newborn babies;



If you would like to submit a prayer request:
Contact the church office via e-mail
at office@zionlcms.org or phone at (614)444-3456.

**Please offer prayers for both the expectant parents and their babies.*

**Please use this prayer list in your daily prayers.*

Sunday School Classes

In assigned classrooms 9:30 AM for children ages three through high school, every Sunday.

Adult Bible Class

In the Fellowship Hall; 9:30 A5

Sundays, January 4, 11, 18 & 25

Beverage and Pastry Note:

The Board of Parish Activities provides Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Ice Water and Doughnuts during the Adult Bible Class, in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Please join us each Sunday morning.



Sunday School Mission Offerings

The First Quarter Mission Offerings are going to:

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

If you have to miss the Sunday service, please watch the recorded service on Zion's YouTube channel at
[Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Columbus Ohio - YouTube](#)



The First Wednesday Service, beginning at 7:00 PM, will be Divine Setting Three, with Holy Communion. The remaining Wednesdays, will be Compline, beginning at 7:00 PM. Private Confession & Absolution are available from 6:15-6:45 PM in Pastor Hromowyk's Office all Wednesdays unless otherwise noted. There is a Bible Study following the Services, in the Family Room.

LCMS-U Bible study meets Mondays, at 6:00PM at OSU

All who attend OSU or surrounding universities are welcome to join. Plan to meet at the Cresco Room in Houston House for Bible study and fellowship. Please contact **Vicar Mars** with any questions.



Cell Phone 308-241-1614 • E-mail Nathaniel.mars@ctsfw.edu
Keep an eye out for planned activities and meals!



These are email addresses for the different officers and committees at Zion. If you need to reach them, send them an email and it will be forwarded to each member of that group.

- elders@zionlcms.org
- lcmsu@zionlcms.org
- evangelism@zionlcms.org
- pastorh@zionlcms.org
- stewardship@zionlcms.org
- treas@zionlcms.org
- trustees@zionlcms.org
- sssuper@zionlcms.org
- activities@zionlcms.org
- churchofficers@zionlcms.org
- education@zionlcms.org



Please consider serving those less fortunate by giving a few hours of your time.

LSS Food Pantry
1460 South Champion Ave.
Columbus, OH 43206

Volunteer Parking is located in the lot on Frebis across from the pantry. Please enter through the door marked "Volunteers enter here" located on Frebis Ave.

POINSETTIAS

Our sincere thanks to all who donated poinsettias to grace our chancel for Christmas.



Our sincere thanks to Graulich Funeral Home, for the 2026 calendars. They are available on the tables around the church. Please feel free to take one home!



Now Available Outside the Church Office on the Bulletin Board...

2026 Flower Chart



The price is \$36 for both vases or \$18 for one vase. You will receive an envelope in your church mailbox marked with your name, the amount due and the date the flowers will be on the altar. Please use the envelope to make your payment and place it in the offering plate. Thank You!

There are numerous people who help with all of the Christmas activities each year! Many thanks to all who decorated the church and cleaned up outside of the church building for Christmas, to those who participated in the German Village and Shut-in caroling, to all those who provided food for, served and cleaned up after the soup suppers, to those who led and participated in the Childrens' Christmas Program, to the members of the Altar Guild for their extra time preparing for all the Worship Services, to the pianists, to the instrumentalists, to the soloists, to our organists, to the handbell ensemble, Cantores Domini and their director, to Pastor & Vicar and our staff here at Zion.



Additionally, the music director wishes to thank all the musicians, Cantores Domini and the Handbell Ensemble for their continued dedicated work this fall and Advent, in preparations for the music offered this season. Thanks be to God.



DONUT SQUAD MEMBERS NEEDED!

DONUT SIGN-UPS: The sign-up sheet for picking up donuts for the next 6 months is on the table in the kitchen area. Please consider helping out by putting your name in the date area. Sign up for 1 week or several! The donuts are boxed up, paid for and ready to go by 7am. Whenever you pick them up, just be sure to bring them to the kitchen area no later than 9am. Thanks for your help!

