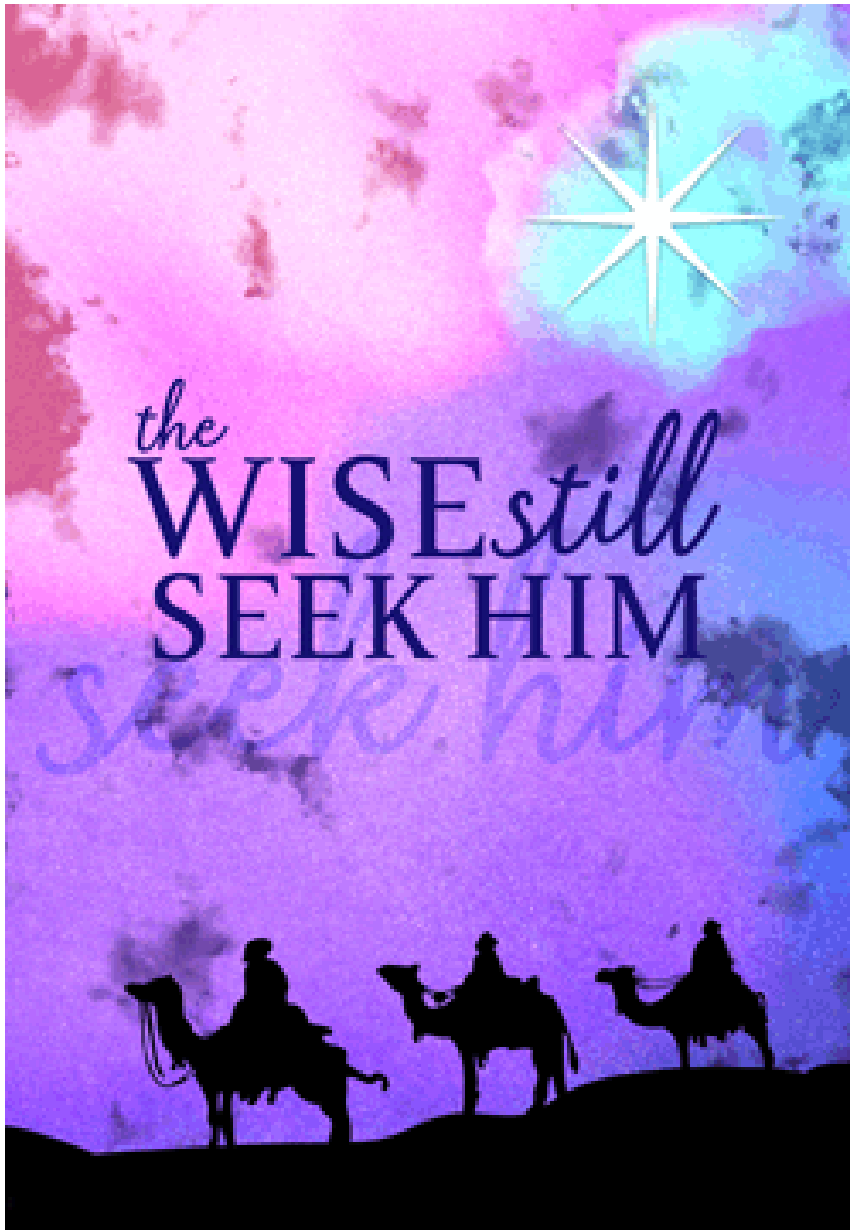


First English Lutheran Church
Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our December 2023 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895
(419) 738-3911 FAX: (419) 738-8893
Website: www.myfelc.org E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net

Meet our staff...

Office Administrator

Chuck Curry wapakelc@bright.net 419-738-3911

Bookkeeper

Anderson Accounting felc.finance@myfelc.org 419-738-3911

Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Georgeann Stienecker... nksoccer@nktelco.net 419-305-5066

Music Director

Darla Frame darlaframe@gmail.com 419-234-3283

Choir Directors

Susan Miller, Adult sugartime@bright.net 567-356-1844

Niki Oren, Bells niki_oren@hotmail.com 567-712-8674

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Jennie Grundey, Youth 419-738-3911

Church Council

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The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ
and to love one another as He loves us.

