

**BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
AT ROSEMONT
1705 West Broad Street
Bethlehem, PA 18018**



**LITURGY FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD
JANUARY 12, 2025**



OUR MISSION

Christ has called us together to do God's Work.

**Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont
is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of
race, creed, age, national origin,
cultural background, sexual orientation, class,
physical or mental ability.**

PRELUDE: Hymn Sing

WELCOME

Lector Peace be upon all who enter this house. A warm welcome is extended to all, especially those who are gathering here at Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church at Rosemont for the first time, or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together. Everything you need to follow along is found in your bulletin. Everyone is welcome to join us for a time of fellowship following the gathering. Thanks for the gift of you!

PREPARATION

Leader The Lord is with you.

Assembly And also with you.

The assembly stands for the Gathering, Reconciliation, Gathering Hymn, Sentence and Prayer of the Day.

GATHERING

Pastor Come people of God, turn your hearts and minds to the light of Christ. Let us be ready to welcome the events and the people who may become turning points in our lives.

Assembly We welcome with eyes and hearts open, ready to see God present in our world; in the people we meet and in the things we do.

RECONCILIATION

Pastor In this time of quiet I invite you to reflect on life this holiday season. Bring into the presence of God, in this place, the joys and burdens you carry with you this morning. If you need forgiveness, seek it in the renewing love of God. If you need healing, or courage, or wisdom, seek it in the peace of God. Jesus says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." (Luke 11:9)

Silence

Pastor We pray together,

Assembly Gracious God, give us the wisdom to hold onto what we need, grace to let go of those things that we can do without, and a vision of your breadth, height, and depth that will challenge our smallness of heart, and bring us humbly together.

Pastor Spirit of God, hold us, Spirit of God, move us, Spirit of God, burn within us, so that we may light up the world + with your love.

GATHERING HYMN - Hymnal 445

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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THE SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." - John 8:12

Pastor May our eyes be wide open to see the glory of life in all its forms.
May our hearts be open to experience life in the glory of diversity.
May our minds be filled with light and hope as we walk the ways that bring fullness of life to all.

Assembly Amen. May it be so!

Pastor Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life.

The assembly may be seated for the reading.

A READING Isaiah 43:1-7

Lector A reading from the Old Testament from the Prophet Isaiah

¹ But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

SOMETHING TO PONDER

A New Year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western Hemisphere but also found in the Eastern Hemisphere, in which a person resolves to change an undesired trait or behavior, to accomplish a personal goal or otherwise improve their life.

PSALMODY Psalm 29

Ps. 29

Michel Guimont



The Lord will bless his peo-ple with peace.

O give the Lord, you children of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord, resplendent and holy. **R**

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of water;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendor. **R**

The God of glory thunders.
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits as king for ever. **R**

A READING Acts 8:14-17

Lector A reading from Acts

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

SOMETHING TO PONDER *My friends, we have arrived. We are here, in this new year. We have crossed the boundary of time, into the next year, with all its resolutions and plans and schedules ahead of us. Let us pause, for just this moment, before we move boldly onward. Let us pause to hear the breathing of those around us, to feel their presence in this room. To know their presence in our lives. Let us pause to feel the spirit of life and love that ties us to each other, that winds its way through our very bones and settles in our hearts. Before we march forward, armed with resolutions that will shortly be forgotten in the day-to-day of living, let us notice what it is that remains every year, every day. What exists beyond schedules and months, beyond time. It welcomes us to life, not just at the start of the year, but every day.*

A READING FROM THE WORLD AROUND US

Leader A reading from the world around us *The Good* by A.C. Grayling.

There is not one single kind of good that suits and fits everyone;
there are as many good lives as there are people to live them.

It is false that there is only one right way to live
and one right way to be,

And that to find it we must obey those who claim to have the secret
of a 'one right way' and a 'one true good'.

If there are guides to the good, one must eventually leave them behind
and seek the good of one's choice, which suits one's own talents.

This is the ultimate responsibility:

to choose, and to cultivate the talents for one's choice.

But though there are many goods and many good kinds of life,
the latter will share two notable characteristics:

The first is that those seeking them will honor affection, beauty,
creativity, peace, patience, fortitude, courage;

Will honor self-mastery, wisdom, loyalty, justice,
sympathy and kindness;

Will honor knowledge, truth, probity and honor itself. - *Continued*

And the greatest of what they honor will be affection:

of a friend for a friend, a parent for a child,

between lovers, between comrades;

For affection calls out to the other virtues and teaches them,
and is the motive for the continuance of our kind.

The second is that lives in which these virtues are honored
will be regarded by those living them, and

those touched by them, as good.

To seek the good life is an endeavor for a whole life.

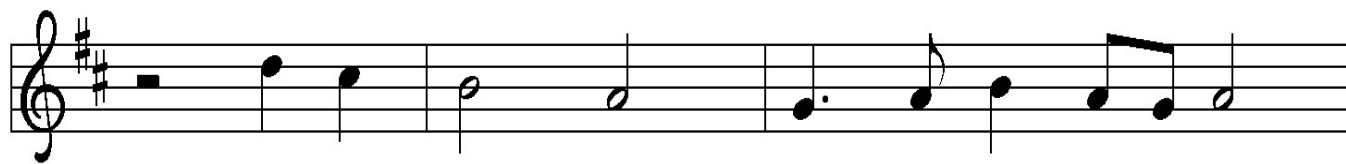
One can improve, learn, encourage oneself, profit from failure;
and still be seeking it on the last day.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Assembly Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands for the Acclamation and the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 New International Version

Pastor A reading from the + Holy Gospel as written to us by Luke.

Assembly **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

Pastor This is Good News from the Lord.

Assembly **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated for the Sermon.

THE SERMON

SOMETHING MORE TO PONDER

The baptism of Jesus is a significant event in Christianity and is seen as a reminder that arrogance has no place in Christian discipleship. Some say that baptism is a political act, a way of identifying with the community, and a celebration of belonging. Others say that baptism is a powerful reminder that Christians should live humble lives of conversion.

The assembly stands as able.

HYMN OF THE DAY - Hymnal 445

Crashing Waters at Creation



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
- 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
- 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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The assembly may be seated or kneel for prayer.

PRAYER

Lector We are people of all ages who enter this space
bringing our joys and concerns.
Let us pray together in God's grace.

CHOIR ANTHEM: *To Us a Child of Hope Is Born* – arranged by Adolf Strube

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader Let us pray. We are grateful for our life
and the courage we are given to live it.
Let our gratitude for life be expressed in our generosity.
Let our faith be expressed in good causes.
Let our belief in the future find full expression
in our daily attitude of mind.

Assembly Amen. May it be so!

OFFERTORY HYMN

Jesus, the Light of the World



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je-sus, the Light of the world;
3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je-sus, the Light of the world;
4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je-sus, the Light of the world;



“Glo - ry to the new-born king,” Je-sus, the Light of the world.
join the tri - umph of the skies; Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je-sus, the Light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Refrain



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain
Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

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CELEBRATION HOLY COMMUNION

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Pastor Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.

Assembly **Blessed be God forever.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor God's hope is in us. Lift up your hearts.

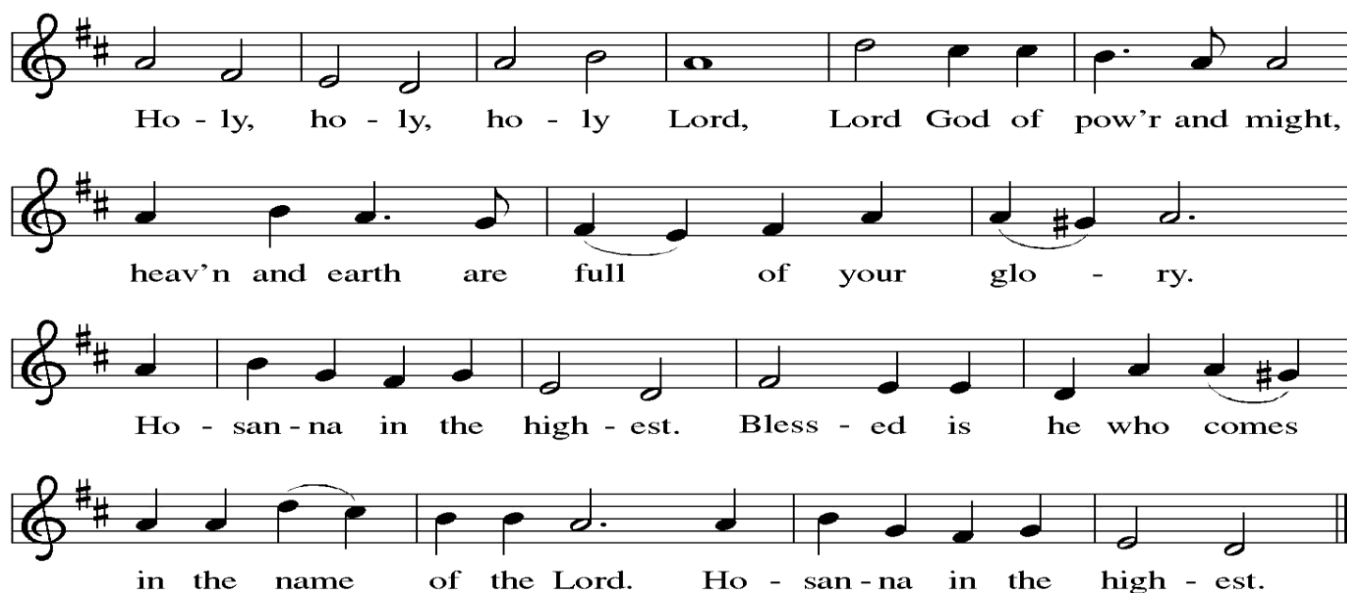
Assembly We lift them up to God.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

Assembly It is right to offer thanks and praise.

PREFACE

Pastor All honor and praise be yours always and everywhere, creator, ever-living God, through Jesus Christ your only Son: for at this time, we celebrate your revelation in our midst. In the coming of the Magi, Jesus was revealed to the nations. In the waters of baptism, he was revealed as your Son sent among us. In the water made wine the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast. Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy. Therefore, with all the angels of heaven we lift our voices to sing our joyful hymn of praise:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor On the night before he died Jesus took bread;
when he had given thanks he broke it, gave it to his disciples and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood which brings new life;
do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our redeemer, we meet you in your glory.

THE OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Pastor We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

Assembly God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.

THE INVITATION

Pastor Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this act of communion.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Baptized in Water – Hymnal 456

Shall We Gather at the River – Hymnal 423

The assembly may stand as they are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader God of abundant love and unexpected gifts, we delight in your presence amongst us. We are glad we can gather around your table as friends sharing the bread of life and wine of blessing. In this holiday season we will look for you in the smile of strangers, we will honor you in the life of those we love, we will be people of God and the Body of Christ wherever we are.

Assembly Amen.

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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PARTING WORDS

Leader Let us take on this week's life
with renewed hope and imagination...
With faith to face our challenges,
With love that casts out fear,
With hope to trust tomorrow,

**Assembly We accept this day as the gift it is:
a reason for rejoicing.**

SENDING HYMN - Hymnal 543

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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WORDS OF BLESSING

Pastor And now may the blessings of God,
Father, Son + and Holy Spirit
be upon us, and upon this congregation.
May the love that we share
bring strength and joy to our hearts,
and the peace of this community be with us
until we meet again.

Assembly Amen! May it be so!

THE DISMISSAL

Leader May the streets of our city be holy ground under your feet.
Go into the city, walking in faith and hope.

Assembly We go in the name of Christ.

POSTLUDE *Fantasia in C*– Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



BT@R

FELLOWSHIP

Morning coffee and tea are now served.

You are invited upstairs to Laros Hall to share in this time of fellowship.

