

## Growing Together

# December 2023

### Cross Lutheran Church & School

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### Our mission:

**Bring people to  
Christ.**

**Teach Christians  
to be disciples.**

**Send disciples to  
reach the world.**



### Inside this issue:

Preparing for Worship	2
Celebrate	3
School News	4
Memorials	5
Council Minutes	6
Financial	10
Calendar	11

## Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas Eve) — December 24, 2023

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”  
Isaiah 9:6 –*

Jesus of Nazareth was born in the most humble of circumstances. Caesar Augustus, the ruler of the Roman Empire, ordered a census to be taken. His father Joseph was from the line of David, but many generations separated him from any throne. Instead, Joseph was a simple carpenter from a small town. Mary, his wife, was a young girl, pregnant in extraordinary circumstances. She was well into her pregnancy when they had to travel to Bethlehem to register. The journey was long and over harsh wilderness. It was dangerous and exhausting for someone in excellent health, but it must have been difficult at best for the pregnant mother. Most of the miles traveled were done on foot with only a donkey to carry supplies.

When the couple arrived in Bethlehem, they found the town crowded with others who had traveled to register, others who belonged to the house of David. There was nowhere for Mary to rest. She was feeling the early pains of childbirth as they searched for a place to stay. At last an innkeeper had mercy and allowed them to bed with the animals. There, among the smells and noises of the beasts, Mary gave birth to her son. Joseph served as the midwife, a feeding trough was the cradle. The first visitors to this humble scene were shepherds, the lowest of the low in that society. These were humble beginnings for any child, but this Jesus of Nazareth was not just any child. He was the King, and from the moment of his birth he was the target of men who feared him.

That baby should have had the best of everything. His parents should have traveled with a grand procession. He should have been born in the finest room in a palace. He should have had the best doctors. His bed should have been made from the finest wood and lined with silk and down. He should never have feared the swords of men, but God never does things as we would expect. Jesus Christ, the King of kings, Lord of lords, arrived in this world in the simplest, most frightening way. It seems impossible to believe that God’s greatest promise was fulfilled that night, but in the flesh of that tiny baby was the Savior of the world.





<b>12/03 Advent 1</b>	<b>Communion Service at 9:30 am</b>
<b>12/10 Advent 2</b>	<b>Worship service at 9:30 am</b>
<b>12/17 Advent 3</b>	<b>Worship Service at 9:30 am</b>
<b>12/24 Advent 4</b>	<b>Worship Service at 9:30 am with Children's program</b>
<b>12/24 Christmas Eve</b>	<b>Candlelight Service w/Communion 7:00 pm</b>
<b>12/25 Christmas Day</b>	<b>Communion Service at 9:30 am</b>

### Advent meanings



During Advent, which begins this year on December 3, many churches and families use wreaths to symbolize watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches. Colors for the candles vary, with some traditions using blue (for hope or creation) and others preferring purple (for royalty, humility or penitence).

The four candles that each represent a week in Advent also signify hope, peace, joy and love. (The third candle is often pink.) In the center is the white Christ candle, representing Jesus as the light of the world. That candle is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The round, green Advent wreath has special meaning of its own. It symbolizes eternal life and the unending love of God, who sent his only Son to earth to die in our place.

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING for all ages!



The CEA and Cross Church are hosting a Christmas Caroling Party on **Wednesday, December 13th**. Everyone will meet in the gym at 4:45 pm to go caroling and will return around 5:30 pm for a potluck.

