



THE IMMANUELITE

First Immanuel Lutheran Church

1816 NW Irving Street, Portland, Oregon 97209

*“A Welcoming Community Centered in Christ’s Love,
Joyfully Reaching Out Together”*

November 2011

published monthly

Vol. 22 No. 11

Dear Partners in Christ’s work,

Autumn is the season for our congregation’s annual pledge campaign. Our theme this year is **Worship God with Giving**, reflecting how our giving is an act of worship and devotion to God. Through our giving we recognize and respond to God’s great goodness. We ask you to prayerfully consider your financial support for First Immanuel’s work in the year to come. We also invite you to attend and participate fully in worship on two important Sundays:

November 13 is Worshipful Giving Sunday. Our worship will conclude with a brief gathering in the sanctuary, followed by a festive coffee hour. We’ll celebrate the ministry we share at First Immanuel and the support we all provide to make this ministry happen. Everyone will receive a pledge card, and you will have the opportunity to dedicate your pledge if you are ready to do so.

November 20 is Pledge Sunday, when we will dedicate our financial pledges during worship. A pledge is your plan for giving to the congregation’s ministry for the coming year. It helps each giver to be intentional about supporting God’s work. It is also a symbol of our financial lives, offered up for God’s purposes. During worship on Pledge Sunday, there will be time for you to lay your pledge on the altar before God. Our pledge cards will include the opportunity to offer a special 2011 year-end gift to First Immanuel.

At a recent Inquirers’ Lunch, we explored what commitments are involved in being a member of a church. We talked about four essential responsibilities: **prayers, presence, gifts and service.**

Prayer—Prayer is one of the basic building blocks for Christian life. We pray for each other, and for the work we share as a congregation. Prayer is an important way we support and care for each other.

Presence—Belonging to a congregation means

sharing our presence with one another. We make a commitment to be present regularly to join in worship, being fully present with heart and voice.

Gifts—Belonging to a congregation means sharing our gifts to serve Christ’s work. With our financial gifts, we support the whole ministry of First Immanuel. With our gifts of time and talent, we touch the lives of others in specific ways.

Service—Being part of a Christian community means serving, and at First Immanuel there are many ways to serve. As Christians, we follow Jesus in his way of serving, and discover in it a richer and deeper life.

We give thanks that God has blessed the members of this congregation in so many ways. We invite you to prayerfully consider how God is inviting you to be a partner in Christ’s community and Christ’s work—through your **prayers**, your **presence**, your **gifts**, and your **service**. May God bless us all in our life and work together.

In Christ’s service,

Pastor Aaron

Pastor Melinda



Worship God with Giving



Photo courtesy of Deanna Cantrell

Sacred Space, Holy Things

When is an altar not an altar? When it's used for Christian worship. An altar is a place for offering sacrifice. In ancient religions, an altar was a raised platform, often made of stone, where sacrifice was made by slaughtering an animal in order to secure a god's favor and gain his or her help in some way. But no sacrificial victim is ever offered on Christian altars. In Christian worship, the altar is Christ's table, at which Christians share a meal to celebrate the victory of God over sin and death through the resurrection of Christ.

At First Immanuel, there are two altars. Against the east wall is the old high altar. It is a beautiful and imposing structure, given to the congregation in 1918 by Pastor and Mrs. A.V. Anderson, who served First Immanuel from 1917 to 1927. (Before 1918, a temporary table was used as the altar.) Above and behind the altar is the reredos, which holds a statue of the risen Christ and a depiction of the Last Supper, rendered in bas-relief carving. (Subsequent "Sacred Space—Holy Things" articles will explore those features in greater detail.) When leading worship before the high altar, the minister faced away from the congregation, representing the people when offering prayer to God, who was conceived of as "beyond" us. The old high altar, however, is no longer used as an altar. Instead, a small freestanding altar allows worship leaders to face the congregation, recognizing the presence of God in the midst of God's people.

First Immanuel began using a small freestanding altar in 2000. That altar had originally been used during the 1960s for a children's church program in Sodergren Hall. On the downstairs level was a small chapel, complete with child-sized pews and altar. When the children's church program was discontinued, Pastor Chuck Haney had the altar moved into the sanctuary to create a meditation and prayer space in the corner behind the pulpit. Years later, Pastor Linda Larson asked Howard Rasmussen to adapt it to serve as a

freestanding altar. Even though Pastor Larson joked that changing First Immanuel's worship practice might cause an earthquake, the congregation welcomed the change.