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Augsburg Fortress Liturgies #SB17537

**You are invited to keep this copy of the liturgy and take it home with you
to share with another member of your family, or with a friend.**

I think also of a stanza from songwriter Leonard Cohen's *Anthem*, which seems to succumb to despair but then detects a crack in the firmament:

*The birds they sing, at the break of day
Start again, I heard them say.
Don't dwell on what has passed away
Or what is yet to be.
Yes, the wars, they will be fought again
The holy dove she will be caught again
Bought, and sold, and bought again
The dove is never free.
Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack, a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in.*

Moments of awakening are always momentary, but in the cracks, we see the light,
we hear the bell, and everything changes.



Till We Meet Again

January 12, 2025 - Worship 9:30am

Souper Bowl Sale

On Sunday, February 2nd, the Social Activities Committee will be holding its second annual Souper Bowl sale after the church service. Just like last year, the committee is asking for volunteers to donate a pot of soup to the sale.

Prices:

24oz for \$6

32oz for \$8

All profits will be donated.

Please sign up by Wednesday, January 29th, on the bulletin board by the nave with your name and the type of soup you will be providing. We will also be selling BT@R 15 oz mugs for \$10.

Birthday Card Showers

Tom Keim is turning 100 on January 21st.
(note date change)

Let's shower him with birthday cards!

Moravian Village
526 Wood St Apt 306
Bethlehem PA 18018

Emily Vasily-Schoeny is turning 96
on January 21st.

Let's shower her with birthday cards!

2830 Linden St Unit 5A
Bethlehem PA 18017

Need a card? Pick one up on the desk on the right side of the office.

Bingo!

Save Saturday, February 8th, for our next bingo event. Doors open at noon. Bingo starts at 1pm. \$25 per person in advance, \$30 at the

Today's Worship Ministers

January 12, 2025

Acolyte – John Faulch

Altar Guild – Mickey Curry, Cheryl Achey

Assisting Minister – Joe Bleier

Coffee Hour Hosts – Kathy Remaly,
Jody Fliter, Mary Mann, Kathy Pecuch,
Traci Braun

Communion Assistants –

Helga Rimonneau, Joan Erb

Counters – Diane Case, Cheryl Achey,
Mickey Curry

Flower Delivery – Christine Horoschock

Greeters – George & Linda Baltz

Key Attendant – Barry Sterner

Lector – Loree Kuhns

Ushers – Rich Romig, Steve Pescek

January 19, 2025

Acolyte – Joe Bleier

Altar Guild – Mickey Curry, Cheryl Achey

Assisting Minister – Joe Bleier

Coffee Hour Hosts – Sandy Butch,
Karen Schoch, Carol Lopez, Carolyn Galle,
Karen Favinger, Louise Fielding

Communion Assistants – Kevin Remaly,
Kenny Remaly

Counters – Donna Machin, Tom Starrett,
Bill Schellhaas

Flower Delivery – Karen Favinger

Greeters – Kathy Gerhard, Loree Kuhns

Key Attendant – Barry Sterner

Lector – Gina Brockway

Ushers – Dolores Kennedy, Pat & Ed Little

12/24/2024 4:30pm Attendance: 132

7:30pm Attendance: 89

12/24/2024 4:30pm Offering: \$4,200

7:30pm Offering: \$2,164

01/05/2025 Attendance: 83

01/05/2025 Offering: \$4,001

door. See Kathy Remaly to sign up (610-442-0438). Come join us for food, fellowship, and lots of fun. Tricky Tray items are greatly appreciated; contact Paula Dancho-Kolman (pmoffo1@gmail.com).

This Week at BT@R

Sunday, January 12th: Baptism of Our Lord/Pantry Sunday

9:30am Worship

11:00am Congregation Council Meeting (Lower-Level Hall)

Monday, January 13th:

7:00pm Dart Team Home (Lower-Level Hall)

Tuesday, January 14th:

7:00pm Scout Meeting (Lower-Level Hall)

7:00pm Book Club (Laros Hall)

Wednesday, January 15th:

9:00am Christian Service Women (New Lower-Level Room)

Sunday, January 19th: 2 Epiphany

9:30am Worship

11:00am Social Activities Committee Meeting (Nave)

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