

Mark Your Calendar

11.1

All Saints' Day

11.2

Stewardship Work Day

11.6

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Food Pantry Sunday

11.7

Altar Guild Meeting

Trustees Meeting

Elders' Meeting

11.8

Election Day

Community Meal

11.9

Evangelism Meeting

11.11

VETERANS DAY

11.12

Stewardship Meeting

11.24

Thanksgiving Eve Worship

11.25

THANKSGIVING DAY

11.27

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

11.30

Advent Worship

"It Ain't Easy Being Green (or Small)"

A green amphibian made the above words memorable in a popular childrens' TV show. Maybe you even heard the praises of being short put to song in a Randy Newman hit entitled, "Short People." But you would be hard pressed to find any song lauding the advantages of being a "small" church.

Most people just see disadvantages - small attendance, small bible and Sunday School classes, small offerings, small number of programs and on and on the list goes. The world in which we live heaps praise on growing churches that seem always to be suffering from growing pains because they seem ... well ... successful. But, there really are many advantages to small churches and ... they too can be successful in God's eyes.

In an article entitled, "Small Churches – Great Kingdom Impact" Rev. Dr. Peter Meier notes that in the most recent issue of *Facts & Trends* the theme, "The Power of Small" was highlighted in most every article.

Here are some thoughts and even advantages when you start to think, "It ain't easy being a *small church*."

- All churches are small when they begin. The first Christian church was birthed from 120 people (Acts 2) and multiplied to thousands of people in many local churches.
- Today, nearly 58% of congregations in the US have fewer than 100 people in weekend worship services, up from 49% five years ago.

Continued on page 2...

(article cont.)

- Small churches can be great leadership developers, as otherwise reluctant volunteers have to step up to meet leadership needs.
- Smaller churches may have fewer ministries, but have a greater focus. They know they can't do everything so they know their mission field and how to best effect people there.
- Small churches partnering together can overcome financial challenges. They can even partner to plant new churches.
- Small churches sponsor 1 in 5 church plants. 21% of churches planted since 2008 say that their sponsoring church had an average attendance of less than 100.
- Americans are open to small churches.

 Among all Americans. 88% would consider attending a church of fewer than 100 people.
- Millennials looking for personal relationships are receptive to small churches where they can get to know their neighbors and become personally involved.
- Small churches can't produce elaborate performances; when you visit, you know what you're getting week after week.
- Donations are higher in small churches. Average donation per regular adult attendee in evangelical churches of 100 adults is \$1,750. In congregations of 400 adults the average is \$1,480. In congregations of 1,000 adults, the average is \$1,140.
- Small churches are not a problem that needs fixing, but rather a strategy God wants to use to bring His harvest home.

It might not be easy being a "small" church but it isn't easy being a "large" church either. Large or small we each just have different work to do in God's kingdom. Let's thank God for who He has made us and move forward to accomplish what He has given us.

May the peace of Jesus Christ rule our hearts! Pastor Chris Ongstad





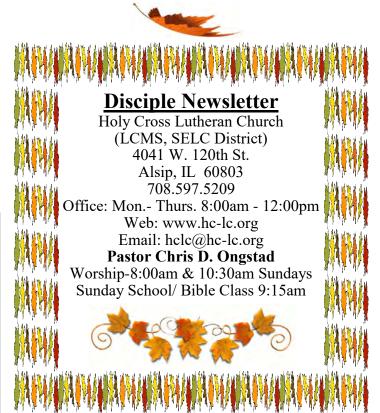
10 + 1 REASONS TO ATTEND BIBLE STUDY

- 1. To get to know people.
- 2. To learn about the Bible.
- 3. To support my church or the people in the study.
- 4. To sit under a gifted leader.
- 5. To be a part of something great.
- 6. To make new friends, or to deepen existing friendships.
- 7. To be in a supportive environment.
- 8. To build a tightly knit community.
- 9. To develop more theological insight or biblical understanding.
- 10. To grow as a Christian.

