

# ***The Messenger***

***October 2016***



Take  
*delight*  
in the LORD,  
and he will  
give you the  
*desires*  
of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

**The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church  
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey**

**The Church: Proudly Proclaiming Christ since A.D. 33**

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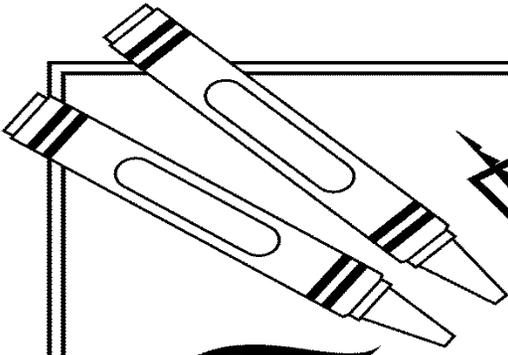
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Pastor: The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel  
Director of Music: Argine Safari  
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance  
Musician: Fred Messner  
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# PUZZLE

## Friends in the Lord

Jesus offers a perfect example of friendship.

What does he do for his friends?

*Directions: Follow the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the completed Bible verse below.*

1. Better than; rhymes with *crater*: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Opposite of hate: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Opposite of yes: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Three minus two: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Not \_\_\_\_\_ but that; rhymes with *hiss*: \_\_\_\_\_

6. To place something down; rhymes with *say*: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Opposite of up: \_\_\_\_\_

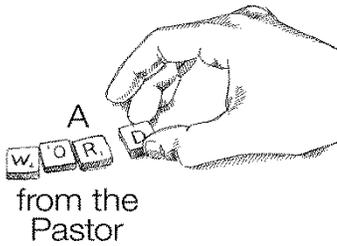
8. Opposite of death: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Best buds: \_\_\_\_\_

“ \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_: to \_\_\_\_\_  
 one’s \_\_\_\_\_ for one’s \_\_\_\_\_.”

JOHN 15:13, NIV

Answer: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13, NIV



For the last month I've noticed a sign on my way to church. It's a white piece of poster board stapled to a utility pole. Each day the hastily handwritten note on the poster board gets a little more faded but the text is still readable. As I zoom by, I can see an address, the words "garage sale" and a date that simply says "today + tomorrow." The sign announces a perpetual garage sale that is happening right now and will be coming again tomorrow.

I haven't taken a drive to see what's actually happening at that address. I would be surprised if an actual sale is still going on. That sign is pointing to something that no longer exists. Barbie hunters from miles around descended on that spot, not long ago, looking for deals, toys, and things for their home. Hope-filled hosts entered that sale praying they would raise enough to fund that new experiment or vacation they always wanted to go on. In a brief moment of time, people poured into this one spot, talking, laughing and forming relationships with each other as they haggled over the price of a wall mounted dancing fish. The sale might be over but the promise and hope announced by the fading post board sign lives on forever.

This month we will do what we always do: we'll live into God's promise of a hope-filled future. We'll gather on October 16 to do our part so no child, no matter what happens in their home, will have the food they need to learn. We'll celebrate 9 youths who will affirm their faith and live into their calling as leaders in the body of Christ. And we'll teach, sign and profess our faith in new and life giving ways because the church is never a static thing. The church, like God's love, works best as a verb. And like that sign announcing a promise that is here now and coming soon, we'll keep sharing Jesus because he's the hope the world needs.

See you in church!  
Pastor Marc

## ***Confirmation Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>***

We will be confirming nine youth during our 10:30 am worship. They are a gift to the church, and we're thrilled to affirm their baptism and their journey!