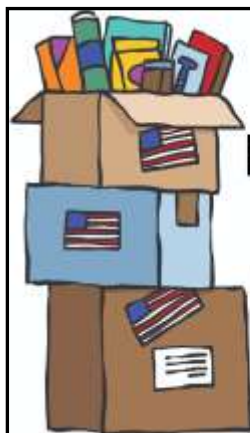
CHILDREN'S ★ CHRISTMAS ★ PROGRAM

Saturday, January 4,
Childrens' Christmas Program at 4PM
Followed by a Potluck

Come, Join the Fun!
Sign up to bring your
favorite foods to share
at the Potluck
following the program.
SEE YOU THERE!!!



Please join
the members of the
Board of Parish Activities
as they **Undecorate
the Church** on
**Saturday, January
10th, at 9:00 AM.**
Your help would be
greatly appreciated!



Care Packages for the Military & College Students

From the Board of Evangelism: Plans are being made to gather donations from January 11 - February 15, 2026 and send "We Care" packages to our college students and members serving in the military. Members of Zion are asked to donate requested items. Early in January a sign with tear-off tabs will be posted on a carton, found in the narthex by the front doors and marked "For Military & College Students". Items may be placed there. Thank you for helping us with this undertaking.

thank you

CAN TABS FOR GOOD

to all of you who are collecting pull tabs from cans. The collected tabs were given to Ronald McDonald House Charities. A thank you for the donation was sent from Ronald McDonald House Charities to Zion. Let's keep collecting the tabs. A container for the tabs is on a table in Fellowship Hall. The money Ronald McDonald House Charities obtains from the tabs, helps pay the electric bills for the House. This is an easy way to help the families of children who are staying at the Ronald McDonald House while their children are being treated at Children's Hospital.





LIFE SUNDAY 2026 – We will be celebrating Life Sunday on **Sunday, January 11**, the Baptism of our Lord. As part of Life Sunday, we will be recognizing all those baptized during 2025 at the opening of the Bible Study hour.

LIFE Banners – Look for our new LIFE banners that will be hung outside the front of the church for Life Sunday and the remainder of January.

Meal Train Thank You – The Life Team would like to thank all those who participated, in one way or another, in the Meal Train for the Houck's. It was very much appreciated!

Life Team Bulletin Board – Please take a moment to check out the Life Team bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for helpful information and resources.

NO Life Team meeting in January.

Life Thoughts – January 11 (Baptism of our Lord) – Jesus was baptized to “fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15), that all whom God created and gave breath to (Isaiah 42:5) might be baptized into His death and resurrection and have everlasting life (Romans 6:4-5). Living in that new life in Christ and dying to sin (Romans 6:7-8) means that we are to cherish all life the way God does, caring about our neighbor's physical life and wellbeing, as well as their everlasting life in Christ.



**ZION is HOSTING the
LWML CENTRAL ZONE
WINTER RETREAT
on JANUARY 24, 2026**

**All members of Zion
are welcome to attend.**

Speakers will be our own Vicar Nathaniel Mars and Hannah Mars, who will present on Ft. Wayne Seminary Life. (See Posters for more info.) Pastor will hold Bible Study.

Shut-In Christmas Caroling—2025

There were 26 carolers who visited 4 of our shut-ins to sing Christmas Hymns/Carols this year. This is such a wonderful service that we do every year and it was once again enjoyed by not only the shut-ins, but all of the carolers as well. It began snowing at our last stop just as we finished singing the last verse of "Silent Night!!"



Your 2026 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up downstairs and to the left, on a table near the preschool classroom.



Thank you for picking them up promptly!

*Happy
New Year!*

... look, new things
have come into being!
2 Corinthians 5:17, NRSV

BOARD OF PARISH ACTIVITIES—UPCOMING EVENTS



Family Bingo Game Night with Prizes!

Friday, January 30, 2026,
6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a Snack to Share; Drinks Provided
by Board of Parish Activities.

Come, Join the Fun!!!



Save the Date for.....
TRIVIA Night.....
You Don't Want to Miss Out!!!