Let me repeat: these reasons are all good. We should have Bible studies for reasons like these.

But let's keep the best reason front and center. The good reasons are good only when they serve the best reason. What is the best reason?

To know God through his Son Jesus Christ.





HILITES OF HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH September, 2016

The September 19, 2016 Holy Cross Lutheran Church Council meeting opened at 7:35pm with prayer. The following attended: Jim Boltz, Tom Griffin, Jennifer Love, Dorothy Lux, Pat & George Minet, Pastor Chris Ongstad, Joan Opyd (via Skype), and Liz Wilczynski. A motion was made and approved to accept the August minutes.

- <u>PASTOR'S REPORT</u>— Tom and Rita Joyce are moving to Libertyville assisted living facility (close to their family) since Rita needs 24/7 care.
- TREASURER'S REPORT— The Good Samaritan Fund is doing much better. Envelope offerings are under budget. The Parking Lot Fund is at \$2,190.42. Tom will register for "Amazon Smile" so our church will be eligible for donations. A motion was made and approved to accept the Treasurer's report.
- **EVANGELISM REPORT** is planning for the festival when Joe Boway visits. Post cards are still being sent to people who move into our area.
- EDUCATION REPORT— The ice cream social had low attendance even though 35 invitations were sent to the VBS families and Jennifer advertised in "Mom's of Alsip."
- TRUSTEES REPORT— The August 23 meeting was well attended. Dorothy will do a visual to show how much money was collected for the parking lot redo and what is needed so the congregation can be informed and inspired.
- A motion was made and approved to include next year's offering envelopes, VBS and Parking lot donation envelopes every other month.
- <u>STEWARDSHIP/ FINANCE REPORT</u>— The "Make it Simple" Sunday class is well attended with good discussions. The Monday class has eight in attendance. October 2 is Commitment Sunday.
- <u>COMMUNITY MEALS</u>— 50 attended the last one which included more church members.

- NEW BUSINESS REPORT— There wasn't enough room for the shelf unit for the community meals supplies. Donna Meilahn, and other people will store some of the items.
- The following motions were made and approved:
- For two free Will Offerings in October to benefit the Liberian Children's Ministry on Sundays decided by Evangelism.
- 2. For Evangelism to sell \$1 luncheon tickets for the October 16 Joe Boway visit.
- To allow the "Gideons Society" to have a presentation November 13 during Bible Study and after worship services.

The next Council Meeting is October 17, at 7:30pm. The meeting adjourned at 8:55pm with prayer.



From: Joan Opyd

"Ministry" means "to serve". In the New Testament, ministry is seen as service to God and other people in His name. Jesus provided the pattern for Christian ministry. He came, not to be served but to give it. (Matthew 20:28;)

The Christian should minister by meeting people's needs with love and humility on Christ's behalf. Christians are to minister to others out of their devotion to Christ and their love for others, whether they

are believers or unbelievers. Ministry to others should be impartial and unconditional, always seeking to help others as Jesus would. (Mark 10:45 and John 13:1-17.)







CARSON'S COMMUNITY DAYS BOOKLETS

Our church will again be selling Carson's Community Days Booklets for \$5.00 each. Holy Cross keeps all money from the sale of these booklets. Each booklet contains a \$10 coupon good on an item of \$10 or more, a 30% off shopping pass, a 30% off Yellow Dot coupon, plus great bonus offers — available during Community Days only. Coupons are valid on top of sale prices. The days to use these coupons are Wednesday, November 9 until Saturday, November 12 at any Carson's store. Coupons booklets may be purchased from Martha Stevens, Liz Wilczynski or Dorothy Lux.



DINNER CLUB

The Dinner Club will be going to the Lemont House Family Restaurant on Saturday, November 26 at 5:00 p.m. This restaurant is located at 210 Main Street in downtown Lemont. The restaurant features Korean, Chinese and American food. If you would like to go, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board. See Dorothy Lux for more information.



