

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Leisure World and St. Theodore of Canterbury Episcopal Church

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Happy Birthday November Birthdays

Doris Weinert	November	1
Barry Thomsen	November	2
Christina Paek	November	3
Cathy Boufford	November	4
Ernie Dinkel	November	14
Gloria Curry	November	22
Jessica Keene	November	28
Lorna Miller-Kaplan	November	29
Mike Vanvales	November	29

November Anniversary

Mickey and Carol Costello November 19

Emergency Pastoral Care: Whenever you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please call the office and leave a message (562) 598-8697 or contact Interim Pastor Finck at (714) 345-2791.

CALENDAR NOTES

Sundays

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service

Wednesdays

12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study

NOVEMBER

November 2: All Saints Sunday

November 4: Vote

November 5: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

November 9: Congregational Annual

Meeting Part 1

November 12: 12:00 Noon Bible Study

12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours

1:30 p.m. Council Meeting

November 13: Holiday Bazaar

November 14: Holiday Bazaar

November 19: OFFICE CLOSED

No Pastor

No Secretary / No Office Hours

November 23: Christ the King Sunday

Rev. Brad Stienstra Presiding

November 24: Newsletter Articles Due

November 26: 12:00 Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Office Hours

November 27: Thanksgiving Day

November 30: First Sunday of Advent

Birthdays Celebrated at Fellowship

Message from the Interim Pastor:

November 2025

Saint Paul wrote: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"

2 Corinthians 9:7

Christian stewardship is a calling from God to faithfully manage all that God entrusts to us—our time, talents, resources, relationships, and the environment. Biblical stewardship begins with the understanding that everything we have belongs to God. We humans are not owners of all that God has made. We are caretakers. In the opening pages of the Book of Genesis, after God created the world, God then appointed humanity to be the "stewards" of God's creation. That stewardship was then and still is today an act of worship and gratitude as we acknowledge God's sovereignty over all that exist. As we believe that God's generosity has blessed us with everything in creation and then given us the privilege to faithfully manage those blessings, we are filled with thanksgiving and gratitude.

Stewardship is not a single activity of giving. It is more a lifestyle, involving daily decisions how we use our time, our energy, our possessions, and our financial resources. People of faith are able to view every aspect of our lives—our work, our family, our church, and our leisure—as opportunities to honor God through responsible management of all we have. We also have the privilege of giving generously in ways that reflect the abundance of God's love for us.

Biblical stewardship is rooted in trust. Believing that God gave us all that we are and have, believing that God gave us even God's own Son, knowing Jesus then gave his life for us, our response is worship and thanksgiving. We respond to God's grace, not as a duty performed out of obligation or fear. We worship God because we love God and are so very thankful. We sing, we pray, we gather as a Christian community, we put our offerings in the plate, not because we are trying to "pay God back," but because we love the One who has loved us so much more and has been so good to us.

Our Christian stewardship then flows from hearts transformed by God's love. Filled with thanksgiving to God, the people of God have been led to generous sharing with others—especially caring for those in need. Jesus said, "just as you have cared for the least of these, your sisters and brothers, you have cared for me." (Matthew 25) Biblical scholars tell us that one-sixth of the passages of the Bible address our calling to be good stewards of all that we have received from God.

By living as faithful stewards, by giving back to God a portion of what God has given to us, we Christians participate in God's mission to love the world, we support the work and ministry of the church and congregation, we care for creation, we help to feed and shelter the hungry, the homeless, the poor, and we reflect Christ's love to our neighbors, our family, our friends, and the world.

Filled with thanksgiving and gratitude,

*+Pastor Murray D. Finck*The Rev Murray D. Finck, Bishop Emeritus

Message from Our President...

Dear Members and Friends,

On October 19, Pastor Murray and I were honored to speak at the Sa-Rang Church's Open House during their worship service. Their congregation expressed heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to hold worship in our beautiful church. We, in turn, are thankful to have them as part of our community.

Our Congregational Meeting is scheduled for November 9 immediately following our Service. Fellowship will follow after the meeting. Please plan to attend this important meeting. We will have handouts at the meeting that fully explains each issue. The meeting will cover the following items.