Why, then, do Christians refer to Christ's table as an altar? Because as a metaphor, the image of sacrifice helps us make some beautiful connections between what we do in worship and how we live our lives. The "offerings" we present at the altar (bread and wine, our financial gifts, food for the food pantry) represent our whole selves given to God. These offerings do not secure God's favor, but instead are blessed by God and returned to us to strengthen our shared mission of being God's people in the world. We share the bread and wine as Christ's body and blood, given for us to make us strong to follow in Christ's way of forgiveness and service. Our financial offerings make the church's work possible—sharing the good news of Jesus, feeding the hungry, supporting God's people in making a difference in God's world.

—Pastor Aaron Couch

Read through the New Testament this Year!



We meet Jesus alive in scripture, where we learn his way and receive his gifts. This month we'll read several of the shorter letters of the New Testament. 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are known as the "pastoral epistles," written as pastoral wisdom for leaders in the second generation of the church. Philemon is the only personal letter in the New Testament.

1 & 2 Peter and James are among the "catholic epistles," written broadly to a general (catholic = universal) audience.

1	1 Timothy 3	16	James 4
2	1 Timothy 4	17	James 5
3	1 Timothy 5:1-22	18	1 Peter 1
4	1 Timothy 5:23—6:21	19	1 Peter 2
5	2 Timothy 1	20	1 Peter 3
6	2 Timothy 2	21	1 Peter 4
7	2 Timothy 3	22	1 Peter 5
8	2 Timothy 4	23	2 Peter 1
9	Titus 1	24	2 Peter 2
10	Titus 2	25	2 Peter 3
11	Titus 3	26	Galatians 1
12	Philemon	27	Galatians 2
13	James 1	28	Galatians 3:1-18
14	James 2	29	Galatians 3:19—4:20
15	James 3	30	Galatians 4:21-31

All Saints Sunday, November 6

On All Saints Sunday we remember and give thanks for the lives of the saints who have gone before us. The book of Hebrews reminds us that we are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses" who cheer us on to run life's race with perseverance. When we remember our ancestors in faith, or the life of a particular saint, we glimpse the goodness and majesty of God.



On November 6, during the prayers, you will be invited to come forward and light a candle in remembrance of one of the "saints" in your life, someone who has led the way for you in the Christian faith. We do not light candles to the dead; we light candles to God in thanksgiving for those who have gone before. We recall their witness and are reminded to let our light shine, too.

FILC BOOK GROUP

Sunday, November 13 at 6:30 p.m.

at the home of Lynn & Mike Akerman, 503-690-7643

Gather with other book lovers for great discussion and dessert. Call for directions and to let us know you'll be there.

Our November selection:

Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy by Eric Metaxas



This new biography of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor and seminary professor who acted courageously against the Nazis, will broaden your understanding and inspire your faith. It's a long read but well worth the effort. Our conversation complements this fall's Sunday Forum on Bonhoeffer.

Read ahead for January 15: *The Confession* by John Grisham. As Pastor Keith Schroeder sits in his office one cold morning, he's paid a visit by Travis Boyette, a convicted felon on parole. Boyette tells Keith he's dying and that he (maybe) wants to confess to the abduction, rape and murder of a high school cheerleader who disappeared almost 10 years ago. A suspenseful, thought-provoking work of fiction. We'll have plenty to talk about!

Advent Workshop & Chili Feed

Sunday, November 27

Come and get ready for the holy season of Advent. These four Sundays before Christmas help us prepare to greet the arrival of our Savior at Christmas, while we also prepare our hearts and minds to be ready for the return of Christ as King of all creation. Join us after worship on the first Sunday in Advent, November 27, for a lively and festive start to the season. Enjoy a **chili feed**. Make **holiday greens and crafts**. Special **children's activities**, too. There's no cost for lunch, but donations are gladly accepted.