GRATEFUL CHILDREN OF GOD

The original thanksgiving celebration was held by the Pilgrim settlers in Massachusetts during their second winter in America in December, 1621. The first winter had killed 44 of the original 102 colonists. At one point their daily food ration was down to five kernels of corn apiece, but then an unexpected trading vessel arrived, swapping them beaver pelts for corn, providing for their severe need. The next summer's crop brought hope, and Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621, be set aside as a day of feasting and prayer to show the gratitude of the colonists that they were still alive.



These Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom and opportunity in America, gave thanks to God for His provision for them in helping them find 20 acres of cleared land, for the fact that there were no hostile Indians in that area, for their newfound religious freedom, and for God's provision of an interpreter to the Indians in Squanto. Along with the feasting and games involving the colonists and more than 80 friendly Indians (who added to the feast by bringing wild turkeys and venison), prayers, sermons, and songs of praise were important in the celebration. Three days were spent in feasting and prayer.

From that time forward, Thanksgiving has been celebrated as a day to give thanks to God for His gracious and sufficient provision. President Abraham Lincoln officially set aside the last Thursday of November, in 1863, "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." In 1941, Congress ruled that after 1941, the fourth Thursday of November be observed as Thanksgiving Day and be a legal holiday.

Scripturally, we find things related to the issue of thanksgiving nearly from cover to cover. Individuals offered up sacrifices out of gratitude in the book of Genesis. The Israelites sang a song of thanksgiving as they were delivered from Pharaoh's army after the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 15). Later, the Mosaic Law set aside three times each year when the Israelites were to gather together. All three of these times [Unleavened Bread (also called the Feast of the Passover) (Exodus 12:15-20), Harvest or Pentecost (Leviticus 23:15-21), and the Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles (Leviticus 23:33-36)] involved remembering God's provision and grace. Harvest and Tabernacles took place specifically in relation to God's provision in the harvest of various fruit trees and crops. The book of Psalms is packed full of songs of thanksgiving, both for God's grace to the Israelite people as a whole through His mighty deeds, as well as for His individual graces to each of us.

In the New Testament, there are repeated admonitions to give thanks to God. Thanksgiving is to always be a part of our prayers. Some of the most remembered passages on the giving of thanks are the following:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6).

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men" (1 Timothy 2:1).

Of all of God's gifts, the greatest one He has given is the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. On the cross of Calvary, Jesus paid our sin debt, so a holy and just Judge could forgive us our sins and give us eternal life as a free gift. This gift is available to those who will call on Christ to save them from their sin in simple but sincere faith (John 3:16; Romans 3:19-26; Romans 6:23; Romans 10:13; Ephesians 2:8-10). For this gift of His Son, the gift which meets our greatest need, the Apostle Paul says, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

We, like the Pilgrims, have a choice. In life there will always be those things that we can complain about (the Pilgrims had lost many loved ones), but there will also be much to be thankful for. As our society becomes increasingly secular, the actual "giving of thanks to God" during our annual Thanksgiving holiday is being overlooked, leaving only the feasting. May God grant that He may find us grateful every day for all of His gifts, spiritual and material. God is good, and every good gift comes from Him (James 1:17). For those who know Christ, God also works everything together for good, even events we would not necessarily consider good (Romans 8:28-30). May He find us to be His grateful children.







Bipolar Disorder. What is it?



What comes to mind when you hear this word? Bipolar Disorder. For some, the word, bipolar, may conger up a feeling of dread. For others, such thoughts like, crazy, moody, unpredictable or manic may come to mind. For someone who is diagnosed with bipolar disorder or for someone who helps a loved one who is diagnosed, their feelings associated with this diagnosis may be totally different.

What is bipolar disorder? Bipolar disorder, previously known as manic depressive disorder, is a mental illness that encompasses symptoms of depression, extreme low mood, and symptoms of mania, extreme high mood.