- *At this meeting, we will be presenting the Proposed 2026 Budget, which is recommended by your Church Council, for your approval.
- *As membership in our churches has declined, most are having trouble being compliant with their By-laws. The Synod will be looking at this issue. In the meantime, in order to be compliant, we are asking for several motions which have been passed by the Council and need to have your approval.
- *We use an insurance company which the Synod recommends. We recently had an inspection by this company, and had several issues that need to be addressed in the next month. The Council passed a motion to approve these upgrades, and we need your approval.
- *We are so very thankful that we have not only met our BTBTB goal, but exceeded it. Since we have these required improvements, the Council voted to change the excess raised to be changed from designated to our operating budget to help defray these unexpected expenses.

Our janitorial service has been changed to every week on Saturday. The Sa-Rang Church has offered to split the cost with us. If you see anything that isn't clean, please be sure to let us know. Thank you to Sylvia Makus and Wendy Alfageme for their dedication to ensuring our Church is at its best.

Our Fall Bazaar is November 13 and 14. The committee has been working diligently to provide beautiful items for Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are also outside artists that will be participating. Pastor Murray will have several tables with memorabilia from his many trips around the world, which has always been very popular. Lunch, desserts and drinks will be available to purchase. Many thanks to all of the members of this committee, and Chairman, Carmen Leslie.

Our Operation Christmas Child operated by Samaritan's Purse has been very successful with over 50 boxes passed out to be filled. Please remember to return your boxes by November 13-17, so they can be delivered to the center for shipping by. Christmas to over 100 countries. Your generosity is so appreciated by all of these children. Thank you to Susan Avila, Chairman, and Wendy Alfageme who suggested the project.

As we agreed in the Blessed To Be Twice Blessed fundraiser, we would tithe 10% of the funds raised to our community, and we will be presenting a check on November 16 at our church service to Nick Maseti. who founded the non-profit Leisure World Cares Program that is helping residents who are experiencing financial hardship.

The collection of eyeglasses and eyeglass cases for the WELCA project has been very successful too. Our contributions will be picked up this month. Thank you to Karen Ford, our WELCA representative, for bringing this to our attention.

Our Advent Season begins on Sunday, November 30. We will again be offering our Advent

Suppers starting Wednesdays, December 3,10, and 17 at 3:00 pm. We are so fortunate to have Pastor Murray leading us in a time of study and worship each week. Following, we will share a meal and fellowship together. A signup sheet is available for those who would like to provide a

dish or dessert to serve about 30 people, or to help with setup or cleanup. We look forward to sharing this meaningful season of preparation and joy with you.

Our Christmas Eve Brunch following our service last year was such a special time of fellowship that we will be offering it again this year! A signup sheet is available for those who would like to bring a dish or help with setup and cleanup. We look forward to celebrating this joyful occasion together.

There is also a signup sheet for poinsettias, which will adorn our altar on December 14, 21 and 24. Cost will be available as we get closer to the Christmas Season. You may take your plant after the Christmas Eve Service.

Take a moment to visit our Memorial Cross Wall, which is filling up with crosses and plaques. If you would like to remember your loved one in this permanent way, there is a form available in the back of the Sanctuary.

As we enter our Thanksgiving season, I am so deeply grateful for each of you and for the many ways God's love is shared in our church family.

God's Blessings,

Kay Pushman

Council President



Blessed To Be Two Blessings — (B2B2B)

We have surpassed our Fund-Raising Appeal Goal of \$15,000 with many thanks to our very generous congregation and friends. We are applying this overage, and any further gifts, to lower our need for the \$12,500 loan amount offered from the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. It will also be a blessing to donate additional funds to the Leisure World Cares Fund. We thank everyone who has contributed to this special campaign. We should be enjoying the heating and cooling of our building for years to come.

B2B2B CAMPAIGN DONORS

We are grateful to our members and friends who have given to our:

"Blessed To Be Two Blessings — (B2B2B)" Campaign

Gloria Curry Barbara Long Donna Michelson Kathy Strople Ellen Larsen Sharon Heck

Shirlene Bradrick Susan Avila Juanita Townsend

Hiroko Minei Donna Cho Delbert and Lisa Nunley Christa Diesslin Linda Peters (in honor of Gil and

Dale Diesslin Nancy Anderson Lavona Moore)

Rod Sciborski Rev. Murray and Rhoda The Trust of Gilbert C.
Julia Watson Finck Moore and Lavona B.

Darleen Gardner Marianne Goldberg Moore

Annie Williquer Sylvia Mackus John Robinson and Betty

Ann Tegtmeier Kay Pushman Lucero

Mickey and CarolEmil MiorelliSandra LangdaleCostelloBarbara SchuylerRay FriedrichsenErnie DinkelWendy AlfagemeNancy LuebbenAlma ZamzowDoris WeinertSusan Sinner

Dale Diesslin Catherine Boufford Bruce Young
Emiko Uchiyama Christina Paek

Advent Wreath Prayers

First Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting the first candle.

