



JANUARY, 2026 PARISH NEWS

J. K. Wilhelm Loehe - January 2nd

By Pastor Dan

We don't recognize many of the Feast Days of the Church Year here at St. John. We tend to keep to the regular, liturgical calendar pretty closely; but that doesn't mean those days aren't there or those honored shouldn't be recognized. As Christians and Lutherans, we should look to the saints of old as gifts from God and work to emulate their faith. Luther wrote, "We rightly honor the saints when we recognize that they are held up before us as a mirror of the grace and mercy of God. For just as Peter, Paul, and others saints like us in body, blood, and infirmity, were made blessed by the grace of God through faith, so we are comforted by their example that God will look in mercy and grace on our infirmity....Honoring the saints, also, consists in exercising ourselves and increasing in faith and good works in a manner similar to what we see and hear they have done."

One such individual is J. K. Wilhelm Loehe who is recognized on January 2nd. The following is a description of Loehe from *Celebrating the Saints: The Feasts, Festivals, and Commemorations of Lutheran Service Book* by William Weedon (CPH 2016). Enjoy! And Happy New Year!

Your Fellow Servant in Christ,

Pastor Dan



J. K. Wilhelm Loehe

Born in 1808, Wilhelm Loehe came to maturity at a time when the theological "leadership" of the Lutheran Church in Germany was largely in the grip of Rationalism. To give a sense of how bad that could be, one of his contemporaries, (C. F. W. Walther) described hearing sermons on such stirring topics as the profitableness of raising potatoes! And it only grew worse by the year.

Yet, in this barren wasteland, the Lord raised up faithful servants, among whom was Loehe. Though he never left his German homeland, Loehe, shaped by the mind of the Church, dreamed big. His heart turned to the plight of North America. He organized the sending of pastors to help gather the many Lutheran immigrants in the new land into congregations and to begin mission work among the Native Americans in Michigan.

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J. K. Wilhelm Loehe – January 2nd

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He helped found a practical seminary to meet the massive need for pastors (Concordia Theological Seminary of Fort Wayne, Indiana, is the result of his work). He organized deaconess houses and helped the sister to undertake all kinds of charitable work, above all caring for orphans and the aged.

For Loehe, the service of love flowed naturally and inevitably from the Divine Service.

He wrote an explanation to Luther's Catechism, revised the liturgy, and published a popular prayer book, *Seedgrains of Prayer*. Perhaps his greatest work is *Three Books on the Church*. In it, he provides a thoughtful meditation on the glory of the Bride of the Christ and the role of the Lutheran Church within the church catholic.

He died January 2, 1872, having served his beloved parish in Neuendettelsau for some thirty-five years. Today's prayer comes from his hand.



Most glorious Trinity, in Your mercy we commit to You this day our bodies and souls, all our ways and goings, all our deeds and purposes. We pray You, so open our hearts and mouths that we may praise Your name, which above all names is holy. And since You have created us for the praise of Your holy name, grant that our lives may be for Your honor and that we may serve You in love and fear; for You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

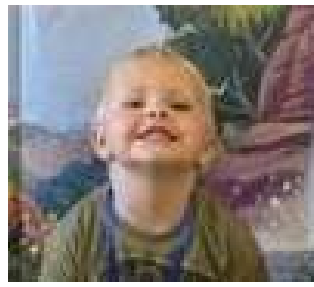


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Two Children Will Receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 28, 2025



Macie Hairell



Levi Hairell

Today we are observing the command and promise of our Lord Jesus Christ as He says in the last chapter of Matthew, “Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” God’s Word stresses the importance of making disciples and baptism as it speaks of our need for Christ, and the forgiveness God offers when our faith and trust are placed in Him.

In order that all might come to know the truth in Christ Jesus, God has given us His Word and baptism as means by which an individual can be brought into a life lived in relationship with God through Christ. It is the beginning of a life tapped into the greatest resource available to the world. In baptism, this child is being brought into contact with the source of God’s love and power, and are being adopted into a large and wonderful family. This child is also being brought into a caring community that promises to stand by these parents as they assume the role of raising their child to know the unchanging Christ in a rapidly changing world.