Looking to have a fun evening of fellowship with other Zion members? Please plan to join our Trivia Emcees for an evening of trivia. This is a fun night for everyone; young and old, singles, couples, or families are all invited to

Trivia Night on Friday, February 20th, 2026, at 6:00 PM, in the Fellowship Hall.



Soup Suppers

Lent Soup Suppers –

Wednesdays, February 25th,

March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th, 2026

6:00-6:45 PM, in the Fellowship Hall

Hear "The Lutheran Hour" on Sundays at various stations and times.

Station	City	Freq	Band	Day	Time
WHKW	Cleveland	1220	AM	Sun.	8:00 AM
WLW	Cincinnati	700	AM	Sun.	7:00 AM
WTAM	Cleveland	1100	AM	Sun.	6:30 AM
WFCO	Lancaster	90.9	FM	Sun.	8:30 <u>PM</u>
WHIZ	Zanesville	102.5	FM	Sun.	8:00 AM
WHIZ	Zanesville	1240	AM	Sun.	8:00 AM



Website at www.lhm.org. The broadcast is also podcast. For more information go to <http://www.lhm.org/podcasts>

Sunday, January 4 - "Knowing and Being Known in a New Year" (John 17:3)

Sunday, January 11 - "Solidarity" (Romans 6:5)

Sunday, January 18 - TBD

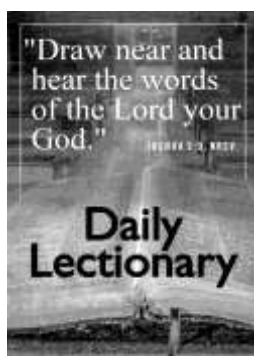
Sunday, January 25 - "Cross Words--Words of Power" (1 Corinthians 1:17-18)

Together in God's Word:

Listed below are an Old Testament and a New Testament reading for each day of the week, for the month of

JANUARY

Join with your family of faith in this daily time with God.



EPIPHANY 2

- 19 Jan. Ezekiel 40:1-4 & 43:1-12; Romans 8:18-39
- 20 Jan. Ezekiel 44:1-16 & 23-29; Romans 9:1-18
- 21 Jan. Ezekiel 47:1-14 & 21-23; Romans 9:19-33
- 22 Jan. Joel 1:1-20; Romans 10:1-21
- 23 Jan. Joel 2:1-17; Romans 11:1-24
- 24 Jan. Joel 2:18-32; Romans 11:25--12:13
- 25 Jan. Joel 3:1-21; Romans 12:14--13:14
- 26 Jan. Zech. 1:1-21; Romans 14:1-23
- 27 Jan. Zech. 2:1--3:10; Romans 15:1-13
- 28 Jan. Zech. 4:1--5:11; Romans 15:14-33
- 29 Jan. Zech. 6:1--7:14; Romans 16:17-27
- 30 Jan. Zech. 8:1-23; 2 Timothy 1:1-18
- 31 Jan. Zech. 9:1-17; 2 Timothy 2:1-26

EPIPHANY 3

- 01 Jan. Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:57-80
- 02 Jan. Isaiah 62:1-12; Luke 2:1-20
- 03 Jan. Isaiah 63:1-14; Luke 2:21-40
- CHRISTMAS 1** Isaiah 63:15--65:7; Luke 2:41-52
- 05 Jan. Isaiah 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20
- EPIPHANY** Isaiah 66:1--20; Luke 3:21-38
- 07 Jan. Ezekiel 1:1-14 & 22-28; Romans 1:1-17
- 08 Jan. Ezekiel 2:1--3:11; Romans 1:18-32
- 09 Jan. Ezekiel 3:12-27; Romans 2:1-16
- 10 Jan. Ezekiel 18:1-4 & 19-32; Romans 2:17-29
- BAPTISM of JESUS** Ezekiel 33:1-20; Romans 3:1-18
- 12 Jan. Ezekiel 34:1-24; Romans 3:19-31
- 13 Jan. Ezekiel 36:13-28; Romans 4:1-25
- 14 Jan. Ezekiel 36:33--37:14; Romans 5:1-21
- 15 Jan. Ezekiel 37:15-28; Romans 6:1-23
- 16 Jan. Ezekiel 38:1-23; Romans 7:1-20
- 17 Jan. Ezekiel 39:1-10 & 17-29; Romans 7:21--8:17



Content from Lutheran Service Book: Altar Book copyright © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. All rights reserved.