- L Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.
- C Amen.

Second Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting two candles.

- Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again. You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit's fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth.
- C Amen.

Third Sunday of Advent

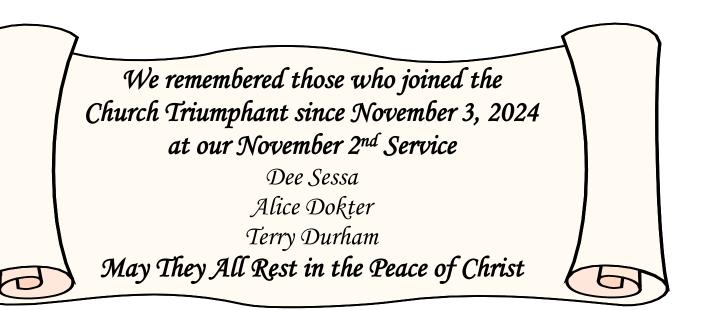
Use this blessing when lighting three candles.

- L Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.
- C Amen.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting all four candles.

- Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.
- C Amen.





<u> Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 1</u>

We will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 1 on Sunday, November 9, 2025 right after our Sunday Service. The budget for 2026 will be presented and members for the Church Council will be presented. Both of these items will need to be voted on by the congregation. There are By-Laws that need to be decided on. There is also need for approval on funding necessary projects. Please plan to attend this important meeting! Part 2 of the Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in February of 2026.

Holiday Bazaar

The Fellowship Hall will once again be turned into a *Holiday Bazaar* on Thursday, November 13 and Friday, November 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Join us for fun, food, fellowship, and a bit of holiday shopping! The committee has been working diligently to provide beautiful items for Thanksgiving and Christmas. There are also outside artists that will be participating. Pastor Murray will have several tables with memorabilia from his many trips around the world, which has always been very popular. Lunch, desserts and drinks will be available to purchase. For more information, please contact Carmen Leslie at (562) 430-6950.

Operation Christmas Child

If you haven't picked up a box, NOW is the time! We are asking members to pick up a box, and fill it with one larger "WOW" toy, school and personal care items which will be sent to 170 countries around the world. You can pick a boy or girl and an age range of 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Think ahead, and on your trips to Dollar Tree, start collecting items. Some items **not allowed** are soap, toothpaste, lotion, bubbles or food of any kind. They also ask for \$10 to cover shipping costs. The boxes will need to be turned in **no later than November 17**.

Bible Study

The Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall to continue the study of the **Women of the Bible** focusing on the **New Testament**. We are hoping to finish this study on November 12. There will be **NO CLASS** on November 19 or 26. We will have special gatherings for the Advent Season. In the new year it will be determined how we continue. As always, you are invited to bring your lunch. There are drinks available and usually some baked goods for a small dessert. Please attend, bring friends or neighbors, and your Bible! Come and see what is happening next! The Rev. Murray Finck will be leading the discussion. This is a great way to meet members and friends and to share an understanding of our faith and the Holy Scriptures.

Special Christmas Gift

Would you like to contribute to a monetary Christmas gift for The Rev. Finck as a thank you for all the work he has done for our congregation during this year? If you would, please give your gift in an envelope with Bishop Finck's name on it by December 21. You can put it in the offering plate, give it directly to Kay Pushman, or drop it in Kay Pushman's mail slot. Kay Pushman lives at 13560 Saint Andrews Drive 3C; just 4 doors down from the church. If you wish to write a check, please make it out to Kay Pushman or The Rev. Finck directly (do not make it out to the church). I know The Rev. Finck will be so happy to know the members are thinking of him. Thank you. Kay Pushman

Outside Memorial Cross Wall

It was decided to turn one wall of the Outside Cross Chapel into a Cross Memorial Wall. We are opening this up to our membership if they would like to include a loved one on this wall. Because we do want to keep it somewhat uniform, the Church will order the plaques but you will have options for the symbol on it of a Lutheran Rose, an Episcopal Flag (like the one on the bench for Betty Hobbs in the Cross Chapel), a simple Cross, or no symbol at all. We also have appropriate options for a cross to be hung if you do not want to go through finding and ordering your own. The suggested donation if you provide the cross is a minimum of \$150.00 or if the Church also provides the cross the suggested donation is \$200.00. The Church will place the cross and plaque on the wall. If you would like more information about this project, please feel free to speak to the Council President, Kay Pushman.

