



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2024



I would like to teach you about the word absolution this month. This is a great blessing that God has chosen to use as his main way to interact with us. Absolution is the act of absolving sin, that is giving the good news to someone who has repented. Absolution is a heavenly gift that comes from God and is given through the pastor to God's people, or through God's people to other people.

Absolution is the process of faith grabbing on to the forgiveness of sins in Jesus. This makes me think about when I hold onto my son and he holds onto me. I will never stop holding on to my son, but absolution for our relationship with God is like when my son feels like I'm not near him enough and he comes and grabs ahold of my leg trying to pull himself up, but he cannot get up, he needs me to pick him up and assure him that everything is alright, and he and I are at peace.

Romans 10:17 says, "faith comes from hearing and hearing through the word of Christ." So if God wants to speak to you, how can you hear him? Through faith, and God's word to you is first and foremost a word of mercy, grace, and peace. This is why each sermon typically starts, "Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." See how that is God speaking to you even though a human says those words? Absolution is a gift by which God convinces your conscience sin doesn't hold onto you.

Perhaps though you've felt at you and God are at peace, but you aren't finding that peace in your relationships with other people. This is the secondary goal of absolution. Because we have peace with God we are now able to make and live in peace with other people. This is where husbands and wives, friends and co-workers find the ability to move forward even when we have drastically hurt one another whether that be personally, professionally, emotionally or in some other way.

This is why it is important to recall what we discussed when I preached on Hebrews 7:23ff on October 27th, 1 Peter 2:9 says, “You are a... royal priesthood”. Absolution does not involve punishing other people for their sins, but showing how Christ has taken that punishment away. John 20:22-23 says, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.” There may be times when someone won’t receive absolution because they feel they don’t need to repent, that is also part of John 20:22-23.

But, when you are at odds with someone else, first consider how Christ has forgiven you, how does that shape how you can now interact with them, are you free to forgive them now? Yes! And what better way to live with others in this life than to share the release from sin and darkness than by letting them know God has given it to them.

“So, if there is a heart that feels its sin and desires comfort, it has here (in absolution) a sure refuge where it finds and hears God’s Word because through a human being God looses and absolves from sin.”

It is liberating to receive absolution from God, may you enjoy freeing others through absolution.

*Joyfully His,
Pastor Jonathan Jahnke*



ELDERS CORNER

As I am writing this, we are less than a week before the election. My social media accounts are overwhelmed with political content. Much of the content has been inflammatory, likely with the intent to motivate people to act and increase voter turnout. I find myself increasingly aggravated by their intellectually dishonest nature.

In one video a man said: “Christian nationalists walk around with a mouth full of scripture and a heart full of hate. Don’t tell me what you believe. Show me how you treat other people, and I’ll tell you what you believe. Jesus didn’t tell us to love our churches. He didn’t tell us to love our doctrine and our creeds. He didn’t even tell us to love our scriptures. He told us to love our neighbors. And there was no exception to that commandment. Love your neighbor, regardless of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, or immigration status.” The man in this video continued down these lines for a while. Videos like this are particularly difficult for me to stomach. There is a shred of truth in what he says, but it is perverted with selfish purpose. I immediately find myself mentally listing all the ways he is wrong:

1. Jesus said love your neighbor as yourself in Matthew 22:36-40: “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ First, love the Lord your God. For loving God means obeying his commands (1 John 5:3).

2. Treating people in a way that brings them comfort does not equal loving them. Comforting someone all the way to hell is not love at all.

3. Jesus obviously did love scripture. He quoted scripture and at times prioritized it over his own family.

4. Jesus did not mention “love regardless of sexual orientation.”

5. John 18:36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” Jesus was more concerned with the heavenly kingdom than the earthy kingdom.

It is about this time my first argument really sets in: **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

Again, for myself: **Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**

My perspective begins to shift: Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Psalm 91:2: *I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”*

This election will pass. It may not go the way I think it should, but God is good. He loves me, He cares for me, and He is a just God. As difficult as it might be, I pray that my focus is on loving God with all of my being over the coming weeks. *Presented by Brandon Luedeke*



Pastor Jahnke
701.306.2072



Greg Armbruster
952.288.3953



Loren Boysen
320.760.0199



Gary Christianson
320.491.0258



Dave Erickson
320.491.3703



Jason Norheim
320.808.4156



Brandon Luedeke
320.304.4237



Paul Luedeke
320.760.6937



Keith Ramsay
320.219.2129

Executive Council Chat

Greetings in the name of Christ,

Our **Annual Voters Meeting** is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for December 8th following Worship service for this meeting.

The Executive council has been working some items that will be brought to the Voters for Approval. Such as:

1. 3 Executive Council Positions **please see Gary Lips if you would like to be considered for one of these positions.*
2. 2025 Budget
3. Processional Cross design choices **funds have been raised for purchase*
4. Good Shepherd Policy's/Designated Funds amendment see below:

6.1 Designated Funds

1. *Designated funds are established for a specific pre-approved purpose or need of the church.*
2. An **"Application for Establishing a Dedicated Fund"** form must be submitted to the "Memorial and Dedicated Fund Committee".
3. *The request form must include the name of the committee or individual making the request, the date of the request, the specific item(s) the funds will be used for, the timeline for the purchase/completion of the request, and the cost of the item plus any ongoing maintenance expenses.*
4. *The Memorial and Dedicated Fund Committee will review the request and submit it to the Executive Council for approval.*
5. If the request is for more than \$1000.00, the final approval will be made by the congregation at a regular/special Voters meeting.

Recommending raising this amount from \$1,000 to \$2,000

Voter's meeting letters, agenda, budget and additional information for agenda items will be coming soon in November. Reminder - SAVE THE DATE-December 8th Voter's Meeting.

Thank you,

Loren Boysen

Executive Council Chairman

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

				
Loren Boysen Chairman	Gary Lips Vice Chairman	Evelyn Beulke Treasure	Stephanie Bertek Secretary	Chad Kohls Council Member
				
Dave Bertek Council Member	Kevin Mork Council Member	Bill Teschendorf Council Member	Carol Barenz Council Member	Pastor Jonathan Jahnke

Treasure Tithing

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fund Balance September 2024			
		FUNDS	EXPENSES
Current Month's Offerings		\$27,856.41	
Year To Date Total Offerings		\$249,220.50	
Thrivent Choice Dollars - YTD		\$2785.00	
Miscellaneous Income - YTD		\$950.00	
LCEF Account Transfer- YTD		\$0.00	
Current Month's General Expense			\$30,339.62
Year to Date Total Expense			\$258,667.90
Current Month Net Less Expense	(\$2,405.21)		
Year to Date Net Less Expense	(\$5,712.40)		



*Evelyn Beulke,
Treasurer*

Weekly Income and Attendance info will be emailed on Thursdays afternoon! If you have not been receiving this email, please inform the Church office asap so, you may be added to our list.



Executive Council Monthly Minutes /Treasure reports are posted on Bulletin board in hallway by Fellowship Hall

Altar Guild

LWML



We will have had our organizational meeting when you receive the November newsletter. If you weren't able to attend and would like to be a part of the Altar Guild, please talk to Marian or I and we will gladly put your name on a month.

I have written about the linens, paraments (colors used, their meaning and when), communion ware and flowers. I haven't written about the lighting, candles, so I will do my best. As for lights/candles, a good principle to follow: the more festive the celebration, the more lights. Accordingly, during the penitential season of Lent, the minimum of lights should be used. On major festivals of the Church year the maximum (depending on the equipment on hand and, of course, good taste) could be used. During the "ordinary" times, balance and variety might be a good choice. There has been an interest in and talk of a processional cross for our church. A processional Cross is a cross (preferably a crucifix) mounted on a staff and carried, used in processions, such as in an entrance procession at the beginning of the service, the Gospel procession (when the minister and attendants carry the lectionary or Gospel book into the middle of the nave for the reading of the Gospel), or, if customary, to the gravesite in the service for a Burial at a funeral. When not being carried during the service, the cross rests in a stand in the chancel or in a bracket mounted on the chancel wall. If there are no processions, the preferred custom is for it to be placed in the sacristy (unless, of course, the processional cross also serves as the altar or chancel cross. Often seen in a Lutheran church is the sanctuary light, sometimes called an eternal light. This lamp or candle, hanging throughout the year. Some traditions, including many Lutheran, understand the sanctuary light symbolize the continual presence of God, hence the name eternal light. The color of the glass of this light, some insist that white or non-tinted glass is to be preferred. Most lamps today, however, have a red glass, but there is no real reason to make an issue of it. The Altar was taken care of by Audrey Robotcek and Amory Anderson in October.



November caregivers will be Greg and Denise Armbruster. Our Altar has been beautified with flowers from the Rasmussen's the month of October.

Amory Anderson

Lutheran Women in Mission met on Monday, October 21, 2024. We read through a Bible Study called Seasons which was very appropriate.

We discussed the Rummage/Bake Sale which profited \$1777.75. We are grateful to everyone who helped out in any way.

Elections were held. Elected were Tracy Boysen, vice president, Ann Smith, secretary and Marcia Lips, Christian Life.

We discussed the Small Mall which will be held Monday, December 2 and Tuesday, December 3 from 4-7 p.m. each evening in the old Sears Building. Our next meeting is Monday, November 18, 2024 with Pastor Jon as our featured speaker. He will also install the new officers.

December 7, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. is our Christmas Social at the Pioneer Grill at Grand Arbor. ALL women of the congregation are invited to join us for the meal and social time.

"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Psalm 100:2



*Barb Schuneman, President,
Lutheran Women in Mission*

MOMs GROUP

MOMs Group will be meeting the second and fourth TUESDAY of the Month this year from 9-10:30am. Please join us in the Education wing! We will be going through the Illumination Catechism together. *Work books provided!*

Please contact Danielle Jahnke if you are interested in joining. Phone: 507-273-7436

Nov. 12th, 26th	Jan. 14th, 28th*
Dec. 10th	Feb. 11th, 25th
Jan 14th, 28th*	Mar. 11th, 25th
	Apr. 8th, 22nd*
	May 13th, 27th



FELLOWSHIP

LIBRARY



Soup Cook-Off!

The fellowship group is planning our second annual **'Good Chef-herd Cook-off!'**

On Saturday, November 23rd, at 5-7 pm we will be in the fellowship hall voting on who is the best chef in the church!

The theme for this year is soup! If you think that you have the best soup recipe and are the best chef, sign up (on the table in front of the office window) and have your full pot of soup to church by 4:30 on Saturday for judging!

You may sign up for and bring more than one soup to increase your chances of winning! If you don't want to cook but think you have the best tastebuds this side of the Mississippi, then come any time between 5-6:30 to taste all the competition and vote on your favorite soup! Taste testing and judging will run from 5-6:30. At 6:30 we will collect all the votes, tally them up, and announce who the next top chef at Good Shepherd is!

Not a fan of soup but would still like to take part in the fellowship? We will have hotdogs and chips there also!

Come and join in the fun and fellowship!



*"God is faithful, by whom you were called into fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."
1 Corinthians 1:9*

This book is a true story written by Heather Hornback-Bland and Ninie Hammon about four-year-old Heather. She fell from a car driven by her mother and was run over by a tire. In reality she shouldn't have lived because her injuries were very severe. God had different plans and she lived for forty-four years. This book tells of her problems growing up and the courage she had to get through everything. A wonderful read found in the biography section.

LOVE PATCHES



Love Patches Quilting Group meets weekly on Thursdays from 9am to Noon. We are always looking for additional helpers even if you don't quilt. You can help by tying quilts or even picking out colors to use. We do have a fun time when we are together. We have given out several quilts recently to individuals with medical conditions and also for baptisms.

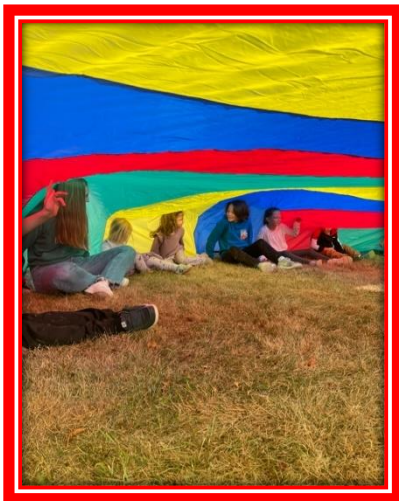
GS Youth Faith and Fun!!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

*“Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.”
Proverbs 22:6*



Thank you to everyone for all the generous support to Sunday School! A special thank you to Olivia from Lutheran Island Camp for coming and making it an extra special Sunday for our kids! We enjoyed learning camp songs and praising the Lord with all our friends! Olivia also taught us different camp games to play outside for all ages! This month we've been learning about how much *God helps us!* Our friend Klymer, the snow leopard, gave us a bible verse to help remember where our help comes from. Psalm 121:1-2 says "I look up to the mountains-does my help come from there? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth!" Hopefully you also find this verse from Klymer a helpful reminder during our busy days!



*Myah Kremer
Sunday School Director*



11 Young people and 2 Adults joined in the Pumpkin Carving event!!!
Thank you everyone for coming! Stay tuned for our next event.



*Jeremy and Amanda Thurk
Jr & Sr High Youth Leaders*



Homeschool
MARKETPLACE



STOP TO SHOP!

Homeschool students will be selling some of their favorite goods & services.

Friday, December 6th
11:00am-12:00pm
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
2702 Hwy 29 | Alexandria

Altar Guild

Amory Anderson	218.640.0692	amorya5051@live.com
Marian Brelje	320.510.1081	ambrelje@hotmail.com

Music

Sue Nelson	320.766.5221	sknelson4@charter.net
------------	--------------	--

Elders

Greg Armbruster	952.288.3953	garmbruster1017@gmail.com
Loren Boysen	320.760.0199	lcb@runestone.net
Gary Christianson	320.491.0258	garyjean@charter.net
Dave Erickson	320.491.3703	pegdave80@live.com
Brandon Luedeke	320.304.4237	brandonluedeke@gmail.com
Paul Luedeke	320.760.6937	pgbcqqc@gmail.com
Keith Ramsay	320.219.2129	kcramsay@embarqmail.com
Jason Norheim	320.808.4156	ndakjas@gmail.com

Executive Council

Loren Boysen (Chair)	320.760.0199	lcb@runestone.net
Gary Lips (VChair)	612.597.9044	lipsgary@gmail.com
Stephanie Bertek	320.491.8825	stephaniebertek@yahoo.com
Evelyn Buelke	320.766.2321	erbeu@midwestinfo.net
Chad Kohls	320.522.3000	Ckohls16@gmail.com
Dave Bertek	320.491.4652	dabertek@gmail.com
Carol Barenz	320.808.5166	cbarenz50@gmail.com
Kevin Mork	507.430.0080	krmork327@gmail.com
Bill Teschendorf	320.815.3099	teschendorfjan@yahoo.com
Pastor Jonathan Jahnke	701.306.2072	goodshepherdalexpastor@gmail.com

Fellowship Committee

Arnie & Marian Brelje	320.510.1081	ambrelje@hotmail.com
Norm Schimmelpfennig	320-304-2471	lavonnes58@gmail.com
LaVonne Schimmelpfennig	320-808-6111	
Loren Boysen	320.760.0199	lcb@runestone.net
Tracy Boysen	320.815.5034	tboysen5@gmail.com
Deb Hull	320.766.9753	bernihull@gmail.com
Greg Armbruster	952.288.3953	garmbruster1017@gmail.com
Denise Armbruster	952.686.3575	denigre613@gmail.com
Les Kruse	320.333.8405	leslie.donna.Kruse@gmail.com
Donna Kruse	320.333.6710	
Kay Nibbe	320.304.3930	kdknibbe@gctel.com
Amory Anderson	218.640.0692	amorya5051@live.com

LIC (Lutheran Island Camp)

Keith Ramsay	320.219.2129	kcramsay@embarqmail.com
--------------	--------------	--

Love INC

Joyce Hausmann	320.304.4501	idaoaks22@gmail.com
----------------	--------------	--

Love Patches

Marian Brelje	320.510.1081	ambrelje@hotmail.com
---------------	--------------	--

LWML

Barb Schuneman	320.808.5568	barbschuneman@gmail.com
----------------	--------------	--

<u>Memorial/Designated Funds</u>		
Donna Kruse	320.333.6710	leslie.donna.Kruse@gmail.com
Les Kruse	320.333.8405	
<u>Men's Dartball</u>		
Norm Schimmelpfennig	320.763.3524	lavonnes58@gmail.com
<u>Offering Counters</u>		
Joyce Hausmann	320.304.4501	idaoaks22@gmail.com
<u>Prayer Chain</u>		
Barb Schuneman	320.808.5568	merlebarb@rea-alp.com
<u>Public Relations</u>		
Church office	320.762.5152	goodshepherdalexsec@gmail.com
<u>Sunday School</u>		
Myah Kremer	320.815.6607	myahkremer22@gmail.com
<u>Trustees</u>		
Dave Nelson	320.766.9106	dnels4@charter.net
Pete Kremer-	320.808.6821	kremerkari6@gmail.com
Jan Hausmann	320.304.3386	idaoaks22@gmail.com
Landon Niska	320.766.2154	
Henry Huhnerkoch	320.763.4784	henryhuhnerkoch@hotmail.com
Paul Gesell	320.763.4203	ngesell@alexandria.k.12.mn.us
Lynn Murray	320.762.8784	lynnjmurray@hotmail.com
Gary Lips	612.597.9044	lipsgary@gmail.com
<u>VBS Coordinator</u>		
Brenda Wysoski	320.304.9100	brenda.wysoski@verizon.com
<u>Worship/Projection/Sound</u>		
<u>Media</u>		
Brandon Luedeke	320.304.4237	brandonluedeke@gmail.com
Jason Norheim	320.808.4156	ndakjas@gmail.com
Val Christopherson	320.815.8585	vchristo58@gmail.com
Howard Breitkruetz	320.808.8975	hsbreitkreutz@gmail.com
Stephanie Bertek	320.491.8825	stephaniebertek@yahoo.com
<u>Youth Ministry Board</u>		
Tracy Boysen	320.815.5034	tboysen5@gmail.com
Marc Nelson	320.760.7098	mdnelson@aagard.com
Amanda Thurk	320.491.0854	scarlettroses16621@gmail.com
Nancy Hasz	320.815.4163	doughasz@yahoo.com
Jason Norheim	320.808.4156	ndakjas@gmail.com
Crystal Luedeke	320.304.4237	crystalluedeke@gmail.com
<u>KFC-(3rd-5th graders)</u>		
Tracy Boysen	320.815.5034	tboysen5@gmail.com
Kari Kremer	320.766.5551	kremerkari6@gmail.com
<u>Jr./Sr. LYF (6th-12th graders)</u>		
Amanda and Jeremy Thurk	320.491.0854	scarlettroses16621@gmail.com
<u>Zion School</u>	vacant	

Are you ready to share your time, talents and treasures with one of our Mission Groups?
Prayerfully consider helping with one of the above or possibly filling a vacant area

November Celebrations



1st:

*Bailey Teschendorf
Dorothy Luoma*

4th:

*Kaden Bolstad
Ryan Jonas*

5th:

*Joe Hull
Brenda Schoenrock
Quinn Johnson*

11th:

Dawson Meinert

13th:

*Joanne Wilke
Mike Carlsrud
Harlan Roth*

16th:

Owen Oscarson

19th:

Logan Runge

20th:

Denise Johnson

21st:

Amanda Christianson

22nd:

Virginia Hodgson

23rd:

*Norma Olson
Jase Johnson*

24th:

*LaVonne
Schimmelpfennig*

26th:

Carla Setterstrom

27th:

Wendy Simonson

28th:

Todd Johnson



6th: *Vern and Cheryl Corson*

21st: *Ray and Deb Bohm*

Community Events:

JINGLE BELLS BASKET REQUESTS ARE NOW OPEN!!

As Christmas nears, the Jingle Bells Foundation is busy planning the
Annual Jingle Bells telethon for 2024

Jingle Bells is a major community-wide effort to provide over 700 families help during the Christmas season in Alexandria and surrounding communities.

If you or someone you know, are in need of a Jingle Bells help, please submit a request via our website.

**Submit requests online at www.jinglebellsalexandria.org
(We will NOT be accepting requests via mail or telephone)**

**Requests will be accepted now through December 1st, 2024.
Requests are limited- PLEASE request early!
Delivery of baskets will take place Sunday, December 8th.**

Below is the information that will be needed to complete a request.
All requests need to be submitted by December 1st, and must be done via our website.

It is important you complete the entire form to assist us in providing help for each request.

We cannot help without a complete request.

*The Jingle Bells Foundation is limited in the communities that we are able to help.
Baskets will only be available to addresses within the zip codes from our drop down list.
Please seek help from your local programs if you fall outside of our area.*

- Full Name
- Complete Street Address
- City & Zip Code
- Phone Number
- Number of Adults Living in Household
- Number of Children Living in Household Full time (ages 0-18)
- Child's Full Name
- Gender
- Birthdate

***By submitting a request, there is no guarantee help will be received,
but be assured, a sincere effort will be made to have one sent to all those requested.***


**Thank you for your continued help and support in making the Jingle Bells Telethon an
annual success in our community!**

May you have a Happy Holiday Season and a very Merry Christmas!!

Happenings at GS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Be sure to check weekly Bulletin for changes

NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3  9:00am Worship with Communion</p> <p>10:15am Bible Study</p> <p>10:15am Sunday School</p> <p>5:30pm Chosen Bible Study- Final Episodes Pizza Supper</p>	<p>4 6:30pm DART BALL GS @ UCC</p>	<p>5  GENERAL ELECTION FHALL RESERVED</p>	<p>6 10:00am Bible Study</p> <p>11:30am Fellowship Luncheon @ Fat Daddy's</p>	<p>7 9:00am Love Patches</p> <p>6:30pm Uplifters Alexandria</p>	<p>8 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p> <p>5:00pm KFC Fall Activity</p>	<p>9 9:00am LWML Fall Rally @ Villard </p>
<p>10 9:00am Worship with Communion</p> <p>10:15am Bible Study</p> <p>10:15am Sunday School</p>	<p>11 4:15pm LWML Lead Meeting</p> <p>6:30pm DART BALL GS @ WILLARD</p>	<p>12 9:00am GS Moms Group</p> <p>5:00pm Fellowship Team</p> <p>4:30pm Worship Team Practice</p> <p>6:30pm Executive Council Meet</p>	<p>13 10:00am Bible Study</p> <p>12:30pm FHALL</p> <p>Reserved PEO</p>	<p>14 9:00am Love Patches</p>	<p>15 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p>	<p>16 5:00pm Good 'Cher herd Soup Cook-Off </p>
<p>17 9:00am Worship</p> <p>10:15am Bible Study</p> <p>10:15am Sunday School</p>	<p>18 6:30pm DART BALL ZION 1 @ GS</p> <p>6:30pm LWML Meeting</p>	<p>19 4:30pm Worship Team Practice</p> <p>7:00pm Elders Meet</p>	<p>20 10:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>21 9:00am Love Patches</p> <p>6:30pm Uplifters Alexandria</p>	<p>22 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9:00am Worship</p> <p>10:15am Bible Study</p> <p>10:15am Sunday School</p>	<p>25 6:30pm DART BALL ZION 2 @ GS</p>	<p>26 9:00am GS Moms Group</p> <p>4:30pm Worship Team Practice</p>	<p>27 10:00am Bible Study</p> <p>7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship</p>	<p>28 OFFICE CLOSED </p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>