

The Arising News

Volume: 10 Issue: 12

DIECIEMIBIEIR AID 2025



Worship Times: In-Person ~ Sunday 9:00am
Adult & Youth Bible Study - Sunday 10:30am
Sunday Devotionals via Facebook - Every Sunday
Communion is celebrated every Sunday @ 9:00am

Church Staff Pastor Rev. Brian Licht Secretary Amber Olson **Accounting Clerk** Tammy McKay **Church Administrator** Liz Harper **Children's Ministry Director** Leslie McCoy **Little Blessings Daycare Acting Director** Angela Stickel **Organist** Marilyn Luebbe

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Office hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10am-3pm 563-386-2342

<u>Custodian</u> Angela Stickel

Pastor Licht is off On Mondays





The Gospel for December



December 7, Matthew 3:1-12 John Baptist Prepares the Way

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea ² and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

December 14, Matthew 11:2-15 Jesus and John the Baptist

11 After Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee

² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴ Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy^[b] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

December 28, Matthew 2:13-23 The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

December 21, Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son ⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about^[a]: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet^[b] did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, ^[c] because he will save his people from their sins."

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

COME, LORD JESUS

Advent is upon us! It's a season of waiting in hopeful expectation. We know it's a leadup to Christmas, but it is so much more. In Advent we express our longing for Jesus to come. This desire of ours is reflected in our prayers and our hymns. The Collect of the Day for the First and the Fourth Sundays in Advent both begin with "Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come..." and several of the first lines of our Advent hymns express this same plea:

Savior of the Nations, Come (LSB 332) Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (LSB 338) Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come (LSB 350) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357)

The world uses Advent to prepare for Christmas celebrations, which is not a bad thing. The birth of Jesus is worthy of great celebration. But Advent is not a season to go back in time and pray for Jesus' first coming. We are not praying for Jesus to come as an infant, that's already been accomplished. Instead, we pray that He would come as He has promised to be present among us in His Word and Sacraments. And with Him present among us in this way we can eagerly look ahead with great hope and expectation for the day of His final return as we "look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come" (Nicene Creed).

In Him we have the sure and certain hope that sustains us in our time of waiting. It's a message of hope that we find in Scripture being delivered by angels as they set the stage for the birth of our Savior. These divine messengers will help us as we meditate on the hope we have in Christ during our Advent Vespers this year. We'll gather each Wednesday night to rejoice in this message:

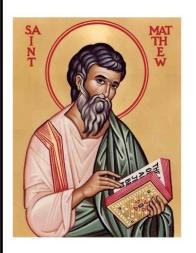
Make plans now to join us for our Advent Vespers as we receive the message of hope delivered by angels and anchored in the arrival of our Lord and our Savior, Christ Jesus.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing,
Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness,
Leading souls redeemed to heav'n
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Hope to all the world is giv'n.

(LSB 353:3)

May the Lord fill you this Advent season with the certain hope of our Savior who has been born unto us.

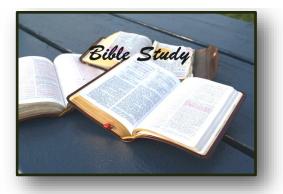
New Adult Bible Study starting in December



The Gospel According to St. Matthew Sunday @ 10:30

Join us for an in-depth study of the Book of Matthew





Sunday School

Every Sunday At 10:30am



New Member Class

If you or someone you know is interested in joining our church, please contact Pastor Licht or call the church office, 563-386-2342.



If you have any questions, Contact Jessica Welch



AND I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD SAYING, "WHOM SHALL I SEND, AND WHO WILL 80 FOR US?"
THEN I SAID, "HERE I AM! SEND ME."

ISAIAH 6:8

"Every tithe of the land. whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, it is the Lord's; it is holy to the Lord." Leviticus

27:30



LITTLE BLESSINGS DAYCARE

"Proclaiming the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ to children and their parents through a high quality child care program."

Submitted by Angela Stickel, Interim Director

Little Blessings – "Proclaiming the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ to children and their parents through a high quality child care program."

As we head into December to finish up the year, Little Blessings is going to have a busy month.

We're starting our Christmas Program on Dec. 2nd. It's always a great success, from the teachers getting the kids ready, to seeing all the excited parents. If you have free time, come join us this year!

We're going to have a Christmas week filled with different themes for our children and teachers, ending with our Annual Polar Express Day. For our curriculum this month we will be teaching/learning about the birth of Jesus!!

We will continue to have Ms. Lori read to us this month through a special Zoom call. This is new and I'm sure the kids will get so much joy from seeing her on TV.

We started a new Tuesday morning prayer with Pastor Licht. The kids really enjoy having him come to the Daycare and speak with them and

pray for our week. They continue to learn so much in "Jesus Time" on Thursdays.

Little Blessings Daycare hopes everyone has a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

I also wanted to add that in the last couple of weeks of November the Pre-K class was very busy!! They served the church members Thanksgiving Dinner. It was great! As always, the children have a wonderful time having fellowship with the members.

When Ms. Lori came to read, she also presented the children with a gift. She put her time and effort into giving them a 40th Anniversary book of "Corduroy". They all followed along with their own book as she read. She made them a bear with corduroy, a crayon and notebook and a Thrivent t-shirt. The children were beyond excited and the conversations they had as they left that day would melt your heart. We just want to thank Ms. Lori for her time.







Calling all 3 year old's 5th graders!!! Join us upstairs on Sunday mornings to dig into God's
Word with fun Bible
Stories and crafts. Invite a friend to join us!

If you have a heart for showing children the love of Jesus and would like to serve in Children's Ministry, there's a place for you! Please contact Leslie McCoy—leslie@rclcqc.org (309)230-4860

Dates to Remember:

Nov 30 @ 10:30am —Christmas Program Practice

Dec 6 @ 9am—Christmas Program Practice

Dec 7@ 8am—Christmas Program Practice Dec 7 @ 10:30am - Children's Christmas Program ~Join us for Pizza & Birthday cake & ice cream directly following the program

*No Sunday school: Dec. 28th & Jan. 4th

We spend the first part of our Sunday school hour looking at our Christmas Program parts and songs. I encourage you to make Sunday school attendance a priority as we will be practicing as we can until the Program date of December7th. Invite your family and friends to come hear the story of our Savior's birth told as only children can. Stay afterward for pizza, cake and ice cream to celebrate Jesus' birthday.



December 7 — Jordann Lehman December 14— Amber Heppner December 21— Lilli Lochner December 28—No Coverage January 4—No Coverage

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



Middle School & High School Youth

"...with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to LIVE IS CHRIST, and to die is gain."

> ~St. Paul Philippians I

Friends are

welcome at all of

our events.

Please

invite

Youth Bible Study

Calling all 6th grade- High School Students!
Grab a cookie and some coffee! Middle School will join Mr. Chase Crull in the Library and IHigh School will join Mrs. Kali Gruenhagen in the Youth Room during the Bible Study hour!
Hope to see you there! Bring a Friend!

Dates to Remember

Dec. 3, 10, 17 @ 6pm— Advent Soup Suppers Come and help serve & clean up, earn service hours for school!

7pm—Stay after supper for Advent Vespers

<u>Upcoming Youth Events</u>

December 19 @ 5:30 Youth Christmas Party Food, Games & Gift Exchange

> January 22 Christian Care

Thank you to everyone who helped with Kids Against Hunger. We put together 3000 meals.

Thank you to everyone who supported our pie fundraiser. We sold 28 pies and made about \$200 profit. We hope they were delicious!!



LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

Mission statement: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

All ladies of Risen Christ are members of LWML – and all are welcome to come to any or all of our activities.

any or all of our activities.				
Bible Study: December 4 at 6:30 p.m. All women are invited for a Bible study "Our God is King of the Universe".	Advent and Christmas Something to think about: And if you are willing – something to share at our Dec. 4 Bible Study:			
Every Sunday, Adult Bible Class with Pastor Licht – at 10:30 a.m.	What is one way you keep your focus on Christ first during the Advent and Christmas season?			
. LWML lowa East District 2026 Convention In lowa City	Dec. 4 – 6:30 p.m. Bible Study Dec. 7 – Mites Sunday Dec. 8 – Quilting at 3:30 p.m.			
June 12, 2026 – June 13, 2026 Theme: Rooted in Christ Spring Rally at Our Savior Fall Rally at Holy Cross Dates are yet to be decided Annual retreat for LWML IED is At Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca July 17-18, 2026	NO Mugs & Muffins in Nov. or Dec. Thank you to those who contributed items for the Personal Care Kits. At the October Mugs & Muffins, we assembled 17 kits for Lutheran World Relief.			
The Winter Issue of Alive is available; If you have not received an email with this attached and you want a copy, please contact Grace Schrage.				

The mites we gather help fund 2025-2027 Mission Grant #5 Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S. \$100,000

Millions of people around the world are blind or visually impaired and are seeking to strengthen their Christian faith but find it difficult to access scripture-based reading materials. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) is committed to providing Christian materials in braille and specialized large print worldwide at no cost.

With a part of the grant funds, LBW will establish five new Ministry Production Centers in the United States. LBW will hold five related servant events at LWML conventions, Lutheran universities and schools, and district youth gatherings. Service opportunities provide young people with the chance to grow in their God-given gifts and share the Gospel.

This grant will allow LBW to produce and freely distribute approximately 10,000 additional volumes of Bibles and other Christian materials. This grant will be used to purchase specialized paper, card stock, braille plates and equipment, and for training and shipping costs.

PRAYER #1 Lord, we pray for Your special touch on people everywhere who are blind or visually impaired, especially those living in spiritual darkness. May Your love give us the grace of compassion as we empathize with those faced with blindness. Inspired by Your wisdom, enable us to extend not just material provisions but gifts of time, patience, kindness, and nurturing support that fortifies their courage. Open our eyes to see the needs around us and to share the gifts that God has given us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER #2 Lord, we lift up our voices in praise to thank You for the incredible volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to serve at Lutheran Braille Workers Ministry Production Centers and events. Equip them with courage and strength as they help to produce Bibles and other Christian materials. We celebrate these individ-

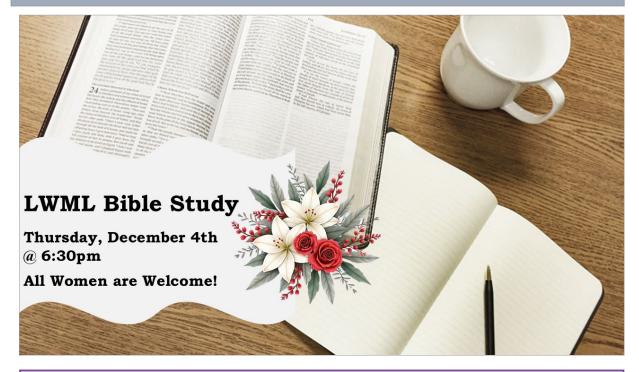
uals with gratitude and joy for all they do. Instill in them a passion for Christ's work, so that they will never become weary or disheartened. Provide them with joy and strength as they put their efforts into spreading love and God's word. In Your name we pray. Amen For more information about this grant, visit lyml.org and go to "missions"



Youth eagerly participate at a servant event in Michigan.



Volunteers binding Braille volumes.



Mites Box Sunday, December 7th

Mites for Missions IDE

LWML Thanks you!

Look for the BIG BOX in the Fellowship Hall















Board & Committee Meetings for December

December 4th - Thurs.

December 8th - Mon.

December 9th - Tues.

December 11th - Thurs.

December 29th -Mon.

6:30pm Elder Board Mtg

5:15pm Congregational Life

6:15pm Board of Ed Mtg

5:30pm LBDC Board Mtg

5:30pm Stewardship Mtg

5:30pm Evangelism Mtg

6:30pm Church Council Mtg

6:30pm Future Planning Mtg



Ron & Glenda Gruenhagen

Are celebrating 60 years of Wedded bliss And God's richest blessings.

Join us on

Sunday, December 14th @ 11:30am

For a catered meal and cake reception.

RSVP by Sunday. December 7th

At the ministry table (under the W)





Sunday, December 7th @ 10:30am

Invite your family and friends!

Stay after the service for Pizza, Birthday cake & Ice cream

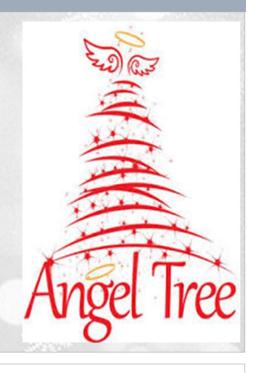
RCLC Upcoming Worship Services





RCLC Angel Tree
Take an angel tag
And return it by Dec. 12th
(wrapped or unwrapped)

Benefiting Lutheran Social Service families & Veteran Families







The Sign-up Sheet will be Located at the Ministry Table We Are Taking Orders <u>through December 14th</u>

If you have any questions, contact Gayla Kelly or Leslie McCoy of Altar Guild

Altar Flowers

Beautify our Altar with flowers. Sign up at the kiosk bulletin board.

ALTAR

12/07 OPEN

12/14 RON & GLENDA GRUENHAGEN

12/21 TOM & ROSE ALLISON

12/28 OPEN

Flower Chart for year 2026 is available on the kiosk in the narthex. Please make checks payable to Risen Christ Lutheran Church.



When you have signed up to provide flowers for a certain date, please fill out the pink Altar Flower instruction sheet and turn it in to the office by the prior Sunday. The cost for a bouquet is \$43 (slightly more if you wish to add special flowers such as roses or lilies).

Sunday Cookies

12/07 Evangelism

12/14 LWML

12/21 STEWARDSHIP

12/28 ALTAR GUILD



*Committee is responsible when member's haven't signed-up.

Please sign up at the kiosk to provide or serve cookies or both.

There are opportunity's for everyone to serve.

Everyone enjoys treats & community building after Sunday morning services.

Call the church office with any questions.



12/03 Sherrí Johnson

12/04 Mindy Wayt

12/05 Katíe Gruenhagen

12/08 Alyssa Martens

12/10 Addison Rasler

12/14 Brent Goers

12/14 Alexa Wakeland

12/15 Charlotte Bauer

12/17 Marvín Reímers

12/19 Pam Speer

12/19 Andrew Van Nice

12/19 Nolan Wittnebel

12/23 Mark Neubauer

12/25 Heidi Iltis

12/28 Jeff Roehm

12/30 David Ehlers

12/31 Carol McAnelly





BAPTISMS



12/01 Brad Bauer

12/03 Myles Zírpel

12/04 Jackson Franzenburg

12/06 Aja Hentze

12/06 Nathaniel McCoy

12/08 Míchelle Warner

12/14 Jean Wenndt

12/16 Jeff Burkey

12/17 Cody Harkey

12/18 Madelaine McCoy

12/18 Scarlett Sievert

12/18 Patty Thomas

12/20 Kay Petersen

12/23 Larry Niebuhr

12/23 Marílyn Sorensen

12/24 Dawn Curtiss

12/24 Tim Curtiss

12/25 Nicholas Emory

12/27 Robert Mílota

12/28 Cheryl Amhof

"One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism."
Ephesians 4:5

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

12/11 Rích & Dawn Emory

12/19 Ron & Glenda Gruenhagen

12/23 George & Pam Osborn

12/27 Rev. Brían & Lynette Licht



"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine." So

Sang of Salaman 6:3 THE ARISING NEWS

Membership Changes



If you have changed address, or know of another member who did but may not have informed us, please either remind that person to get us the new information or supply it yourself. Thank you for helping us keep in touch with our treasured members.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Kali Gruenhagen—Ongoing treatment at home **Tyson Baumgardner** (Gloria Blackledge's nephew)—in a coma since 12/27/23



Doralee Rock—Declining health

Andi Kelly (Ed & Gayla's daughter-in-law)—surgery and cancer treatments

Jon Mustaine (Grace Mustaine's father)—undergoing cancer treatments

Donna Cook—Recovering from recent hospitalization

HOSPITALIZED? If you or a loved one is admitted to the hospital or will be an outpatient at any medical facility and you desire Pastor Licht to visit, please notify the church office at 386-2342. Also, if you are a home-bound member and would like a visit, feel free to request a visit by notifying the church office.

Homebound Members



Donna Cook Doralee Rock Joe Speer Linda Gentz Betty Keppy Kristi Manley Sandy McLeod Dan & Trish Speth Jack Boley

Keep these members in your prayers and don't forget to reach out to them as you are able (e.g.: cards, phone calls, text messages) and remind them that although they are not able to regularly gather together with us, they remain part of our family. Thank you.



Men's Shelter Meal Service

Where: 2209 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL

When: The fourth Thursday night of each month. Arrive at the shelter between

5:00-5:30 pm, depending on meal prep time required.

What: We provide a meal for 50-60 people.

Details: Meal items can be prepared ahead of time and heated up at the shelter. They have 2 big ovens that we can use. They provide serving dishes, utensils, plates, drinks and clean-up. We provide a tasty nourishing meal (main dish, side dishes, dessert.).

Thrivent members can apply for Thrivent Action Team dollars for each date they help in order to defray the costs. In a nutshell: sign up for a date, plan a meal, prepare it and serve it with love.

Contact Bryan Johnson or Sandy Sievert or sign up at the kiosk in the narthex if interested in helping prepare a meal.

This is a great family or small group activity!

Look for the sign up sheets at the kiosk for all months in 2026. Sign up early to make sure all of these dates are covered!

Thank you to all of the families that contribute their time & resources to help those in need in our community. God Bless You!