Day of Homelessness Awareness: Nov. 15

An opportunity to Donate/Volunteer/Advocate

On Tuesday, November 15, faith communities throughout Portland and Multnomah County will observe the second annual "Interfaith Day of Homelessness Awareness." This year will focus on three concrete actions that people of faith can take to help end homelessness:



Homeless Outreach

Donate/Volunteer/Advocate. The Day of Homelessness Awareness includes a "Walk of Awareness" starting at 7 a.m. at the Downtown Chapel Roman Catholic Parish, and ending at the 13 Salmon Family Day Center at First Unitarian Church. Stops along the way will include the newly opened Bud Clark Commons. Reflections by spiritual leaders, stories about homelessness and comments by civic leaders on what is being done to address the three "faces" of homelessness—adults, youth, and families—will take place along the walk. Participants will also hear specific calls to action to get more deeply involved in addressing homelessness.

The Day of Homelessness Awareness is jointly organized by Multnomah County and the City of Portland with the New City Initiative at JOIN. Faith partnerships include Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Albina Ministerial Alliance, the Oregon Board of Rabbis, and the Muslim Educational Trust. For more information and a map of the Walk route, visit www.joinpdx.com/dayofawareness.

GOOD BOOKS ARE MULTIPLYING IN "IDA'S CORNER"



Our library collection is growing in its new location in Sodergren Lounge, with titles such as *Jesus Freak: Feeding, Healing, Raising the Dead* by Sara Miles; *The Spirituality of Imperfection* by Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham; and *Have a Little Faith* by Mitch Albom. Look through our online catalog at www.librarything.com/catalog/FirstImmanuelLibrary—then come in person and take one home!

Our Library's mission is to provide resources for spiritual education and growth. We plan to include a children's section featuring books oriented toward the spiritual life. Here's how you can get involved:

- Volunteer your time to help maintain the collection.
- Suggest the titles of books that have influenced your faith and life.
- Donate books that are in keeping with our mission (due to limited space, any duplicate books and those not fitting into our collection will be passed along to other worthy organizations). The online catalog includes a "wish list" of books we'd love to receive. Thanks!

—FILC Library Committee
(a new subcommittee of Congregational Life):
Susan Nelson, Joan Pendergast, Marja Selmann,
Betsy Summers, Pastor Melinda Wagner

OCTOBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Actual pledge giving:

August: \$13,806

TOTAL FOR 2011: \$141,281

Budgeted pledge giving:

August: \$20,369

TOTAL FOR 2011: \$162,952

Neighborhood Apartment Buildings. Architectural plans for two proposed apartment buildings in the immediate neighborhood were presented. This is generally viewed as a positive development.

Property. Several documents from the Property Committee were reviewed, including a 3-5 year plan, status report of the Building Fund, and a proposal concerning rain gutters and window wells in Sodergren Hall. A motion to continue to maintain a balance in the Building Fund of at least \$10,000 was passed. A motion to postpone projects not under contract until the balance in the Building Fund rises was approved. A motion to approve installation of improved gutters and downspouts in Sodergren Hall was passed.

Bequest. First Immanuel will soon be receiving a bequest of approximately \$13,000 from the estate of Virginia Fredrickson. A motion to place 10% of the bequest into the First Immanuel Endowment Fund and the remaining 90% in the Reserve Fund was adopted.

Parking. Articles about a proposal from the mayor's office to install parking meters in the Northwest neighborhood were circulated. Marja Selmann will be asked to write a letter on behalf of the congregation with specific recommendations concerning parking around First Immanuel.

Endowment Grants. The Endowment Committee reported that all applications for grants from the endowment funds were approved, but that some grant amounts were changed. A motion to distribute the endowment funds per the recommendations of the committee was adopted.

Reports. Written reports from the pastors as well as the Congregational Life and Executive Committees were received. James Bash, Edwin Rourk, and Pastor Aaron gave a detailed report on the work of the Stewardship committee.

Finances. James Bash presented the treasurer's report for the month of September. Although giving was down, we continue to underspend the budget. A motion to accept the treasurer's report, subject to audit, was adopted.

—Leslie Wong, Secretary

A message from your Endowment Committee...

