



# trinity tidings

**Volume 54 – No. 12**

**December 2025**

Church Office Hours:  
Mondays thru Thursdays 9:00 - 12:00 PM  
Closed on Fridays

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Visit us on the web at [www.trinityleb.org](http://www.trinityleb.org)

trinity tidings is the newsletter of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 723 Lehman Street, Lebanon, PA 17046

## The Hope that Surrounds Us

According to the Oxford Dictionary on Google, the definition of HOPE is:

hope: noun 1. a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen 2. a feeling of trust.

As I write this article, I received yet another call today that we lost a dear member of the Body of Christ at Holy Trinity. It is certainly difficult to find hope right now when that “certain thing that may happen” could be more death. We just never know. I certainly could never have predicted that one of my main purposes this year in my pastoral ministry would be with the dying, funerals, and grief which surrounds it all.

I have made special efforts to put in place extra pieces to my support system to ensure I can continue being a good pastoral leader. I also make sure to mix in some fun, cathartic music, and good laughs with other aspects of ministry so the sadness is not quite as bad. That being said, I pray that all of you do not hesitate to seek time with God, with me to talk about it or pray, or in worship to hear the Word of God speak to your hearts. If grief hits hard or seems unmanageable at times, it is important to also seek a professional licensed counselor. We



## FROM THE PASTOR



all deal with the waves of grief differently and it includes waves of sadness, denial, peace, depression, anger, and acceptance. They are rarely in any particular order as well.

We have an advantage as people of God in the midst of all of this –God! As believers, we have faith and hope in our Creator and Almighty God. We may go through doubts. After all, we are only human. We remain thankful though for the gift of HOPE in eternal life! Death is not the end. It does not get the last word! It is not even the last

*Continued on page 2*

HOPE, PEACE, JOY,  
*and love -*  
THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINES THROUGH THEM ALL.



*Continued from page 1, From The Pastor*

words I say at a funeral! It is God, our Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.

Christ gives us the gift of eternity. Christ comforts us with love and all hope in believing. Our doubts and our sadness are overcome by the promises of our Lord. God is more powerful than all of it! He has raised them all to NEW LIFE! How exciting to look forward to being with the communion of saints again one day! Advent and Christmas are the perfect end to our year. It is the perfect time to remember we are NOT ALONE. We DO NOT NEED to be afraid. Emmanuel, Christ, is with us. The human child is about to be born so that God would be able to give us the GIFT OF LOVE on the cross. LOVE IN DEATH, and LOVE, SO POWERFUL, IT RAISES US TO NEW LIFE! There is NOTHING that can ever separate us as children of God, from our Lord! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Here are a few reminders from our scripture in Revelation chapter 21 and 22:*

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God

himself will be with them and be their God; <sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." <sup>6</sup> Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup> Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God, and they will be my children."

<sup>16</sup> "It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup> The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift."

Blessings to all,



Pastor Althea



**Mark Your Calendar for a Special  
Worship Service:**



**Wednesday, December 17 at 7 p.m.**



## Church Council Members

Neal Galbraith (*President*)  
 Louise Lundquist (*Vice President*)  
 Nancy Brightbill (*Secretary*)  
 Brad Bishop (*Church Treasurer*)  
 Kathy Bishop  
 Jay Brown  
 Karen Fitting  
 Pam Gainer  
 Heidi Gerver  
 Jessie Green  
 Renee Hunter  
 Lynn Kern  
 Henry Wampler



## Committee Chair Persons

Worship & Music:  
 Paul Copenhaver

Finance:  
 Horace Ehrgood

Christian Education:  
 Elizabeth Hershey

Property:  
 Henry Wampler

Archives:  
 Jim Dibert

Social Ministry:  
 Jim Dibert

Social Activities:  
 Stephanie Kaylor



**Joette Hollinger**

November 9, 2025

**Lorna "Cookie" Rothermel**

November 19, 2025

**Lemoyne Reigle**

November 25, 2025



**Merry Christmas to all from  
 Pastor, Stephanie, Denise, Brad, PJ,  
 Heather, and Christine**

## Church Treasurer's Financial Summary - October 2025



	Month of October	Actual Year to Date	Budget Year to Date
Income	\$27,356	\$232,895	\$258,311
Expenses	\$(28,289)	\$(260,180)	\$(259,806)
Net Income	\$(932)	\$(27,285)	\$(1,494)