2209 3rd Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201 (309) 786-5734 www.christiancaregc.org

December Worship Servants Pg 23

Elders 12/03 Ian McCloud 12/07 Jason Franzenburg 12/10 Stephen Smith 12/14 Mark Iltis 12/17 Ian McCloud 12/21 Jason Franzenburg 12/24 **Scott Sievert** 12/24 Tim Welch 12/25 Stephen Smith 12/28 **Mark Iltis** 12/31



Families with last names starting with:

A-B - Ian McCloud

C-F Stephen Smith

G-J Mark Iltis

K-L Scott Sievert

M-N Tim Welch

O-R OPEN

S Jason Franzenburg

T-V OPEN

W-Z Jason Franzenburg

Sound & Video

12/07 Dave Luebbe

12/14 Sam Ross

12/21 Dick Schrage

12/28 Terry Warner



Altar Guild Carrie Trickey

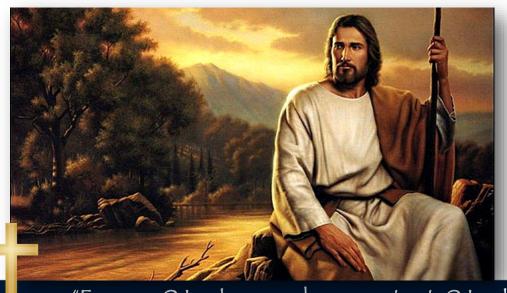
Join the Altar Guild!

Contact Leslie McCoy, Gayla Kelly or Pastor Licht if interested.

ACOLYTES

-	Maddie McCoy Maddie McCoy	12/24 12/24 12/25	OPEN
-	Maddie McCoy Brett & Elaina Martens	12/28 12/31	Hayley Ferris OPEN

12/17 Maddie McCoy 12/21 Elsie Lehman Hannah Segelhorst



"For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth."

Psalm 71:5

USHERS PAGE 25

12/03 7pm Scott Sievert, Nathan McCoy, TBD12/07 9am Jason Lehman, Myles Zirpel,

Scott Sievert, Dave Luebbe

Elder: Jason Franzenburg

12/10 7pm Scott Sievert, Nathan McCoy, TBD

12/14 9am Amber Heppner, Bryan Johnson,

Gary Hentze, Scott Sievert

Elder: Mark Iltis

12/17 7pm Scott Sievert, Nathan McCoy, TBD

12/21 9am Ron Smith, Dean Enfield,

Allan Elias, Scott Sievert

Elder: Jason Franzenburg

12/24 3pm TBD, TBD, TBD

12/24 5pm Scott Sievert, TBD, TBD

12/25 9am TBD, TBD, TBD, TBD, TBD

12/28 9am Amber Heppner, Dean Enfield,

Scott Sievert, Terry Warner

Elder: Mark Iltis



GREETERS

9:00AM

12/07 Jean Wenndt

12/14 Allan & Nancy Elias

12/21 Dick & Grace Schrage

12/28 Lynette Licht



December - Dates to Remember

	•	
12/02 Tues.	6:30pm	LBDC Christmas Program
12/03 Weds.	5:30pm	*Confirmation Class
	6:00pm	*Advent Soup Supper
	7:00pm	*Vespers Service
12/04 Thurs.	6:30pm	LWML Bible Study
	6:30pm	Elder Meeting
12/05 Fri.	12:00pm	Fellowship Friday
12/06 Sat.	7:00am	*Workout
	7:30am	Men's Bible Breakfast
	9:00am	Christmas Program Practice
12/07 Sun.	8:00am	Christmas Program Practice
l .	9:00am	Divine Service
	10:30am	Children's Christmas Program
	Pizzą & Cake & Id	e Cream to follow. Happy Bday Jesus!
12/08 Mon.	3:30pm	Quilt Assembly Group
	5:15pm	Congregational Life Mtg
	6:15pm	ED Board Mtg
12/09 Tues.	5:30pm	LBDC Board Meeting
12/11 Thurs.	6:30pm	Council Meeting
12/14 Sun.	9:00am	*Divine Service
	10:30am	*Youth Sunday School/
		*Adult Bible Study
	11:30am	Gruenhagen Anniversary Luncheon
12/19 Fri.	5:30pm	Youth Group Christmas Party
12/24 Wed.	3:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship
	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship
12/25 Thurs.	9:00am	Christmas Day Communion Worship
12/29 Mon.	6:30pm	Future Planning Meeting
12/31 Wed.	5:00pm	New Years Eve Communion Worship
9 9 6		*Scheduled Weekly THE ARISING NEWS