Through baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit through the Word, God is able to make baptism what Paul calls it in Titus 3, “The washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” Baptism is not magic, nor is it an automatic “fix” or an eternal insurance policy to be claimed at death. It is not simply a religious ceremony or ritual to guarantee that the child will remain a lifelong Christian. Baptism is a GIFT! It is a visible sign of God’s acceptance, forgiveness, adoption, and love. In this washing, GOD is establishing His covenant relationship and gives assurance of His faith-creating power and the forgiveness of sins.

(from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church - LCMS, Old Bridge, NJ)



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St. John News Blurbs and Snap Shots

Worship Attendance:

Sunday, November 30:	72
Wednesday, December 3:	18
Sunday, December 7:	70
Wednesday, December 10:	28
Sunday, December 14:	85
Wednesday, December 17:	32
Sunday, December 21:	84

Council Opening: We are looking for a person to serve as Council Vice President. If you are interested, please contact Nathan or any member of the Council.

Youth: The St. John Youth Group will meet at church on Thursday, January 15th, at 7:00 p.m. Sue T. (785) 227-5653.

Updated Directory: We recently printed a January, 2026 black and white pictorial directory for every family. Please check your church mailbox.

Food Bank Sunday January 4th: Please bring canned food, flour or other staples for the needy in our community.

Articles for February's newsletter are due Sunday, January 25th. If you have news for members, please e-mail articles to Office@StJohnCanonCity.org to Attn: Gail or call or text Gail at 720-201-8743.



Pastor Dan leads the Children's Message on Sunday, December 7, 2025



December 21st was Cookie Sunday.

Lutheran Center For Religious Liberty: On January 18th, Please pray for those that are gathering in Washington DC for the National March for Life. The movement for life across the USA, and the work of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty as it advocates for the Sanctity of Life. See www.LCRLFreedom.org.



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Prayers and Activities

IN OUR PRAYERS

Shut-Ins: Lucy Brown, Dale Kletke

Sick & Recovering: Debbie Ledbetter, Rod Willard, Sharon Martinson, Robert Tangkawarow, Zoey (Tangkawarow's family), Elaine Emery (Snyders' friend), Cody Atkinson, Dale Kletke, Dustin Kletke, Mary Richardson

Prayer Chain: For prayer concerns please contact one of the following:

- Phone prayer chain: Mary Richardson, (719) 269-1426
- E-mail prayer chain: Sue Poehlein, cspoehlein@gmail.com

Military Service Members: Ryan Lehmpuhl and Jake Langley.

Missionaries: JP and Aimee Cima, the LCMS missionaries in Cambodia that our congregation has adopted.

St. John LWML: As an alternative to organizing in-gatherings for mission projects throughout the year, in 2026 LWML is sponsoring **The Red Sock Dime Mission Project**. LWML asks you to contribute dimes once each month during 2026. Red socks are hung in the fellowship hall and by the mailboxes. In January, please contribute one dime to the sock. In February, please contribute two dimes to the sock. In March, please contribute three dimes to the sock, or the equivalent of three dimes. Continue contributing dimes each month according to the month of the year. In October, LWML will ask you for mission recipient ideas with delivery of the mission response in December 2026.

The LWML ladies are making **new ribbons for the hymnals**. The ribbons are cut and ends sealed. We are ready to assemble. If you would like to help make hymnal ribbons, please let Toni or Angela know. This project has proven to be more involved than expected.

Saturday, January 18, 2025 @ 9 am is the LWML meeting. We will meet at church. This will be our planning meeting for Spring 2026. All ladies of the church are invited to attend.