# WORSHIP with us

## December Worship Schedule

December 7, 14, 17\*, 21, 24\*\*, and 28

9:00 AM—Traditional Service

10:15 AM—Adult Sunday School



### Online Worship Service:

Our online worship will continue to be available. You can find the service by going to <https://www.trinityleb.org/links>. Here you will find links to the live-stream, the bulletin, and the replay of the service so that you can watch at any time you wish during the week.

**Inclement Weather Policy:** If Church is going to be cancelled due to weather, it will be posted on our website page: [www.trinityleb.org](http://www.trinityleb.org). Don't forget to refresh your browser when viewing the website. You can also find information on our Facebook page: [facebook.com/htlclebanonpa](https://facebook.com/htlclebanonpa). The decision will be made by 7 p.m. the Saturday prior to service.

\*Blue Christmas 7 p.m. \*\* Christmas Eve 7 p.m.

## Prayer Partners

If you would like your name added to the list for prayer, please call the church office, 717-273-8567 or email at [stephanie@trinityleb.org](mailto:stephanie@trinityleb.org).

If you no longer wish to be included in the prayer update list, please let the Church Office know to remove your name.

We ask our readers to include the following people in their prayers:

Barb Atwood, Terry Clearwater, The Family of Janice Copenhaver, Deb Dobson, Susie Eckert, Dan Fox, Mike and Nancy Hentz, Patty Hess, The Family of Joette Hollinger, Jim & Judi Light, Micheal Miele, Janice Peiffer, Rachel, Ed Ream, The Family of Lemoyne Reigle, The Family of Cookie Rothermel, Marie Smith, Nancy Warner, and Mary Yeagley.



**Our Vision...**Our mission is to grow in faith and discipleship, share the Good News of Jesus through word and deed, love others as Christ loves us, and celebrate life in Christ through worship, sacraments and service.

**Our Mission...**We are a community of believers who come together in:

✠ **Worship** to be transformed by the presence of Jesus Christ in and through God's gift of Word and Sacrament.

✠ **Christian Education** to deepen our faith and strengthen us in faithful service, trusting in the creative activity of the Holy Spirit.

✠ **Friendship** to celebrate our unity in Christ and sustain and nurture each other as we journey with Him in our day-to-day lives.

✠ **Stewardship** to gratefully use the time, talents and possessions we have been given in furthering our mission in response to Jesus' call and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

✠ **Evangelism** to share the Jesus story so that others may come to know God's reconciling grace and the peace, joy and hope that his divine grace gives.

✠ **Social Ministry** to respond to the spiritual, mental and physical needs of our neighbors and advocate for the poor, hungry and vulnerable peoples of the world.

## How Do You Want to Celebrate Your Life?

*A Lunch  
Workshop with  
Pastor Althea*



Save the Date from Pastor: February 22, 2026 – Following worship I will be hosting a workshop on planning your wishes for end of life and funeral services. This is certainly not the most fun topic. However, in my years of experience, it is extremely helpful for loved ones to have things written down and planned as much as possible. There is no pressure with any aspect of this. I will briefly go through the process of funeral preparation and go over items which are able to be chosen ahead of time. Participants will take a worksheet home and fill out information at their own leisure. Copies may be made of personal plans if desired for church files. Bring a potluck dish.

## From the Archives: Building of the Church

*This is the eighth in a series of articles featuring the 1954 build.  
The photos were graciously donated to Holy Trinity by the late, Jim Rittle.*



*(left) Assembly of the red oak pews, allowing for seating of 340 in the Nave.*



*(right) The difficult job of hoisting pews into the balcony area.*



*(left) The Nave, essentially complete.*





#### FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

I give thanks for all of you at Holy Trinity members, friends, staff, and volunteers!

#### FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN THE HOLIDAY BAZAAR

I especially want to take a moment to say a BIG THANK YOU to EVERYONE who helped with the Holiday Bazaar this year!!! —THANK YOU to all who donated time, crafts, money, baked goods, soup, other food, white elephant items, books, puzzles, or other talents and gifts. Your efforts and donations do not go unnoticed.

*(Note: If you still have a lawn sign at home, you may keep it to display next year or bring it back to the church for storage.)*

#### FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN THIS YEAR'S FUNERALS

In addition, I give thanks FOR EVERYONE –staff and volunteers– who have helped, baked, ushered, sung special music, played bells, or volunteered to be present for receptions with all of our funerals this year. We received many compliments and thankful notes from the families for all of our efforts. We serve the Lord in many ways and this is just one of them. Our hospitality and grief ministry are important and brings comfort to the families who have lost loved ones. THANK YOU AGAIN!



**SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, December 28**



Thank you for participating in the 2025 Northwest Elementary School Classroom Wish List campaign. Delivery of all of the donations to Northwest Elementary was made on November 24, 2025. The magnitude of your generosity is reflected in the inventory of donations listed below. School supplies donated include 60 spiral notebooks, 30 composition books, 4 Highlight puzzle books, 270 glue sticks, 41 pair of scissors and 1 scissor caddy. 93 black expo markers, 67 boxes of crayons, 128 pens, 360 #2 pencils, 132 specialty pencils, 18 pencil sharpeners, 15 erasers, 4 3x3 post it packs and 6 medium drawstring school bags. Clothing donations include 16 pair of boys shoes/sneakers/boots sizes 1 to 5, 23 pair of boys socks, 16 pair of shoe laces, 1 long sleeved boy t-shirt, 1 pair of exercise shorts, 1 pair of boys pants, 18 pair of boys sweat pants various sizes, 103 pair of boys underwear various sizes, 53 pair of girls socks, 206 pair of girls underwear various sizes, and 44 pair of girls leggings various sizes. Lastly there was a donation of 22 boxes of facial tissue. All of the deliveries were very well received and a heartfelt thank you was expressed by Stephanie Courchesne, guidance counselor, on behalf of the entire school body to our church for our generosity in providing these donations. Your donations in kind and cash donations made all of this abundance possible. Thank you for your generous support of Northwest Elementary School.

- Karen Weaver, Northwest Elementary Liaison



# MERRY CHICK- MAS



Chicks  
**\$10**

**Shop ELCA Good Gifts this Christmas** for more than 60 different gifts that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives.



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

**[ELCA.org/goodgifts](https://elca.org/goodgifts)**



## Santa Clase was a Real Person!

Santa Clase is another way of saying Saint Nicolas, whose life the Church commemorates on December 6th. There has been multiple stories and legends told about him over centuries. What is actually known about him is that he was born in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century in Patara, a village on the southern coast of today's Turkey. He was orphaned as a boy and raised by his devout Christian grandparents. As a young man he became a priest and shortly afterwards was elected the Bishop of Myra, a city near Patara. He was imprisoned during the persecution of Christians under Roman Emperor Diocletian. After Christianity became legal by Emperor Constantine, Nicholas attended the Council at Nicaea in 325. He died on December 6, 343.