A Message from Our President

A few weeks ago, you should have received a letter from the church containing information regarding discussions that Church Council has been having about the future direction of the church and how we should move forward following the congregational meeting in August. We have been blessed with some very generous Supply Pastors and lay ministers that have given their time to help lead worship, but we are eager to start the process to call our church's next pastor.

Church Council feels that this time of transition might be the perfect time to consider the possibility of leaving the ELCA in order to eventually join the NALC. The letter contained quite a lot of information about how the ELCA and NALC are alike and also how they are different. If you have not already done so, please take the time to review that information. The letter also noted that the NALC has a more streamlined process to call pastors. This streamlined process has enabled NALC churches to have much shorter waits to call pastors than ELCA churches. As enthusiastic as Council is about the possibility of eventually joining the NALC, the congregation must decide whether to start the process.

For that reason, on December 10, 2023, we will be having two separate congregational meetings. Our first meeting will be at the beginning of worship to vote on new council members for 2024 and to vote on the 2024 budget. The second meeting will take place after worship and the only item on the agenda will be whether to start the process to disaffiliate from the ELCA. It is necessary to have a separate meeting for this vote because our ELCA constitution requires a separate meeting where no other matters are considered. Both meetings will be an in-person only vote requiring participants to complete a written ballot.

Enclosed you will find the agendas for these meetings.
We look forward to seeing you at these very important meetings.

Blessings
Brenda Shoffstall,
Council President

Election of 2024 Church Council Members

There are four open positions on Congregational Council starting 2024

- Nominated for a three-year term
 - Georgeann Steinecker (2nd term)
 - Brenda Shoffstall (2nd term)
 - Chris Nagel (1st term)
- Nominated to complete final two years of a vacated three-year term
 - Char Curry
- Other nominations will be accepted from the floor.

2024 Proposed Budget

Receipts	2023 Budgeted Receipts	2024 Budgeted Receipts	Budgeted Change
Current	\$210,000.00	\$120,000.00	(\$90,000.00)
Benevolence	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special Offerings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building/Improvement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memorials	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Receipts	\$210,000.00	\$120,000.00	(\$90,000.00)
Expenses	2023 Budgeted Expenses	2024 Budget Expenses	Budgeted Change
Office of the Pastor Compensation			
Base Salary	\$31,470.25	\$0.00	(\$31,470.25)
Housing Allowance	\$8,423.71	\$0.00	(\$8,423.71)
FICA Allowance	\$3,051.89	\$0.00	(\$3,051.89)
Mileage Allowance	\$1,900.00	\$0.00	(\$1,900.00)
Medical/Pension/Disability	\$24,406.92	\$0.00	(\$24,406.92)
Continuing Education	\$700.00	\$0.00	(\$700.00)
Supply Pastors	\$1,200.00	\$8,000.00	\$6,800.00
Supply Pastor Mileage	\$100.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,900.00
Employee Taxes	\$1,432.08	\$0.00	(\$1,432.08)
Total Office of the Pastor Compensation	\$72,684.85	\$12,000.00	(\$60,684.85)
Staff Compensation			
Office Administrator	\$18,720.00	\$18,720.00	\$0.00
Organist	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Organist Mileage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sub Organists	\$7,000.00	\$4,500.00	(\$2,500.00)
Sub Organists Mileage	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Adult Choir Director	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	(\$1,350.00)
Bell Choir Director	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	(\$1,350.00)
Christian Ed Director	\$4,680.00	\$0.00	(\$4,680.00)
Choir Accompaniment	\$675.00	\$0.00	(\$675.00)
Music Director	\$1,350.00	\$0.00	(\$1,350.00)
Information Technology Specialist	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
A/V Staff	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Treasurer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bookkeeper/Accountant	\$5,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$2,500.00
Financial Secretary	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	(\$3,000.00)
Staff and Volunteer Recognition	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Employee Taxes	\$1,175.81	\$1,738.08	\$562.27
Total Staff Compensation	\$48,900.81	\$37,058.08	(\$11,842.73)
General Expenses			
Trinity Partnership	\$3,896.00	\$0.00	(\$3,896.00)
Property Insurance	\$16,574.00	\$16,574.00	\$0.00
Utilities	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00	\$0.00
Maintenance	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Janitorial Services	\$10,400.00	\$10,000.00	(\$400.00)
Miscellaneous	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Audio/Visual	\$5,600.00	\$600.00	(\$5,000.00)
Total General Expenses	\$62,970.00	\$53,674.00	(\$9,296.00)
Parish Administration			
Office Supplies	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$0.00
Quickbooks	\$375.00	\$375.00	\$0.00
Shepherd's Staff	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$0.00
Telephone	\$1,950.00	\$1,950.00	\$0.00
Copy Lease	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Postage	\$750.00	\$1,000.00	\$250.00
Synod Assembly	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Audit	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Advertising	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Total Parish Administration	\$10,875.00	\$11,125.00	\$250.00
Missions			
Christian Education	\$9,450.00	\$9,450.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Quilting	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stewardship Envelopes	\$100.00	\$0.00	(\$100.00)
Social Ministry/Evangelism/Outreach	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Total Missions	\$12,550.00	\$12,450.00	(\$100.00)
Worship			
Altar Guild	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Music	\$500.00	\$200.00	(\$300.00)
Instrumental Maintenance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Total Worship	\$2,500.00	\$2,200.00	(\$300.00)
Total Expenses	\$210,480.66	\$128,507.08	(\$81,973.58)

FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee	Chairperson	Liaison
Building & Property	Brenda Shoffstall	Jeff Ritchie
Christian Education/Youth	Rebecca Van Meter	
Evangelism		Denise Kantner
Finance	Cari Frame	Dave Clift
Life & Fellowship	Brenda Shoffstall	Darla Frame
Social Ministry		Teresa Fisher
Staff Support	Cari Frame	Jon Schmidt
Stewardship	Meets with Finance	Brenda Shoffstall
Worship & Music	Darla Frame	Georgeann Stienecker

Weekly Attendance and Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Views</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Current Giving</u>	<u>NWOS Benevolence</u>
10/29/2023	14	47	\$1,145.00	\$10.00
11/05/2023	7	74	\$4,294.41	\$66.00
11/12/2023	14	80	\$2,189.50	\$143.00
11/19/2023	16	67	\$1,884.00	\$3.00
11/26/2023	19	57	\$2,001.82	\$0.00

FELC can now accept online donations through the church website thanks to our partnership with Tithe.ly online giving. Just visit myfelc.org or scan the QR code to the right. From the church website click on the green GIVE button and follow the prompts. Thank you for your support!



2023 Noisy Offerings

Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Luke Kline Eagle Scout Project	\$1,741.43
February	Tanzanian Lutheran Church	\$1,000.00
March	Turkey Earthquake Victims	\$567.67
April	Morgan's Place	\$1,251.76
May	Wapak Area Tornado Relief	\$176.00
June	Bingo at the Acres	\$80.92
July	Servant's Day	\$202.00
August	Angel Tree	\$143.00
September	Maui Wildfire Victims	\$1,128.28
October	Operation Christmas Child	\$203.00
November	Hopewood Camp Pool Project	\$211.00
December	Loaves and Fishes	

Our Prayer Corner

Those who would love a visit or a card...

Otterbein at Cridersville

Sharon Billiter, Rex Lippincott

Otterbein at St. Marys

Dorothy Dickman

The Gardens

Betty Hague, Dale & Mary Ann Thomas, Betty Lietz

We especially remember in our prayers...

The family and friends of Adam Schulze

James Benshoff, Susan Binkley, Braden Brandyberry, Olivia Brinkley, Dominic Cousins, Richard Curry, Ted Gibson, Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Rex Lippincott, Lauren Makuh, Sasha Maslov, Mitchell Metz, Desmond Miller, Jenny Oliver, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Alex Shirey, Donna Stowell Dague, Seth Thuman, Phil Thrush, Eddie Whetstone, Nancy Carter, April Nance, Angela, and Skyler.

We remember in our prayers our military serving at home and abroad, under represented and oppressed people, EMTs, firefighters, police officers, healthcare workers, and our veterans.

If we are missing anyone in our prayer corner, please call or email the office and let us know. If there is anyone who wishes to be removed, please do the same.

Thank You!

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for allowing us to utilize your church for our training. Lots of love,

-Allen Oakwood Correctional Institute

Thank you very much for the quilt last week. We really enjoyed our visit with all of you, and the quilts.

-Dale & Mary Ann Thomas

Thank you all so much for the prayers for Adam Schulze and his family for the past four years! Adam is now at peace. Please keep praying for peace and comfort for his parents and four brothers.

