



# *The Follower*

*"Come, follow me." Matthew 4:19*



*A monthly newsletter of Faith Lutheran Church*

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*December 2023*

*Christmas Eve*  
**SERVICES**

**Sunday, Dec. 24 @ 9:30 am &  
Candlelight Services  
@ 5:00 & 7:00 pm**



**Children's Christmas Program  
Sunday, Dec. 17 @ 10:30**



**Schedule on p. 3**



## Worship Service Times

Sunday Worship Services

**Traditional - 8:15 am**

**Contemporary - 10:30 am**

Holy Communion is served on the  
1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month.

Livestream available at:

<https://faithlutheranlacey.online.church>

You can also dial in using your phone

**1 (571) 317-3122**

**Access Code: 326-609-037**

## Gather & Grow Hour

### Adult Bible Class

New Adult Bible Study Beginning Nov. 12.

The Book of Esther — Michael Kramer, leader

While the Old Testament Book of Esther lacks the enthusiastic support of Martin Luther for its inclusion in the Christian canon, modern commentators find the book worthy of study.

This study will follow the ten chapters of one of the best stories of the Old Testament and will explore both God's intervention in human affairs through His servants and our responsibility in the face of social adversity.

## Care Warriors on a Mission

You, as a congregation, are important to us! We want to support you in prayer and help when needed.

Would you kindly notify your family to please contact us when emergencies or even scheduled surgeries, medical procedures, etc. come up so we can be of service as an extension of God's kingdom?

Church office, 360-491-3552; Glenn Dunnam, 360-791-4175 or SuAnn Denning, 360-790-8982.

## Christmas Program

Please join us on **Sunday, December 17** at the 10:30 service as we celebrate Christmas. The Sunday School students as well as middle and high school students will be participating in our Christmas program.



### Dec. 3

**Set up:** Monica Materiale, Rachel Wilson

**Refresh:** Rachel Wilson, Robyn Hofstad

**Clear:** Erin Holmquist

### Dec. 17

**Set up:** Marie Koehler

**Clear:** Robyn Hofstad

### Dec. 25

**Set up:** Robyn Hofstad

**Clear:** Robyn Hofstad

### Dec. 31

**Set up:** Linda Albro

**Refresh:** Robyn Hofstad

**Clear:** Erin Holmquist

## Threads of Faith



Threads of Faith typically meets the *second Saturday* monthly to work on quilts. We'll see you in the new year! Contact Barbara Ericksen with questions at 360- 915-3333.

## Men of Faith

What are the **Men of Faith**? We are a men's group of all ages that meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday morning of each month for breakfast, Bible study, prayer, and some fellowship doing projects around the campus.

Men from all the ministries of Faith, **church, school, childcare, and community center** are invited to join us. We'll see you in January.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Matt Koehler, at 360-951-0521.



*Merry  
Christmas*



## Sunday School & Christmas Program

Sunday School will meet on Dec. 3, 10 and 17 during the Gather & Grow hour at 9:30am in preparation for the Christmas Program taking place on December 17 at the 10:30 service.

If you would like to help with our Christmas Program, please contact Erin Holmquist at [erinhq@comcast.net](mailto:erinhq@comcast.net).

## Salvation Army Giving Tree

The Salvation Army Giving tree is up and we have adopted five families for Christmas. The tags on the tree will have items you can purchase for families in need. You can take one tag or several. The needs range from clothes to toys to gift cards. Gifts can be wrapped or you can include wrapping supplies with your presents. **Everything needs to be back to the church by Friday, December 8.** If you have any questions, please contact Erin Holmquist at [erinhq@comcast.net](mailto:erinhq@comcast.net). Thank you for your support!



## 3M's Fellowship

The 3Ms are a group of **More Mature Members** and friends, ages 55+.

The group normally meets in the Community Center weekly on Thursdays at 10 am to share in fellowship and study God's Word.

For more information, contact Jim Nordness at 360-923-0289 or leave a note in his church mailbox. You may also call the church office at 360-491-3552.