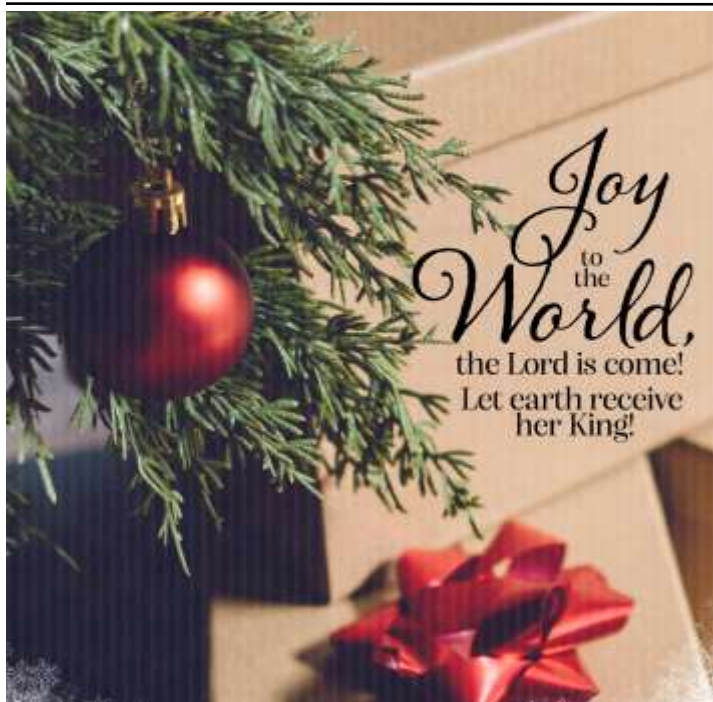
Because his father was a wealthy merchant, Nicholas inherited a large fortune when he came of age. Yet Nicolas lived simply, choosing to aid those in need as they came to his attention by giving anonymous gifts from his inheritance. But his generosity did not remain a secret.

The story told is that a very poor family had three daughters who were reaching marrying age. The Roman custom at the time was that the father of a young woman had to provide a dowry to her prospective husband. Without a dowry a girl had virtually no chance of marriage, resulting in a life of destitution or even being sold into slavery. Nicolas heard of these girls' plight and just as each sister reached marrying age, he crept up to their house in the dark of night and dropped a bag of gold through an open window for her dowry. A plot was hatched to



discover who was engaged in such generosity. Knowing that the donor had put a bag of gold through the girls' window twice before, some men hid in wait for the mysterious person to arrive for the third time. So Nicolas was caught in his act of charity.

Word spread rapidly of Nicolas' benevolences, especially to the children in and near Myra. Others began imitating Nicolas, particularly by giving anonymous gifts on December 6<sup>th</sup>. When asked who these gifts were from, the answer was, "They are from St. Nicolas." So as the custom spread from country to country it took many forms. In many places, since the Christ child received gifts upon his birth, the giving of gifts to children by St. Nicolas became associated with Christmas.



# thank you

Thank you for the love and support we have received from our Church family during Janice's illness and since her passing.

We are very grateful for all the visits to Janice, the cards and prayers she received. We know she really appreciated it.

Thank you also to everyone who has given a gift in Janice's memory. She was a faithful steward and would have been happy to know the Church has been blessed with these gifts.

We are truly blessed to be a part of this Church family.

Paul "PJ" and Barb Copenhaver.





## LCCM Food Bank Item

The items requested in December is **soup and crackers.**

Items can be brought to the church at any time and placed in the red shopping cart labeled “**LCCM Food Bank**” located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther’s Place).

Please continue your generosity by continuing to donate to the Food Bank. Your donations are greatly needed and appreciated.



## Donation Items

The items requested in December are **toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, canned proteins, and bottled water.**

Monetary donations are also needed. To give, simply mark your donation with a note “Share & Care.”

Items can be brought to the church at any time and placed in the bin labeled “**SHARE & CARE**” located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther’s Place).

## December 10: Christmas Social & Member’s Photos

Join us as members share their favorite slides and digital photos with the group. This is the holiday social, so please bring a plate of holiday treats to share. Drinks will be provided.

Social gathering starts at 6:30 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m. in Luther’s Place.



Pastor Althea will be on vacation from 12/25/2025 through 1/3/2026. Please contact her via her cell phone with any urgent matters or pastoral emergencies. *(Do not leave messages on the office phone for Pastor if urgent.)*



## Aluminum Can Collection

The church continues to collect aluminum cans for recycling. Please bring the aluminum cans (**rinsed & flattened**) to the church weekdays during church office hours, or bring them along to church, Sunday School, or any other church function. A container for them is located in THE GIVING PLACE (Arnold St. side annex of Luther’s Place).



## Medical Equipment & Supplies

We have a small lending “library” of equipment and new medical supplies that are available for use by members of Holy Trinity. Some of the items include: wheelchairs, shower chairs, medical bed, pads for beds, adult diapers, and more. These items are available at no cost to you. If you have a need or would like to donate an item, please contact the Church Office at 717-273-8567.