When someone is suffering from depression, they may experience; sadness, hopelessness, worthlessness, lack of energy and loss of interest in once pleasure able activities. On the opposite spectrum is mania. When someone is experiencing a manic episode, they may feel; powerful, energetic, euphoric, restless and energetic. When someone has bipolar disorder, they can appear reckless and impulsive, often engaging in risky behavior. This state can make it difficult for loved ones to recognize that the person experiencing a manic episode is actually ill. People in a manic state can appear to be aware of their behavior, when in fact they may not truly understand where their behavior is leading. When someone is experiencing a manic episode, they may not realize they are sick, which can make it hard for loved ones to intervene or for the person to seek help.

Bipolar disorder is characterized by extreme changes in mood. Imagine feeling like you are on top of the world; invincible, powerful, energized, and then the next day, week or month, you feel the complete opposite; sad, hopeless tired, worthless. People who experience mania, may not comply with prescribed medication because they feel so good in that state. Manic episodes can cycle rapidly and quickly or they can last days, weeks or even months.

Can children be bipolar? Usually bipolar disorder is more commonly diagnosed in older teens and young adults, however, children can also be diagnosed. A diagnosis of bipolar disorder in children is controversial and professionals are split on whether diagnosing so young is ethical. (Webmd.com) Unlike adults, children who are bipolar may experience symptoms such as extreme irritability or more physical symptoms such as chest pain or stomach issues. Also, children are more likely to experience psychotic symptoms like hearing or seeing things that are not there as well as poor reality testing.

Can bipolar disorder be treated? Bipolar disorder can be treated, however, it can not be cured. A combination of psychotropic medication prescribed by a psychiatrist along with therapy provided by a licensed and qualified therapist or psychologist is a great way to manage this illness.

The most important thing to do if you or a loved one is diagnosed with bipolar disorder, is to make sure the medication regime is being followed and discussed with a psychiatrist. It is also very important to seek therapy and most importantly, seek out systems of support to increase the likelihood of future compliance of medication and lower the risk of engaging in harmful destructive behaviors. Having a good system of support is the key to success when managing a mental illness. The road ahead will not be easy, but with help from professionals and family and friends, it can be much less rocky.

Aimee E Wilczynski, LCPC





10 REASONS FOR ATTENDING SUNDAY SCHOOL

While sleeping late can be nice, have you considered the benefits of Sunday School attendance for your child. Here are 10 reasons to make it a priority in your family.

- 1. Age Targeted Teaching: Where else can your kids get Biblical instruction that's focused toward their developmental abilities?
- 2. Friends: In Sunday School, your child will build positive friendships with their peers by discovering God's Word together.
- 3. It's Fun: Sunday School is not Disney Land, but our teachers do work hard to teach the Bible in ways that are relevant and fun for kids.
- 4. Spiritual Mentors: A dedicated teacher can be a Christian role model who supports you and helps inspire the faith of your child.
- 5. Systematic Bible Learning: Our curriculum is designed to give a broad foundation, so children will understand how all the parts of Scripture point to Christ.
- 6. Praying Teachers: Our teachers consistently pray for your child's faith to grow. Coming to Sunday School gives another occasion for God to answer those requests.
- 7. Big Reward For a Small Investment: If you're already coming to church, just come a little earlier. That one change will equal over 800 hours of additional Christian teaching before your child graduates.
- 8. Send the Right Message: Making Sunday School a priority shows your kids that God's Word really does matter more than pillow-time.
- 9. Adult Bible Fellowship: While the children enjoy their class, you can fellowship with other adults in your own Bible study
- 10. You'll Be On Time: Families who come to Sunday School always get to worship on time. It's the easiest way to avoid being late.



GIVING IS GIVING THANKS

"O give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever" (Psalm 136:1). The love of the Lord does endure forever because the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, is risen from the dead, lives and reigns for all eternity. He was crucified for our transgressions, but He is raised and lives forever for our justification. We are acceptable to God in Christ Jesus.

This is indeed something for which we give thanks. We give thanks in our prayers. We give thanks in the hymns we sing in church. We give thanks by talking about it with our friends and neighbors and teaching it to our children and grandchildren. And we give thanks by giving to the church a generous, first-fruits portion of the income He provides us.

Giving is giving thanks. It is one of the concrete ways in which we thank God for all He has done for us. This includes not just what He has done for us here in time, but what He does for us for all eternity. He provides for all that we need in both body and soul. He is more ready to give than we are able either to receive or even ask. That is who He is. That is His character. He is good and His love endures forever.

Let us then give thanks in all these ways, not in one way or the other. But rather in all things, everything that we do and say, whether it be in word or deed, in prayer and praise, in teaching and giving, let us give thanks to God for He is good.



Dear Participant in Make It Simple,

"Thank You" for your participation in this year's stewardship response program. As a congregation we have experienced rich conversation, thoughtful reflection, and prayerful discernment concerning more simple living and our stewardship of the abundant blessings we receive from God. We have experienced a good response in estimates of giving through th Commitment Cards. And we have grown as a community of faith in the covenants that we have made with one another in the use of the Covenant Cards.

We encourage you and your family to continue in your covenant to grow in your discipleship through prayer and conversation regarding your stewardship of your blessings. 7 GOD BLESS YOU

May God's riches blessings always attend you! Pastor Chris, Pat Minet, Joan Opyd and Barbara Piekosz





Dear brothers and sisters of Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

We had the opportunity to honor one of the Lord's missionaries when pastor Joe Boway accepted our invitation to be part of our worship service on October 16th. Pastor Boway is from Liberia, West Africa, a region that did not have a written language until after the revolution ended in 2004. Over 250,000 people were killed and there were no schools. Pastor Boway, with the help of Lutheran Bible Translators developed the written language. He was

blessed to be able to come to America and then return to Liberia with God's blessings. Over 3,000 children are now able to attend one of the thirteen schools that they have developed. The Liberian Children's Ministry works to meet the physical, educational and spiritual needs of the children. The children learn of the love of God and are given the hope, real hope for the future - hope that is found only in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Boway, his wife Glendora and their sons Joe Jr. and Joshua live in Fort Wayne, Indiana where Pastor Boway continues to build the foundation for the work in Liberia. He returns for several months each year to bring supplies and training for the staff. He is accompanied by Lutherans who want to be a part of sharing God's blessings with the people in Liberia.

Thanks to all who helped to make Pastor Boway and his family welcome at Holy Cross. The invitation was to honor Pastor Boway for his contributions to bringing the gospel message to thousands of children in Liberian and to support his efforts to continue serving the Lord. He was a jungle boy who grew up with ritualistic gods in the jungle of West Africa and now is a servant of the true God. I am ashamed that he has been instrumental in bringing thousands to know our Lord and Savior while I have only brought a few in my entire lifetime. Pastor Boway and his wife's words reminded us that our mission is the proclamation of the gospel and to love one another. Thank you to Martha and her crew for the beautiful decorations and to the crew that set up for the luncheon and to those who helped to clean up afterwards. Thank you to those who took the time to be a part of the celebration.

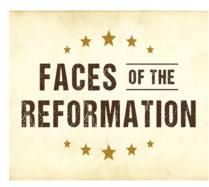
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God's love and blessings to all of you! Terry





500TH REFORMATION ANNIVERSARY



On October 31, 2017 we will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. To commemorate the event, over the coming year, each month we will be looking at one of the important characters of the Reformation (men and women). One Sunday a month we will be learning from the lives of important people of that day how God used them in His reformation of the church. In the month of October we looked at the early years of Martin Luther. In November we will be intro-

duced to Frederick the Wise.

Open your average world history book, and you'll find but a paragraph or two on the Reformation. The event appears a small drop on the timeline, but the Christian Church knows better.