Free Dollar Donations

We work with Ralph's to be one of their choices for their community giving program. If you shop at Ralph's, even just occasionally, we would like to invite you to participate in this free program to help the church financially. There are flyers on the bulletin board on how to sign up for this program and there are members willing to help you to sign-up, if you need it. You can speak to Kay Pushman if you want more information on this no cost to you program. There is also Thrivent Choice Dollars that Redeemer Lutheran can be designated to receive if you bank with Thrivent. We thank all who have participated in these programs and have designated Redeemer as their charity of choice.



FINANCE REPORT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH ST. THEODORE OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ACTUAL INCOME & EXPENSES SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

<u>Income</u>	One Month	Year to Date			
Current Offering	\$6,235.00	\$71,980.06			
Fundraiser-Boutique	\$1.00	\$307.25			
Fundraiser-Bake Sale	\$0.00	\$40.00			
Fundraiser-Bazaar	\$0.00	\$2,518.55			
Fundraiser-Ralphs	\$0.00	\$66.48			
Memorial	\$0.00	\$2,500.00			
Memorial Wall	\$0.00*	\$953.85*			
Sa-Rang Church Donation	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00			
Total Operating Income	\$8,236.00	\$80,366.19			
* Memorial Wall Net (Income less Expenses)					
Total Operating Income	\$8,236.00	\$80,366.19			
Total Expenses	\$8,630.73	\$84,362.28			
Gain/(Loss)	(\$394.73)	(\$3,996.09)			
	(Exceed Income)	(Exceed Income)			

YEAR TO DATE BUDGET INCOME & EXPENSES SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Budget	\$80,928.00	\$80,928.00
Actual	\$80,366.19	\$84,362.28
Gain/(Loss)	(\$561.81)	(\$3,434.28)
	(Less than Budget)	(More than Budget)

OTHER INCOME & EXPENSES

	<u>Income</u>	Expenses	
Disaster Relief	\$550.00	\$550.00	(In & Out)
World Hunger	\$300.00	\$300.00	(In & Out)
HVAC		\$1,000.00	
Grant: Pacifica Synod ELCA	\$25,000.00		
Grant: Episcopal Diocese of LA	\$12,500.00		
HVAC Fundraising - B2B2B	\$36,210.00		

Respectfully Submitted

Doris Weinert Finance Chair

CYCLE C – Year of Luke ALL SAINTS SUNDAY THROUGH CYCLE A – Year of Matthew THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 2, 2025 — All Saints Sunday

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23

Luke 6:20-31

November 2, 2025 — Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 1:10-18

Psalm 32:1-7

2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

Luke 19:1-10

November 9 — Twenty-second Sunday

after Pentecost Job 19:23-27a

Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Luke 20:27-38

November 16, 2025 — Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Malachi 4:1-2a

Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Luke 21:5-19

November 23, 2025 — Christ the King Sunday / Last Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

November 27, 2025 — Thanksgiving Day

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 100

Philippians 4:4-9

John 6:25-35

November 30, 2025 — First Sunday of

Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14

Matthew 24:36-44

December 7, 2025 — Second Sunday of

Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

December 14, 2025 — Third Sunday of

Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:5-10

or Luke 1:46b-55

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

December 21, 2025 — Fourth Sunday of

Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

Worship and Discipleship by Margo Geesing "Jesus Calls Us to Love Radically"

November 2, 2025 — *All Saints Sunday* The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 6 verses 20-31

The first Sunday of November we celebrate All Saint's Sunday. We remember those who went before us to the Church Triumphant. The Gospel for this day calls us to a radical love. It starts with a shorter version of the Beatitudes but includes a warning to those who do not live out Jesus's love. He again states that following him, living in his radical love, will not give you an easy life and will probably make you a few enemies. His call to love requires more. He calls us to love our enemies, do good for those who hate or curse or abuse you. In fact, he calls us to PRAY FOR these people. My first reaction to this idea was, he's crazy! I'm not going to be anyone's doormat. I'm going to stand up for myself, hit back harder, hit back faster, teach that person a lesson. But, if you really think about it, Jesus is asking no more than what he did. He did exactly that on the cross. He prayed for those who were killing him, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." He ends this lesson with, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." Actually, he is call us to do MORE than we would ever expect another to do for us. The challenge with Jesus is to really live in his radical love for others even at the expense of ourselves. To go beyond societal or even earthly norms to reach the heavenly norms.