# Celebrate



## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jordan Licht
- Denvyr Koroleski
- 3 Mark Trost
- Haley Cucinello
- 4 Cindy Buchholz
- 6 Troy Schuette
- Aaron Shupe
- 9 Neil Herford
- Jason Shaw
- 10 Ryan Trost
- Maggie Shupe
- 11 Grace Shupe
- 12 Layla LePage
- 15 Roger Renn
- Kendal Delpiere

- 17 Richard Koehler Jr.
- Maria Schumacher
- Jacob Heck
- 18 Lorraine LePage
- 19 Kaoty Smith
- 20 Cheryl Sturm
- Kim Schadd
- 22 Donna Schuette
- Livia LePage
- 23 Bill Love
- 25 Jim Siewert
- 28 Marleen Grammentz
- 30 Ethan Yackle
- Pearl Parsell
- 31 Mitchell Schuette
- Dylan Kunisch

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Paul & Karen Schuette, 49 years
- 20 Kent & Lori McKenzie, 43 years

## THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Marcine Moore, Beth Elston, Kari Spearing, Brandon Fritz, Barb Eidt, Gene Parsell, Tim Voss, Michael Eden, Terry Sturm, Clark Elftman, Hannah Britt, Dave Licht, Cordelia Trost, John Finneren, Tom Shupe, Whitney Peyer, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Anna House, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Inez Buchholz, Noah Adams, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Corey Messing, Marvin Trost, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Deann Lewis, Kayle Thepsourinthone, Robert Krzeszewski, Dolores Elftman, Martin Knost.

## THOSE IN THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Nicholas Swanson (U.S. Air Force), Michael Cox (U. S. Navy), and Alex Moyer (U.S. Marines)



## Preparing for Worship

### December 3 - First Sunday of Advent

1R – Isaiah 64:1-9, P – Psalm 80:1-7, 2R – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, G – Mark 13:24-37

### December 10 - Second Sunday of Advent

1R - Isaiah 40:1-11, P – Psalm 85, 2R – 2 Peter 3:8-14, G – Mark 1:1-8

### December 17– Third Sunday of Advent

1R - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, P - Psalm 126, 2R - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, G - John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

1R - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, P – Psalm 89:1-5 (19-29), 2R – Romans 16:25-27 G – Luke 1:26-38

### December 24—Christmas Eve

1R—Isaiah 7:10-14, P—Psalm 110:1-4, 2R—1 John 4:7-16, G—Matthew 1:18-25

### December 25—Christmas Day

1R—Isaiah 52:7-10, P—Psalm 2, 2R—Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12), G—John 1:1-14 (15-18)

### December 31—First Sunday after Christmas

1R—Isaiah 61:10-62:3, P—Psalm 111, 2R—Galatians 4:4-7, G—Luke 2:22-40

## From the Desk of...Nicole Shupe

Greetings from the 3rd through 5th grade!!!! It has been a great first marking period with lots of learning happening. Not only in academics, but most importantly in our walk with Jesus. Our classroom is busy with students learning multiplication, verbs, Botany, Michigan History, new band instruments and memorizing scripture. We are very thankful to have Ms. Kelly Gebauer assisting in our room during the mornings. She has been a blessing to our classroom!

### December Calendar

- 12/03 Student sing in church
- 12/08 Christmas Fair
- 12/13 CEA/Church Christmas Caroling
- 12/19 Christmas Palooza 1 pm & 7 pm
- 12/21 thru 1/02 Christmas Break

In September, our class was invited to Rural Education Days sponsored by Huron County Farm Bureau. It is a fun-filled day full of learning about agriculture in our county, such as milk cows, ways wheat is used, jobs in agriculture and safety with electricity.

In the month of October, we held our annual STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Day for the 3-8th grades, where Zion Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran joined us. The students had multiple activities that they were able to choose from, such as Eucranian Eggs, Rocket Building, Card Marking, and Volcanoes. They were able to learn many new things, met new friends, and had a blast.

As we look forward to the season of Advent we begin to prepare our hearts for the true meaning of CHRIST-mas. What a joy it will be to walk through Advent with these great group of kids.