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation  
of Central Pennsylvania**  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

## Upcoming Events:

December 6: Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm

January 2-4, 2026: Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald

For more information, please visit:  
[www.lutherancamping.org](http://www.lutherancamping.org)



Karen Weaver delivering comfort items for veterans at the Lebanon VA Medical Center on behalf of WELCA at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church to Jason Lane, Chief, Center for Development and Civic Engagement, at the Lebanon VA Medical Center on November 25, 2025.



GET YOUR GEAR TODAY!



[STORES.CRSAPPAREL.COM/HTLC](https://stores.crsapparel.com/HTLC)

Scan the code with your phone's camera!







2 - Samuel Kaylor (*celebrating his 11th birthday*)  
307 Lehman Street  
Lebanon, PA 17046

6 - Guy Lintner  
1943 West Cumberland Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

8 - Elizabeth Hershey  
615 Bollman Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

10 - Kathy Bishop  
365 Oaklyn Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Emersyn Young (*celebrating her 13th birthday*)  
54 Wheatfield Circle  
Lebanon, PA 17042

11 - Adaline Lamason (*celebrating her 4th birthday*)  
605 East Evergreen Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042

14 - David Hitz  
698 Zinn's Mill Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042

15 - Carol Warlow  
585 South Lincoln Avenue  
Lebanon, PA 17402

17 - Melanie Eisenhauer  
1515 North 7th Street  
Lebanon, PA 17046

20 - Thomas Gainer  
1373 Sholly Avenue  
Lebanon, PA 17046

22 - Jeremy Bullock  
326 Kauffman Road  
Annville, PA 17003

24 - Renee Hunter  
450 West Penn Avenue  
Cleona, PA 17042

Donna Schreiber  
477 Old Mine Road  
Lebanon, PA 17042

26 - Carroll Kercher  
90 Pier Place  
Lebanon, PA 17046

28 - Alizah Engle (*celebrating her 16th birthday*)  
c/o Jean & Preston Darkes  
124 South 22nd Street  
Lebanon, PA 17042

30 - James C. Logan  
143 Laurel Drive  
Fredericksburg, PA 17026

31 - Richard Hollinger  
1031 Alden Way  
Lebanon, PA 17042

Isabella Johnson-Rodriguez  
(*celebrating her 14th birthday*)  
412 Spring Street  
Lebanon, PA 17046

*Please consider sending a card or giving them a  
phone call to celebrate their special day.*

# KIDS PAGE

## Christmas Card treasures



Turn old Christmas cards into beautiful keepsake ornaments! It's a fun, simple way to give new life to cards you've received and add a handmade touch to your tree.

### What you need:

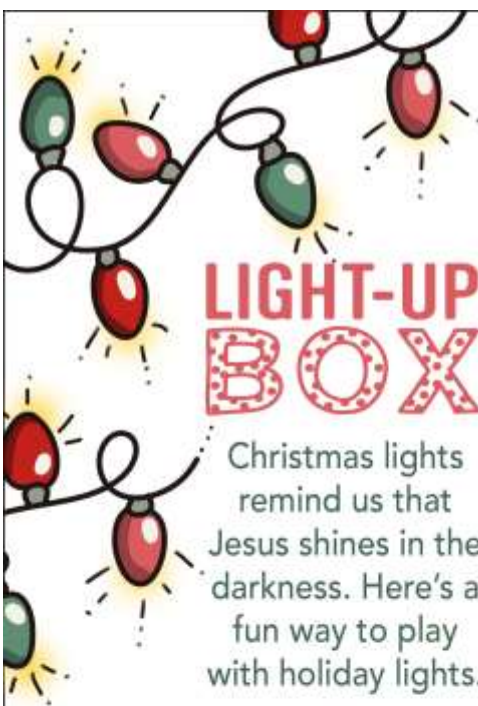
- Christmas cards
- Scissors
- Glue
- Circle pattern (cut from cardboard or trace around object)
- Hole punch
- Yarn or ribbon
- Glitter (optional)



### What you do:

1. Trace a circle onto two Christmas cards.
2. Cut out the circles and glue the backs together.
3. Decorate the edges with glitter or ribbon for extra sparkle.
4. Punch a hole at the top and thread yarn or ribbon through to hang.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights.  
— James 1:17 (NIV)



## LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

### What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



### What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
  2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
  3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
    - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
    - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
    - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!