## Faith Lutheran Youth

5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are welcome to join us Saturdays, **Dec. 2, & 16**, 6 – 8pm for youth night. Justin & Sarah Bevers lead a lesson, provide snack, and offer a welcoming & fun evening. Contact them with questions or to volunteer at [jbevers02@yahoo.com](mailto:jbevers02@yahoo.com) & [sarsh04@yahoo.com](mailto:sarsh04@yahoo.com).

## National Youth Gathering '25

Every three years the LC-MS hosts a National Youth Gathering. The next gathering is scheduled for July 19 – 23, 2025 in New Orleans. Faith Lutheran and area Youth who are interested in attending should reach out to Justin Bevers at [jbevers02@gmail.com](mailto:jbevers02@gmail.com). You must be 14 – 19 years old or entering your ninth-grade year (at the time of the gathering). We will begin fundraising soon.

## Pinochle



Join us for Pinochle the third Thursday at 11:30 am in the Cypress room. You are welcome to bring a lunch.

December date has been adjusted to the second Thursday, Dec. 14 for the holidays.

## Sock & Cookie Program

It has become a yearly tradition to support Thurston County Jail's Christmas Cookie and Sock Program.

As in past years, we have agreed to contribute 100 dozen homemade (or store bought) cookies and 100 pair *new plain white cotton socks*. Chaplain Art Brown will be picking up our donations Friday, Dec.15.

If you are unable to participate in the cookie and sock drive, please consider a donation to offset the costs of the Christmas Gospel tracts, packaging supplies, and fuel. Please make checks payable to:

Prisoner Outlook Development,  
P.O. Box 14213  
Tumwater, WA 98512



## Fellowship

As I write this my heart is heavy. We lost our sister Linda Brinkley on Saturday November 18th. Linda was found in her home by her son. She had injured her knee two weeks prior and subsequently sustained falls with more injury. The coroner felt it had contributed to her passing.

Linda joined Faith a little over a year ago and felt "at home" with us. She brought your hard-boiled eggs every week and helped me in the kitchen after the second service weekly. She had a loving and giving heart and has left us too soon. Her only son and wife are asking to give to a charity of your choice in her name. They will be arranging a Celebration of Life in January, details to follow. Linda had recently turned 65 and was still working as a bus driver for Intercity Transit.

Christmas is a magical and joyous time of year and can also be challenging for those who lost loved ones and this is their first Christmas after that loss. Please think of those folks we have lost here at Faith and embrace their family and all you know who struggle when Christmas arrives. Keep your focus on our Lord, the light of our World, who was born to save us sinners.

Thank you for your generous gifts during our various drives to assist others.

Faithfully,

Linda Albro, Fellowship Chair

360 701-7882 [laalbro@gmail.com](mailto:laalbro@gmail.com)

You are Blessed to be a Blessing

## Many Thanks

Thank you to all who were generous in donating to the Thanksgiving food baskets. We were able to bless 11 families with a full Thanksgiving meal. We had enough money donated that we were also able to give each of those families a grocery gift card.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### December Birthdays

Carolyn Kerr	Dec 3
Nick Cronquist	Dec 7
Pam Strand	Dec 8
Rev. James Brubaker	Dec 9
Rylee Hofstad	Dec 11
Daniel Fassnacht	Dec 12
Katie Burke	Dec 15
Jerod Staidle	Dec 15
Cindi Thurow	Dec 16
Liz Fassnacht	Dec 17
Mary Crawford	Dec 18
Marguerite Burnett	Dec 19
Lily Kellnhofer	Dec 19
LeeAnn Thomas	Dec 19
DeAngelo Bache	Dec 22
Cataleya Castanon	Dec 24
Mary Miller	Dec 24
Jakob Clark	Dec 27
Caleb Burnett	Dec 28
Fran Davis	Dec 29
Monty Thiesse	Dec 30



### December Anniversaries

Jim & Erin Holmquist	Dec 15
Mike & Gaye Todd	Dec 21
Jim & SuAnn Denning	Dec 27
John & Ruth Schmedake	Dec 29



*Don't see your name or birthday/anniversary up here? Contact the church office 360-491-3552.*

## Prayer Group Meeting

We invite you to join us on December 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 for one hour of Prayer in the Cyprus Room (Community Center). We Pray together for our country, government, and its citizens in the midst of the great chaos that has descended upon us. We also Pray for Peace in our world, that we may all lead a peaceful and quite life, Godly & dignified in every way.