  
*Gifts & Memorials*  


**In memory of Dorothy Henne, for Cross Lutheran Church:**

Sheila Yackle  
 Denny & Leanne Smith  
 Cordelia Trost  
 David & Peg McCrimmon  
 Gary & Beth Knoblock  
 Sandra Haley  
 Paul & Karen Schuette  
 John Rodgers  
 Elaine Watterworth  
 Stephen & Sheryl Barton  
 Robin & Ann Buschlen  
 Verlene Licht Stiefel  
 Randy & Cindy Buchholz  
 Ivoughn Depner  
 Scott & Vickie Buchholz  
 Jim & Karen Elsesser  
 Randall & Cheryl Sturm  
 Martin Bahr  
 David Scharich  
 Bob & Cheri Lutz  
 Jean Sturm  
 Rod & Vicki Swartzendruber  
 Dale & Deb Binder  
 Chuck & Sue Anderson  
 Wayne Deering  
 Richard & Terri Strieter  
 Charles Buchholz  
 Tom & Bernice Shupe  
 Doug & Michelle Richmond  
 Dale Deering  
 Jason Christner  
 Rhonda Matelski  
 David Anderson  
 Nietzke & Faupel  
 Leonard & Jane Servinski  
 Layne Henne  
 Dennis & Antoinette Kern  
 James & Carole Neurath

**In memory of Dorothy Henne, for Cross Building fund:**

Bruce Baur

Don & Nancy Heck  
 Nancy Schuette  
 Neil & Connie Herford

**In memory of Dorothy Henne, for Cross Roof fund:**

Norm & Tonja Nelson  
 Karen Anklam

**In memory of Olga Renn, for Cross Building fund:**

Wayne Fietzer  
 Don & Nancy Heck

**In memory of Mae Ann Orth, for Cross Building fund:**

Don & Nancy Heck

**In memory of Jill Champagne, for Cross School:**

Mary Bauer

**In Honor of Mike Sting, for Cross Organ fund:**

Janet Love



**Mission Outreach Ministry**

November 1, 2023

The meeting of Mission Outreach was called to order by President Krisie Fritz.

Those in attendance were Krisie Fritz, Tonja Nelson, Lorraine LePage, Kay Schuette, Sandie Haley, Lori Smith and Trustee, Nancy Schuette. A prayer was given by Krisie Fritz.

The secretary's report was given and approved.

The treasurer's report was given and approved.

Coffee hour for our group participation will be November 19<sup>th</sup>. Sandie, Lorraine, Kris and Kim will be in charge of bringing snacks.

NALC Mission project will be completed November 12<sup>th</sup>. The youth group will be packing the bags with health care items. The bags will be taken to Owosso where they will be delivered to the organization that

deals with the Disaster Relief projects. A driver is needed to deliver the bags. If anyone is interested in delivering the bags, please let one of our members know.

The Fall Harvest decorating clean-up will be after church on Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.

The OCC project is in full swing. Anyone wishing to donate items, there is a drop off box in the church. We will be collecting until November 13<sup>th</sup>. The packing date has been set for Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. All are welcome to come and help pack boxes. The boxes will be delivered to Bay Shore by November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Mission Outreach will also be collecting food for the Pigeon Food Pantry. Donations can be dropped off at Cross Lutheran Church. The donations will be delivered to the pantry at the end of November.

The new chairs for the overflow area are still being looked into.

Advent calendars will be purchased and sent to our church's shut-ins. Lori will order the calendars.

Our card ministry will be working on sending out Christmas cards to the congregation. We will contact the church secretary to see if she can print address labels for us.

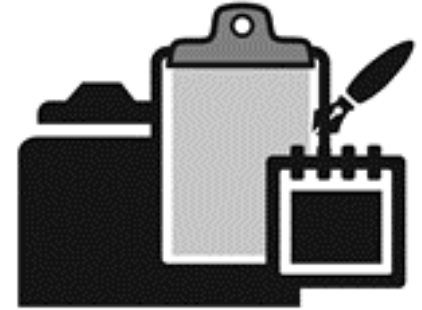
Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Tonja Nelson



# CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, November 7, 2023



## Church Council Minutes

The meeting was called to order by President, Matt Zimmerman, at 6:58 p.m.  
Present: Matt Zimmerman, Norm Nelson, Kristy Carriveau, John House,  
Jason Shaw, Dick Koehler Nancy Schuette, Kim Sears and Al Licht  
Guests: Phil Schadd, David Faupel, Jessica Schwartz, Peg McCrimmon

**DEVOTIONS:** David Faupel shared a devotion and prayer.

**AGENDA:** *John House made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Nancy Schuette. Motion carried.*

**MINUTES:** *Jason Shaw made motion to approve the October Minutes, seconded by Dick Koehler. Motion carried.*

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

**Cross School:** David Faupel, Principal

- 11/8 Parent Teacher conferences
- 11/10 Grandparents Day
- 11/15 Thanksgiving lunch
- 11/17 Robotics Tournament

**Daycare:** Jessica Schwartz, Director.

- Enrollment: Preschool- 20, Toddler-8, Infant- 6, Latchkey-21
- 11/8 and 11/9 parent teacher conferences
- Paneling will be installed on one wall to protect from toys
- Jessica will start maternity leave in December, Miki Thick will fill in

### **OFFICER REPORTS:**

Matt Zimmerman, President – Discussed the process of funeral arrangements

Kristy Carriveau, Secretary – Thank you note from Aaron and AmyLou Shupe

Kim Sears, Treasurer:

- Reported that income is under budget by \$6,867.52. *Motion was made by Dick Koehler to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by John House, motion carried.*

### **SCHOOL BOARD REPORT:**

Dick Koehler, School Board President

- Nothing to report

### **MINISTRY REPORTS – TRUSTEES**

**Property:** Al Licht

- Window to be installed in parsonage
- New weather stripping on doors this week

(Continued on page 7)

**Music & Worship:** John House, Peg McCrimmon presented

- Organ was last tuned Thursday, October 26
- Advent wreath will be used and the song, “Light One Candle” will be sung
- Discussion is being held to possibly start using the screens during services

**Stewardship:** Norm Nelson

- Nothing to report

**Mission Outreach:** Nancy Schuette

- Is an updated directory needed?

**Parish Life:** Nancy Schuette

- Looking for help with coffee hour

**Youth & Education:** Jason Shaw

- 11/12 is a Giving Thanks youth event
- 12/24 is the Children's Christmas Program at 9:30 am
- Discussion about a Bible study starting

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Nominating Committee members to be contacted
- *Motion was made by Jason Shaw to accept Nancy Heck as Daycare board member, seconded by Nancy Schuette, motion carried.*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Kitchen/Gym Rental Agreement is still being worked on
- Budget meeting will be December 10<sup>th</sup> after the service
- The 2024 Budget was presented and approved *Motion was made by Kim Sears to approve the budget, seconded by Jason Shaw, motion carried.*
- School Statement of Faith is approved. *Motion was made by Dick Koehler to approve the statement of faith, seconded by Jason Shaw, motion carried.*
- The call committee has been selected: John Smith, Carol Diener, Trevor Carriveau, Wesley Trowbridge, Kathy Azarovitz *Motion was made by Dick Koehler to approve the call committee members, seconded by Kim Sears, motion carried.*

**Next Council Meeting** – Tuesday, November 12th, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Kristy Carriveau

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**Cross Lutheran School Board Minutes**

**November 2, 2023**

**(To be approved at the December meeting)**

**Members present:** David Faupel, Kevin Stachowiak, Eileen Johnson, Katie Wilson, Dick Koehler, Rebecca Yackle **Abs.** Kevin Trost

The meeting was called to order by Dick Koehler at 5:30 pm. Prayer was led by David Faupel



**Agenda:**

A motion was made by Kevin S. and seconded by Rebecca to accept the agenda. It was carried.

**Minutes:**

A motion was made by Kevin S., seconded by Rebecca to approve the minutes of October 5, 2023, meeting. The motion passed.