Matthew Audi

Alan Castellano

Emma Christensen

Victoria Elek

Kyle Iacovelli

Alexandra Laessig

Alexander Moss

Brianna Osenbruck

Richard Weissenborn



# *Stewardship*

**Be The Seed  
that shares and grows  
our faith**

**2017 Pledge Campaign**

**Kickoff  
October 16**

**Commitment Sunday  
November 20**

*"With what can we compare the kingdom of God?...It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up...*

*Mark 4:30-32*

## *President's Message*

Whew, school has started and we are gearing up for a busy fall here at church! We hope you enjoyed our church picnic on September 18<sup>th</sup>. We used our tent and kept the rain away. Thanks to Jim and Mike who grilled for us and to the entire Council for your help in getting us organized. And thanks to all who made salads and desserts—as usual, they were delicious!

We also had our quick special congregational meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>. We voted on and passed all the time sensitive requests made to the Special Gifts Disbursement Committee. We put off the decision on the recommendation for a new designated area for 10% of the funds, due to the fact that the mortgage has been paid off. We will address it and vote on it at the February annual meeting.

Council has also been planning for **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on October 16, 2016**. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us!! We will be serving lunch to everyone right after the end of the 10:30 service. **PLEASE sign up and let us know you're joining us, so we can have enough food. Look in the Narthex and the weekly emails for more details**

Our main focus will be on packing weekend snack packs for children in need. The program is run by the Center for Food Action.

- ❖ The snack packs are now delivered to seven (7) area elementary schools in Bergen County. On Fridays, the teachers discreetly place the snack packs into the student's backpack when they are out of the classroom.
- ❖ The WSPP is part of CFA's effort to reduce childhood hunger in our neighborhoods. CFA is reaching out for support (\$) from community groups, schools, businesses, foundations and faith-based organizations. Groups are needed to pay for and package the child-friendly items to be put into the snack packs.

Each snack pack contains the following items, enough to keep them going through the weekend: 2% shelf stable milk box; cold cereal-1 individual serving size box; fruit (4 oz. can - peaches or mixed); 100% juice box; chicken with rice or Chef Boyardee ravioli, (in a microwaveable bowl); macaroni and cheese, 7.25 oz.;

and a Nutri-Grain snack bar. We have an example in the Narthex, next to the donation box. For \$4.50 you can send one child home with a pack! Last year CFA distributed nearly 19,000 weekend snack packs to four local elementary schools. They distribute 850 packs on Fridays. If we raise \$7,650, we can provide enough for every child to receive a pack for two weeks (that's 1700 [packs-@\\$4.50](#) per!).

Thanks to the families who have already donated, we are almost to our goal. We need your help to reach it. **We are \$1,000 away from our goal of \$7,650!**

How can you help? You can donate any amount. We hope you'll consider skipping a night out yourself and donating \$45 or more.

- For \$45.00 you can help 10 children
- For \$54.00 you can help 3 children for 4 weeks
- For \$113.00 you can help a classroom of 25 children

You can make a check out to: **Christ Lutheran Church** and put **"GWOH"** on the **memo line**. You MUST put GWOH on the check, so we know to put it towards this project. Please look for the box in the Narthex and put it in there. We will keep a running total and deposit under that project name. There are specially marked envelopes for your use.

If your company participates in a matching gift program, then you will want to write your check out to "*Center for Food Action*", with *GWOH* on the memo line and complete your company's paperwork. Please let us know so we can keep track of it separately. You can still deposit your check in the box.

It will not be as labor intensive as last year's program, so we've added some other helpful programs—senior bag decorating and school kits packing, to name a few. They will happen in our building as well.

**Please look for poster in Narthex or sign up online to attend the lunch and the activities.** (<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0949ACAC2EA0FC1-gods1>).



**God's work.  
Our hands.**



It's time for Sunday School at Christ Lutheran Church! We're excited about another year to grow together in our faith as beloved children of God. Our Education committee and Sunday School teachers have been busy developing a new program to better meet the needs of the children and our families. We're going to experiment with a new model and see if we grow our faith in new ways.