Glenn Dunnam, SuAnn Denning & Anne Spurgeon

## Faith Basketball

Basketball season is gearing up for our 5<sup>h</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys! They are practicing hard and improving their skills. Come out and support our team at these upcoming games: **GO EAGLES!**

Dec. 1 @ Evergreen Christian, 3:30p

Dec. 5 @ Northwest Christian, 3:30p

Dec. 7 @ Faith Lutheran, 3:30p

Dec. 12 @ Faith Lutheran, 3:30p

Dec. 14 @ Westwood Baptist Church, 3:30p

In addition to their regular season, the boys get to extend their practices through mid Feb. in preparation for L.E.S.T. Thanks Coach Milnes for your leadership!

## FLS Class Highlight

One of the unique experiences you get at Lutheran schools that you don't get at other schools is getting to do the annual Christmas play to celebrate Christ's birth. I'm excited to say that time is already gearing up here at Faith. In Kindergarten, we start practicing at the beginning of November and as you can imagine the kids get pretty excited! We have quite a few Christmas plays happening here at Faith, if you'd like to visit and watch one, visitors are always welcome - you just need to swing by the school office and let Mrs. Williams know you are on campus if it is during school hours. Thanks – Heather Kravitz

## Christmas Programs

12/7, 10:30a; Preschool T/TH

12/8, 10:30a; Preschool W/F

12/8, 2:30p; Jr K

12/11, 10:30a; Pre K AM

12/11, 2:30p; Pre K PM

12/12, 2:30p; K - 2<sup>nd</sup>

12/13, 6:30p Middle School Adventures in Advent -  
Christmas Carols

12/14, 6p; 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>

All Christmas plays will be in the church sanctuary.  
Merry Christmas!

## Adventures in Advent

Please join us for the two remaining Wednesdays in Advent as we prepare our hearts for Christmas; Everyone is invited to attend for a meal, a devotion, singing and a craft beginning at 6:00 pm on November 29, December 6 and December 13. The 5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be leading us in Christmas carols on Dec. 13. Below is our schedule for each evening:

### Wednesday, December 6

Dinner: Chili and cornbread, hot dogs and chips

Craft: Felt Christmas Penguin

### Wednesday, December 13

Dinner: Spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread

Craft: Cookie decorating

## Fred Meyer Community Rewards

Did you know that if you shop at Fred Meyer, you can link your rewards to Faith Lutheran and earn money for the school just by doing your normal shopping? Talk to the FM service desk for more info!





## A New Look Around Campus

By Matt Koehler, Campus Manager

You may have noticed a few changes around campus that have brightened things up a bit! We've been working on some projects that we hope to complete in the next month or two that feature our ministries working together. Students from Mrs. Green's art classes have produced original art pieces that have been mounted on the Church and FCC. More art is coming from the art classes and from the Childcare kids as well. These art pieces give our students a chance to contribute something to add color and life to the campus, and visitors can appreciate the work of our students at the same time. The art is produced on simple plywood frames, and can be easily updated each school year for a fresh look.

Another project in progress in front of the FCC is the "adopt a pot" program. We've placed several clay pots near the FCC entrance, and several of the school classrooms are going to "adopt" a pot. They will decorate it, plant something in it, and care for the plant over the course of the school year. This is another chance to show off our students work and beautify the campus at the same time!

In mid-November, we brought in 90 yards of playground bark to complete the Middle School play area expansion and to fill out the playground. To keep up with safety standards, new bark needs to be brought in every year or two on the playground as the old bark wears down or is blown away over time. It brings a fresh look and smell of cedar! The best part is that the company brings a truck with a blower and blows the bark into place instead of having to manually spread it. That saves us a lot of time and difficult labor.