**Guests:** No guests

**Treasurers' Reports:**

School Balance: \$ 67,109.38

CEA/PTO Balance: \$22,572.88

Hot Lunch: \$6,023.75

A motion was made by Kevin S. and seconded by Katie to accept the Treasurers' Reports.

The motion was carried.

**CEA President's Report:**

Katie reported there will be Walsh's Meat sales as a fund raiser for CEA/PTO. The Christmas Fair will be on December 8. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will earn money for their Washington D.C. trip by having concessions at the November 17<sup>th</sup> Robotics Tournament. There will be Christmas Caroling on December 13.

**Principal's Report:**

- Students Registered for 2023-2024 are now 65.**DK:1 KDG: 10 1<sup>st</sup>:10 2<sup>nd</sup>: 9 3<sup>rd</sup>: 8 4<sup>th</sup>: 5 5<sup>th</sup>: 8 6<sup>th</sup>: 6 7<sup>th</sup>: 3 8<sup>th</sup>:5**
- The Robotics Club has 5 teams with the first meet on November 17<sup>th</sup> at Cross.
- Nov. 3 – end of first marking period
- Nov. 8 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov. 10 – Grandparents Day (1/2 day of school)
- Nov. 15 – Thanksgiving Lunch
- Nov. 22 – ½ day of school
- Nov. 23-24 -Thanksgiving Break

**Old Business:**

- Statement of Faith was discussed. Kevin S. made a motion to present the Statement of Faith to the Council, with the addition of Apostles' Creed, for the staff and student handbooks. It was seconded by Rebecca and carried.
- After discussion, it was proposed some board members meet with some Day Care Board members on November 28 to discuss classroom configurations for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Dick updated us on the pastoral call.

**New Business:**

- A motion was made by Kevin S. to maximize the Robotic stipend grant by paying 25% of the maximum the grant will contribute. This was seconded by Katie and the motion passed.

Kevin S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Katie and the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

**The date of the next meeting will be December 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.**



# YOUTH & EDUCATION

Wondering what's happening with Youth and Education? Well, we've been busy and giving thanks for that busyness!

On most Sunday mornings, our confirmation class comprised of two eighth graders- Chase Gardy and Reid Zimmerman and four seventh graders-Khloe Carriveau, Hogan Halvorsen, Ethan Yackle and Connor Flores gather in the conference room for class. The current focus is on the Apostle's Creed. The room is full of chatter, discussion, laughing, and time for reflection. I think the kids look forward to the cookies each week, too. As we grow together in God's Word, worship, study, service, and outreach are important. We try to incorporate these into our sessions and in the activities planned for Youth. I have a Mystery Assignment each week. Surprisingly, the kids look forward to them! At the end of class someone draws a paper slip from the bowl. You may have noticed greeters in the morning stationed at the church doors or kids serving at coffee hour. One assignment was to text me something during the week. Another was to lead devotions with their family at least once during the week. Some of these have definitely pushed them out of their comfort zone, but your support of their presence and encouraging words for their efforts continue to help us build relationships as members of God's family of Cross.

I am grateful for all those who sign up as teachers for Sunday School. All are welcome to sign up! Weekly lesson materials are found in the crate by the pastor's office. At this time during "Opening", the kids are practicing songs for the 9:30 AM service on 12/24/23. The Word of God is not neglected during November and December! Sunday School lessons are still taught. We are grateful for the attendance and pray families will continue to be drawn to God's Word for themselves and their children all year. Speaking of families.....while kids are in Confirmation and Sunday School, wouldn't that be a great time for parents and adults to gather for Bible study? What a wonderful example that would be for our youth! Adults, kids are watching YOU! I'll provide the cookies if someone would lead this endeavor! □

Our "Giving Thanks" party on November 12 was attended by 23 PS-5th grade children from Cross Lutheran Church and School. I was thankful for the 6 Jr. High youth who were helpers as well as the adults that gave of their time. We gathered in the sanctuary for our message and singing. A "Ten Lepers" skit was part of our worship message. The toilet paper covering "boobos" was a big hit. We then moved into the gym for painting pumpkins, snacks, projects, games, and we packed health kits for NALC Disaster Relief.