Since the past is best explored through the people who lived it, meet 13men and women passionate about the Reformation re-discovery of the Gospel—either for or against it. These iconic individuals used their unique vocations to create theological and cultural tidal waves beginning in the sixteenth century and continuing today. See how the gracious Word of the Lord had the final word in bringing the "it's still all about Jesus" proclamation to the corners of Europe and beyond.





SERVANTS IN WORSHIP -NOVEMBER, 2016

DATE	TIME	USHER	COMMUNION ASSISTANT	LECTOR	ALTAR GUILD	COUNTER	GREETER	PROJECTIONIST
6	8:00 am	Martha Stevens	Jim Boltz	Donna Judd	Barb Piekosz	Faith Schulz	Judy Meilahn	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Ron Wedster		Donna Meilahn	Jeanne Simovic	Donna Meilahn	Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Theresa Boltz
13	8:00 am	Martha Stevens			Barb Piekosz	Doris Kracht	Judy Meilahn	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Ron Wedster	Tom Griffin	Liz Wilczynski	Jeanne Simovic	Dorothy Lux	Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Theresa Boltz
20	8:00 am	Martha Stevens	Jim Boltz	Donna Judd	Barb Piekosz	Pauline Griffin	Judy Meilahn Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Mike Meilahn
20	10:30 am	Ron Wedster		Sue Wilczynski	Jeanne Simovic	Nancy Fehser		Theresa Boltz
23	7:00PM Thanksgiving Eve	Martha Stevens	Jim Boltz	Pam Rutkowski	Barb Piekosz	Terry & Carole Vrshek	ТВА	Mike Meilahn
23					Jeanne Simovic			Theresa Boltz
27	8:00 am	Martha Stevens			Barb Piekosz	Pam Rutkowski	Judy Meilahn	Mike Meilahn
	10:30 am	Ron Wedster	Tom Griffin	Aimee Wilczynski	Jeanne Simovic	Marye Meyer	Sue & Aimee Wilczynski	Theresa Boltz
30	7:00PM	Martha Stevens			Barb Piekosz	Pauline Griffin		Mike Meilahn
					Jeanne Simovic Nancy Fehser	TBA	Theresa Boltz	

Thank you for all you do for Christ and His Church! "GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD; HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER."





Psalms 107:1



November, 2016 Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm, 708.597.5209 hclc@hc-lc.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ALL SAINTS DAY 4:30PM Food Pantry 7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study	2 10:00AM Stewardship Work Day	3 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 10:30AM Food Pantry 2:00PM Musicians
6 FOOD PANTRY SUNDAY DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 8:00AM Worship/Traditional/(C) 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary	7 10:00AM Altar Guild Meeting 4:30PM Womens Bible Study 7:00PM Trustees Meeting 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Elders Meeting	8 ELECTION DAY 4:30PM Community Meal 7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study	9:30AM Evangelism Meeting	9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	11 VETERANS DAY Pastor's Day Off	12 10:30AM Food Pantry 1:00PM Stewardship Meeting 2:00PM Musicians
8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary/(C)	14 4:30PM Womens Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus 7:30PM Church Council Meeting Emma Claessens (b)	15 7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study	16	17 9:00AM Senior's Group Gathering	18 Pastor's Day Off	19 10:30AM Food Pantry 2:00PM Musicians Edna Wendt (b)
20 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE 8:00AM Worship/Traditional/(C) 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AM Worship/Contemporary Nancy Fehser (b)	21 4:30PM Womens Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study	7:00PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship	24 THANKSGIVING DAY Thanksgiving	25 Pastor's Day Off	26 8:30AM Bd. of Education 10:30AM Food Pantry 2:00PM Musicians Joyce Ongstad (b)
27 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 8:00AM Worship/Traditional 9:15AM Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30AMWorship/Contemporary/(C)	28 4:30PM Womens Bible Study 7:30PM Southwest Chorus	29 7:00PM LifeLight Bible Study	30 7:00PM Advent Worship			



May our Thanksgiving be not confined to one day of the year
But in everything;
let our hearts give thanks
ALWAYS!