# Worship

## Lectionary Readings

### Sunday, December 7

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 11:1 - 10

Psalms 72: 1 - 7, 18–19

Romans 15:4– 13

Matthew 3:1 - 12

### Wednesday, December 24

*Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve*

Isaiah 9:2 - 7

Psalms 96

Titus 2:11 - 14

Luke 2:1 - 14 [15 - 20]

### Sunday, December 14

*3rd Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 35:1 - 10

Psalms 146:5 - 10

James 5:7 - 10

Matthew 11:2 - 11

### Sunday, December 28

*1st Sunday of Christmas*

Isaiah 63:7 - 9

Psalms 148

Hebrews 2:10– 18

Matthew 2:13 - 23

### Sunday, December 21

*4th Sunday of Advent*

Isaiah 7:10 - 16

Psalms 80:1 - 7, 17 - 19

Romans 1:1 - 7

Matthew 1:18 - 25

### Sunday, January 4, 2026

*2nd Sunday of Christmas*

Jeremiah 31:7 - 14




















Psalms 147: 12 - 20

Ephesians 1:3 – 14

John 1:[1 - 9] 10 - 18



# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div><div></div><div>6P PRAISE RINGERS 7P PSALM RINGERS</div></div>	<div>2</div> <div><div></div><div>7P SENIOR CHOIR</div></div>	<div>3</div> <div><div></div><div>6:30P SOCIAL MINISTRY</div></div>	<div>4</div> <div></div>	<div>5</div> <div></div>	<div>6</div> <div></div>	
<div>7</div> <div><div></div><div>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</div></div>	<div>8</div> <div><div></div><div>6P PRAISE RINGERS 7P PSALM RINGERS</div></div>	<div>9</div> <div><div></div><div>4:30P PRIVATE EVENT 7P SENIOR CHOIR</div></div>	<div>10</div> <div><div></div><div>QUILTING AT ST. LUKE'S 6P WELCA 7P QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY</div></div>	<div>11</div> <div></div>	<div>12</div> <div></div>	<div>13</div> <div></div>
<div>14</div> <div><div></div><div>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 10:15A SWEETEN UP THE HOLIDAYS EVENT</div></div>	<div>15</div> <div><div></div><div>6P PRAISE RINGERS 7P PSALM RINGERS</div></div>	<div>16</div> <div><div></div><div>NOON MEAL @LCCM 6:30P FINANCE COMMITTEE 7P SENIOR CHOIR</div></div>	<div>17</div> <div><div></div><div>MENTOR A MOTHER 5:30P 7P BLUE CHRISTMAS</div></div>	<div>18</div> <div><div></div><div>6:30P EXEC. MEETING 7P CHURCH COUNCIL</div></div>	<div>19</div> <div></div>	<div>20</div> <div></div>
<div>21</div> <div><div></div><div>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MUSIC SUNDAY</div></div>	<div>22</div> <div><div></div><div>6P PRAISE RINGERS 7P PSALM RINGERS</div></div>	<div>23</div> <div><div></div><div>7P SENIOR CHOIR</div></div>	<div>24</div> <div><div></div><div>CHRISTMAS EVE 7P WORSHIP SERVICE</div></div>	<div>25</div> <div><div></div></div>	<div>26</div> <div></div>	<div>27</div> <div></div>
<div>28</div> <div><div></div><div>LESSONS AND Carols</div></div>	<div>29</div> <div></div>	<div>30</div> <div></div>	<div>31</div> <div><div></div><div>New Year's Eve</div></div>	<div>Look Ahead <b>January 2026</b> 1 New Year's Day 6 Epiphany 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day</div>		
<div><b>January 2026</b> S M T W T F S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</div>						