Christmas Caroling for all youth and members of Cross Lutheran Church and School is scheduled for December 13. Look for details in this newsletter. At the end of this event, I would like to hold a short practice with the Sunday School group for their part of the December 24 9:30 AM service.

Busy? Sometimes that's an understatement! I am looking forward to this season of Advent, preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth, and praising God with all of you in word and song this Christmas!

In His love and service,

Gwynne Barry

## Worship and Music Ministry

October 31, 2023

Members present: Mike Sting, Peg McCrimmon, John House (Trustee), Karen Schuette (Chair).

Mike reported that the organ was tuned last Thursday, October 26.

We will be using the Advent Wreath this season. We will use "Light One Candle" each Sunday as in the past. Karen will provide the prayers for the leaders to use.

Christmas worship services – **Christmas Eve – 7:00 pm with Communion**

**Christmas Day – 9:30 am with Communion**

A reminder: A presentation by our children and others will be given at the worship on Sunday, December 24 at the 9:30 am.

Using the screens for worship -Steve Schulze came to us with the idea of using the screens during worship. He would put together each week's service. We briefly discussed it and will be looking at this more in depth during this next month and will come to Council in the future with a recommendation.



We will pray for our Council and the Pastoral Call process!

Next Meeting – **Tuesday, December 5 at 3pm.**

# Christmas *Merry*



## December 2023

| Sun                                                                                                               | Mon                                                      | Tue                                                  | Wed                                                                            | Thu                                                                                   | Fri                                   | Sat       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                  |                                                          |                                                      |                                                                                |                                                                                       | 1                                     | 2         |
| Advent 1<br>Comm. Service <b>3</b><br>9:30 am<br><br>Students sing                                                | <b>4</b>                                                 | <b>5</b><br><br>Worship & Music<br>3 pm              | Chapel<br>8:05 am <b>6</b><br><br>Mission Outreach<br>6:30 pm                  | <b>7</b><br><br>Jean Quilts 1 pm<br><br>School Board<br>5:30 pm<br>Properties 7 pm    | <b>8</b><br><br>CEA Christmas<br>Fair | <b>9</b>  |
| Advent 2<br>Worship<br>Service <b>10</b><br>9:30<br><br>Annual Budget<br>Meeting<br>following service             | <b>11</b><br><br>Stewardship 5:30                        | <b>12</b><br><br>CLECC 3 pm<br><br>Council 7 pm      | Chapel<br>8:05 am <b>13</b><br><br>Quilters 1 pm<br><br>CEA/Church<br>Caroling | <b>14</b>                                                                             | <b>15</b>                             | <b>16</b> |
| Advent 3<br>Worship<br>Service <b>17</b><br>9:30                                                                  | <b>18</b><br><br>Newsletter<br>Deadline                  | <b>19</b><br><br>Christmas<br>Palooza<br>1 pm & 7 pm | Chapel<br>8:05 am <b>20</b>                                                    | <b>21</b><br><br>NO SCHOOL                                                            | <b>22</b><br><br>NO SCHOOL            | <b>23</b> |
| Christmas<br>Eve <b>24</b><br>Advent 4<br>(Children) 9:30 a<br><br>Christmas Eve<br>Candlelight<br>w/Comm. 7:00 p | Christmas<br>Day <b>25</b><br>Comm. Service<br>9:30 a.m. | <b>26</b>                                            | <b>27</b>                                                                      | <b>28</b>                                                                             | <b>29</b>                             | <b>30</b> |
|                                                                                                                   |                                                          | <b>NO SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS BREAK</b>                   |                                                                                |                                                                                       |                                       |           |
| New<br>Year's<br>Eve<br>Worship<br>Service 9:30 <b>31</b>                                                         |                                                          |                                                      |                                                                                |  |                                       |           |