

# CONNECTIONS

## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

VOLUME XII, ISSUE VI  
DECEMBER 2019



### Important Contact Information

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### EMERGENCY PHONE INFORMATION:

*If you have a pastoral emergency when the church office is closed, call the church number, 371- 2226, extension 324. Leave a message and phone number where you can be reached. Immediately after you hang up, a designated on call pastor or deacon will receive a call that there is an emergency message. He/she will retrieve the message from the mailbox and call you back.*

### Joy!!!

*When [the shepherds] saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ~ Luke 2:17-20*



**Joyful.** As lights start appearing everywhere and familiar seasonal music fills our lives, as we gather for parties and fellowship and think about how to gift those we care about, we often experience the joy of the Christmas season. It is a joy that fills us with laughter and hope and a sense of community and draws us closer to those around us. It is the joy of a baby born to humble parents, and the savior of the world living among us. It is the joy of a family created, and families gathered. It is the joy of giving and loving and celebrating. It is the joy of our lives touched by God in our midst.

**Joyless?** But sometimes, that joy does not find us as we expect. Sometimes, Christmas reminds us of what we do not have, of broken relationships and battered dreams. We have said good bye to too many people. We look at the life we have and see regrets and losses and sorrows. We are overwhelmed by the demands and the cost and the happiness of others seems to mock us.

**Joy!** As I think about Mary and Joseph and that long trip to Bethlehem while pregnant, and all the trouble they must have faced as unwed parents, and the disappointment of sleeping in a stable, I wonder how much joy there was for them that night, at least at first. The uncertainty and the unexpected clashing to create a less than ideal birth, and a baby in a small, forgotten stable probably didn't seem like a very joyful experience.

**Joy!!** But, then the angels started to sing, and a rag-tag group of shepherd heard the joyful song. They caught that joy and rushed off to see the baby Jesus. And now, Mary has caught some of that joy and wonder. She ponders all that has happened, and she treasures it. Finally, the shepherds share their joy with everyone, shouting about Jesus' birth all over town.

**Joy!!!** That first Christmas probably didn't start with too much joy, but God broke into that dreary night in the form of a helpless infant, and that did bring joy! Joy for angels and shepherds and Mary and Joseph and the town of Bethlehem and joy for us. So when we find ourselves struggling to see the joy of Christmas, when we can't quite seem to get into the spirit, we look to that most important of moments, the moment of "God with us," God in our midst, God in the form of a baby, and we grasp that joy, if only for the smallest of instances, as we realize all that Jesus' birth means for us.

*Blessings in Christ,*

*Pastor Amber Craig*

*Pastor's Pen*

*"By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness  
and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace." Luke  
1:78-79*



The passage above is from the Song of Zechariah, also known as the Benedictus. Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, who had been unable to speak suddenly has his tongue unleashed as he declares his new son's name is John. Then filled with the Holy Spirit he prophesies how God has not forgotten God's people.

It is part of the story of this Advent-Christmas season that often gets lost in all the hustle and bustle of the season. That is too bad because Zechariah speaks to hope.

The Sundays of Advent as marked by the candles on the Advent wreath are often focused on the words, Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Zechariah had hope for his family, his new son, and his people Israel. He saw the hopes of his heart fulfilled in the life and future mission of his son to prepare the way for the Savior.

For what do we hope this season of Advent? Perhaps we have worries and anxieties. Given the times we live in that is to be expected. Know this, God will never forget you or forsake you. God has a mission for you – for each of us – to prepare the way for his Son, our Savior, Jesus, in our hearts, in our homes and in our world.

May God bless you in these holy seasons of Advent and Christmas, and always.

*Pastor Jeff*

# ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Worship More Fully Isaiah 9:2-7

Americans spent over \$700 Billion on Christmas last year! Is that the story God had in mind at Christmas?

**Worshipping Fully – Spending Less – Giving More – Loving All**

This Advent, Prince of Peace is asking you to take the money you would have spent on one less gift and donate it to the ongoing work of EPES and their Escuela Internacional. Our goal is \$3500. Envelopes will be available in the Welcoming area.

## YOUTH NEWS

### FOR OCTOBER 2019

### **CLOWN TROUPE**

Clown troupe is in full swing! Rehearsal times are from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on Sunday evenings unless otherwise noted.



#### Rehearsals

Dec 1

Dec 15



#### Upcoming Service

Jan 18 at Prince of Peace!



### **Sr. High Youth Group**

We will be planning **at least one youth event each month** through the school year. These events will fall on a variety of different days and will often be fun activities or service opportunities. All youth in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend!



### **December Activity**

**Christmas Party!** ~ We are still waiting for a location and date for this party, but it is happening! We will celebrate the Christmas season and catch up with old friends.

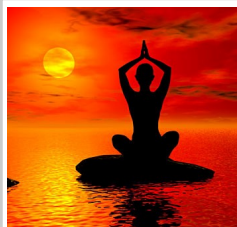
We will welcome back those who have gone off to college, have fun, and enjoy each other's company!

Please bring \$5 for pizza and a wrapped gift (no more than \$5 in value) for our always exciting gift exchange. Date and location will come via text and email soon!



### **Coming in February!**

Winter Retreat for High School youth along with a tandem retreat for Middle School. February 14-16<sup>th</sup> with a Star Wars theme! Cost is \$50. Let Pastor Amber know if you are interested to get forms. Space is limited and may go quickly!



### **YOGA WITH JOELY**

Mondays - 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Welcoming Area

**FREE!!**

Bring a yoga mat and water



### **REACH Offering - Dec. 8**

#### **“Vision 2020 Results” with Rob Anderson**

Vision 2020 Prince of Peace has completed a year long effort to thoughtfully consider its future. The Vision 2020 Team utilized both a congregational survey and a congregational listening event to gather valuable and insightful information. That information has now been compiled into a concise document. The Vision 2020 document will be made available the week of December 1st in both electronic and hard copy formats. The December 8th REACH time will focus on further communicating the results of the Vision 2020 effort. Thoughtful implementation of Vision 2020 will be a focus of the annual Council retreat in January 2020.





**PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Pastor Jeff Silvernail  
Pastor Amber Craig

November 20, 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Prince of Peace,

When I came to be in your midst in March 2009 it was a time of new beginnings. Starting a new call with you was not something I had anticipated until I received a message that Bishop Marie Jerge wanted me to consider a ministry at Prince of Peace. After lots of prayer and discernment over a period of 9 months my wife Linda and I found ourselves worshipping and serving with you.

We have had our share of joys and struggles, triumphs and setbacks, but through it all we have grown close and together we have learned how to better live into our Purpose Statement.

You have made me a better pastor and for that I am profoundly thankful. The ministry I experienced with you is something for which I will be forever grateful.

As we all know change comes to life and it comes to ministry as well. I am at a stage of life in which I need to make some changes. This is also a time in which I have been sensing and testing a new sense of call – to part time intentional interim ministry.

I hesitate to term my next step in life retirement, as I do intend to serve as a pastor with congregations that are without a regular pastor and are preparing for the next step to which God is leading them. I also will continue to serve as a pastoral coach and may occasionally provide pastoral services to those who aren't connected with a church.

Linda and I do not plan on leaving the area but once my call is complete here, I will no longer be your pastor. I commend to you the Covenant of Closure which is being finalized by the Council and myself. This covenant will give guidelines on our relationship going forward.

My last Sunday at Prince of Peace will be January 26, 2020.

I will hold Prince of Peace in my prayers and Linda and I ask that you pray for us.

With deep gratitude for each of you and for this congregation and its ministry –

Blessings in Christ,



## Important December Worship Notes



**December 15**

**10:30am**

Sunday School  
Christmas Pageant



**December 22**

**8:00AM & 10:30AM**

Worship with a  
special DVD Viewing  
of the Senior Choir's  
Performance at  
Carnegie Hall in 2018



**December 24**

**Christmas Eve**

**5:00pm**

Family Service

**7:30pm**

Festival Service



**December 25**

**Christmas Day**

**11:00am**

Worship Service



**December 29**

One service only

**9:30am**

### Note:

The Church Office will be closed on  
December 25th & December 26th.



# ENVIRONMENTAL TEAM

## FAIR TRADE

ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, WE OFFER:

### COFFEE

Organic Breakfast Blend  
Regular

Organic Breakfast Blend  
Decaf



### TEA

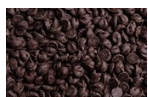
Organic Chamomile Decaf

Organic Rooibos Decaf

Organic Earl Grey

Organic Chai

Organic Green Tea



### CHOCOLATE

Organic Very Dark Chocolate Bar (71% Cocoa)

Organic Milk Chocolate w/hint of hazelnut  
(38% Cocoa)

Organic Dark chocolate Minis (55% Cocoa)

Organic Hot Chocolate Mix



### OTHER

Organic Mixed Berry Chewy Cereal Bar

Organic Cashews

Organic Almonds



All Fair Trade products buy direct from small farmers who grow products using ecologically sustainable farming practices. Their trading partner, Equal Exchange, donates \$.20 for each pound of Fair Trade coffee, tea, & cocoa we sell.

## ADVENT TEA 2019 DECEMBER 8th CALLING ALL THE WOMEN OF PRINCE OF PEACE:



You are all cordially invited to our annual Advent Tea. It will be Sunday December 8 from 3:00 to 6:30 Pm. Our hostess is Ginny Wink and our speaker is Deacon Diana Foote. We have lots and lots of fun, fellowship with each other, Christmas Carol sing, ornament exchange, delicious food. Please sign up on the poster in the welcome area. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday December 8. If you would like to participate in the ornament exchange please bring an ornament. Secret Sisters remember your gifts for your Secret Sister.



## CHRISTMAS COOKIES FOR THE ILL AND HOMEBOUND DECEMBER 8TH

We will be assembling tins of Christmas cookies again this year to support our folks who can't get to church much anymore and raise their spirits during this Christmas season. It really means a lot to them to know they are not forgotten. And they love the homemade cookies that remind them of their past Christmases. So, if you would like to be a part of this ministry, please bring in a couple dozen cookies to the kitchen on Sunday December 8th. We will be assembling after the second service in the kitchen. If you would like to help with putting the tins together, or help with delivering the cookies, please let JoAnn Koenig or Ann Crivello know ahead of time. We have several to deliver and could really use help in delivering. Thank you in advance for your support.

## POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettia forms are now available for Christmas, and found on the center table in the Greeting area. They are \$9.25 each, in 6 in. dia. pots. Deadline is Sun. Dec. 15. To order, fill out the form & place a check payable to Prince of Peace in the envelope, then turn in at offering time, or place in offering bowl by altar. Questions? See Ann Crivello 518 877 6681



## Thrivent Action at Prince of Peace in 2019

Thrivent provides Action Grants in the amount of \$250 that can be used to support good works at both Prince of Peace and within our community. Thrivent Members at Prince of Peace obtained Action Grants to complete the following projects in 2019:

- **Pack the Little Food Pantry.** Three different Thrivent Members each obtained grants of \$250 to help keep the Little Food Pantry's shelves stocked. A total of \$750 was used to purchase food supplies and motivate further donations.
- **Mother's Day Brunch.** An Action Grant was used to purchase food supplies for the annual Mother's Day Brunch. This \$250 grant served as seed money to allow the Mother's Day Brunch to maximize its donation to EPES.
- **Construction Supplies for Eagle Scout Project.** A \$250 grant was used to purchase necessary construction supplies for the completion of a sandbox with retractable cover for the Nursery School at Prince of Peace. This grant was combined with a separate grant from the Grace Endowment Fund. This project was completed by Robbie Bodien.
- **Lunch Supplies for Eagle Scout Project.** Another Action Grant was used to provide the lunch needed to feed all of the volunteers that worked on Robbie Bodien's Eagle Scout Project throughout the day!
- **Inspirational Books for Prison Ministry.** A \$250 grant was used to purchase 35 copies of inspirational books by Greg Boyle to be used in a Prison Ministry. This grant was used to supplement a Fall 2019 grant from the Grace Endowment Fund that did not fully meet the anticipated needs of the project.
- **Brendan's Breakfast.** Two separate Action Grants were used to purchase food supplies for Brendan's Breakfasts in 2019. This \$500 served as seed money to allow the Brendan's Breakfasts to achieve their mission and maximize their support for Senior High Camp.
- **Cheryl's Lodge Bountiful Backpack Program.** A \$250 grant was used to support Cheryl's Lodge's Bountiful Backpack Program that provides food security for community youth in need. Cheryl's Lodge is associated with CAPTAIN.
- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.** An Action Grant was used to purchase food supplies for the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper put on by the Prince of Peace Junior and Senior High Youth. This \$250 grant again served as vital seed money to allow the Youth to maximize their donation to a local community service organization.

These are all fantastic examples of Thrivent Action at work here at Prince of Peace in the past year! If you have Thrivent specific questions, please contact our local representative Paula-Christy Heighton at 518-221-9472. If you have questions about writing a Thrivent Action Grant request or connecting with a local Thrivent Member that can partner with you to support your idea, please see Rob Anderson.

### Faces of Faith

Meet this month's Faces of Faith, Faith Beebe. Faith has lived the majority of her life in New York having been raised in Altamont. She graduated from Guilderland and live for a short time in Nashville. Faith went to the College of St. Rose and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business. Faith has worked for the Department of Motor Vehicles in their central office in Albany for 30 years. She is fortunate to live within walking distance from her job

Faith was raised in the Lutheran church. Previously, Faith belonged to First Lutheran in Albany as it was her neighborhood church. Her mother attended Grace Lutheran Church. Due to her mother's connection to Grace, Faith made several friends with folks from Grace. It was through these connections that a friend invited Faith to come to POP and visit. She came to the Christmas cantata and Christmas Eve service. Faith was welcomed and she enjoyed the worship experience and connected to the music. Faith joined the choir. One of her first major experiences with Prince of Peace was having the opportunity to practice Pepper Chopin's Christmas Cantata and then performing the cantata at Carnegie Hall in New York City last year. She describe that experience as a family experience and definitely strengthened many relationships.

Faith has 3 brothers all living in New York as well; Schenectady, Saratoga Springs and Western Esperance. Faith is proud to say she is a cancer survivor and is very involved in support groups with those dealing with the disease. She participates in the Ovarian Survivor walk every September.

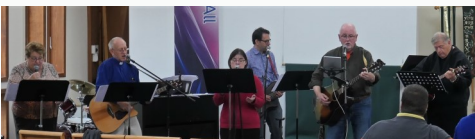
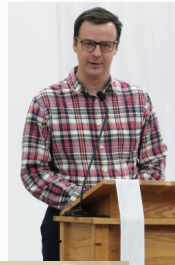
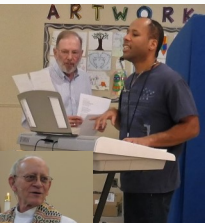
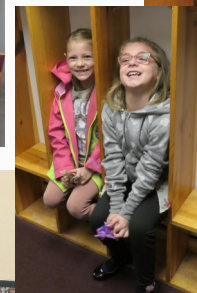
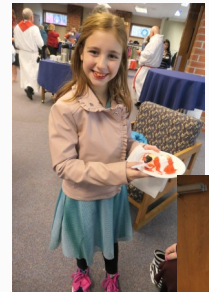
Faith enjoys photography, gardening and travel. But without a doubt her greatest love and hobby is music. She sings not only with the POP choir but the Jubilate Choir and Festive Celebration Choir. Please say hi the next time you see this lovely lady.





# Prince of Peace In Photos!

## October & November 2019







**Celebrate!**

## December Birthdays

1st - Deirdre Bennett, Jeffory Clarkson

3rd - Randy Johnson

4th - Fred Custer, David Halverson

5th - Kristen Petersen, Helen Carini,  
Christina Powell

7th - Michael Petterson, Sheila Ruby

8th - Lauren Elfner

10th - Veronica Casano

11th - Mary Rurycz

12th - Philip Matthei

13th - John Hofgesang

14th - Alexandria Rurycz, Hillary Bennett,  
Brian Parsons, Maxwell Kane,  
Richard Kuehn

15th - Aubrey Waugaman, Michael Burke,  
Jim Netzer, Rev. Jo Page

17th - Jacob Grimm

18th - Andrew Bodien, Natalie Johnson,  
Deborah Hahn

20th - Bryan Waugaman, Hailey Cook Ladd

21st - Lois Kelly, Kristin St. Denis

22nd - Donna Walker, Bill Kellar,  
Bill Yoquinto

24th - Jennifer Salmon, Delaney Steele

25th - Lorraine Munson

26th - Betty Taggart

27th - Kelly Gibson

31st - Virgil Sager



### PRINCE OF PEACE FOOD PANTRY The 1st Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday.



We now have some people who will be helping this ministry which involves checking the food for expiration dates, organizing the food on shelves, and checking to see what items we can use in the pantry and notifying the congregation to the needs.

The FBI has work hard to stencil cloth bags for the congregation to use to bring the food to church. Our goal to decrease the use of plastic bags. At the entrance of church, you will find a clothes pole with empty bags. Please take one bag home with you. Fill it with food to bring to church on Food Sunday. Place your full bag on the cart at the entrance and take a bag home for the next month. **Every time you bring food to church take an empty bag home to fill for the next month.** If we use the cloth bags we help our world in two ways...one by feeding the hungry and one by helping our environment.

#### Items We Need:

- ⇒ Cereal/Oatmeal
- ⇒ Canned Veggies/Canned Fruit
- ⇒ Soups/Stew
- ⇒ Coffee/Tea/Juice
- ⇒ Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/Floss.
- ⇒ Shampoo/Conditioner

#### Items that are not needed (These items don't go):

- ⇒ Cans of Crushed tomatoes.
- ⇒ Vegetable soup.
- ⇒ Diced Tomatoes.
- ⇒ Pinto beans.
- ⇒ Tomato soup

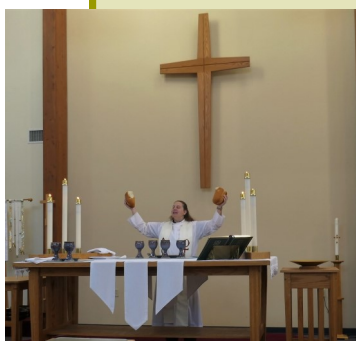
*Note: Pop-top cans are helpful for those without access to a can opener.*





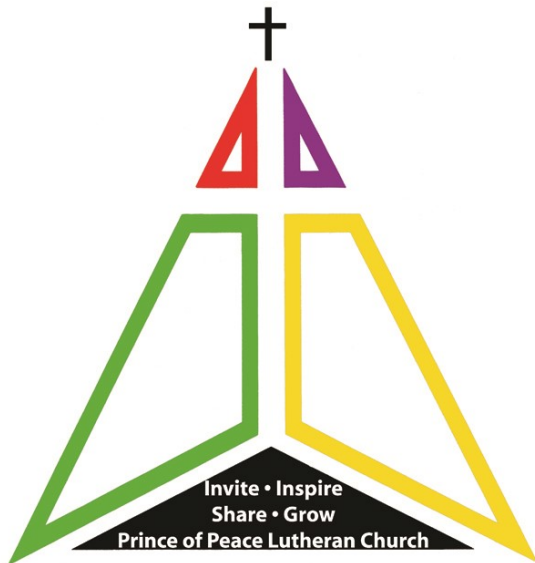
December Server Schedule			
December 8 - 8:00am Bread: Denise Johnson Coffee: Jen Rice Reader: Dorothy Stuart Ushers: Mark Steele & Dorothy Stuart	December 8 - 10am Bread: Judy Rogers Coffee: Debbie Berry Reader: Kayla Doerr Ushers: Ben Pearson & Valerie Shaw	December 15 - 8:00am Bread: Rene Panarese Coffee: Rob Anderson Reader: Ginny Wink Ushers: Mark Steele & Dorothy Stuart	December 15 - 10:30am Bread: Susan Zappen Coffee: Lisa Haase Reader: Wayne Petterson Ushers: Ben Pearson & Valerie Shaw
Counters: Denise Johnson    Laurel Catellier Deacon: Donna Turner		Counters: Bill Yoquinto    Tom Miller Deacon: Nancy Hoelzer	
December 22 - 8:00am Bread: Pam Cook Coffee: Ann Crivello Reader: Tom Miller Ushers: Mark Steele & Dorothy Stuart	December 22 - 10:30am Bread: Mary Rurycz Coffee: Janet Green Reader: Bryan Waugaman Ushers: Ben Pearson & Valerie Shaw	December 24 - 5:00pm Deacon: Nancy Hoelzer  December 24 - 7:30pm Deacons: Eileen Bryant JoAnn Koenig	December 25 Deacon: Jim Netzer  
Counters: Janet Green    Judy Rogers Deacon: Diana Foote		Counters: Nancy Kowalski    Susan Anderson Christine Sheppard	
December 29 - 9:30am Bread: Winnie Petterson Reader: Kayla Doerr Deacon: JoAnn Koenig			

Claimed by Grace,  
We seek to  
Welcome All, Worship Joyfully,  
Grow Spiritually  
And Share God's Love



PRINCE OF PEACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

4 NORTHCREST DRIVE  
CLIFTON PARK, NY 12065



We sincerely hope you enjoy  
**CONNECTIONS!**

If you know of any friends or neighbors who might be interested in learning about Prince of Peace, please feel free to forward the electronic copy to them.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

\*Contemporary worship on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month

CONNECTIONS is the monthly newsletter of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. In an effort to be more fiscally & environmentally conscious, we send the newsletter electronically to as many people as possible. You can help by e-mailing the church office to give us your current e-mail address or calling the church office if you don't use e-mail (we'll be glad to put your copy in the mail).

**UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS**

**December Daily Activities**

- 12/5 TMWF: 9:45AM
- 12/7 Council Christmas Party (Offsite): 6:30pm
- 12/8 Worship: 8:00AM & 10:30AM (Contemporary)  
Confirmation Bake Sale; SS Pageant Rehearsal: 9:15am  
Christmas Cookie Assembly: 12:00pm
- 12/9 Prayer Group: 1:30PM; Yoga: 6:00 PM
- 12/11 Confirmation: 6:30PM; Choir Rehearsal: 6:30PM
- 12/12 TMWF: 9:45AM; REACH Planning Meeting: 7:00PM
- 12/13 Choir Christmas Party (Offsite): 6:30PM
- 12/15 Worship: 8:00AM & 10:30AM - SS Christmas Pageant  
SS Pageant Rehearsal: 9:15AM  
Clown Troupe Rehearsal: 6:30PM
- 12/16 Yoga: 6:00PM
- 12/17 Facilities Team Meeting: 6:30PM
- 12/18 Confirmation: 6:30PM; Choir Rehearsal: 6:30PM
- 12/19 TMWF: 9:45 AM
- 12/22 Worship: 8:00AM & 10:30AM
- 12/23 Prayer Group: 1:30PM; Yoga: 6:00PM
- 12/24 **Christmas Eve** - Family Service: 5:00PM;  
Festival Service: 7:30PM
- 12/25 **Christmas Day** - Worship Service: 11:00AM  
Church Office Closed
- 12/26 Church Office Closed
- 12/29 Worship: 9:30AM (Only Service)
- 12/30 Prayer Group: 1:30PM; Yoga: 6:00PM

**December Weekly Activities**

**Sundays:** Worship - 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

(12/29: One service only - 9:30AM)

Sunday School - 9:15 AM

(Not on 12/22 or 12/19)

**Mondays:** Prayer Group - 1:30 PM (Not on 10/7)

Yoga - 6:00 PM

**Wednesdays:** Choir Rehearsal - 6:30 PM

Confirmation - 6:30 PM

(Neither on 12/25)

**Thursdays:**

Thursday Morning Women's Fellowship - 9:45 AM

(Not on 12/26)