November 9 — Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 20 verses 27-38

Jesus responds to a question from the Sadducees about resurrection and marriage. Jesus emphasizes that in the resurrection, people will not marry but will be like angels, highlighting the transformative nature of eternal life. Our life will no longer be focused on the physical being but on the spiritual life in connection and in the presence of God, Himself. He uses Scripture to reaffirm the reality of resurrection, stating that God is the God of the living, not the dead, thus reinforcing the faith in life after death. This passage emphasizes the reality of the resurrection and eternal life, challenging misconceptions about life after death. Jesus' teachings encourage believers to focus on their relationship with God rather than earthly concerns.

November 16, 2025 — Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 21 verses 5-19

The third Sunday continues with the theme of focusing on our relationship with God. This Gospel lesson is full of all the bad things in life: war, famine, pain, suffering, persecution, plagues, and natural disasters that we have experienced throughout history and are currently going through. Practically every generation see their own time as these end times, but we seem to endure. Jesus calls us to trust. Not that we will survive, or prosper, or get even, or anything that seems equitable but that our souls will endure. It is the promise of heaven. It is the promise to be with God. It is really the goal of our lives here. It is the fulfillment of our trust in him. It is the greatest gift.

November 23, 2025 — Christ the King Sunday / Last Sunday after Pentecost The Gospel Lesson is from Luke chapter 23 verses 33-43

The fourth Sunday we celebrate Christ the King Sunday. One would think with a title like that, the Gospel lesson would be about Jesus' power and strength and Godhood. Rather, the Gospel brings us back to that first Sunday's lesson in radical love. Jesus is on the cross. He is dying. Is he saving himself, nope. Is he cursing those who are killing him, nope. Is he praying for those who are killing him, yes. Is he continuing in his work of saving people, yes. Is he forgiving people, yes. See, Jesus asks no more of us than what he does himself. He understands humanity in all its frailty, hopes, dreams and endurance because he was human. Our God came and walked the earth as a fully human being to show us the way back to the Father. His life and death were about sharing the radical love God has for us. It was about trust, obedience, prayer, forgiveness, caring, sharing, pain, and suffering; it is divine love.

November 30, 2025 — First Sunday of Advent The Gospel Lesson is from Matthew chapter 24 verses 36-44

The last Sunday of November is the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new Church Year. This Church Year we will be reading from the Gospel of Matthew. This Sunday, Jesus speaks of the end times and the suddenness of His return. Even Jesus does not know when that will be, only the Father knows. Therefore, Jesus warns us to be busy with building God's kingdom! We must stay awake! We must be ready! Jesus admonishes us to stay vigilant. To be prepared. To be ready. We do not know our own "end time" therefore we must be ready always.

Our month began with remembering those who have joined the Church Triumphant and we are ending with our own readiness to join them and Jesus. We are guided to focus on our relationship with God, rather than being worried about earthly things. The ending of the Church Year with Christ the King is a reminder that Jesus is King of heaven and earth. He triumphs over everything, even death. Advent is not just about remembering that Jesus came as a baby to save humanity and guide us to the Father but also a time of reminder that Jesus will be returning. He is not returning as a baby this time but as the Son of God with all the Saints and the Hosts of Heaven to gather his own to himself. We need to be prepared for that time. We need to live the radical love of Jesus.

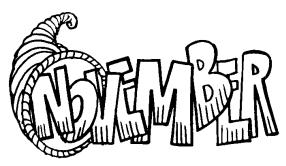
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Interim Pastor: Bishop Murray Finck, Bishop Emeritus



2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 10:30 Holy Communion Service	3	4 Election Day Do not forget to vote!	5 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study	6	7	8
9 10:30 Holy Communion Service Congregational Annual Meeting Part 1	10	11	12 10:30 a.m. – Council Meeting 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours 12:00 Noon to 1:15 p.m. Bible Study [last Women of the Bible class]	HOLIDAY BAZAAR 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.	HOLIDAY BAZAAR 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:30 Holy Communion Service	Pastor is gone Secretary is gone until the 21st.		NO OFFICE HOURS NO BIBLE STUDY			
CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 10:30 Holy Communion Presiding: The Rev. Brad Stienstra	Newsletter Articles Due for December	25	26 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Office Hours NO Bible Class	THANKSGIVING DAY	28	Pastor returns
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:30 Holy Communion Service Birthdays Celebrated						