

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
January 11, 2026

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
106 Scheid Road, Sandusky, OH 44870
(419) 625-2192 www.stjohnlcsandusky.com
Sanctuary Worship 10:30 a.m.

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor

January 11, 2026 Baptism of our Lord

Welcome to Worship! In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe and teach that Christ is truly present in the celebration of Holy Communion as he is God with us. Christians of all denominations are encouraged to come to the Lord's table. We commune children of any age who have received communion instruction at St. John or another Christian church. Children who have not yet received communion instruction will receive a blessing. Both red wine and white grape juice are offered to accommodate various traditions. Gluten free wafers are provided for those with dietary restrictions. Please make the pastor aware of your need.

If you are visiting today, please sign the guest register after worship. Plan to worship with us again next Sunday.

Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Noisy Offering in support of the ELCA Good Gifts

"Hear the Pennies Dropping" Public Domain

Hear the pennies dropping,
Listen while they fall,
Every one for Jesus,
He will get them all.

Refrain

Dropping, dropping,
Dropping, dropping,
Hear the pennies fall;
Everyone for Jesus,
He will get them all.

Dropping, dropping ever,
From each little hand,
'Tis our gift to Jesus,
From His little band. *Refrain*

Tho' we have not money,
We can give Him love;
He receives our offering,
Smiling from above. *Refrain*

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Crashing Waters at Creation"

ELW 455

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1 Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death:

2 Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,
washing off the chains of bondage--
channel to a life made new.

3 Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.

4 Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Canticle of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*
This is the feast of
vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Please be seated

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29 (Read responsively)

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Second Lesson: Acts 10:34-43

A reading from Acts.

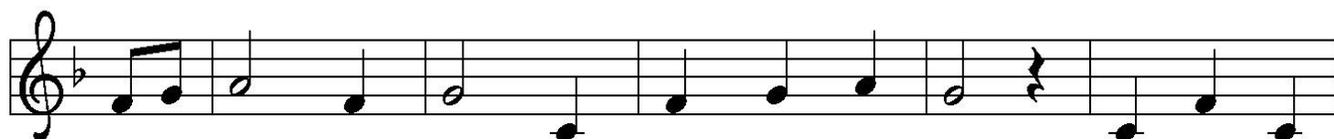
Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

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.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

Youth Time

Sermon

Please stand

Hymn of the Day

"You are Mine"

ELW 581

You Are Mine



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Do not be a - afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*

4 "I

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas
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Prayers of the people: Merciful God, Receive our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated

Offering

"You Are Mine"

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Please stand

Offertory

"Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One,
give thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Text: Henry Smith
Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving at the Table

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: 'Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ

may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

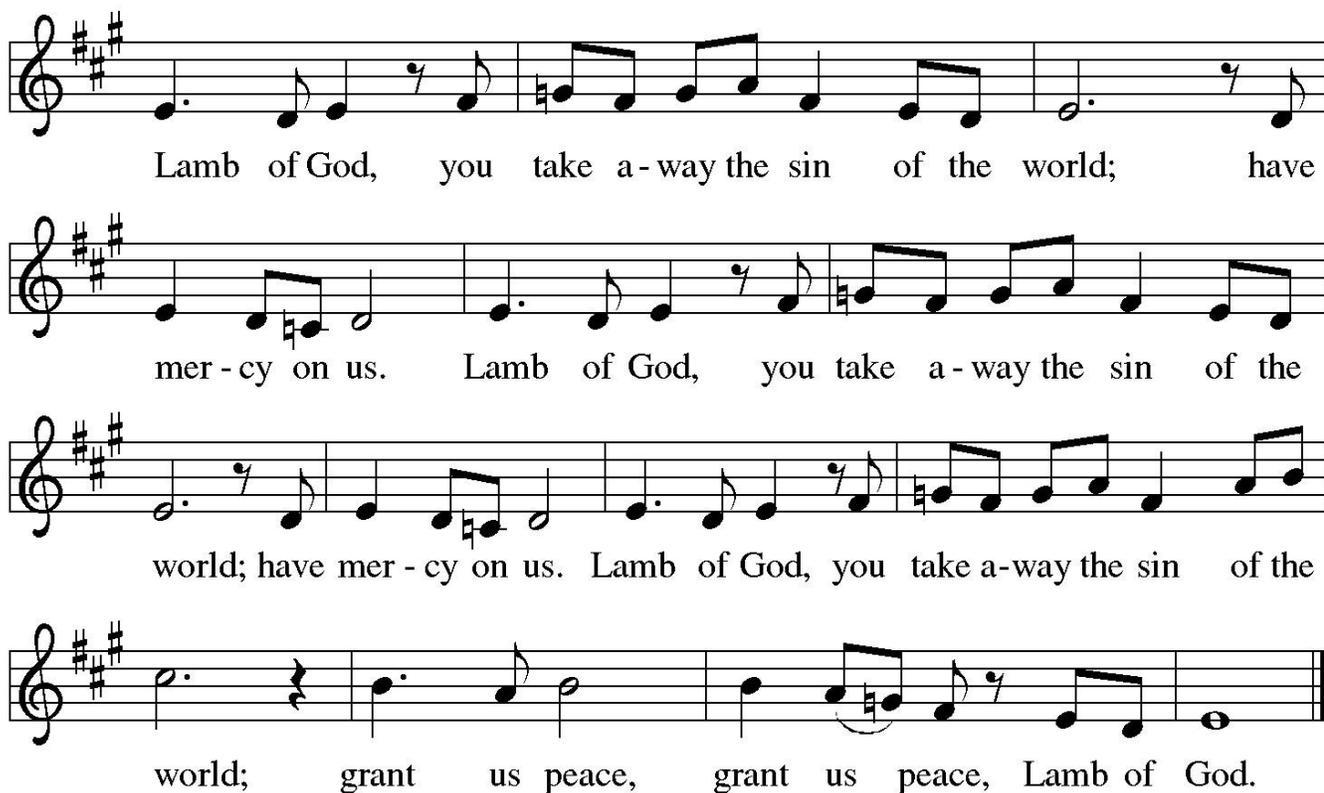
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the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

Invitation to Communion

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Please be seated

Distribution



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, Lamb of God.

Distribution Hymn:*“Spirit of Gentleness”*

ELW 396

Text and music © 1978 James K. Manley

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
 blow through the wilderness calling and free;
 Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
 stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

2 You swept through the desert,
 you stung with the sand,
 and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
 and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
 then you spoke through your prophets
 to open their eyes. Refrain

1 You moved on the waters,
 you called to the deep,
 then you coaxed up the mountains
 from the valleys of sleep;
 and over the eons you called to each thing:
 "Awake from your slumbers
 and rise on your wings." Refrain

3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
 then you whispered in silence when
 the whole world was still;
 and down in the city you called once again,
 when you blew through your people on the rush of
 the wind. Refrain

4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
 From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
 our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
 With bold new decisions your people arise. Refrain

Distribution Hymn:*“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

ELW 471

Text: African American spiritual Music: African American spiritual Public Domain

1 Let us break bread together on our knees;
 let us break bread together on our knees.

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;
 let us drink wine together on our knees. Refrain

Refrain

When I fall on my knees,
 with my face to the rising sun,
 O Lord, have mercy on me.

3 Let us praise God together on our knees;
 let us praise God together on our knees. Refrain

*Please stand***Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in
 His grace.

Amen**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted
 on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people,
 revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen

Sending Hymn

“Shall We Gather at the River”

ELW 423

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899 Music: Robert Lowry Public Domain

1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;

2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. Refrain

3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. Refrain

soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Shall We Gather at the River”

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899 Music: Robert Lowry Public Domain

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is:
“A Family of Disciples, Faithfully Making Christ Known”
And a congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN'S, MINISTERS

Stacy Lauer-Scovanner, Pastor	Church: 419-625-2192
Pastor Stacy's Day Off – Friday	Cell: 419-680-0358
Mrs. Sandy Thompson, Secretary	419-625-2192
	E-mail: Sandy8110@gmail.com
Nathan Samsa, Organist	Lay Reader: Melinda Zorn
Ushers: Chuck Thompson	Communion Assistant: Sandy Thompson
Audio/Visual Tech.: Brandon Alt	Assistant Minister: Mary Snook
Website: www.stjohnlcsandusky.com	Att.: Jan. 4 - 43
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2026 The Year of the Way of Love. Welcome to 2026: The Way of Love! This year for our annual theme, we will be grounded in 1 John 4:19, “We love because he first loved us.”

Council asks the congregation to pray that the joy we feel welcoming the Christ child carry over into all our missions and ministries throughout the upcoming year.

Communion Clean-up today: Sandy Thompson

Jan. 18 – Set-up - Joleen Dillender	Cleanup – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
25 – Set-up – Jim Kluding	Cleanup – Jim
Feb. 1 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben	Cleanup – Sandy Thompson
8 – Set-up - Jim Kluding	Cleanup – Jim
15 – Set-up – Joleen Dillender	Cleanup – Sue & Lynn Schlessman
22 – Set-up – Elizabeth Libben	Cleanup – Sandy Thompson

Thank you for your willingness to help with this important ministry. If you would like to help, please see Joleen Dillender or Sandy Thompson.

New Ministry Lists are posted on the bulletin board for the first quarter of 2026. If you are looking for an opportunity to help with ushering, lay reading, help serve communion or help with streaming our worship, see all the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

Annual Meeting/Mark your calendars: St. John's 2025 Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026 after worship.

Teams and Committees: Team/committee reports for the 2025 annual congregational booklet will be due by January 11th to Sandy Thompson. Please send your report in a Word doc to sandy8110@gmail.com or mail to the church at 106 Scheid Rd Sandusky, OH 44870 attention Sandy Thompson

Winter “Love at the Laundromat” is a new joint outreach ministry Zion and St. John’s. There is a need in the community for this help more than once a year. Our goal is to help struggling families by paying for their machine use at the laundromat. We are sharing God’s love in a practical way! This outreach will be at the Lakeshore Laundromat in the Huron Plaza on West Cleveland Road. We are planning for *Winter Love at the Laundromat* on Saturday, February 21st. A planning meeting will be scheduled in January, and collections will begin in February. We are called to be a blessing to our community and are blessed by the experience. Plan to join us. Contact Leslie Foxworth for more information.

Happy Belated Birthday wishes to Marcia Dawson and Pastor Stacy Lauer Scovanner.

ST. JOHN’S CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 11TH THRU JANUARY 25TH

Sunday, January 11	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School K-6 Worship
Tuesday, January 13	10:00 am	“Somehow” Book Discussion
Wednesday, January 14	10:30 am 5:30 am 6:15 am 7:00 am	Christianity & World Religion Study Choir Practice Bell Choir Worship Team
Thursday, January 15	8:30 am	Endowment Committee
Sunday, January 18	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School K-12 Worship
Tuesday, January 20	7:00 pm	Church Council on Zoom
Wednesday, January 21	5:30 pm 6:15 pm	Choir Practice Bell Choir
Sunday, January 25	9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Study with Lynn Sunday School K-12 Worship Annual Congregation Meeting