-Carl and Angie Bowersock

Ministries in Action

	December 3 th	December 10 th	December 17 th	December 24 th @ 7pm	December 31 st
Acolyte	Doris Fisher	Harrison Anderson	Nolon Roode	Kaidence Schmidt	Amelia Roeger
Lector	Chris Nagel	Makayla Frame	N/A	Marsha Jackson	N/A
Cantors	Darla Frame & Susan Miller	Darla Frame & Jennie Grundey	Darla Frame & Doris Fisher	Darla Frame & Pastor Gibson	N/A
Ushers	Ken Frame & Richard Yocum	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline	Steve Steinecker & Jim Kantner
Worship Assistant	Chuck Curry	Ken Frame	Marsha Jackson	Makayla Frame	Chuck Curry
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Recorded	Darla Frame	Darla Frame	Darla Frame
Preacher	Pastor Doug Meyer	Pastor Mark Bauer	Youth Play	Pastor Bob Gibson	Lessons and Carols
Greeter	Susan Miller	Robin Klock	Dave & Connie Krites	<i>Volunteer needed</i>	Chris Nagel

Altar Guild & Fellowship Cleanup for December: Brenda Shofstall & Darla Frame

The Word of God

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
December 3 rd	Isaiah 64:1-9	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Mark 13:24-37
December 10 th	Isaiah 40:1-11	Psalm 85:1-2,8-13	2 Peter 3:8-15a	Mark 1:1-8
December 17 th	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	Psalm 126	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24 th	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Luke 1:46b-55	Romans 16:25-27	Luke 1:26-38
December 31 st	Isaiah 9:2-7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11-14	Luke 2:1-14[15-20]
January 7 th	Genesis 1:1-5	Psalm 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mark 1:14-11
January 14 th	1 Samuel 3:1-10[11-20]	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	John 1:43-51
January 21 st	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Psalm 62:5-12	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	Mark 1:14-20
January 28 th	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	Psalm 111	1 Corinthians 8:1-13	Mark 1:21-28

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of December:

December 3 rd	Chad & Amelia Sterner
December 10 th	Jennie Grundey
December 17 th	Roseann Whetstone
December 24 th	Sara Young
December 31 st	Van Meters

Altar Candles for the month of December:

The **Altar Candles** are given to the Glory of God by Char Curry in loving memory of her mother, Mabel Jackson.

FELC News and Events...

Personal contact information...if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m.	Adult and Youth Sunday School
9:45 a.m.	Youth Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

Adult Sunday School is meeting in the parlor at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. We would love for everyone to join our discussion and fellowship. Please contact Rebecca Van Meter if you are interested in joining us via Teams or Facetime. All are welcome!

Quilting Group will meet on December 13th at 11am in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

Loaves and Fishes Loaves will take a short break the holidays Meals will not be served December 21st and 28th and January 4th. Meals need to be reserved by calling 567-204-6708 and can be picked up in the alley behind the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 pm.

Noisy Offering for the month of DECEMBER: Loaves and Fishes

Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month.

Advent Bible Study Dec 6th and 13th at 6pm The Christian Education Committee will be holding a two week Advent Bible study to help prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas. We will be meeting Wednesday, December 6th and 13th at 6pm.

Next Bingo at the Acres on January 9th FELC will not be hosting Bingo at the Acres in December. Bingo will resume on January 9th from 2-3pm. If you would like to help with this social outreach ministry, please contact Brenda Shoffstall.

Men's Night will Meet Twice in December Men's Night will be held on December 7th at 6pm at Otterbein in Cridersville, please bring your own meal and beverage. Men's Night will also be held on December 14th at 6pm at Astro Lanes.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12th at 6:00pm at El Azteca.

Christmas Caroling December 10th at 5:30pm We will be caroling to our homebound and VIP members on Sunday, December 10th at 5:30pm. We currently plan to meet at our first stop. Please let Rebecca know if you or your youth are planning to attend so you can get the information on our first stop.

Miracle Meal Dec 11th The Miracle Meal will be held at the Jr. Fair Building on Monday, Dec 11th at 6pm. Thank you to everyone who signed up to support this community meal by providing food! As a reminder, donated food items can be dropped off at the Jr. Fair Building on the day of the event between 4:30pm and 5:45pm.