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR

January 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6</p> <p>4 Second Sunday After Christmas 8:00 & 10:30 Worship; Setting 3 with Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 12:30-2:00 Catechism Class 4:00 Christmas Program / Potluck</p>	<p>Look at the BIRDS of the air; they neither SOW nor REAP; ... your heavenly FATHER feeds them. Are YOU not of more value than they?</p> <p>5 The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. Ezekiel 15:2, NV</p> <p>6:00 LCMS-U @ OSU Cresco Room in the Houston House NO Life Team Meeting</p>	<p>6 Epiphany of Our Lord</p> <p>6:30 Elders</p>	<p>6:15 Private Confession & Absolution/Pastor's Office 7:00 Epiphany Divine Service Setting 3 w/ Holy Communion 8:00 Bible Study; Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>1...New Years Day 9:30-11:30 Donation Room</p>	<p>2 Circumcision and Naming of Jesus Staff Day Off</p>	<p>3 </p>
<p>11 Baptism of Our Lord LIFE SUNDAY 8:00 & 10:30 Worship; Setting 3 with Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 12:15 LCMS-U Meal 12:30-2:00 Catechism Class "WE CARE" Package Collection Starts</p>	<p>12 6:00 LCMS-U @ OSU Cresco Room in the Houston House NO Life Team Meeting</p>	<p>13 6:30 Elders</p>	<p>14 6:15 Private Confession & Absolution/Pastor's Office 7:00 Compline Service 7:45 Bible Study; Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>15 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal 7:30 Cantores Domini Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 LCMS-U Board Game Night Staff Day Off</p>	<p>17 </p>
<p>18 Second Sunday After 8:00 & 10:30 Worship; Setting 3 with Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 12:30-2:00 Catechism Class</p>	<p>19 6:00 LCMS-U @ OSU Cresco Room in the Houston House</p>	<p>20 6:30 All Boards Meeting 8:00 Parish Planning Meeting</p>	<p>21 6:15 Private Confession & Absolution/Pastor's Office 7:00 Compline Service 7:45 Bible Study; Fellowship Hall 12:30-4:00 Zion Food Pantry Day FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p>22 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal 7:30 Cantores Domini Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 Staff Day Off</p>	<p>24 9:30-3:00 LWML Central Zone Winter Retreat at Zion</p>
<p>25 Third Sunday After Epiphany 8:00 & 10:30 Worship; Setting 3 with Holy Communion 9:30 Sunday School / Adult Bible Class 12:30-2:00 Catechism Class</p>	<p>26 6:00 LCMS-U @ OSU Cresco Room in the Houston House</p>	<p>27 </p>	<p>28 6:15 Private Confession & Absolution/Pastor's Office 7:00 Compline Service 7:45 Bible Study; Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>29 6:30 Handbell Rehearsal 7:30 Cantores Domini Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 Staff Day Off 6:30 Family Bingo Night</p>	<p>31 LCMS-U - The Fellowship of the Ring </p>

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD
766 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43206
"German Village" Area
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

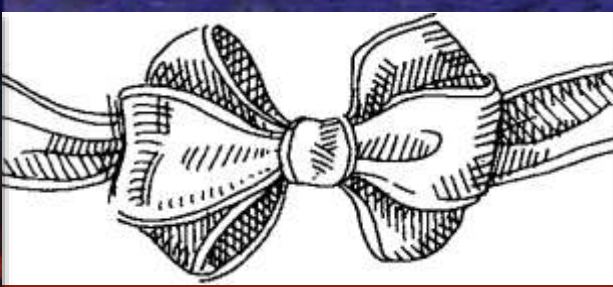


Sunday, Jan. 4

4:00 PM Childrens' Christmas Program
Potluck to follow in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Jan. 7

6:15 Private Confession & Absolution; Pastor's Office
7:00 PM Epiphany Divine Service w/ Holy Communion;
8:00 PM Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall



MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU!