

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you as we gather to hear God's holy Word and celebrate the meal of Holy Communion. We are blessed by your presence. As God welcomes all people through the saving grace of Jesus, so do we seek to welcome all God's people to be together in Christ – to love, to grow, and to serve.

Should you have no church home, you are invited to consider Bethany. If you have questions for the pastor or church office, please call at 630.879.3444 or visit our website at www.bethanybatavia.org. Welcome!

Assistance in Worship

For those who find it difficult to stand or prefer to sit during any part of the service, please feel free to remain seated.

Children's Resources

Children's worship bulletins are available in the narthex and from the ushers.

Nursery

While not staffed, the nursery is open for parents who may find it helpful. The nursery is located on the sanctuary level, where you will find a changing table, rocking chair and some toys. You can still hear the worship service through a speaker in the room. Ask an usher if you need assistance.

Cell Phones and Pagers

Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Thank you.

As We Gather:

As on the first day of creation, during this Christmas time the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Lutheran Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

The people's responses are in **bold**.

This type of note, offering directions about the service is called a "rubric," which comes from the Latin word rubrica (red) – referring to a time when these instructional notes were always written in red.

+ GATHERING +

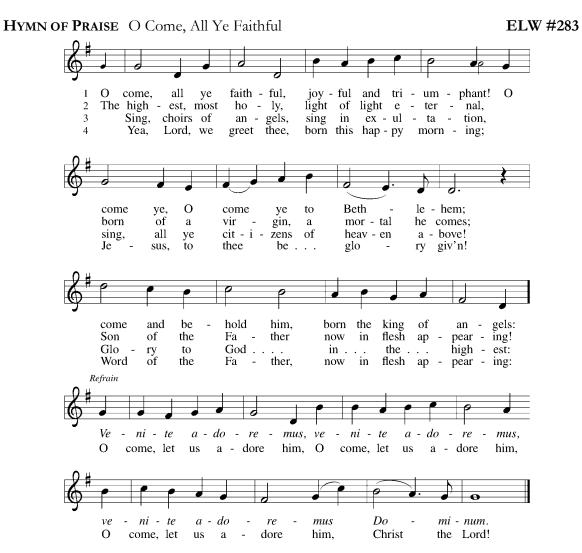
PRELUDE: He Shall Feed His Flock Messiah-Handel

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



CALL TO WORSHIP

- L Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
- L I will hear what the Lord God has to say –
- C a voice that speaks for peace.
- L Peace for all people and for God's friends
- C and those who turn to God in their hearts.
- L Help is near for those who fear the Lord,
- C and God's glory will live in our land.
- L Blessed is he who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.



APOSTOLIC GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life, the love of God, our Heavenly Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus, redeemer of the world. We pray that his birth as a human child will set us free from the old slavery of our sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

+ Lessons and Carols +

We sit.

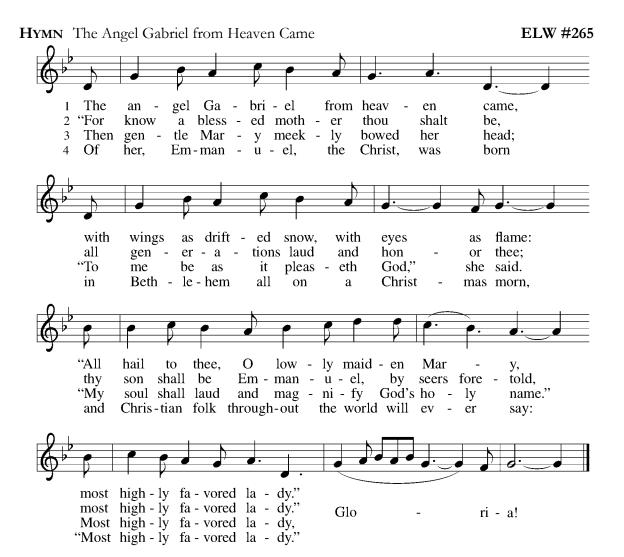
FIRST LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38 Ann Niedzwiecki

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: Mary, Nazareth Girl Ann Weems



SECOND LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25 Ann Holch

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep,

he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: Getting to the Front of the Stable

Ann Weems

HYMN It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

ELW #282



- 1 It came up on the mid night clear, that glo rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un furled,
- 3 And you, be neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
- 4 For lo! The days are has-t'ning on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold: and still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world. who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow: when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."

A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing, look now, for glad and gold-en hours come swift - ly on the wing; when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay hear the an gels sing. to ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing. oh. rest be - side the wea-ry road and hear the an gels sing! the world give back the song which now the an sing. THIRD LESSON Luke 2:21-24
Kris Kaar

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: It Is Not Over Ann Weems

SONG Virgin Mary

Start verses softly, increasing volume on each verse with full voice on verse 8

Almost a whisper on the 9^{th} verse to recap





- 2. He was born on Christmas morning...
- 3. He was baptized in a river...
- 4. He had judgment before Pilate...
- 5. He has died to save us sinners...
- 6. He arose on Easter morning...
- 7. He ascended into heaven...
- 8. Let us all be joyful in him...
- 9. Virgin Mary had a little baby...

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:25-35 Ann Niedzwiecki

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's

Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: Unexpected Ann Weems



Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

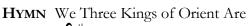
Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale, 1856 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695. FIFTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-12
Ann Holch

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage. When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road."

- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: Gifts from God Ann Weems







We stand.

SIXTH LESSON

John 1: 1–14 Kris Kaar

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might

believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

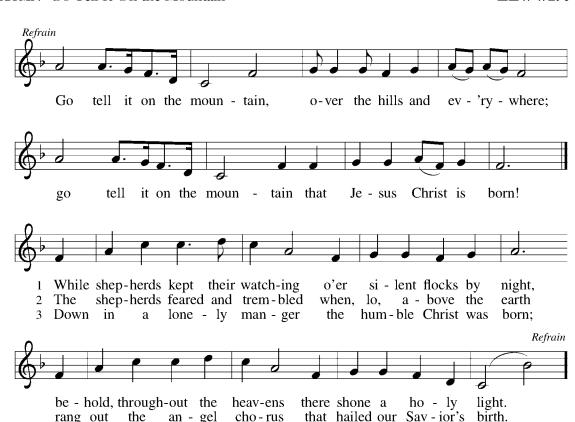
- L Word of God, word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: God So Loved the World

Ann Weems

HYMN Go Tell It On the Mountain

ELW #290



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

and God

- P Glory to God in the highest,
- C and peace to his people on earth.

sent

that bless-ed Christ-mas

sal - va - tion

- P Blessed are you, Prince of Peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.
- C Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.
- P Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.
- C Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.
- P Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.
- C Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.
- P This we pray in the peace of presence in our new-born king, Christ the Lord.
- C Amen.

We sit.

OFFERING MUSIC Pastorale Symphony

Messiah Handel

We stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- P Let us pray. Good and loving God,
- C we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

+ SENDING +

BENEDICTION

- P May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the Magi, and the peace of the Christ child.

 Almighty God: the Father, the \$\P\$ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us now and forevermore.
- C Amen.



Text: Catalonian carol; tr. Howard Hawhee, b. 1953 Music: EL DESEMBRE CONGELAT, Catalonian carol Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Let All the Angels of God Worship Him

Messiah-Handel

The poetic reflections in today's liturgy are from a collection of poetry by Ann Weems entitled "Kneeling in Bethlehem", copyright 1987, published by The Westminster Press.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Mark Waldron, Worship Leader Alan Spear, Organist Ann Niedzwiecki, Ann Holch, Kris Kaar, Readers Dale Howard, Ian Gutierrez, A/V Jackson Carter, Acolyte Ralph Beck, Jon Habegger, Bill Dreymiller, Ushers

STAFF

Jeffrey Mikyska, Senior Pastor Mark Waldron, Director of Music Alan Spear, Organist Darlene Hutchens, Church Administrator Susan Jarocki, Administrative Assistant Emma Hess, Youth Director Ed McQuillan, Financial Secretary

YOUR CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alan Spear, President Todd Toles, Vice President Steve Mickelson, Treasurer Dale Howard, Secretary Carole Benson Doug Boehm Karol Clark Billy Hutchens Rich Kreis Pastor Jeff Mikyska Mia Rusev George Hutchens

If you have questions or concerns for members of the Church Council you're invited to speak with them personally or via email to council@bethanybatavia.org.

Bethany's Vision: We are a Grace-based, people-powered, refuge for all.

Code of Conduct: At Bethany, we believe everyone should live a faithful life in service with charity, kindness and integrity, and treat others with respect and understanding, act responsibly, and serve as an example of Christian faith in action.

Liturgy Credits

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LET US PRAY...

We pray for all who are hospitalized in our greater community and for those who are serving them.

Please pray for those who are part of the life of Bethany who struggle with illness and other concerns:

Diane Garland, Brigitte Winkler, Edward Beil, Mary Bradtmueller, Sandy & Dale Christianson, John Cornwell, Shirley Grant, Cindy Gustafson, Anna Jackson, Mike & Deb Hruby, Karin Johnston, Luke & Diane Land, Joan Munro, Mindy Nicoloff, Bob Novy, Dorothy Patzer, Louise Pruitt, Rose Rader, Maureen Scollen, George & Shirley Striedl, Bev Waterfield, Sandi Wilcox

Please pray for those who are homebound and those in a care facility:

Mark Anderson Bria, Geneva

Marie Holtz Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad

Bill Keele Heritage Woods Pam Klingberg Heritage Woods

Wanda Krentz Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad

Joan Olson Michaelsen Health Center, Holmstad

Jay & Carol Wierz Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad

Please pray for all those serving in the military, especially those who are connected to our congregation.

Owen Schuster Steven Surdynski

Please pray for our family and friends:

Debbie Munch Aunt of Darlene (Billy) Hutchens

Lisa Flyte Friend of Bethany

Phil Steadman Friend of Don & Deb Hunt

Richard Tabor Brother of Liesa (Pastor Steve) Ritter

Bruce Rusev
Josh Schrepfer & Family

Brother of Chris (Mia) Rusev
Friends of Julie Howard

Fred Boehm
Bowen Jones
Cindy Smith
Andrea Young

Fred Boehm
Brother of Doug Boehm
Great Grandson of Jackie Page
Friend of Nan Phillips
Niece of Chris & Mia Rusey

Animals in Shelters Avy Lumsden

Vonnie Ledo Sister-in-Law of Jackie Page Amy Knudsen Sister of John & Karol Clark

John Guidarelli Husband of Niece of Lynn (Bill) Dreymiller

Nancy Bouloukos Sister-in-Law of Tara Shannon Kendra Dossett Daughter of Jackie Page Rich White Son of Dottie White

Bill Shanley & Family (Megan & Mike Doepke) Friends of John & Karol Clark

Sue Henry Friend of Jackie Page

Holly Davison Davis Friend of Mark Waldron & Ian Gutierrez

Kathy Wilson Mother of Lori Wilson

Rathy Wilson

Rev. Tim Robertson from Gloria Dei Church

Friend of Pastor Jeff & Debbie Garrison

Alex Greiff & Family Friend of Pastor Jeff and Gail Mikyska
Lilly Neighbor of Dorothy Thorsen
Rocci Friend of Beth Lawniczak Conley

Susan P. Friend of Bob & Sue Novy, Jan Bristow & Marsha Habegger

Helen Reyes Family Friend of Pastor Jeff and Gail Mikyska

Jacki Ortegel Friend of Pastor Jeff

Kate and Family Friend of John & Karol Clark
Pat McDonald Brother-in-Law of Suzanne Grashorn

Sofie Friend of Bob & Sue Novy

Pam Waers Friend of Sue DeLong Terri Wells Friend of Lynn Dreymiller Patricia Lusted Friend of Janice Reynolds Rosi Friend of Janice Reynolds Neil Weir Friend of Todd Toles

Brother-in-Law of Tom & Dee Schuman Iim Martin Lili Friend of Tom & Dee Schuman Carl C. Friend of Bethany Walking Group