We're changing our schedule for Sunday School to give the kids and the teachers more time to discover Christ's love for them. What we learn in Sunday School will begin in our 9:00 am contemporary worship. Our lesson will be read and acted out in a more engaging and intergenerational way. We'll invite children, parents and others to lead these mini-one act plays. After we celebrate communion, we'll bless our students, setting the tone for the lessons that follow. Each teacher and class will spend their time together exploring what they heard and what these stories mean to them. We're no longer trying to make Sunday School fit between our two services. Instead, Sunday School will meet for 45 minutes, filled with crafts, lessons, and music. We're also inviting parents to join us for these sessions with intergenerational activities to connect families together.

Each month will also have one Sunday reserved for a special community project. From hosting a bake sale to raise money for our God's Work, Our Hands event to delivering teddy bears to local nursing homes, the students will live their faith out loud.

Our faith development happens every day. We have a living God which means our daily experiences matter to our faith. As a way to help our families grow in their faith together, we're embracing "Faith 5:" five things we can do every day to grow the faith life of our families. Faith 5 ([www.faith5.org](http://www.faith5.org)) is a faith practice system that takes ten to fifteen minutes a day and can be used by families of all ages. Through story, sharing, prayer and blessing, we learn God's story and see how God's story informs our own. Pastor Marc will write weekly devotions that unpack the main story we hear on Sunday, giving parents some direction for what the story is about. We'll post weekly on Facebook asking families practicing Faith 5 to share what they're discovering. We'll support each other as we all gain new

habits of faith connecting with a God who is always connected to us. **We'll workshop how to practice "Faith 5" at our first Sunday School session on Sunday, September 25.**

As a way to support this new experiment and to increase the number of kids who are able to attend Sunday School, we're no longer meeting every week. We want to focus this experiment on two Sundays a month (first and third except for January which will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday). **For the month of October, our Sunday School will meet on October 2 and October 16.** Our monthly service project will be a bake sale between the worship services to support our God's Work, Our Hands event. We need bakers! Please let Janet Post know ([cjpost@optonline.net](mailto:cjpost@optonline.net)) if you are able to help out.

If you have any questions or are able to lend your gifts to this new experiment, please contact Janet Post ([cjpost@optonline.net](mailto:cjpost@optonline.net)). Let's discover where God is taking us in this holy experiment!



**Kickoff-Sept. 25**

**October class dates** are October 9<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm - 7:45pm

Confirmation is a pastoral and educational ministry that helps the baptized young person participate more fully in today's Christian life. In a community of support and acceptance shared with the pastor, teachers and peers, Confirmation helps the young person (typically our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders) identify with the church and their own faith through worship, learning and work. We gather together over two years, united in a commitment to walk with the Holy Spirit as we learn that faith isn't a destination but a journey with Jesus.

We're excited to share we're partnering with Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Old Tappan this year. Pastor John Holliday of Prince of Peace will co-teach classes with Pastor Marc as we join our two classes together. This year's theme is "Why Christian?" What do we believe, what are the words and experiences that point to our faith, and how does the Lutheran flavor of Christianity make a difference in our lives. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we grow together.

## **Time Sensitive Projects approved at Special Congregational Meeting**

CLC received a total of \$54,600.00 from the Ricci Foundation this year. The Congregation approved the following projects at the Special Congregational Meeting on September 18.

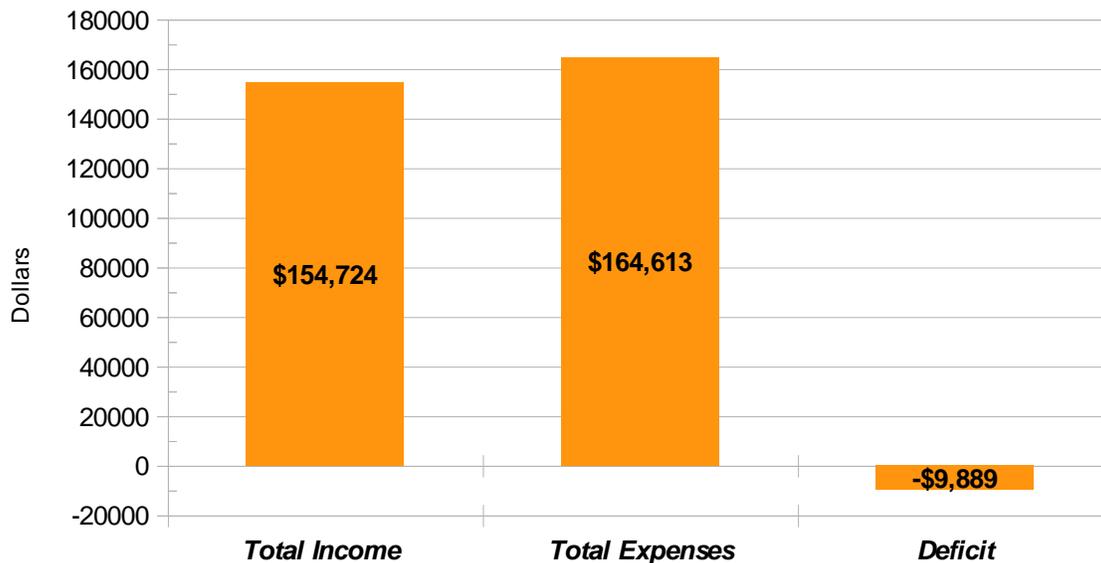
- Hygiene kit project of Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ for a homeless shelter. Purchase 4 dozen kits, 12 hygiene items per kit. Amount will fund 2016 and 2017 projects. \$1,200
- Backpack project for Lutheran Social Ministries of NJ to purchase 20 backpacks and school supplies for children in LSMNJ system. Amount will fund 2016 and 2017 projects. \$2,000
- Center for Food Action Thanksgiving project - 48 bags. 25 food items per grocery bag. Amount will fund 2016 and 2017 program. \$3,000
- Christmas at Sea - Seafarer's project. To assemble 25 satchels as Christmas gifts for the Seafarers International Home (ELCA supported organization). Amount will fund 2016 and 2017. \$1,700
- God's Work Our Hands 2016 event. To help fund weekend snack packs for 850 kids (\$2,750), packed at CLC & distributed by the Center for Food Action and event costs (\$250) total \$3,000
- For a one day speaker event with Jeff Struecker, Baptist pastor and former Army ranger. Funds raised from the event as a free will offering will go to Habitat for Humanity. The amount requested will be used for speaker fees, travel and light refreshments. \$5,500
- Hearts for Hunger - CFA weekend snack program specifically for the Jackson School in Hackensack, NJ. 1st year of 3 year request. \$1,000

The Charter for the Special Gifts Disbursement Committee requires that a minimum of 10% of funds be distributed to the following 4 areas:

1. Outreach Ministry or Benevolences to local Community or worldwide (these projects equal 31%)
2. Special Congregational Ministries
3. Capital Improvement or Asset Replacement
4. Mortgage Reduction

The Special Gifts Committee Charter update will be presented at the Annual Meeting in February.

## *News from the Finance Committee*



As everyone settles back into our fall routine, we wanted to update the congregation on our financial position. Through the end of August, the total paid for all expenses was \$164,613. Donations and other income received was \$154,724, resulting in a current shortfall of \$9,889. Christ Lutheran counts on your offering to meet its operating expenses. We prayerfully ask you keep up with your pledge and continue giving to support our amazing work here. Thank you very much.

## *Christ Lutheran Church Women News*

### Looking ahead -- Christmas gifts for needy children



CLCW will once again be working with the Bergen Volunteer Center to provide gifts to children through Mentoring Moms and the All Wrapped Up program. The lists will be available in November. We will be making announcements as the time gets closer. Keep an eye on *The Messenger* and weekly bulletins for further information. Thank you in advance!



## ***Crop Walk - Sunday, October 23***

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen!

For nearly half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks help end hunger by raising funds to support local food programs and the international anti-hunger work of Church World Service.

Churches, synagogues and faith communities in the Upper Pascack Valley are walking together on Sunday, October 23. We could use your support and participation! The funds raised will take on hunger issues around the world and support our local food pantry, the Tri-Boro Food Pantry, based in Park Ridge. Email Coleen Daub ([coleendaub@gmail.com](mailto:coleendaub@gmail.com)) if you can participate. More information, including how to donate, will be shared in our weekly e-newsletter and at church.

### ***From the Church Library – Martin Luther***

As you are probably aware, the next two years are a celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing the 95 theses to the church door and the start of the Protestant revolution.

Our library has many books about and/or written by Luther, all of which will be marked with a red stripe on the spine to make it easier to browse for the duration of the anniversary.

We are hoping that some of the films which were issued in VCR form will be reissued as DVD's so we can again have them in our collection.

Dot Dohrmann

# Reformation Sunday

## Kicking off the 500th Year of Lutheran Christianity on October 30, 2016

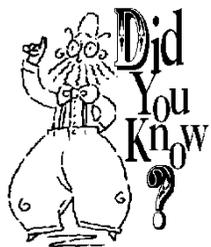


Reformation Sunday is more than a celebration of a past. It's a reminder God is constantly changing us from what we are into who God's love makes us be. We'll celebrate this year long look at the start of the Reformation (and Lutheran Christianity) with a special worship event at both services. Then stick around for a Reformation Day Festival as we look forward to where God is taking us during the next 500 years.

**Luther 101** – This month is the start of a yearlong celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Luther's nailing of the 95 theses on the church door and the start of the protestant revolution. Each month for the next year we'll have a series of questions in *The Messenger* to test your knowledge. Answers will be posted on the bulletin board in the Sonshine room.

1. Luther thought of himself as a reformer?
2. Luther invented the Christmas tree?
3. Luther was the first to translate the Bible into common language?

\* \* \* \* \*



**Do you love music?** Choristers under the direction of David Scance, Director of Youth Choirs will rehearse Wednesdays at 5:00pm beginning Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Chancel Choir under the leadership of Director of Music, Argine Safari, has begun rehearsals Wednesdays, 8:00 pm. Come sing with us, even if you can't be here every week. The Handchime Choir's first rehearsal for Christmas Eve will be Sunday, December 4, following the 10:30 am worship service. Come, sing, ring and have some fun!

**Honoring our Vets** – On November 13, we plan to honor all those who served in the armed forces. As part of this service, we would like to have pictures of our veterans for a display in the narthex. We know November seems a long way off, but we're giving you a heads up so you can go through your pictures.

**A small price increase for altar flowers:** Our church florist uses only the freshest flowers to create designs which they hope all enjoy. Due to increasing costs, the cost of flowers will be \$45.00 per Sunday, beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>.

FAITH OUT LOUD: READING THE BIBLE IN 2016

# OCTOBER SCHEDULE

BIBLE STUDIES:

WEDNESDAYS AT 11:30 AM &

THURSDAYS AT 7:00 PM

October 1: Malachi

Oct 2: Matthew 1-4

Oct 3: Matt 5-6

Oct 4: Matt 7-8

Oct 5: Matt 9-10

Oct 6: Matt 11-12

Oct 7: Matt 13-14

Oct 8: Matt 15-17

Oct 9: Matt 18-19

Oct 10: Matt 20-21

Oct 11: Matt 22-23

Oct 12: Matt 24-25

Oct 13: Matt 26

Oct 14: Matt 27-28

Oct 15: Mark 1-3

Oct 16: Mark 4-5

Oct 17: Mark 6-7

Oct 18: Mark 8-9

Oct 19: Mark 10-11

Oct 20: Mark 12-13

Oct 21: Mark 14

Oct 22: Mark 15-16

Oct 23: Luke 1

Oct 24: Luke 2-3

Oct 25: Luke 4-5

Oct 26: Luke 6-7

Oct 27: Luke 8-9

Oct 28: Luke 10-11

Oct 29: Luke 12-13

Oct 30: Luke 14-16

Oct 31: Luke 17-18

CHECK THE WEBSITE [WWW.CLC4U.COM](http://WWW.CLC4U.COM) TO VIEW COMPLETE  
SCHEDULE (WILL MEET MOST WEEKS)



### **A letter from Linda's family**

Dear Christ Lutheran Church friends,

We want to express our sincere thanks for all your support, prayers and concern you had for our mom/wife, Linda Loll. Mom loved teaching Sunday School, all twenty-eight years, changing the message board outside the church and most recently, delivering altar flowers. Mom had a strong faith, and she turned to it more during the past five years and never complained and persevered. Mom fought a tough battle all the way to the end, but knowing that she is at peace helps. The memorial service on September 10<sup>th</sup> was beautiful. Many thanks for the help of many members of the congregation and Pastor Marc, who helped to make it just perfect! With much gratitude, faith and love,

The Loll Family

### **A thank you from LSMNJ**

A new ministry this year of the Worship Committee is the school Back Pack Project for the benefit of children who are within the LSMNJ program. Our church purchased, assembled and delivered 2 dozen back packs. They were purchased (thanks to the recently approved Special Gifts) and each filled with over a dozen school items. Below is a partial quote from their thank you letter:

Dear Members of Christ Lutheran Church,

. . .We are pleased that churches took the time to purchase supplies and fill backpacks for those in need. We appreciate that you give of your time, share your talents and offer gifts with which God has blessed you. With a grateful heart,

Beth Gebhart,  
Executive Director Mission Advancement,  
Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey.

Rejoice with us!



October

**9:00 & 10:30 am**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

Rev. Maristela Freiberg, Ass't. to the Bishop, presiding  
during both worship services.  
Women's retreat, Camp Koinonia

**9<sup>th</sup>**

Rite of Confirmation, 10:30

**16<sup>th</sup>**

God's Work Our Hands

Lunch, 12:00 noon

Snack Pack and other hands on projects, 1:30 pm

**23<sup>rd</sup>**

Koinonia Sunday

Guest speaker during both worship services,  
Gary Schaeffer, Director

Narthex coffee, hosted by Thrivent Financial  
CROP Walk for benefit of Tri Boro Food Pantry

**30<sup>th</sup>**

Reformation Sunday Festival Celebration, during both  
Worship services  
Ref Fest, 11:30 am

**2016!**

# October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					Women's	1 Retreat Weekend
2 Worship Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am Traditional 10:30 am Sunday Church School, 9:40 am	3  Property Work Night 7:30 pm	4  Worship Committee 8:00 pm	5 Year With Bible 11:30 am  Choristers Choir 5:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	6  Year With Bible 7:00 pm	7	8
9 Worship Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am CONFIRMATION 10:30 am Reception 11:30 am	10  November  <i>Messenger</i>  Deadline	11 Care Committee 9:30 am  Garden Night 6:00 pm	12 Year With Bible 11:30 am Choristers Choir 5:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	13  Year With Bible 7:00 pm Finance Committee 8:00 pm	14	15
16 Worship Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am Traditional 10:30 am Sunday Church School, 9:40 	17  Mary Circle meets 7:00 pm Property Work Night 7:30 pm	18  Garden Night 6:00 pm	19  Year With Bible 11:30 am  Choristers Choir 5:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	20  Year With Bible 7:00 pm Council Meeting 8:00 pm	21	22
Lunch, Noon Projects, 1:00 pm						
23 KOINONIA SUN. Worship Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am Traditional 10:30 am Narthex Coffee CROP Walk	24	25  Garden Night 6:00 pm	26 Year With Bible 11:30 am Choristers Choir 5:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	27  Year With Bible 7:00 pm	28	29
30 REFORMATION CELEBRATING 500 <sup>TH</sup> Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am Traditional, 10:30 Ref Fest 11:30 am	31 					