

Niantic News

Or

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
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www.christniantic.com

November 2025

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A Message from the Pastor...

A blessed Advent season to you. Most of the time we associate Advent with the month of December. Some years the entire season occurs in the month of December but many years it begins in November. This year is one of those years. Sunday November 30 begins our Advent observance this year. Advent is not only a season to await the coming of Christ but also an opportunity to remember and celebrate the faithful witnesses who have shaped and inspired the Church. The Lutheran Church calendar is rich with commemorations during Advent, highlighting saints and significant figures whose lives exemplify hope, perseverance, and devotion. There are several commemorations that fall on the weekends of Advent this year and in our sermons, we will spend some time learning more about these Saints of Advent.

The first Sunday of Advent marks the commemoration of St. Andrew the apostle and the brother of Peter. Andrew's willingness to follow Christ and bring others to him makes him a fitting figure to start Advent which is a time of invitation and expectation.

The next weekend we remember two saints of the early church, St. Nicholas and St. Ambrose. Both were bishops in the 4th century who greatly influenced the direction of the Church. Nicholas was known for his charity and advocacy for the vulnerable, values that resonate during the Advent season. He was also an important voice at the council of Nicaea. Ambrose was a theologian, hymn writer, and influential church leader. His contributions to liturgy and doctrine reinforce the importance of worship and truth in the life of the Church.

The third weekend of Advent brings us to two other saints, Lucy (or Lucia) and John of the Cross. St. Lucy's story is one of steadfast faith even in the face of persecution. Celebrated for her unwavering commitment to Christ, Lucy's commemoration encourages believers to let their light shine in times of darkness. John of the Cross was a Spanish priest, spiritual writer, and poet. It is in his writings where we get the phrase "the dark night of the soul."

On the final Sunday in Advent, we will celebrate someone in our own Lutheran history who is often mentioned but rarely focused upon, Katharina von Bora Luther. She is of course the nun who married Martin Luther. She was a renewer of the Church as well and an important figure in Wittenburg during the Reformation.

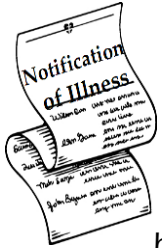
Each commemoration during Advent connects the lives of these past saints to the themes of the season: hope, peace, joy, and love. Through their stories, we are invited to consider how their virtues and values can be embodied today. The saints of Advent remind us that the journey toward Christmas is not just about waiting but about living faithfully in expectation for the arrival of Emmanuel, God with us.

In Christ, *Pr. Matt*

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since September 23, 2025.



Notification in Case of Illness

Christ Niantic Lutheran hopes that all members will notify the church office if they become aware of any member who is ill or who may

have other pastoral needs. Please do not assume that "someone else" has already called. We do not mind receiving multiple notifications. Thank you!



Attendance

Date	Worship	Confirmation / Bible Study
September 7	51	N/A - 9
September 14	49	N/A - 13
September 21	56	6 / 13
September 28	43	7 / 13 (10/1)
2024 Sun. Avg.:	51	4
2025 Sun. Avg.:	50	7 / 12

[Prior year averages are based on same time period]



Sunday, November 2
Don't forget!

2025 Worship Helpers Needed

Would you like to serve as an Acolyte / Lector / Assisting Minister / Communion Assist / Usher/Greeter for the remainder of 2025?

Help is needed in all of these assisting positions. Please contact the church office to sign up.

From the Church Office:

Office Hours

The Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 – 2 p.m.

Pr. Matt is typically in the office on Fridays from 10 AM – 1 PM.

Pr. Matt's cell number is: 484-587-6506 for pastoral emergencies.

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the December issue of the Niantic News is due by Tuesday, November 11th.

There are several ways for you to submit your articles:

- E-mail it to me at:
christluthchurch@windstream.net;
- Submit it on your USB flash drive, which can be borrowed from the church office and returned with article saved on it;
- Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox in the coat/mail room.

November Birthdays

- 1 Gerald L. Flicker (1932), Dawn R. Hoffman
- 2 Wally Updegrove (1942)
- 4 Johanna Benner
- 6 Robert Borneman (1943), Kathy Nase, Debbie Pienta
- 10 Aaron Hoffman, Denise Witman
- 11 Kurt Davidheiser, Melissa Seasholtz
- 12 Sandra Moll (1942)
- 13 Hattie Terkowski
- 17 Matthew D. Hoffman
- 18 Leigh Ann Roberts
- 22 Emily Francisco
- 29 Jason Carter, Lisa Knaub
- 30 Clark Yoder (1944)



to Shirley and Merle Deery who will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary on November 26!