Senior Gathering at Trinity Save the Date: Wednesday Dec 13th from 1:30-3pm at Trinity Lutheran will be the next Senior gathering. We will share Christmas goodies and songs led by Rachel Barber. Wear your Christmas sweaters, bring a treat to share and your Christmas spirit! All are welcome!

Youth Christmas Program will be held December 17th during worship

Practices will be during the Sunday School hour on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Please let Rebecca know if your child(ren) plan(s) to be in the play.

Brunch with Santa will be held on December 17th following worship. The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a delicious brunch of breakfast casserole, pancakes, sausage and muffins for all to come and enjoy. Santa will be stopping by too.

Cookie Donations for Cookie Plate Fundraiser Needed We will be selling cookie plates at Brunch with Santa again this year. The proceeds will benefit the Wapak Ministerial Association and County EMA to help with efforts to combat food and housing insecurity. We are hoping to make and sell 30 cookie plates at \$10 each. We are in dire need of volunteers to bake and donate cookies to fill these plates. Please contact Brenda Shoffstall if are interested in donating cookies.

Wapakoneta Irving Club Sing-A-Long Dec 18th The Wapakoneta Irving Club invites you and guests to St. Paul United Church of Christ to hear and sing-a-long with the St. Paul UCC Bell Choir on Monday Dec. 18, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow. Please come join us as we celebrate this joyous season!

Worship Music We need your help! If you or someone you know would like to record a song, or sing or play live music for our prelude, let Darla know (it can be any instrument). Also, if you know someone who plays the organ or piano that might be interested in serving as our "organist" one or two Sundays a month or even just occasionally, please pass their name onto Darla, or just let them know we are interested in their services for our services. Thank you so much!

Personal Care Items Collection for Our Daily Bread We will be collecting hotel or travel sized personal care items to support the ministry of Our Daily Bread in Lima. A collection box has been placed in the church library.

YouthQuake Registration There is still time for your middle or high school student to join us for a fun packed weekend of praise and worship at YouthQuake in Cincinnati from January 5-7. Registrations will be accepted until December 17th and the cost is \$80 per student. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck Curry at 419-738-3911.

2024 Offering Envelopes The cost of offering envelopes has risen and the reliability of their timely delivery is suspect. For those reasons we are discontinuing ordering offering envelopes for our members. There are envelopes available in the pews for your convenience. Please be sure to enter your full name and what fund you would like your offering directed to. You may use outdated envelopes, but please be sure to write your full name on the envelope. If you have questions, please see Georgeann Stienecker or contact her at nksoccer@nktelco.net. Thank you!

Blue Christmas Worship Thursday, Dec 21st at 7pm FELC will be partnering with other local churches on Thursday, December 21st at 7pm at St Paul's UCC. This Blue Christmas worship service is a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the "blue" feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. This time has been called the "long dark night of the soul" and "the winter of our discontent" in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Please join us for this quiet reflective service.

Christmas Eve Worship We will be holding one worship service on Christmas Eve, a candlelight service at 7pm.

December 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 1 st Sunday of Advent Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Doug Meyer	4	5	6 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Advent Bible Study	7 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ Otterbein	8	9
10 2 nd Sunday of Advent Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Mark Bauer Congregational Meeting Council Meeting 5:30pm Christmas Caroling	11 6pm Miracle Meal @ the Jr Fair Building	12 6pm Ladies' Night @ El Azteca	13 11am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Advent Bible Study 7:00pm Ladies' Choir	14 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ Astro Lanes	15	16
17 3 rd Sunday in Advent Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Youth Play Brunch with Santa following worship	18	19	20 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Ladies' Choir	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Worship @ 7pm Pastor Bob Gibson	25 Merry Christmas!	26	27	28	29	30
31 1 st Sunday of Christmas Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Lessons and Carols						

January 2023 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir Confirmation 7:00pm Ladies' Choir	7	8	9
7 Baptism of Our Lord Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Jennie Grundey	8	9 2pm Bingo @ the Acres	10 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation	14 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ TBD	15	16
14 2nd Sunday of Epiphany Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor Mick Althausen	15	16 6pm Ladies' Night @ TBD	17 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir Confirmation 7:00pm Ladies' Choir	18 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	19	20
21 3rd Sunday of Epiphany Worship – time TBD Pastor William Schultz	22	23	24 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation	25 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	26	27
28 4th Sunday of Epiphany Adult & Youth Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Pastor William Schultz	29	30	31 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir			