



Moundridge, Kansas
www.edenmennonite.org

EDEN ECHOES

December 2016
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Advent 2016 Walking in the Way of God's Heart

The Christmas season will soon be upon us. With anticipation we look forward to the many traditions that we identify with this time of year. For some the specialness of the season is baking (or eating) special Christmas treats like peppernuts. For others it is going out to find and cut the best Christmas tree and then bringing it back home to decorate. For others the best part is gathering with family, reminiscing and savoring time together. And for some of us it's the joy of all the music; listening to the Messiah, singing favorite carols, or hearing a new song that offers a fresh surprise to Jesus' birth story.

It is easy however to get caught up in all the busyness of the season and get distracted by all the commercialism of the culture around us. So I am grateful for the liturgical church calendar that offers us the season of Advent. The four weeks of Advent offer us the gift to hear the story of God coming into the world with fresh ears and experience God's presence among us with new insights.

Artist, writer and Methodist minister, Jan Richardson shares that through the liturgical season, "we are called to move more deeply into the story of God, to notice how this story has unfolded in the lives of those who have gone before us, and in our own lives. As we move deeper into the story, it moves deeper into us." Each Advent season we are invited to let the familiar Christmas story move deeper into us, changing us; and perhaps even encountering some surprises along the way.

The word Advent simply means "coming." During the season of Advent we are waiting, yearning, hoping; anticipating something to come. We are expecting the arrival of Jesus, God made flesh and dwelling among us. We are immersing ourselves once again in the story of God becoming human in the form of a baby. Our theme for our times of worship during this Advent season will be: *Walking in the way of God's heart*. Walking implies that we are on a journey or pilgrimage to understand more deeply the way of God's heart. To consider the incarnation as the embodiment of God's heart. To discover how we can live and proclaim the reign of God here on earth on this journey.

The Advent scriptures invite us to visualize a world different from what we see around us. The prophet Isaiah in spite of the pain and destruction around him, envisions a moment when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks" (Isaiah 2:4, Advent 1). Seeing the way of God's heart offering peace and harmony. In Mary's Magnificat, she exuberantly proclaims the salvation of God. "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things. (Luke 1:52-53, Advent 3) Seeing the way of God's heart bringing healing and restoration.

I share the following reflection from Jan Richardson's book *Night Vision* as a guide for us during this Advent season.

So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder.

There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing.

For now, stay. Wait.

Something is on the horizon.

Come, walk in the way of God's heart.

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I also want to take this opportunity to thank you for welcoming me here into Eden Mennonite Church. I'm looking forward to getting to know you and becoming an integral part of this faith community. It is a joy to work in ministry together with Pastor Derek and with many of you in leadership positions. May God richly bless us as we walk on this journey as followers of Jesus.

Pastor Dianne



The Eden Leadership Team (ELT)

The Eden Leadership Team met Thursday, November 17.

Present were Jay Goering, Bret Gillmore, JoLene Kaufman, Jerry Schrag, Perry Krehbiel, Pastor Dianne Schmidt, Marcy Schrag, Brandon Kaufman, Morgan Kaufman, Kyle Neufeld, Jean Regier and Pastor Derek King.

Bret read the Vision/Mission Statement.

Marcy Schrag led in devotions reading from a 1980 Eden Devotional book. It was written by Elizabeth Wedel, a longtime member and former Secretary at Eden. Marcy led in prayer.

Bret lit the candle to represent the presence of the Holy Spirit, and opened the meeting.

The minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer Report

Revenue is \$347,358.59

Expenses are \$388,608.51

Difference (\$41,249.92)

Budget is \$427,917.88

Last year the difference at this time was (\$55,000.00).

The balance column shows the organizations that have a balance. The expense column shows the amount spent so far this year. The budgeted amount is in the right column. If a Commission had a fund raiser or any money coming in other than budget that money will go into the Stewardship Commission budget and is available for the Commission to use if needed.

The MCC Meat Canning contributions for next year are \$15,302.30.

Question: Why are the contributions to mission giving more than what was budgeted? Answer: These are funds from individuals designated for a specific mission not given to the Unified Budget. We could look at the amount coming in from individuals and then adjust the mission giving from the budget.

Commission Reports

ELT

The new appointees for 2017 are:

SCRT - Connie Schrag

Gifts Discernment - Dick Zerger (2nd term)

Kyle Schrag

Eden Endowment - Ken Preheim

Worship Commission

The organ needs to be tuned. The last time it was tuned was December 2014. They have 2 options to choose from. It will be tuned by the end of the year.

Stewardship Commission

They met November 15 to prepare the budget. They also met with the Trustees to discuss the Church Office renovation project proposal.

Peace/Witness Commission

They are working on brochures. Also working on some ways to match funds with Everence. They give \$100.00 to each VS person. The best way to give to people involved in SALT program is to give the check to the parents and they can get it to them. For the others they can send a check directly.

Deacon Commission

Nothing to report.

Christian Education / Discipleship Commission

There will be Sunday school for the children from the three churches this Sunday, November 20. The Christmas Eve Committee is: June Krehbiel, Al Neufeld, Brenda Wedel, DaWayne and Britney Stos.

The Policy to keep children safe from abuse document will be discussed later in this meeting.

There will be no Sunday school on Christmas Day.

Pastor Dianne

She is trying to visit all members at Pine Village Health Care. She led the final Bible Study this last Wednesday.

Pastor Derek

Election Day Communion was very well received. There were approximately 50 people present. There was 1 person from Grace Crossing, some from all three Mennonite Churches, 1 person from McPherson UMC and 2 from the Moundridge Methodist Church.

This Sunday we have the combined service with West Zion, and First Mennonite.

Church Office Renovation

The Trustee Commission proposes the renovation of the Eden Church Office building at a budgeted cost of \$99,000.00, which may be reduced by volunteer labor. With input from the Stewardship Commission, we propose the project be funded by the following:

1. \$25,000.00 from the Capital Building Fund
2. \$25,000.00 from the church checking account
3. Pledged funds solicited by church representatives.
4. Fundraisers as needed to meet the budget balance.
5. Volunteer labor to reduce the overall cost of the project.

The volunteer labor could save approximately \$15,000.00. What is the timeline for starting this project? If ELT and congregation approves this project they would like to start in January. If there would be excess funds, what would be done with them? They would go back into the Capital Building Fund. There has been negative feedback about this project. On December 4 there should be a short presentation to explain some of the problems with the present building and also have literature available for people to study at home. Also have an open house or time for people to tour the office and see some of the problems.

December 11 would be a time to vote on it. It would also be a good idea to inform the congregation that the Trustees looked

Turn the page for more →→→

ELT minutes continued

into other options such as buying a lot and building or renovating another building. This proposal comes from the Trustee Commission. The ELT approved this proposal, with the addition of the excess funds going back into the Capital Building Fund, unanimously.

Policy to keep children safe

The policy to keep children safe from abuse was discussed. The WDC has given feedback and it was revised according to their suggestions. It feels like we used to operate on trust and now are operating on suspicion. Background checks are a possibility. They would be conducted on all volunteers working with youth under age 18. The background check would be a one time thing.

Perry moved and Jay seconded that we table this until the next meeting. Motion carried.

Constitution revisions

The Constitution revisions on Article VII Officers and Organizations were discussed. The committees that function under the Commissions are better reflected in the job descriptions rather than in the Constitution.

Bret moved and Brandon seconded that we remove all the letter descriptions under the Commissions and place them in the job descriptions. Motion carried.

The structure that was adopted is being revised and the rest of the Constitution will be reviewed at a later date.