**Your will can benefit your family
and your church.**

Soul Café, a new online community for Lutherans in the Pacific Northwest

Check out Soul Café, where Lutherans in the Northwest can meet, interact, and share wisdom about the joys and challenges of being the church in this beautiful part of the world. Log on at <http://www.soulcafe.org>.



Worship God with Giving

Giving is an opportunity to put our true priorities and values into practice.

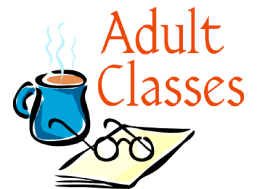
Our bank and credit card statements are theological documents, reflecting who we are and what we worship. When we give to support Christ's ministry, we are making a tangible statement of what we sincerely believe and stand for. Scripture says, "*Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*" (Matthew 6:21)

The attitude in which a gift is given is more important than the amount.

Scripture says "*...If the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.*" (2 Corinthians 8:12)

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy

*Adult Forum, Sunday mornings at
9:45 in Fellowship Hall*



This fall we are exploring the life and wisdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran pastor and theologian who acted boldly against the Nazi regime and finally gave his life in the cause. Bonhoeffer was both exceptionally brave and exceptionally clear in his understanding of how Christian faith influences our daily actions. In November we will sample one of his most famous books, *Life Together*, which addresses the values of Christian community. Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:45. The coffee's always on and childcare is provided through our wonderful Sunday School.

—Pastor Melinda

FIRST IMMANUEL CORE VALUES

**Spiritual Life * Friendly Community *
Acceptance & Diversity * Tradition & Heritage *
Music & Worship * Growing in Faith *
Family Focus * Serving & Volunteering**



Sunday School Is Buzzing!

Sunday School is off to a great start this year. Sodergren Hall is buzzing with happy noise. Check out classes for every age from preschool to

middle school. Kids have fun learning about the amazing love of God in Jesus.

- Pre-K and Kindergarten—"Puppets and Parachutes" in the Blue Sunday School room.
- Early Elementary (Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade) in the Green room.
- Upper Elementary (3th through 5th grades) in Pastor Melinda's office.
- Middle School (6th through 8th grades) in Sodergren Lounge.

Parents of Sunday School children are invited to enjoy coffee, the Sunday newspaper, and informal conversation in the media room during the Sunday School hour. Nursery care for young children is available.

Y2B—Yes to Baptism

Y2B (which stands for "Yes to Baptism") is the creative and fun Confirmation program we share with other Lutheran congregations in the Portland area, including St. James, Zion, and St. Timothy.



We'll be switching locations this month, meeting at St. James on Sunday afternoons, November 6 and 20. This year we're learning what the Bible is all about, using a book by Dan Erlander called Manna and Mercy. We gather at 1 p.m., share lunch together, and then explore how the Bible can help us build a lively faith life.

WE'RE PLANNING WAAAY AHEAD FOR SUMMER YURT CAMPING

August 25-27, 2012 -- State Park location TBA



Can you believe we're already planning for next year's camping trip? If all goes well, we'll be able to reserve a **group of yurts for the weekend before Labor Day, August 25-27**. The state park location depends on what's available. Cost for a yurt will be about \$110 which includes a group barbecue on Saturday evening. Cost for tent camping will

be about \$50. Bring your own food plus the usual camping gear (bedding, dishes, etc.). All interested parties, please contact Edwin Rourk (derourk@gmail.com). We'll be reserving sites on Nov. 25 and will be able to provide more details then.

P.S. Yurts are great! They have electricity and bunk beds. See www.oregon.gov/OPRD/PARKS/rustic.shtml#RUSTIC_YURTS for more info.

—Your Congregational Life Committee

The Mitten Tree is up this month in the church narthex. You can bring mittens, hats and scarves for all ages. Friendly House distributes them through the



chilly fall and winter months, and there are never leftovers! All donations are appreciated.

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

Cookies, cakes, and breads needed for HOLIDAY BAKE SALE, DEC. 4



Warm up your ovens and start baking your holiday specialties...especially those Scandinavian goodies! This year's Bake Sale will be conducted by our youth, to

raise funds for youth activities. Goodies can be brought to church on Sunday, Dec. 4 and will be sold at coffee hour that day. Thanks!