Student at Genoa-Kingston High School

Marcia McDugle Molly & Mike Updyke Robert & Vicki Johnson Bonnie & Jim Hines Kristen Benakis

Pat Pydo

Marilyn Tracy Clark Loda George Ricker

Katie Taylor Iane Wirth Rick Gaston Dottie Lizzie Bork

Damon Schultz Sue S. Nicole Chris Sidler Lisa Heather

Gretchen VanKempema Ryan Anderson

Paul Mazen

Phil Kathy Dee's Family

Mary Jo Benstein's Family Susan Shelev

Bonnie Carole W. Diane Ekstam Johnson

Tammy English Jerry Martin Teri Prokes

Tony Prokes Ed Stahl

Please pray for those who mourn the passing of:

Lynne Morrow Rev. Greg Garmer Dennis Schuman Carol Anderson

Scott Isham

Friend of Bob & Sue Novy

Daughter/Son-in-Law of George & Shirley Streidl Brother-in-Law/Sister-in-Law of Val Schalk

Parents of Suzanne Grashorn Friend of Bob & Sue Novy

Friend of John & Laura Peterson/Marty Offutt-Gruber

Friend of Tom & Dee Schuman

Sister of Tara Shannon

Friend of Fred & Ann Holch

Great Niece of Ken & Judy Henschler Friend of Ken & Judy Henschler

Friend of Ann Holch Friend of Paulette Smigo Friend of Julie Howard Son-in-Law of Shyla Carbone Friend of Bob & Sue Novy Friend of Linda Sullivan Friend of Luke & Diane Land Friend of Beth Richard Friend of Schuman Family

Daughter of Ann Holch Son of Aaron Anderson

Lynn Dreymiller's brother

Teri Figura Teri Figura

Daughter of Louise Pruitt Friend of Pastor Jeff

Friend of Ann & Fred Holch Mother of Mary Helen Ekstam Daughter of Shirley Streidl Father of Nicki McVev Sister of Sue & Bob Novy

Brother-in-law of Bob & Sue Novy

Father of Dan Stahl

Friend and Colleague of Pastor Jeff & Gail

ELCA Pastor

Brother of Tom (Dee) Schuman

Uncle of Danny (Emma) Hess



29 Rich & Nancy Kreis



1	Ralph Beck, Sr	17	Carole Hayes
1	Graham Gustafson	19	Shirley Grant
2	Nate Gustafson	19	Bev Waterfield
2	Morgan Haug	21	Kathie Spear
3	Mark Larson	23	John Clark
4	Henry Haug	23	Drew Freedlund
4	Jimmy Haug	25	Linda Hirt
6	Evan Piccony	25	Gregg Hodge
7	Ray Phillips	25	Mark Kohlmeier
7	Rose Rader	25	William Smigo
8	Christina Couperus	26	Billy Hutchens
10	Nick Klitzkie	27	Jerry Schuster
11	Alise Lopez	27	Eric Solberg
12	Kathy Richmond	29	Michael Morrison
13	Sue Novy	31	Hayley Offutt
14	Judy Henschler	31	Connor Powell
15	Sue DeLong	31	Mia Rusev
15	JoAnn Sargent		

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Sunday, December 29				
9am	Worship	Sanctuary		
10am	Coffee Hour	Fellowship Hall		
Monday, December 30				
	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym		
	Visitation			
	Memorial – Dennis Schuman			
Tuesday, December 31				
	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym		
Wednesday, January 1 – New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED				
Thursday, January 2				
	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym		
	Boy Scout Troop 6			
Friday, January 3				
	Bethany Walking Group	Ministry Center Gym		
Saturday, January 4				
	Men's Basketball	Ministry Center Gym		
10am	Al-Anon	Library		
10am	Al-Ateen	Lower Level		
8pm	AA	Fellowship Hall		
Sunday, January 5				
		0		
9am	Worship	Sanctuary		
10am	Coffee Hour	Fellowship Hall		
10am 10:30am		Fellowship Hall Main Church Building/2 nd Floor		