Blessings to All
Angela Bellantoni





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Ladies Annual Christmas Luncheon - December 6





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January 6 - Tedi Tormohlen



January 21 - Toni Davidson



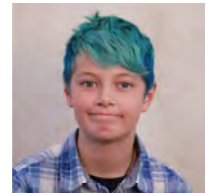
January 6 - Larry Vargas



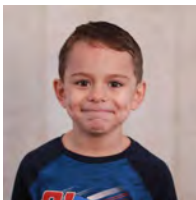
January 28 - Levi Hairell
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January 10 - Kaitlyn Hairell
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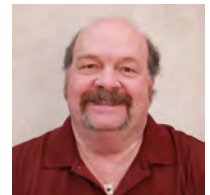
January 30 - Collin Leason



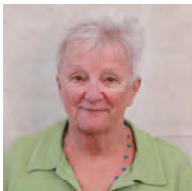
January 10 - Ethan Urban



January 31 - Jeff Snyder



January 12 - Nancy Mowers

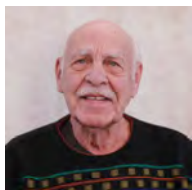


January 7 - Joe & Lucy Brown

January 9 - (John) & Dawn Atkinson

January 12 - Bill & Chris Puschak

January 14 - Ken Lund



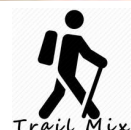
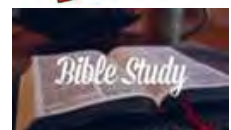
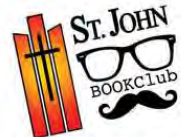


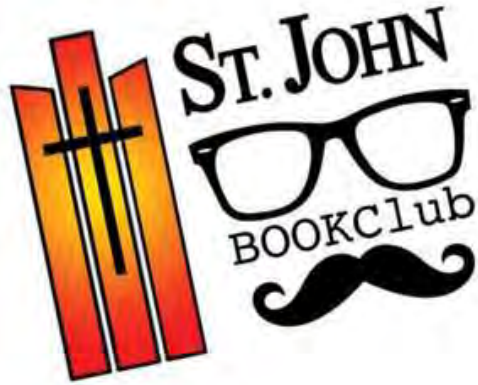
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St. John To-Do List

Activities at St. John Lutheran Church

Acolyte - Altar candle duty for boys and girls at worship services.
Adult Bible Class - Sunday mornings at 10:30am after our time of fellowship.
Adult Choir - Join your voice with others on special festivals.
Altar Guild - Prepare vestments, candles, banners, etc. for worship.
Audio-Visual - Operate the slides and video production during worship service.
Book Club - Discuss books about once a month in member homes or at church.
Bulletin Help - Print worship bulletins a few times per year as needed.
Car Show - Annual fundraiser on the church grounds that needs many helpers.
Christmas Program - Help or take a part in the Sunday School program.
Church Council - Serve on a church board, or as church president, etc.
Communications - Publish events on the Website, newsletter, and Facebook.
Confirmation Class - Teens meet with Pastor for Christian instruction.
Door Keeper - Open the door and welcome people arriving at church.
Driver - Provide transportation for those who cannot drive to church.
Elders - Men who assist the Pastor with the spiritual life of the congregation.
Evangelism - Carry out evangelism programs in the church and community.
Fellowship - Serve refreshments after worship, and assist with special events.
Garage Sale - Annual fundraiser at St. John that needs many helpers.
Gardener - Keep the flower beds in neat and weed-free condition.
Greeter - Welcome and offer Sunday bulletin and visitor packet to worshippers.
LWML - Women's Auxiliary of the LCMS supports LCMS missions.
Men's Breakfast - Men of St. John have breakfast about twice a month.
Missions - Direct monetary resources for LCMS missionaries and missions.
Morning Prayer - Almost every weekday at 7:30am in the sanctuary.
Nursery - Volunteers assist parents who need help in the nursery.
Prayer Chain - Receive notice of prayer requests and pray for those in need.
Quilters - Construct quilts almost weekly for charities and individuals.
Readers - Read assigned Scripture passages at the lectern during services.
Shut-In Visitation - Spend time with members who cannot attend church.
Sunday School - Classes for kids at 10:30am after worship and refreshments.
Teach - Help children learn about their Savior, Preschool through High School.
Trail Mix - Hike on local and other Colorado trails with members and friends.
Trustees - Oversee maintenance, repair, cleaning of buildings and grounds.
Ushers - Assist people with special needs, direct worshipers for Holy Communion.
Vacation Bible School - A children's short-term summer educational activity.
Wednesday Bible Class - Study at 10:00am Wednesdays with Pastor Dan.
Youth Group - High schoolers discuss their faith as it applies to life's challenges.