A few people made a special request, supported by a donation to fund the request, to install an electric door opener on the Church women's bathroom door. In early November, D'Angelo Bache volunteered over 12 hours of his time to install the opener and wiring for the opener and buttons. It's working great and has received great reviews! D'Angelo is an electrician by trade, and I could not have done the installation without him. Thank you, D, for your generosity and dedication!

I also want to thank John Schmedake for stepping up to volunteer as Trustee board chair! I'm looking forward to working closely with John to continue to

improve the campus at Faith and upgrade our procedures to keep things running smoothly.

We always need volunteers to help with various projects around campus, whether it's mowing, weeding, painting, fixing things, cleaning, organizing, and so much more. If you have a little time or a lot, special skills or just a willingness to help, please let me know and I'll always appreciate the help! [mattkoehler@flschool.org](mailto:mattkoehler@flschool.org) or 360-951-0521.

## Campus Improvement Fund Update

Connie Dougherty, Congregation President

You may have read Matt Koehler's article in last month's newsletter, about the church's campus improvement funds and the need to increase the money in those accounts to be ready for future repairs and remodels.

At the November Council meeting, Council made the decision to combine what was the "Church Campus Improvement Fund" and the "Faith Community Center Improvement Fund" into one account. We decided we no longer need to separate them and having two accounts was making giving a little more difficult and confusing for people.

If you give through Breeze, you will now see only one choice for giving to the campus improvement fund. At a future congregation meeting (and as the fund is built up) we will discuss priorities for using that money.



## New Year Brings New(ish) Council

Connie Dougherty, Council President

On behalf of the 2024 officers and board chairs that you elected at the Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, I want to thank you for the vote of confidence that placed us into office. We are volunteers who, with the help of God, will do our best to make recommendations to you that move the congregation's ministries forward within God's plan for us.

Though I have been elected as your returning president, I am no more important (and carry no greater voice) than any of the Council members. Each person on Council has an area of responsibility which I know they approach with excitement for the new year. A list of your elected officers is below. I expect you will hear from them as they look for talented people to support them in doing good work. As president, it is my responsibility to facilitate our Council and congregational meetings. As a meeting facilitator, I try to keep these things top of mind:

- Everyone's time is valuable.
- People want to do work that is meaningful.
- How we do things is as important as what we do.
- We should strive to hold meetings that leave us all feeling better (or at least as good!) as when we came.
- It is our duty to build one another up.
- God will direct our work if we reside in Him.

### **Your new (and returning) Council members are:**

President: Connie Dougherty (returning)

Vice President: Glenn Dunnam (returning)

Congregation Secretary: Gail Ehlers (new)

Treasurer: Rodney Olson (returning)

Financial Secretary: Veronika Dunnam (returning)

School Board Chair: Jennifer Cronquist (new after being interim)

Head Elder: Andy Green (returning)

Fellowship Chair: Linda Albro (returning)

Youth Ministry Chair: Justin Bevers (returning)

Evangelism Chair: Vacant

Stewardship Chair: Becky Flaherty (returning)

Trustees Chair: John Schmedake (new)

Christian Education Chair: Erin Holmquist (returning)

Elders working with Andy Green, Head Elder:

David Carufel (new)

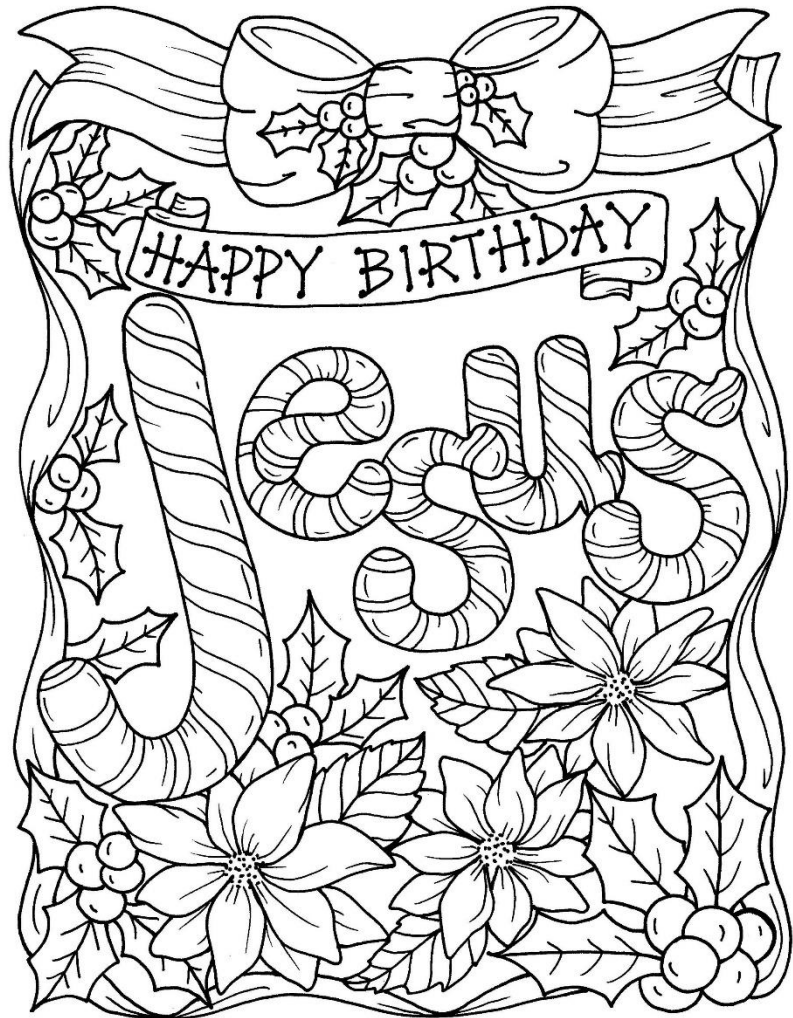
Mark Dougherty (new)

Glenn Dunnam (returning)

Jim Flaherty (returning)

Chuck Laguna (returning)

Dean Pigman (returning)



## Giving is a *Breeze*

The Church uses a software program that deals with social needs of the Church. This software is called Breeze. It allows for an easier way of getting information out to the Church members as a whole as well as small groups.

One aspect of this software is it has a modular that we can track church contribution.

To establish your on-line giving using the Breeze on-line giving program, follow the link:

<https://faithlutheranlacey.breezechms.com/give/online>

Please be aware the Breeze on-line giving bank transfer feature does include a processing fee of 1%. The processing fee for credit cards is 2.9% plus a small transaction fee. Faith will absorb these fees but you have the option to give back both the transfer and credit card processing fees by simply checking the box. Upon doing so, the fees will be added to your donation.

If you have any questions, please contact either Veronika Dunnam, financial secretary at [financialsecretary@faithcampus.org](mailto:financialsecretary@faithcampus.org) or Becky in the church office.

## Texting is a *Breeze*

With this software, we have an extended opportunity to communicate with you through text messaging. We are able to generate messages through the app directly to your phone. These messages are legitimate and not spam or fraudulent. Please make sure your information is up to date with the church office so you don't miss important notifications.



## Text to Give

To donate by text, a donor simply:

1. Text the amount they'd like to give to **(360) 732-8020** (e.g. \$50). Remember to include a space between your dollar amount and your keyword. If a user submits \$50Missions, they will receive a "Sorry, not sure what you meant" error message. The proper format must be \$50 Missions in order for the command to be received properly.
2. If a person has donated by text before, they'll receive a text in response confirming that their gift has been received successfully and they're done.
3. If it's the first time a person is donating by text, they'll be sent a message that says, "It looks like you are a new giver; to begin: (link provided). It will be a link to the church's online giving page. Clicking on the link they will be asked to supply their payment method (credit card, debit card, or bank account). This payment source will then be linked with their phone number so that, in the future, all they will need to do is text in the amount. (They will not need to re-enter their payment information.)"
4. If the donor didn't specify a fund by keyword, donations will automatically go to the default fund in Breeze. **Example giving by keyword: \$50 missions** Note: *Donors can only give to one fund at a time.*

We've made giving easier! Scan the QR code with your mobile device for instant access to Breeze Online Giving.





### ***The Measure of Our Generosity***

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy. (Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."


The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc. In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?



# December 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30a Coffee Talk w/Mr. Neumiller 3:30p FLS BB Game	2 9:30a Church Décor 6p Youth Night
3 8:15a Worship w/HC 9:30a Gather & Grow 10:30a Worship w/HC	4  Holiday House in Cypress	5 6p FLS Vocal Rectal	6 2:30p Chapel 6p Adventures in Advent	7 10a 3M's in Sanctuary 6p School Board 6:30p Praise Team	8  Holiday House in Cypress	9  
10 8:15a Worship 9:30a Gather & Grow 10:30a Worship 2p FLS Piano Rectal	11 10:30a Pre-K Christmas Program 2:30p Pre-K Christmas Program	12 2:30p K—2 Christmas Program 3:30p FLS BB Game 6:30p Elders	13 2:30p Chapel 6p Adventures in Advent w/Middle School Caroling	14 10a 3M's 11:30a Pinohle 6p 3rd/4th Christmas Program	15 6p Staff Christmas Party	16 6p Youth Night
17 8:15a Worship w/HC 9:30a Gather & Grow 10:30a Worship w/Kids Christmas Program	18  	19 11:30a FLS Early Out 6p Council  Christmas Break Begins	20  	21 10a 3M's 6:30p Praise Team	22  	23  
24 Christmas Eve Worship 9:30a Candlelight Services 5:00 & 7:00p	25  Childcare Closed	26  Childcare Closed	27  	28 10a 3M's 6:30p Praise Team	29  	30  
31 8:15a Worship w/HC 9:30a Gather & Grow 10:30a Worship w/HC						



# December 2023

Faith Community Center

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 5:30p SS Roller Derby	2 6p Youth Night
3 9a Casa de Alabanza 9:30a Gather & Grow 12p Holiday House Setup 1p Lacey Outreach 4p SS Roller Derby	4 3:30p FLS BB 5:30p EJVBC Holiday House	5 5:30p SS Roller Derby 7p EJVBC Holiday House	6 3:30p FLS BB 5:30p EJVBC Holiday House	7 3:30p FLS BB Game 5:30p EJVBC 6:30p Poly Dance FH Holiday House	8 3:30p PJP II BB 5:30p SS Roller Derby Holiday House	9 8:30a High Impact Dance 3p Memorial 5:30p Kindermusik
10 9a Casa de Alabanza 9:30a Gather & Grow 12p Cristo Vive 1p Lacey Outreach 4p SS Roller Derby	11 3:30p FLS BB 5:30p EJVBC 7p Faria VB	12 3:30p FLS BB Game 5:30p SS Roller Derby 7p EJVBC	13 3:30p FLS BB 5:30p EJVBC	14 10a 3M's 11:30p Pinochle 5:30p Kindermusik 6p Panthers Fastpitch 7p SS Metal Detect.	15 3:30 PJP II BB	16 6p Youth Night 6p SS Metal Detect. Christmas Party -FH
17 9a Casa de Alabanza 9:30a Gather & Grow 12p Cristo Vive 12p Youth Christmas Party Rental 1p Lacey Outreach	18 3:30p FLS BB 5:30p EJVBC 7p Wilson/Smith BB	19 7p EJVBC	20 12p Wilson/Smith BB 5:30p EJVBC	21 9a Wilson/Smith BB 5:30p Kindermusik 5:30p EJVBC 6:30p Poly Dance 6:30p Praise Team	22 1p Wilson/Smith BB	23 11a Wilson/Smith BB
24 9a Casa de Alabanza 12p Cristo Vive 1p Lacey Outreach	25	26	27 5:30p EJVBC	28 5:30 Kindermusik 6p Panthers Fastpitch 6:30p Poly Dance 6:30p Praise Team	29	30
31 9a Casa de Alabanza 9:30a Gather & Grow 12p Cristo Vive 1p Lacey Outreach						