



William E. Kapp  
Pastor

## *First United Church of Christ Inc.*

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## December 2014

Dear Members and Friends of First UCC,

**“...On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead...”**

Matthew 25:31-46 references The Great Judgment, a time when the Son of Man will come and sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will gather before him and he will separate people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. At first glance, it might appear to the casual reader that the Christian is simply defined as a good humanitarian. We have a ready-made list to build on. All we have to do is maintain a log to keep track of our efforts. Be sure and include the dates and times of your good deeds. That way, we can use them as talking points for heavenly entrance.

Looking further, we find that there are two groups considering the same list with different perspectives. Looking at the outcome, we'll want to be in the first one. The first group, perhaps wearing T-shirts with a sheep printed on the front, did the following: They provided food for the hungry, water for the thirsty, hospitality for the stranger, clothing for the naked, treatment for the sick, and visits for the prisoner. The other group, the goats, looked the other way when they saw someone hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or in prison. That's simple enough, isn't it? But then comes the twist.

Both groups were puzzled when Jesus said, “I was the one you saw hungry and thirsty. I was the person that you saw in need of clothes, medical help, or friendship for the stranger and the prisoner. I was the one you aided or from whom you turned away.” What's going on here? Why weren't the sheep aware of doing good deeds for Jesus? Couldn't they see the face of Jesus in the people they helped? Apparently not. “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food?” They sound clueless. Why?

I think it has to do with their enjoyment of a favorite thing. I'm sure you can think of things you do simply for the love of your favorite thing – cards, gardening, hunting, etc. Is that the way it is with these helpful people in Matthew's text? The helpers didn't say, “I am doing this for the love of Jesus.” They did it because they couldn't imagine not doing it. “Anyone would have done the same,” they say. But that's not true; too many people look the other way. Our hearts, through Christ's Spirit, are shaped and taught with the help of other Christians. As we become more conformed to Christ, our actions will develop more spontaneously and we will be a blessing to others. The outcome is described in John 7:38: “Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.”

The goats never found the living waters. Instead they dammed them up and the water became stagnant. The sheep go along with the flow of the Spirit; they respond to needs and love doing it.

Maybe one day, you'll be sitting in the doctor's office reading a year-old magazine. The waiting room will be completely full. The door opens and an elderly woman on crutches comes in out of the cold. You'll immediately get up and say, “I was just going to get a cup of coffee. Would you like one too?” You do it because the love of Jesus is written on your heart. Now you know how it is with the sheep that seemed so unaware.

With the Greatest of Hope!  
Pastor Bill



# Advent and Christmas 2014

## Worship and Celebration Opportunities



### If You Look For Me At Christmas

You won't see a special star,  
 I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are.  
 You may not be aware of Me amid the celebrations,  
 you'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations.  
 But, if you take a moment from your list of things to do,  
 and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you.  
 You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came,  
 and you'll find Me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name.  
 Love, Jesus

#### Sunday, November 30 First Sunday of Advent

- \* Lighting of Advent Candle
- \* Caroling during the Sunday School hour
- \* Grades 4, 5, and 6 paint windows for Christmas ~ 1:00 p.m.



#### Sunday, December 14 Third Sunday of Advent

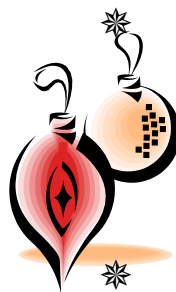
- Lighting of Advent Candles
- Christmas Bake & Craft Sale
- Sunday School Christmas Program ~ 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

#### Saturday, December 6

- \* Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, December 7 Second Sunday of Advent

- \* Lighting of Advent Candles
- \* Christmas Music Sunday ~ Both Worship Services
- \* Sunday School White Gifts ~ 10:30 Worship Service



#### Saturday, December 20

- H.E.L.P. Toy Distribution ~ 8:00-9:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent

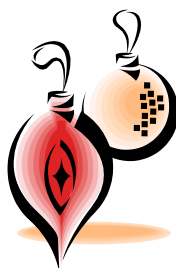
- Lighting of Advent Candles

#### Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

- \* Candlelight Christmas Eve Service With Communion ~ 7:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, December 13

- \* Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.



**“For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”** Luke 2:11

## Sunday School News

By Margaret McFarlane



Thanks to all who sang on November 16. It was a great Sunday!



We raised \$260.00 for UNICEF. Thank you for helping with this worthy project! We beat our past collections!



We welcome to our Sunday School "Family": Jack Mabis and Slater & Sawyer Denu.



Students will be scheduled to light candles before worship from now until the end of the Sunday School year. Please let me know if your child would like to do this but has not signed up.



We will be Christmas caroling at Maplewood Village and The Pines on Sunday, November 30, during the Sunday School hour. Everyone in the family is welcome to join in! We will have a short class period before our departure. Meet in the hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor at 9:30.



The Sunday School choir will sing on December 7 for the Music Festival at the 10:30 service.



The Sunday School hour has been extended until 10:20 through December 14. This will allow extra practice time for the Christmas program.



We will have program practice on Saturday, December 6 and 13, at 9:30 a.m. All students taking part in the Christmas Program need to be present. Please let me know if your child/children aren't participating in the program. Pre-K, K, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, and choir only students; will be dismissed immediately after they practice, at approximately 10:15. Practice will run until 11:30 for grades 2-6.



White Gift Sunday will be December 7. Students are asked to bring a gift (new or gently-used item) wrapped in white tissue for our H.E.L.P. project. They can bring the gift to the 10:30 service or to their Sunday School classroom.



The Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 14, at the 10:30 service.



There will be no Sunday School on December 21 and December 28. Classes resume on January 4.

## Help Excite Little People This Holiday Season!

The H.E.L.P. project will be collecting good, used toys and items for teens through December 16. Donated items may be placed in the red sleigh, located inside the Washington Avenue entrance. If you have time to wash your donations, please mark your bags/boxes "clean" toys. Monetary donations are, also, welcome. We need "elves" to wash, repair, and organize the toys for distribution. *Please* consider helping with this all-church project on one or more of the following days:

**Thursday, December 4, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**  
**Friday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**  
**Tuesday, December 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**  
**Friday, December 12, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**  
**Tuesday, December 16, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**  
**Thursday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**  
**Friday, December 19, 10:00 a.m.-Noon**

We work in the Sanctuary basement at the listed times. Questions? Call Margaret McFarlane at 643-6327.



### **2014 Charitable Giving Deadline**

Please remember that gifts to the Church must be received by **Noon on December 31<sup>st</sup>** in order to get credit for that donation in 2014.

November 3, 2014

Dear Friends: We enjoyed a summer with just a few of us here in Mission, Texas. Now people are coming from their homes to enjoy the warmer climate here, and activities will soon start. We have heard of several instances of violence by the drug cartels in Mexico, but none in the small tourist town where we build houses. We will weigh the risks and, most probably, begin building the first week in December. We ask for your prayers as we continue helping poor families to a better place in life. God bless your continued services in Christ's kingdom in the Sauk Prairie community. We hope to visit you, again, in mid-May of 2015.

Yours in Christ, Herb & Bev Feierabend



*This season, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming into our world, may we **await** Him in silent prayer, **recognize** Him in all we encounter, and **welcome** Him into the dwelling place of our heart.*



**CONSISTORY MEETING**  
First United Church of Christ  
November 20, 2014  
6:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Pastor Bill, Tom Litscher (president), Deb Tschudy, Tim Herbrand, Amanda McFarlane and Rose Kleinert

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Bill

**Pastor Bill's Report:** (1) Thanksgiving service will be held at St. John's Lutheran church on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. (2) Salvation Army bell ringing will be at Piggly Wiggly through Advent, a sign-up sheet will be posted. (3) Pastor Bill will be making visits and serving communion to the shut-ins, nursing home and assistant living residence during the upcoming holiday season and. (4) Capital Campaign for Pilgrim's Camp.

**Secretaries Report:** Motion to approve by Deb, second by Tim Herbrand, motion carried.

**Approval of Financial Reports and invoices:** October financials reviewed; motion to approve by Amanda, second by Rose, motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Sunday School/Church Youth Program:**  
(1) Caroling at Maplewood and The Pines will be November 30<sup>th</sup>. (2) Sunday School choir sings and white gifts will be on December 7<sup>th</sup>. (3) Sunday School Christmas program is December 14<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 service. (4) There will be no Sunday School classes on December 21<sup>st</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Members in Ministry:** Weekly visits and communion are being made to shut-ins, nursing homes, and hospitals. If anyone has an extra hour a week or month to visit,

please contact Liz Bongard or the church office.

**Christian Fellowship:** (1) Decorating for Advent is Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. (2) Music Sunday and coffee fellowship is scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>. (3) In lieu of a meeting in December, Christian Fellowship Committee will donate their time to H.E.L.P. toy washing on December 9<sup>th</sup>. (4) Christmas craft and bake sale is December 14<sup>th</sup>. (5) Looking ahead to February (tentatively a Sunday in March) for the Chili/Soup Supper.

**Stewardship:** Reviewed Stewardship Sunday and upcoming stewardship events, 2015 Gospel music, Easter sunrise breakfast and cottage meetings. Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.

**Finance:** Preparing for 2015 budget.

**Building & Maintenance:** (1) Concrete was poured between the church and the parsonage to prevent flooding.

**Long-Range Strategic Planning:**  
(1) Church Survey sent out; a table at the back of the church will be set up for questions/answers during December.

**On-Going Business:** (1) Offering counting schedule for 2015. (2) Church inventory. (3) Outdoor maintenance - snow removal schedule (what a great way for young people to show their church spirit and dedication). All are welcome, we need your help!

**New Business:** (1) 2015 Annual meeting preparations

**Next Consistory meeting:** Third **Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to **adjourn** by Deb, second by Tim Herbrand, motion carried.

**Closing prayer** from Pastor Bill – Lord's Prayer

**Christian Fellowship Committee**  
**November 11<sup>th</sup> Minutes**  
From Debbie Tschudy

**In attendance:** Pastor Bill, Charmaine Carter, Carol Hehenberger, Dorothy Kundert, Rita Larsen, Sherry Pieper, Sandy Schlender, Debbie Tschudy

**Old Business**

**Coffee Fellowship dates**

December 7 (Music Sunday)

**New Business**

December 9 - our committee will help with toy washing/cleaning H.E.L.P. at 6:30 p.m.

December 14 - Christmas craft/bake sale at church - Debbie will ask Cindy if she can put some signs out for us

November 29 starting at 9:00 - Advent church decorating date - lunch afterward - sign-up sheet out - theme Angels - Kathy ordered poinsettias

Advent candle lighting schedule for Cindy - Sherry Pieper will get Cindy the readers for the 8:00 service and Rita will get her the readers for the 10:30 service

Coffee fellowship for 2015 January - February?? On hold - we are trying to schedule the January coffee fellowship when we have pulpit exchange - but the date hasn't been determined yet, and we hope to have coffee fellowship

on the Sunday when Stewardship has their Christian group come in and sing.

**Any other new business?**

Soup-chili supper - we are trying for hosting on either March 11 or March 18

**No meeting in December - work on H.E.L.P. toy washing**

**Next Meeting - January 13, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Misc. church items or dates**

Dec. 7 - Music Sunday

Dec. 14 - Sunday School Christmas  
Program - 10:30 a.m.

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

April 5 - Easter



*The best gift around the Christmas tree is the presence of Family wrapped in love!*



## BLESSINGS & THANKS

### FROM THE HEART!

# With Appreciation To

### From Christian Fellowship:

★ A special thank you to **Laurie Kerl** for her generous donation of the big bag of gourds for the church. They were put to good use decorating our church inside and outside for fall. We appreciate your kind and generous donation. Blessings to you Laurie!!

★ A special thank you to **Cecy Haines** for keeping track of supplies and replenishing them for our church kitchen. It is appreciated!

★ Thank you to **Sharal Steuber** for the donation of the coffee maker. It has been put to good use in the Education Building kitchen in the basement. Blessings to you.

★ A special thank you to **Pastor Bill, Laura, Jacob, Jake and Ben** for hosting our coffee fellowship Sunday, November 9. We appreciate all your time and truly enjoyed all the wonderful goodies you brought in to share. Pastor Bill - I think everyone wants your recipe for the wonderful coffee cake you made. Blessings to you all!!

★ Our members who delivered Mobile Meals: **Micki Cruse, Donna Cruse, Peggy Ganser, and Liz Bongard.**

★ All our elves who helped decorate the Church for Advent & Christmas on Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

★ **Dana Gee** for painting the outlines for the windows we decorate for Advent. Thanks to the **students and parents** who painted them on November 30.



**And, as 2014 comes to a close, thank-you's, also, go out to:**

★ **Tammie Huerth** for sharing her time and talents decorating the Church bulletin board every month.

★ **All of our members** who served as Liturgists, Ushers, Communion Servers, and on Church Committees in 2014.

★ Our **Radio Broadcast family** for sharing their time and talent with us while sitting in the Sound Room on Sunday mornings: **Harley Lichtenwalner, Tom Litscher, and Herm Tschudy.**

★ Our **Radio Broadcast sponsors** who make it possible for us to reach our many shut-ins in the community on Sunday morning.

**And, as 2014 comes to a close,  
thank-you's, also, go out to:**

★ Our Christian Education Superintendent Margaret McFarlane and our Sunday School and Confirmation staff who create a fun and loving atmosphere for our children to learn about Jesus.

★ Chris Garcia, our Custodian, who keeps our Church and Education Building spic 'n span.

★ Our members who shared their "gifts of music" with us throughout the year: Dennis Kahn, Kristy Litscher, Sherri Roberts, First Choir, our Sunday School Choir, and the Summer Singing Sensations!

★ Everyone who served as a hostess for the funeral luncheons—helping meet and greet the family/friends, serving food, and cleaning up.

★ Thank you to Carrissa, Tim, and Sue Herbrand for mowing the church properties this summer.

★ Thank you to all of our outdoor elves who helped with cleaning up the leaves and shoveling (yes, already in November) ☺ the church properties!

\*\*\*\*\*If you are able to help out with snow removal during the remaining winter months, please sign up on the calendar as you come into church.\*\*\*\*\*

★ Thank you to Laura Kapp who hosted the First U.C.C. web site in 2014. Great job, Laura!



**This Christmas ...**

**Let's Give a Little Jesus**, a thoughtful word or deed,  
An act of generosity for someone who's in need.

**Let's Give a Little Jesus** to everyone we meet,  
The salesclerk or the server, the person on the street.

**Let's Give a Little Jesus**, that's what really counts,  
Not what's spent or bought, for whom, in what amounts.

**Let's Give a Little Jesus** to everyone, large or small,  
For Jesus, the Messiah, is the Greatest Gift of all!

Lisa O. Engelhardt

**YTD Through October 2014**

**Actual Expenses:** \$182,816.34

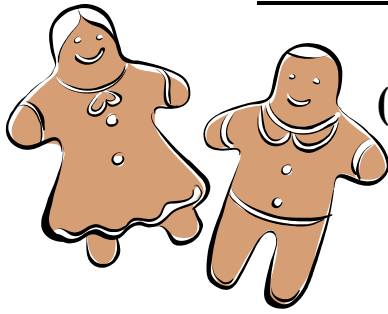
**Actual Income:** \$152,022.10

**Net Ordinary Income:** (-) \$30,794.24



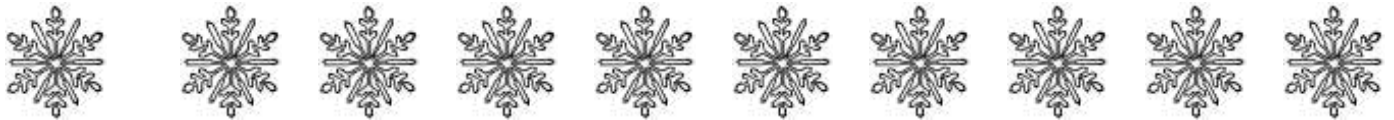
# Christmas Bake & Craft Sale

*Sunday, December 14*  
(before and after Church Services)



We will hold our Annual Christmas Bake and Craft Sale on Sunday, December 14, before and after the worship services. What a joy that we have so much talent in our church – those that are excellent bakers and crafters and so willing to donate their time and talent to help our church! Those who bring crafts should have them pre-priced with your name on them. Please make sure your baked goods and crafts are here before the 8:00 a.m. worship service. The proceeds from this sale will go toward a fund for new flooring in our church kitchen and dining area.

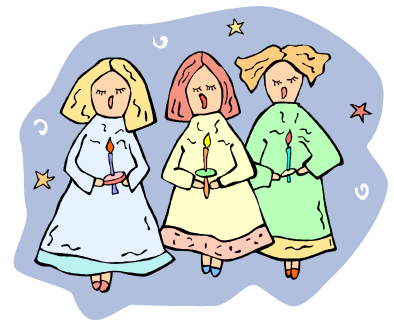
## Joyful cooking, baking, and crafting!



## Electronic Donation Service

In today's modern age, we enjoy the flexibility to schedule our monthly payments electronically. No more check writing or having to send that invoice in by mail.

The First UCC Electronic Donation Service is an easy way to give offerings to the church. Simply provide your bank account information on this form, turn it in at the church office, and the amount you designate will be withdrawn on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



Not only will you maximize your offering potential through this systematic approach to giving, but it also allows more flexibility if your timetable doesn't allow you to be in church every week.

# Electronic Donation Service

## Contributor Information

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
(as it appears on your bank account)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Financial Information

Financial Institution Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Routing # \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Account is a \_\_\_ Checking \_\_\_ Saving

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Contribution Method

Please deduct \$ \_\_\_\_\_ from my \_\_\_ Checking \_\_\_ Savings

***The amount you designate will be withdrawn on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.***

## Authorization

I hereby authorize First United Church of Christ, Inc. to deduct my donation(s), on a monthly basis, from the account(s) listed above. I understand that I control my donations, and I will notify you if at any time I decide that I want to discontinue the Electronic Donation Service. This authority is to remain in full force and effect until written notice from me has been received by the company in such a manner as to afford reasonable time to act on it.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## Christmas Eve Communion

### December 24: Christmas Eve

Rick Breininger  
Carol Hehenberger  
Rita Larsen

Emily Fuchs  
Rose Kleinert  
Tom Litscher

## January 2015 Communion Schedule

8:00                      January 4                      10:30

Galen & Pam Alwin  
Herman & Debbie Tschudy

Amanda McFarlane  
Tom McFarlane  
Bill Steckelberg  
Dianna Woerpel



“No Room! No Room!” the innkeeper cried, only a stable for the holy Christ Child. I ponder this thought as Christmas draws near, “Is there room in my heart for this Savior so dear?” OH, I send bulging boxes to people in need, bake cookies for shut-ins and do other good deeds. I sing Christmas carols as I decorate the tree and wrap pretty presents for friends and family. But deep in MY heart where no one can see, I hear Jesus whisper, “Is there room for me?”

Louise Tucker Jones

## October Memorials

Memorials were received in  
October in loving memory of:

Ted Harris  
Laura Maenche



## Radio Broadcasts

We thank the November sponsors of our 8:00  
a.m. Sunday worship service radio broadcasts:

Harland & Lorraine Hartmann, In honor and  
celebration of their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.  
Herman & Debbie Tschudy, In loving memory  
of Emil & Martha Tschudy; Dale & Anna Mae  
Dennis; and Peter and Dominic Giacomino.  
Harley Lichtenwalner, In loving memory of his  
wife, Bennie Lichtenwalner.

## ♥ December Anniversaries In Our Church Family ♥

Frank and Georgia Selden, 52 years on December 8  
Bev and Herb Feierabend, 61 years on December 19  
Edward and Marlene Larsen, Sr., 62 years on December 20  
Dave and Jane Litscher, 52 years on December 22  
Dorothy and Lyle Kuhnau, 53 years on December 28  
Ron and Roberta Lipka, 51 years on December 28

Greetings to all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in December!  
We acknowledge 1<sup>st</sup> anniversaries; anniversaries ending in 5 or 0; and all over 50.  
Please let us know if we missed you on the December birthday calendar!!

## Ushers

<u>8:00</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>8:00</u>	<u>January 2015</u>	<u>10:30</u>
Cecy Haines		TBA	Nadene Litscher		Bill Steckelberg
David & Gloria Ramsey			Mark & Rhonda Pierick		Jamie & Karen
Tina Wilkinson					Wittwer

**Pastor Bill Kapp**   Office Hours:   Tuesday through Friday: 8:00-Noon;  
Saturday: 8:00-10:00 a.m. and by appointment  
Office phone:   643-8387; Home phone: 370-2249  
E-mail:   bill\_kapp@ucc-saukcity.org

**Office**   Hours:   Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m.-Noon  
Cindy Baker   Phone Number:   643-8387; E-mail: office@ucc-saukcity.org

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (broadcast over WRPQ 740AM & 99.7FM) & 10:30 a.m.

Confirmation: 9:00-10:20 a.m.

Sunday School: 9:10-10:10 a.m. ~ ages 3 years and older

# FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

504 Washington Avenue

Sauk City, WI 53583

## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## DECEMBER 2014 SCOOP



*"She brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7*

- 1 \*Sunday School Teachers' Staff Meeting ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 4 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 5 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 6 \*Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.
- 7 \*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday In Advent
- \*Christmas Music Festival
- \*Coffee Fellowship between Worship Services
- \*Sunday School White Gifts ~ at the 10:30 worship service
- 9 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- \*Christian Fellowship Committee will be helping wash toys for H.E.L.P.
- 12 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 13 \*Sunday School Christmas Program Practice ~ 9:30 a.m.
- 14 \*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday In Advent
- \*Christmas Bake & Craft Sale
- \*Sunday School Christmas Program ~ 10:30 worship
- 16 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 18 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- \*Consistory ~ 6:30 p.m.
- 19 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Washing ~ 10:00 a.m.-Noon
- 20 \*H.E.L.P. Toy Distribution ~ beginning at 8:00 a.m.
- 21 \*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent
- 24 \*Candlelight Christmas Eve Service ~ 7:00 p.m.

*Merry*   
*Christmas* 