Fall 2025

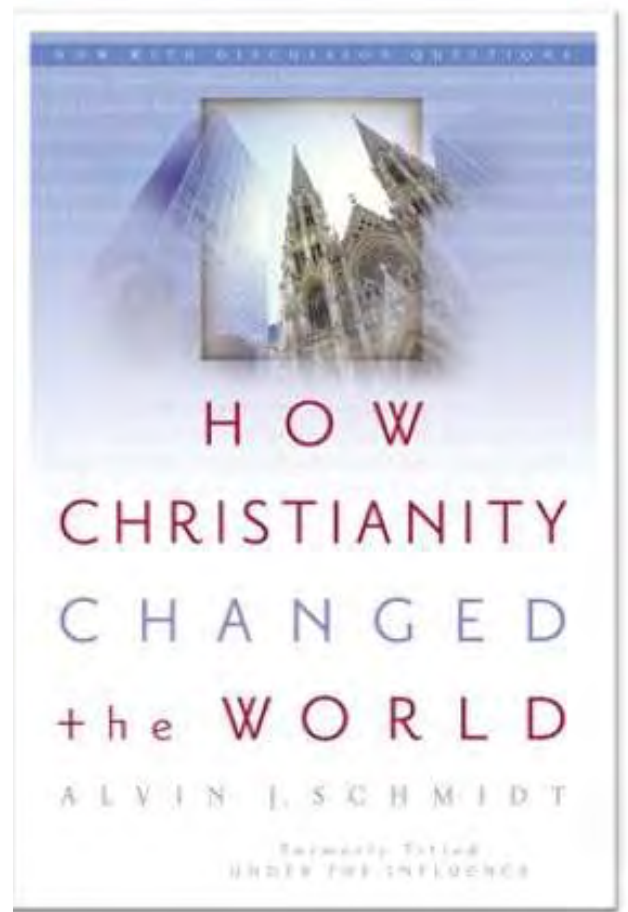
Our next book by Rev. Dr. Alvin Schmidt (a former Ft. Wayne professor) is entitled *How Christianity Changed the World* (ISBN 978-0310264491). The description reads:

Western civilization is becoming increasingly pluralistic, secularized, and biblically illiterate. Many people today have little sense of how their lives have benefited from Christianity's influence, often viewing the church with hostility or resentment. *How Christianity Changed the World* is a topically arranged Christian history for Christians and non-Christians. Grounded in solid research and written in a popular style, this book is both a helpful apologetic tool in talking with unbelievers and a source of evidence for why Christianity deserves credit for many of the humane, social, scientific, and cultural advances in the Western world in the last two thousand years. Photographs, timelines, and charts enhance each chapter. This edition features questions for reflection and discussion for each chapter.

Topics include: Sanctification of Human Life, Women Receive Freedom and Dignity, Hospitals and Health Care, labor and Economic Freedom Dignified, Science: Its Christian Connections, Liberty and Justice for All, Slavery Abolished, and more.

Two copies have been ordered for the church. Used copies are available on Amazon for about \$13.50. There is an Audible version available for \$7 and a Kindle version for \$13.50.

This is a longer book than we typically tackle – almost 450 pages. Due to the length and Pastor Dan's sabbatical, we will meet in 5 months on January 13th to discuss the book.



Pick up a book & join us at the BOOKClub!

TEAM

(noun): a number of people working together as a group in order to achieve something.



Given that we are the only LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM) personnel in Cambodia, it is tempting to see our ministry as independent and distinct. The same might be said for other OIM personnel in other countries. But the word "team" (see above) challenges us to see ourselves as more than isolated missionaries and ministries, but as connected together as a group working towards common ends.

It is this reality that motivated Aimee to plan the recent meetings in Chiayi, Taiwan. As part of her role as Care Coordinator for Asia, Aimee takes the lead in planning OIM Asia gatherings, working alongside other regional leaders to plan both logistics and content, including facilitating any guests that come.