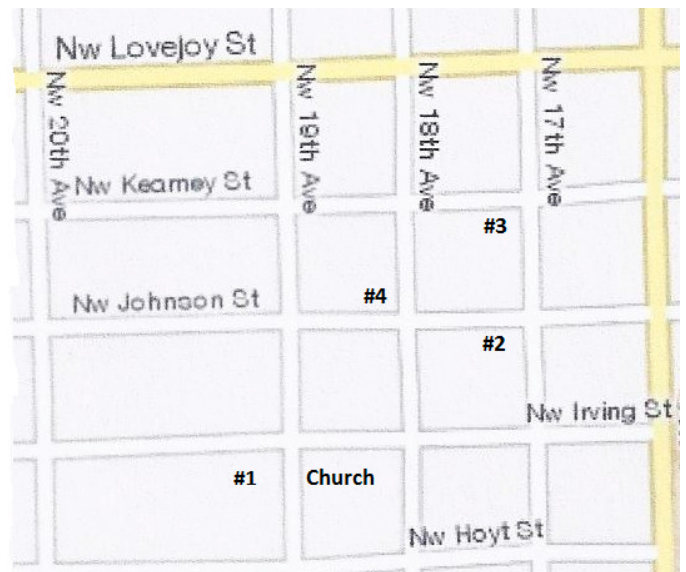
NEW SUNDAY PARKING SPOTS!

We recently lost the use of some handy parking spaces in the corner lot at 18th & Irving—but we've gained some great new options. In addition to the church lot, we have permission for **Sunday morning parking in the following locations:**



- **Small real estate lot** across from the church on 19th—633 NW 19th Ave. (#1 on map below)
- **Mesher Tools** lot at the corner of NW 17th and Johnson (#2)
- **Miller Paint Co.** at the corner of NW 17th and Kearney (#3)
- **Rogers & Block Law Firm** at the corner of NW 18th and Johnson (#4)

If walking is within your abilities, why not park a little farther off and enjoy the exercise?





- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1: Haley Kekow | 15: Richard Wong |
| 3: Evelyn Jurgenson | 16: David Modro |
| 4: Maydoris Ritchey | 18: Pam Edwards |
| 5: Kristina Wick | 19: Dolores Nielsen |
| 6: Avery Johnson | 26: Joanne Nieswander |
| 8: Svetlana Karlin | 27: Van Hardison |
| 9: Hazel Carlson | |
| 10: Anneliese Knapp | 5: Jack & Nancy MacDonald |
| Shirley Rasmussen | 21: Eric & Mary Ellen Rasmussen |
| 13: Caisa Adamovics | 27: Pr. Charles & Myrtice Haney |

Don't see your special day listed above? Just contact Debbie at the church office (503.226.3659, debbie@firstimmanueluth.org) with your details, and we'll be sure to include you!

IN REMEMBRANCE

Jean Victoria Polson

1 October 1918—22 September 2011

Our longtime member **Jean Polson** was laid to rest in a graveside service on September 26 at Rose City Cemetery, with Pastor Melinda officiating.

Jean is fondly remembered for her gentle, humble spirit and her gift of hospitality.



Elsa Marie Lind

22 June 1914—8 October 2011

A memorial service on October 18 celebrated the 97-year life of **Elsa Lind**. Elsa was proud of her Swedish heritage and delighted in baking treats and gathering her large extended family for holiday traditions. An accomplished knitter, Elsa made hundreds of hooded baby sweaters for family, friends and charity.

"Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them."



Baptism Blessings

On Sunday, October 9, we celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Baptism for **Tyler Nicholas**

Elliot Otto, son of Mary Kate and Tym Otto (and younger brother to Henry). Tyler's baptismal sponsors were Peter and Susan Koonce and Chris and John Koonce. Welcome to the Lord's family, Tyler!

Thanks to all who sent cards and memorial gifts, or lent your assistance or presence at our mother's memorial service. Thanks also to those who kept us (and her) in your thoughts and prayers. We're sure Mom would thank you all personally if she could.



—Kent Fredrickson & Cheryl VanBeveren

FIRST IMMANUEL ON FACEBOOK



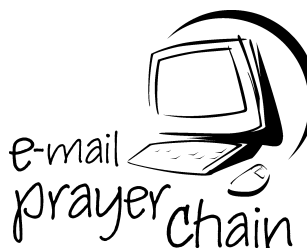
Here's one more great way to stay in touch. We're now set up with a fan page on www.facebook.com. Just search **First Immanuel Lutheran Church**. Indicate you "like" this page and you'll be in the loop for daily Bible discussions and other event notifications. You can even find our daily Bible passages listed in the "notes" section.

Podcasting from First Immanuel

We're reaching out with good news in a whole new way. Thanks to a grant from the Oregon Synod Endowment Fund, we are now able to digitally record the Sunday sermons and make them available for download on our website. Many thanks also to Todd Matthias for helping us purchase and install the recorder, and to Richard Wong for processing the audio files and posting them to our website each week. Check us out at www.firstimmanueluth.org.









Printed sermon copies are also available at the ushers' table each Sunday. Feel free to take one to help you follow along in worship, share with a friend, or remember a helpful thought.



Prayer is a powerful tool that God wants us to use always. If you want to join First Immanuel's e-mail prayer ministry, please send your e-mail address to Wanda Black at 2ugeebee@comcast.net. Each Wednesday, you'll receive an

updated list of who we are praying for. During the week, you'll also receive additions and updates, so that those who need our prayers receive them as soon as possible. If you'd like to request prayer, simply note it on the back of your worship attendance card on Sunday, or contact a pastor (503/226-3659, office@firstimmanueluth.org).

November 2011 at First Immanuel

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>november</p>		<p>1 11:30 AM L & F 1 PM FH Bingo 6 PM Executive Committee</p>	<p>2 11:30 AM L & F 7 PM AA</p>	<p>3 11:30 AM L & F 6 PM ACOA 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Choir</p>	<p>4 11:30 AM L & F</p>	<p>5 3 PM Shabbat School</p>  <p>FALL BACK</p>
<p>6 9:45 AM Ed. Hr. 11 AM Worship 12 PM Coffee Hr. 1 PM Confirmation Class 8 PM AA</p>  <p>ALL SAINTS DAY</p>	<p>7 11:30 AM L & F 1 PM Outreach Committee 7 PM Scandinavian Chorus</p>	<p>8 11:30 AM L & F 1 PM FH Bingo 6 PM Church Council</p>	<p>9 8 AM NWPM Farmers' Market 11:30 AM L & F 3 PM Congregational Life Committee 7 PM AA</p>	<p>10 10:30 AM Women's Circle 11:30 AM L & F 6 PM ACOA 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Choir</p>	<p>11 11:30 AM L & F</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 9:45 AM Ed. Hr. 11 AM Worship & Brief Congregational Meeting 12 PM Coffee Hr. 6:30 PM Book Group 8 PM AA</p> <p>Worshipful Giving Sunday</p>	<p>14 11:30 AM L & F 7 PM Scandinavian Chorus</p>	<p>15 11:30 AM L & F 1 PM FH Bingo 2 PM Library Committee</p> <p>Day of Homelessness Awareness</p>	<p>16 11:30 AM L & F 7 PM AA</p> 	<p>17 10:15 AM Endowment Committee 11:30 AM L & F 6 PM ACOA 6 PM Bell Choir 7 PM Choir</p>	<p>18 11:30 AM L & F</p>	<p>19 3 PM Shabbat School</p>
<p>20 9:45 AM Ed. Hr. 11 AM Worship 12 PM Coffee Hr. 1 PM Confirmation Class 8 PM AA</p> <p>Pledge Sunday</p>	<p>21 11:30 AM L & F 7 PM Scandinavian Chorus</p>	<p>22 11:30 AM L & F 1 PM FH Bingo 6 PM Worship & Music Committee</p>	<p>23 11:30 AM L & F 7 PM AA</p>	 <p><i>Thanksgiving</i></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>25 11:30 AM L & F</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:45 AM Ed. Hr. 11 AM Worship 12 PM Advent Workshop & Chili Feed 8 PM AA</p>	<p>28 11:30 AM L & F 7 PM Scandinavian Chorus</p>	<p>29 11:30 AM L & F 1 PM FH Bingo</p>	<p>30 11:30 AM L & F 6 PM Education Committee 7 PM AA</p>	 <p>Preparing for Advent</p>		