All Saints' Sunday

Sunday, November 2, 2025

On November 2, we remember all those members of the Christian Church who have entered the Church Triumphant, and especially those members of Christ Niantic including Phyllis Hartenstine; Roy Hoffman; Rodney Moll; Harold Schoenly and Wilson Hoffman or persons closely connected to it who have died during the past year. *During the service on November 2nd, we will dedicate memorials and gifts received during the year and remember those who died in the Lord in our prayers. Join us this special day.*

**Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, November 9, 2025

This serves as official notification that a meeting of this congregation will be held immediately following the worship service at **9:00 AM** on Sunday, November 9, 2025. Agenda items for the meeting include: Approval of 2026 Budget; Nomination/election of council Members. Copies of the 2026 Budget will be sent via a separate e-mail or pick up a copy in the narthex. Please bring the copies with you to the meeting.

**Brown Bag Bible Study**

The "**Brown Bag Bible Study**" will continue in the month of November on Wednesdays; **November 5, 12, 19 & 26**. The Bible Study will be held in the Welcome center at **12 noon**, and you are invited to bring along a lunch if you wish. It will be a casual discussion-based study. The weeks in November we will continue to explore the book of Acts. This study is open to everyone. No prior knowledge is required. Please feel free to invite friends, family, and neighbors. Bring along your own Bible or you can borrow one from the church.

**Quilt Tying**

On **Tuesday, November 11** beginning : 9:30 a.m., we will be tying quilts in the social hall.

Help is always needed!!

Then we will go to the...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, November 11** at 12 noon. We will be going to Argento's, E. Phila. Ave., Boyertown. We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool or meet us at Argento's at 12 noon.

Hope you can join us!

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, November 23, 2025

On this last Sunday of the church year, we honor Christ, who reigns as king from the cross. The Lord Jesus was not wealthy or famous. He did not promise his followers that they would possess riches, power, or prestige. He was named a king only in his death. He left his disciples the treasure of his body and blood. As we gather this day, we wear the crown of baptism and trace his royal sign—the holy cross—over our brows and bodies. We leave here strengthened to serve those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick, and imprisoned. We look for the day when all earth's people will see him coming with the scepter of peace and the crown of justice.



St. Paul's Lutheran, Sassamansville is having a **Fall Bazaar** with Crafts and Flea Market, 50/50 & Raffle Baskets on **Saturday, November 8** from **8 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Lunch will be available during the event as

well as Apple Dumplings, Beef Vegetable Soup, hoagies and Christmas Cookies.

Thank you...

...to everyone who helps with the quilting ministry. We have given patriotic quilts to Rep. Scheuren, Senator Pennycuik and Frederick Living for their Veteran's Day celebrations.

Mercy Ministry will **NOT** be participating in the Salvation Army Bell Ringing this year.

The committee will revisit it next year.



Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service

Tuesday, November 25*
 at 7:00 p.m. at
 Most Blessed Sacrament R.C. Church,
 Bally. Pr. Eugene Zaiser will be
 preaching.
 More information will be
 forthcoming.
 *Please note day change.



Book Club

The Book Club will be reading the book:
"North River" by Pete Hamill.
 The book in a bag can be borrowed from
 the bag will be on the table in the Welcome
 Center shortly.
 We will meet on **Tuesday, December 9** at
7:00 p.m. in the Welcome Center to discuss
 the book.
 Participants are asked to come with
 suggestions for future reads.
*If you have any questions, please contact
 Roxanne Fox.*

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Chain Initiator:
 June Herb 610-754-7841 or
junero56@aol.com
NOTE: Names on the prayer list remain on for
 one month, unless someone notifies June or
 the office to remain on longer.



Health & Healing:

- Darrin Bisbort – Betty Hoffman's grandson
- Pat Gabel – Bob's wife
- Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt
- Addie Hoffman – daughter of Aaron and Rachel Hoffman
- Athena Hoffman – daughter of Tammy and Glenn Hoffman
- Betty Hoffman
- Charlie Hoffman
- Charlie Houser – 10 yr. old grandson of Dorothy Houser
- Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet
- Hilda Kolb
- Roberta Korsak
- Addie Lorah – newborn daughter of a friend of Lindsey Mason
- Robert Moser – Denise Witman's brother
- Otto Nuss
- Polly Orner
- Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC
- Rosalie Seasholtz – Melissa Seasholtz's mother-in-law
- Todd (Scruffy) Slonaker – cousin of Gerry Flicker and
 Denise Hoffman
- Marvin Steward
- Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
- Elaine Wolfe – friend of Linda Hoffman

Death (Family and Friends of...):

- Charlie Orner (10/23)
- Nephew of Pat Moser's daughter's friend Kathy (10/24)

**Military Deployed to Conflict Area/Serving in the
 Military*:**

- Owen Dietrich – cousin of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason;
- Anthony Lester – friend of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason;
- Dustin Lowery – Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy's nephew;
- Quinn Mason - Lindsey (Riegner) Mason's stepson;
- Matthew and Joseph Schwenk - nephews of Amy
 Eichinger; Nathan Powell – son of a friend of Amy
 Fluke

*If you know someone that is deployed or
 serving, please contact June or the church
 office to put them back on the list. Thank
 you.

Homebound Members of Christ Lutheran Church:

***For current addresses of our Homebound, please
 contact the church office.**

- Gerald Flicker (Grandview Manor in Fleetwood);
- Dorothy Willing (Frederick Living/Cedarwood);
- Sue Bendinsky (Chestnut Knoll)



Christmas Open House
Sunday, December 14

**Time: late afternoon/early evening
 (TBD)**

Once again, this year we will be hosting
 the "Christmas Open House"
 for the community to share in the joy of
 the Christmas season.

If you would like to help at the Open
 House, please contact
 Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy, Pr. Matt or the
 church office.

Invite your friends, family, neighbors for
 some fellowship, tour, cookies &
 beverages, music and carols!

Mercy Ministry

Chershe Derr, Chairperson

Salvation Army Thanksgiving Food Donations, Christmas Food Boxes

During these difficult times, let us not forget our local food banks and donate to the Salvation Army during November and December.

This food drive will benefit their **Thanksgiving Drive Thru Meal** on Thanksgiving (donations accepted through **November 16**), the **Christmas Food Boxes** (donations accepted through **December 7**), as well as stocking their food pantry. All types of canned goods or other non-perishable food items are needed.

Items especially needed are as follows:
canned vegetables, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, mac and cheese dinners, soups, canned chicken or tuna, cereal and pancake mix.

Donations of **hams** or turkeys for the Christmas Food Boxes may also be donated, and again should be taken directly to the Salvation Army because of the need for refrigeration. Please deliver to Salvation Army directly by December 9. If this is a problem, please contact Kay Barr.

They ask that you please do not donate out dated items. All donated items will go to help people in need throughout the Boyertown Area.

Please place items in designated boxes located near the water cooler just outside the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Let us help our neighbors in need especially this year!

Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

Mercy Ministry is still collecting Redner's Save-a-Tape BUT when submitting your receipts, I have to have the bottom part that says "Today's Contribution - \$XX.xx" or Save-a-Tape with the dollar figure. Without this on the bottom, Redner's will not give us the 1% back. So, all you need to do is get a Save-A-Tape card from Redners, go shopping at Redner's and deposit your complete receipt in the box in the narthex. Redner's will send us a check for 1% of the receipts! It's that easy! Any questions, please contact Shirley Deery at (610) 367-0548.

**Christmas Card Exchange**

SHARING CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WITH CHURCH FRIENDS HELPS FUND MERCY MINISTRY PROJECTS

The annual Christmas Card Exchange begins **Sunday, November 30**. Place Christmas cards, addressed to congregation members, in the box in the Parlor. Then put the amount you saved on postage in a pew envelope and mark it "Christmas Card Exchange." Cards will be sorted by the Mercy Ministry committee. Don't forget to stop in the Parlor to pick up your cards!

MEMBERSHIP AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

VISITORS are always welcome to the Table!

MEMBERS (two types)
Voting & Non-voting

The only way you can ever be removed from the membership roll at Christ Lutheran, or any ELCA congregation:

- You request a transfer
- You ask to be removed
- You depart this life

VOTING members must make a record of having:

- Filled out a communion card and received the Lord's Supper ONE time per year
- Contributed ONE time per year, making sure your name or envelope number is included.



Highlights of the Council Meeting on August 26, 2025:

1. Congregational Vitality Survey will run Sept. 28–Oct. 12; Dave Fioriglio and Danny Knaub will be coordinating. The Pastor will provide church-specific links and Danny will be explaining it to the congregation. There will be a shortened notice to put in the bulletin and printed copies of the survey will be available as needed.
2. Community cookout advertising will run on Facebook and Instagram until the day of the cookout
3. Church was contacted as a polling location - Pastor will tell them no because of the lack of space and the inability to accommodate the need.

STAFF REPORTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS & FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Property:
 - Roof repairs on the shed completed at a cost of \$2,187.56 (includes additional work to attach siding); Marvin Steward paid and will be reimbursed. Exterior painting quote received for \$4,850, but concern was raised that results may not last more than 2–3 years. Alternate quote for siding, overhead garage door, and walk-in door totaled \$6,800, which also included the roof repair already completed. This option offers longer durability. The Property Committee requested approval to proceed; funds to come from the Building Fund. Motion made by Gerry Flicker and seconded by Keith Folk, to approve the project not to exceed \$8,000. Motion passed.
 - Road sign information: Gerry Flicker is awaiting a quote;
 - Additional two parking spaces to accommodate possible van accessible spot - exempt by ADA because of it being a church; waiting on a price to see if we can paint over or grind out previous spots

A motion made by Danny Knaub and seconded by Roxanne Fox to accept the committee reports pending audit. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. SafePlace Training: Mutual Ministries will review options, seeking free resources so the additional funds from the Christian Ed category can be sent to Texas flood relief. Will revisit after reviewing policy to determine specific training needs
2. Grief Counseling: Pastor reported that Sylvia will lead sessions Sept. 25–Oct. 23, Thursdays from 4–5:30 p.m. in the parlor. Pat Moser will contact four local funeral homes regarding \$600 sponsorship. The program will be advertised on Facebook and shared with other congregations.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Social Hall Use and Cleaning: Concerns were raised about inadequate cleanup by members after using the social hall. Proposal: require all users to submit a separate cleaning deposit check upfront. Deposit will be returned if cleanup meets standards; otherwise, it will be used to cover cleaning costs. Social hall contract to be updated to reflect this policy. Current member rate is \$135 rental plus \$75 cleaning deposit (same for voting and non-voting members). Cleanup checklist will be provided; failure to meet requirements will result in forfeiture of deposit. A motion made by Dave Fioriglio and seconded by Roberta Korsack. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Sandoval, Council Secretary

If you would like either your cell number and/or your e-mail information published in the 2026 Membership Directory and have not done so in prior years or if info has changed, please fill out the form below and place in Melissa's (Administrative Assistant) mailbox. Thank you.



Membership Directory Update

After receiving many requests' for member's e-mails and cell phone data to be listed in the Church Membership Directory that is published in January of each year, below is your permission to have this information listed in the directory.

I, _____, give my permission to have my
(name)
e-mail: _____ and/or
cell phone: _____ published.

Please complete as much information as you would like listed in the directory.
Please drop off or mail back to the church office by Friday, December 12. Thank you.



POINSETTIAS

Beautiful poinsettias will once again adorn our chancel for our Christmas Eve Services and you are invited to sponsor one or more plants in memory or in honor of loved ones. Please use this form to indicate your desires. Place the form in an envelope along with your check (payable to: "Christ Lutheran Church" for \$14.00 for each plant you order. **Deadline to order is Sunday, November 30, 2025.**

Please use one form per plant. Attach the form(s) to payment.
Cost per plant: **\$14.00.**

Given in Memory/Honor of (circle one):

by: _____ Envelope Number

This form may be placed in the offering plate, or mailed to the church.
Checks should be made payable to: "Christ Lutheran Church" 222 Niantic Rd – Barto, PA 19504.
Please **take your** Poinsettia(s) with you on **Christmas Eve** if possible or contact the church office to make arrangements for pickup. Thank you.

Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic
Income and Expense Statement
 Consolidated - September 2025

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$10,647.60	\$89,641.75	\$93,911.61
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	1,055.00	7,217.84	5,735.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	98.88	978.26	1,505.78
OTHER INCOME	(35.58)	(18.65)	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	11,765.90	97,819.20	101,152.39
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$2,510.92	\$38,371.37	\$42,029.97
OTHER STAFF	3,146.04	31,484.57	31,723.80
Subtotal Salaries	5,656.96	69,855.94	73,753.77
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	21.20	897.42	1,135.89
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.00	300.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	200.00	2,636.90	2,379.51
Subtotal Worship	221.20	3,534.32	3,815.40
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	0.00	34.76
OTHER MINISTRIES	0.00	261.00	204.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY	0.00	51.42	0.00
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	19.00	187.94	265.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	523.78	400.02
INTERNET EXPENSES	334.58	3,157.32	2,500.36
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	353.58	3,920.46	3,165.38
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	201.92	1,774.26	1,371.77
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	968.25	632.88
Subtotal Church Administration	201.92	2,742.51	2,004.65
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	510.88	13,449.82	9,168.86
CLEANING SUPPLIES	0.00	3,722.19	3,383.73
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	143.84	139.56
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	1,954.83	8,886.86	20,452.92
Subtotal Building Operations	2,465.71	26,202.71	33,145.07
INSURANCE	0.00	7,163.75	5,768.75
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	21,748.77	7,849.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,899.37	135,429.46	129,741.14
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$2,866.53	(\$37,610.26)	(\$28,588.75)

Respectfully submitted
Susan Hoffman

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Worship:

9:00 a.m. ~ The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month and on all festivals.

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Finney ~ clcpastor@windstream.net
Minister of Music: Deborah Matthews ~ debmatth@comcast.net
Administrative Assistant: Melissa Seasholtz ~ christluthchurch@windstream.net

2025 Congregational Council

President: Steve Novotny Vice President: Dave Fioriglio
Secretary: Dawn Sandoval Treasurer: Sue Hoffman**
Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio** Financial Treasurer: Kathy Watts**
e-mail: clcfinancial@windstream.net

Gerry Flicker Keith Folk Roxanne Fox
Bob Heydt Danny Knaub Roberta Korsak
Pat Moser Marvin Steward _____ + (5/24 – 4/25)
(*non-council member / +youth member / second term)

Ministry Assistants for November 2025

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assisting Minister	Ushers/Greeters
November 2 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Heather Moser	Heather Moser	Terry Flicker	_____*
November 9 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Bob Heydt		Denise Hoffman	Lisa and Bob Heydt
November 16 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck		Terry Flicker	Ginnie Wilkinson and Shirley Deery
November 23 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Sue Hoffman	Nancy Fioriglio	Terry Flicker	Lisa and Bob Heydt
November 30 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Nancy Fioriglio	Sue Hoffman	Denise Hoffman	Nancy Fioriglio and _____*

Altar Guild: Diane and Bruce Houck

Counting Team: TEAM C – Bruce Houck (capt.); Diane Houck, Nancy Fioriglio, Dave Fioriglio

_____ * = Help needed. If you can help, please contact the church office.
Thank you.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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November 2025



(WC) = Welcome Center (S/H) = Social Hall * = updated since publication						1 *Turn your clocks back when you go to bed!
2 All Saints' Sunday 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	3 6:30 Property (W/C)	4	5 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Senior Choir	6	7 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours [Melissa Vacation Day]	8 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Fall Bazaar at St. Paul's Lutheran
9 Congregational Meeting 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Congregational Meeting 10:30 Confirmation (room I)	10 [Melissa Vacation Day]	11 *December Niantic News Articles DUE! 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 12 noon Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Argento's. Meet in parking lot at 11:30 a.m. or meet at Argento's by 12 noon. [Melissa Vacation Day] <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Senior Choir	13	14 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	15
16 Blessing of the Quilts 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Blessing of the Quilts 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	17 7:00 Council (parlor)	18	19 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Senior Choir	20	21 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	22
23 Christ the King Sunday 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	24	25 7:00 p.m. - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at Most Blessed Sacrament, Bally	26	27 OFFICE CLOSED Thanksgiving Day	28 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	29
30 First Sunday of Advent 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	Dec. 1 6:30 Property (W/C)	Dec. 2	Dec. 3 7:00 Senior Choir	Dec. 4	Dec. 5 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	Dec. 6

Pr. Matt on Vacation