Aimee planned and led regional on-boarding for new OIM Asia missionaries, including Rev. Dr. Walter and Robyn Steele (Philippines) and Vicar Zachary Turley (Japan). For two days, participants worshiped at a local congregation, learned about work in the region and history of LCMS Asia mission, met colleagues from Taiwan, and experienced a bit of local culture (pic below).



Just after onboarding was the annual Asia Workgroup meeting, a rare but important in-person opportunity for the entire OIM Asia team to gather (pic above), helping to foster and nurture our team. Through very full days of corporate worship, update sharing, and strategic planning, OIM Asia personnel worked towards common understanding of the nature of our team and the common ends towards which we work. Aimee not only helped plan the event, but also led sessions on region-wide strategic planning.

Because of meetings like this, we go back to our far-flung countries of service, not as isolated workers but as valued deployed contributors to a broader work that we accomplish corporately. What a joy to work on this team!

PRAYER NEEDED!

Thailand-Cambodia Border Conflict

As a part of our team, would you please join us in praying for Cambodia and Thailand? In recent months, a border conflict between the two countries has flared up (again). The tension is long-standing, but its recent resurgence first occurred in July. A peace deal with brokered (with the help of the United States) in late July, but it did not hold. In the past week the fighting has intensified, with hundreds of thousands of people along the border (on both sides) having to evacuate their homes. It is a real crisis. Please pray for a swift, peaceful, and diplomatic resolution.

Please know that we are safe in Phnom Penh. So far, the fighting has been restricted to areas along the border, and there is no indication that will change. The only major widespread impact this has had on life in Phnom Penh is disruption to supply chains as Thai products have been boycotted. Though most Cambodians are not in direct danger, anxiety about the conflict has touched the whole country. Recently, J.P. prayed with a group of dads for a student at our children's school whose father is being deployed to fight. It is heartbreaking!



SQUARE TWO

The Cima Family Newsletter
Vol. 19, No. 11 November 2025



Wanna help us impact the people of Cambodia?

Give [here](#) or mail a check to 1) P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166 (payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), OR 2) 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034 (payable to Mission Central). For ALL checks, in the memo line write "Cima family-Cambodia."



Merry Christmas from the Cima Family

Advent and Christmas greetings to you! We pray that you and your family are filled with hope, peace, joy, and love as you celebrate the God who comes to a world in need. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Here in Cambodia, people are filled with fear, worry, and anxiety as the border conflict with Thailand escalates. Bombing and fighting within Cambodia's borders is increasing in intensity and area. There have been military and civilian casualties. Over 120,000 families are displaced as a result of the violence. Please join us in praying for Cambodia and Thailand, that a peaceful and diplomatic solution will be achieved swiftly.

At Christ Lutheran Church's Christmas service this past Sunday in Phnom Penh (Cambodian Christians don't have a custom of celebrating Christmas specifically on December 25, but tend to hold services anytime in the month of December), J.P. preached the following sermon. We pray it might be an encouragement to you, too.

CHRISTMAS SERMON:

MERRY CHRISTMAS! But I must confess, it feels strange to celebrate Christmas right now, doesn't it? Here in Phnom Penh, the malls are playing Christmas music, but just a few hundred kilometers away in border areas they've been hearing bullets and bombs. Here in Phnom Penh, people are decorating their homes and churches with Christmas decorations, but there, people are evacuating their homes. Here in Phnom Penh, we gather for worship without fear, but there, soldiers fear for their lives.

It's hard to feel up to celebrating when there is so much suffering, fear, and anxiety right on our doorstep. We sing the hymn that says, "Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright." But it is not silent in Oddar Meanchey or Preah Vihear. It is not calm in our hearts. We look at the manger scenes that show Mary and Joseph sitting serenely by Jesus, surrounded by smiling shepherds. That long ago and far off scene is so peaceful, but it is only a scene. Meanwhile, there is no peace here and now. Christmas is great, we think, but it doesn't fit the reality of today's fear-laden Cambodia.

But then I read Luke's narration of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:1-20), and it does not seem to match the sanitized manger scenes that we see all around. I read about Mary and Joseph, who had to make the long trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a journey of some 140km at a time when there were no buses or cars. They made this journey even when Mary was in the final stages of her pregnancy. If you think about them making that trip, you can almost feel the sun on their backs as the walk. You can almost taste the dust of the roads. You can almost sense their tiredness. You can almost feel the anxiety in their hearts as they knew the baby would come soon.

Continued on next page.



continued from J.P. Cima

And then they arrived at Bethlehem, to find the town packed with others who had traveled for the census. And right then the baby was ready to be born. All the guestrooms were full, so they ended up with the animals. If you think about them sitting in that context, you can almost smell the stink of the animals. You can almost hear Mary's heavy breathing as she delivers the baby. You can almost feel the worry in their hearts as they laid the baby Jesus in that prickly hay.

And then there were the shepherds, watching the sheep late at night. It's not a fun job, trudging after the sheep as they move and graze, graze and move, all night. If you think about those bored shepherds, you can almost breathe in the crisp night air. You can almost hear the sheep grazing. You can almost smell the grass of the fields. You can almost feel the fear of the shepherds as suddenly a host of angels appeared to them in the heavens and spoke.

When we take all this together, the story from Luke is not like a peaceful manger scene. It is full of bad smells, strange sounds, scary sights, and foul tastes. It full of people who experience anxiety, worry, and fear. It is grounded in real life and real struggles; it is populated with real people with real emotions.

That is, the story from Luke is a lot like our world, even Cambodia these days. A Cambodia that has strange sounds like gunfire and bombs. A Cambodia with scary sights like damaged homes, schools, and temples. A Cambodia with the foul taste of dust on the road as families flee their homes. A Cambodia with the bad smells of living in refugee camps. A Cambodia where people feel anxiety, worry, and fear.

That's the kind of world Jesus is born into. Right when Joseph and Mary were in the most vulnerable situation, right when they were anxious and worried, Jesus was born. Just when the shepherds were tired and bored, just when they were afraid and confused, Jesus was born.

God doesn't just stay up there; he comes down here, into the smells and sights and sounds and tastes. He comes into the anxiety and worry and fear. Are you feeling anxious? Are you feeling worried? Are you feeling scared? Jesus comes to you, he is born for you, even now, in your heart. The words of the angels are not just for the shepherds; they are for you: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all [Cambodians.] Unto you is born this day [in Cambodia] a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Jesus is not born into a perfect world, because such a world has no need for a Savior. Rather, he is born into a sinful world, our world, because we desperately need a Savior. With all that is going on in Cambodia, it might not seem like the right time to celebrate Christmas. But friends, in fact it is precisely in these anxious and fearful times that we need Christmas, that we must celebrate. Because in that dirty, smelly, prickly manger, is our peace. Our forgiveness. Our salvation, with ten tiny fingers and ten tiny toes.

And so, today we will celebrate Christmas, with all the joy we can muster, because, even in this difficult time, we place our hope in the baby Jesus. One day, all wars will cease at his reign, and every knee will bow before him, in everlasting harmony. Amen.

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CAÑON CITY, COLORADO 790 Greydene Ave., Cañon City, CO, 81212 http://www.StJohnCanonCity.org 719-275-0111				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3
4 2 ND SUNDAY AFT CHRISTMAS 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Elder's Meeting	5 6:30p Confirmation	6 <u>EPIPHANY</u>	7	8 7:00 Men's Breakfast	9	10
11 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:30 Council Meeting	12 6:30p Confirmation	13 <i>Circuit Pastors' Meeting – Pastor Out of Office</i> 6:30p BOOKClub	14 10:00 Bible Study	15	16 <i>Prison Ministry – Pastor Out of Office</i>	17 9:00 LWML Meeting
18 2 ND SUNDAY AFT EPIPHANY 9:00 Divine Service 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	19 6:30p Confirmation <u>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</u>	20	21 10:00 Bible Study	22 7:00 Men's Breakfast	23	24
25 3 RD SUNDAY AFT EPIPHANY 9:00 Divine Service w/ Holy Communion 10:30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	26 6:30p Confirmation	27	28 10:00 Bible Study	29	30	31