Church Pictorial

There is a meeting with Lifetouch on December 5 at 6:30 at the church office. Picture dates are January 25 - February 2, 2017. The dates for Pine Village are January 31 - February 2, 2017.

Budget 2017

Perry handed out the budget proposal. All Commissions got their requests for the budget in on time. Another \$100.00 will be added to the Junior Youth budget. The ELT approved the budget to be presented to the congregation.

No new business.

Next meeting - December 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the church

Jay Goering will have the opening.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

JoLene Kaufman, Secretary

Special Dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 4, 2016*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 11, 2016*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 18, 2016*
- First day of winter, *December 21, 2016*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2016*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2016*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2016*



"Choose God's Light" is the theme for Eden's Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m., Dec. 24. Children and youth will be presenting a thoughtful program on what the light of Jesus means. It will include scripture readings and hymn singing. Included also will be a "Birth Narrative from A to Z" and a beautiful candle lighting service during which we will pass the flame of our candle to the person seated next to us in the pews. Invite family and friends to join you in this service celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Practices for children and youth (ages 4 to grade 12) will be on two Wednesdays, Dec. 14 and 21 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Ages 2-3 will come only on Dec. 21.

The planning committee for Christmas Eve includes June Krehbiel, Al and Kathy Neufeld, Britney and DaWayne Stos, and Brenda Wedel.



Myron V. Goering (88) passed away on Sunday, Nov 6. Services were held at Eden on Thursday, Nov 10. We extend our sympathy to his wife Carolyn and all of their extended family and friends.

Lowell Krehbiel (85) passed away on Monday, Nov 7 at Schowalter Villa in Hesston. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.



We choose not to print addresses of our members online. If you are looking for a specific address please call 620-345-8320.



Karsyn Ann Kaufman was born to Brandon and Morgan Kaufman on Monday, November 21. She is welcomed by her sister, Sawyer, her brother, Coy, paternal grandparents, Lynn and Karen Kaufman and great-grandmother, Vernell Kaufman.

Invitation to Share



The “invitation to share” project for the month of December is comforters and blankets.

Comforter specifications

- Use new or nearly new material
- Single/twin size preferred (approx 60 x 80 in); double/full size accepted (approx 82 x 90 in)
- Winter weight preferred (please use new quilt batting)
- Knotted with crochet cotton (not more than 4–8 in apart). For more detailed instructions go to https://mcc.org/sites/mcc.org/files/media/common/documents/comforter_construction_guidelines.pdf

Also needed

- Purchased blankets (twin or full size)
- New, flat twin sheets (for hospitals, schools and orphanages)

If you would like to support this project you may write a check to Eden with “invitation to share” in the memo line and mail it to Eden at P.O. Box 406, Moundridge, KS 67107.

Overcoming Despair

Christmas can be a difficult time for people who are hurting or grieving. In the 1860s, poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had reason to despair: America was at war with itself, his son was severely wounded in battle and his wife died in a fire. The first Christmas after his wife’s death, Longfellow wrote, “How inexpressibly sad are all holidays.”

Three years later, on Christmas Day 1864, Longfellow penned a poem that later became the song “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day.” The lyrics move from despair to hope — and, thanks to Jesus, so can we.

And in despair I bowed my head.
There is no peace on earth, I said!
For hate is strong, and mocks the song
of peace on earth, good will to men!

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
with peace on earth, good will to men!



Upside down?

Even amid increased secularization, God makes the core Christmas message known. Take, for example, the story of a “winter pageant” a mother attended at her son’s grade school. Songs of reindeer, snow and Santa included one titled “Christmas Love,” in which the youngest performers held up letters as the song progressed: “C,” “H,” etc.

When a little girl unknowingly held her “M” upside down, the older kids snickered and the adult audience smiled acceptingly. But as the song drew to a close and all the letters were revealed, surprised recognition struck the Christians in the room.

“CHRISTWAS LOVE,” read the string of student-borne letters. God’s truth had penetrated the human clutter and confusion around Christmas — as it has power to do throughout our lives: “Christ was love.” And of course, he still is.



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THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your prayers, concerns, thoughts and phone calls. This has been a trying year for us and without the support of the Eden congregation, it would have been much more difficult. Thanks also to the ministers for their concerns and visits.

Bob and JoLene Kaufman

THANK YOU!

Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls during my hospital stay and recovery. Special thanks to Pastor Derek for his care and concern. May God bless you all.
Clarene Stucky

Thank you so very much to everyone who helped make Art's funeral and burial a special time for us. We are grateful for the thoughts and prayers and kind words. Art was blessed to have such a special church family. Pastor King was very comforting and his message was beautiful, and we really appreciated the Time with Children. So special! Thanks to Bonita for the beautiful music. And thanks to all who helped with the meal, made all those wonderful pies, set up and cleaned up. Gathering around food provides such a wonderful time for fellowship and remembering. We will really miss Art, but we have comfort knowing that one day we will all be united in God's Kingdom. Thanks to all of you. We are grateful.
Family of Arthur D. Krehbiel, Jr.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to say a prayer, send a card, came to visit, or called on the phone when Norm was recently hospitalized. We are grateful for being part of a loving and caring church family. Blessings to all and wishes for a spirit filled Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Norm and Nadine Wedel

I want to thank everyone for the prayers and well wishes following my hip surgery. A special thanks to Pastor Dianne for the visit and phone calls. God bless you all.
Linda Stucky

Dear Members of Eden Mennonite,
Thank you so much for supporting scholarships at AMBS! I'm a third-year MDiv student here looking forward to graduating in May. I have been fully supported my whole time here, and this has given me the ability to explore, and discover new gifts I have to give the church. Thanks again! Blessings,
Alison Broolin

Thank you for your generous contribution to Mobility World-wide Kansas (formerly PET KS). Your gift helps us give the *Gift of Mobility* to the millions in the world in need of our special wheelchair. Every dollar raised gives the Gift of Hope for those who cannot walk. With help from Health and Mobility Charities, Mobility Carts have been sent to 103 Countries around the world.
Again, Thank you so much for your support to this ministry of caring.
Christine Goering

Thanks to your support, we've already given \$212,426 to Mennonite Central Committee and \$26,000 to local organizations this year.

Please feel free to contact us any time with your questions, comments and concerns. We look forward to continuing to partner with you in the new year!
Sincerely,
Sara Dick, Et Cetera General Manager

Thank you for your contribution to Mennonite Disaster Service.

This has been the year of floods, with heavy rain events in West Virginia, Louisiana, and now Hurricane Matthew in the Carolinas. In the past 12 months I have heard more reference to "Historical floods" than in all of my 12 years with MDS. Recently, I visited Princeville, North Carolina where MDS worked 16 years ago after Hurricane Floyd. The town is now flooded by Hurricane Matthew. One of the first things I heard upon arriving in Princeville was "We remember you."

As I was eating dinner at a nearby restaurant my server asked for my MDS business card. She said with glee, "You folks built my grandma's house!"

Your partnership helps repair and rebuild homes in the months following a disaster, but the expression of kindness is everlasting for homeowners and communities. Thank you for your gifts that provide the hope that "the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end." (Isaiah 60:20)
With gratitude,
Kevin King
Executive Director

"In the end, though, maybe we must all give up trying to pay back the people in this world who sustain our lives. In the end, maybe it's wiser to surrender before the miraculous scope of human generosity and to just keep saying thank you, forever and sincerely, for as long as we have voices." Elizabeth Gilbert

We could never begin to repay you for your gift. Through your generosity, you are partnering with us to "educate followers of Jesus Christ to be leaders for God's reconciling mission." On behalf of the seminary, our students, and the communities where our graduates are serving, thank you.
Tony Hartman
AMBS Development officer

Because of your support, the Benefit Day Season was a huge success! We could not have done it without your support of the Auction and for that our sincerest appreciation!

Each year we raise money to benefit our residents and Pine Village as a whole. Funds raised from your contribution this year will be used to remodel the kitchen off the main dining room. The kitchen dates back to 1965, and is serving more that it was originally designed for. The initial plan includes an expansion and remodel of flow for the kitchen.

If we can ever be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact us. We thank you again for your continued support and wish you a happy, safe and blessed upcoming Holiday Season!
Thank you,
Shelby Shaw
Administrator

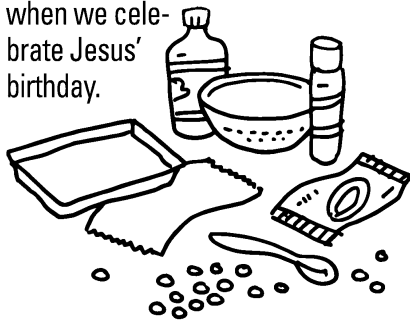
Thank you very much for another great gift to MCC! Wow! We are blessed by your generosity.

You are making a difference in places like Ethiopia where MCC is helping farmers fight chronic hunger by rehabilitating watersheds and improving top soil.

Thank you for this amazing gift.
All the best,
Anna Yoder, Donor Relations Coordinator
MCC Central States

birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

What you do:

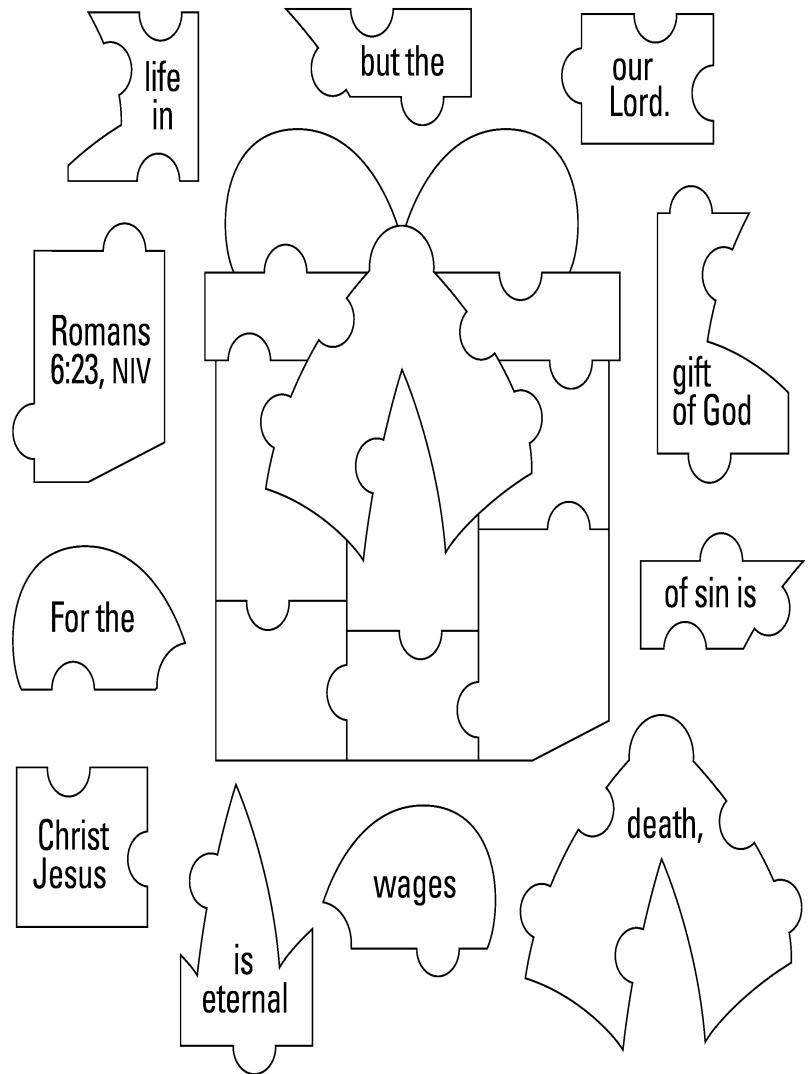
1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.



The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition. What very special gift has God given to you?

Directions: Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

December Birthdays



- | | |
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| 1- Karey French
Nick Graber
Roberta Ollenburger | 19- Seth Goering
Zaeta Knoll (Dan & Annette)
Ernest Krehbiel
Judy Krehbiel
Jacey Krehbiel
Kyle Schrag |
| 2- Tony Schrag | 20- Christina Graber
Kollen Shirack (Ross & Christy) |
| 3- Leland Goering
Polly Schrag
Angela Tipton | 21- Victoria Stucky
Danny Zerger |
| 4- Alexis Westfall (Jacob & Tonya) | 22- Emmi Schrag (David & Hillery Schrag)
Jason Neufeld |
| 6- Bill Toews | 23- Chelsey Knight (Chuck & Diane) |
| 7- Annie Toews | 24- Marla Gillmore
Ruth White |
| 8- Calvin Preheim
Katelynn Stucky (Kevin & Gayle)
Teresa Stucky | 25- Leonard Graber |
| 9- Alison Schrag (Matt & Rashelle) | 26- Charlene Epp
Ronald Stucky |
| 10- Galen Waltner | 27- Annah Schrag (Matt & Rashelle)
Lauren Bonde |
| 11- Deborah Koehn
Bryan Zerger | 28- Blair Goering
Annie Schrag
Judy Sebo |
| 12- Ethan Knight
Miriam Krehbiel
Norman Wedel | 29- Kim Cutting
Aaron Parsons (Rob & Lori) |
| 13- Reese Gehring
Christine Goering
Tonya Westfall
Haley Schrag | 30- Dick Zerger |
| 16- Makenna Hayes (Mike & Kelly)
Sarah Erb | 31- Ronnie Schrag |
| 18- Becky Clark
Kurt Graber
Leda Kaufman
Jerry Stucky | |

If there has been an omission or mistaken date please notify the church office.



- | | |
|--|---|
| 3- Fred & Polly Schrag | 22- Mark B. & Sheila Goering |
| 11- David & Margaret Goering | Robert D. & Katy Schrag |
| 16- Kirby & Christine Goering | 26- Harvey & Mary Graber |
| 17- Josh & Emily Regier | 28- Matt & Lindsey Begnoche |
| 18- Steve & Barbara Goering
Michael & Margaret Krehbiel | 29- Don & Bonnie Kaufman
Darrell & Bobbi Schrag |
| 19- Daniel & Janet Schrag
Kelly & Donna Stucky | 30- Stephen & Sandra Koontz
DaWayne and Britney Stos |
| 20- Homer & Dorothy Goering | Emory & Naomi Wedel |

Up-Coming Events

Dec 3:	9:00 a.m. Eden Christmas Tea
Dec 4:	Stewardship presents proposed budget to congregation
Dec 5:	3:30 p.m. Education/Discipleship Commission mtg. 7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg.
Dec 6:	2:30 Mary Martha carols at Pine Village
Dec 7:	7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
Dec 8:	1-5:00 p.m. Study Club at Eden
Dec 11:	Noon meal followed by congregational meeting
Dec 14:	7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
Dec 15:	7:00 p.m. ELT mtg. at church
Dec 21:	7:30 p.m. Ladies Choir 8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir 8:45 p.m. Men's Chorus
Dec 24:	7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Program
Dec 25:	9:30 Worship Service No Sunday school
Dec 26:	Church Office closed for Christmas Day
Jan 1:	New Year's Day
Jan 2:	Church Office closed for New Year's Day

December 2016						
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January 2017						
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Address Services Requested