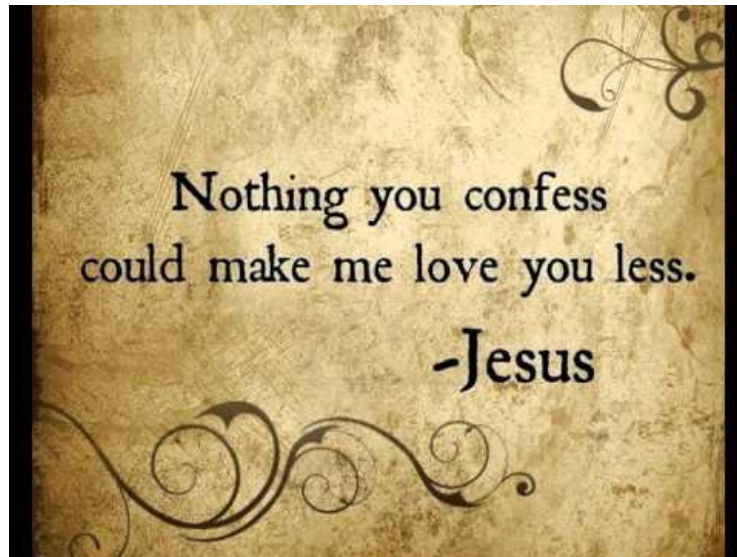


**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
LCMS**

CONFESSION



**NOVEMBER 2018 PUBLICATION
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 11**

Redeemer **Reflection** Newsletter

Loving People To Christ

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Visit our website at: www.redeemerjackson.org**

REDEEMER REFLECTION

MUST I CONFESS?

by Pastor Michael Geml

I must confess that there is a growing list of things that bug me. Maybe it is because I am getting older. Maybe it is because there is so much more going on in our world that bugs me. Maybe I am just overly sensitive to things that bug me. Whatever the reason for my increasing list of personal

irritations, I must confess that this confession concerning myself bugs me. I don't necessarily like being bugged so easily. It is a confession I make with no small degree of embarrassment.

A partial list of things that bug me would include people who drive 30 mph in a 45 mph zone; people who refuse to use turn signals; people who, while at the checkout, go back into the store because they forgot something thus making me wait for them to return; people who say "dude" way too much.

My list could go on for quite a while. However, as I read my own words about things that bug me, the "things" are not things at all but they are people. And I must confess that the thing that bugs me most is the smallness and the pettiness of those things that bug me. The most glaring omission from my list is me; specifically my own sin. That which should be tops on my list is noticeably absent. I am reminded of the words of our Savior who said in Matthew 7:3, "*Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?*"



Confession is crucial for who we are as children of God. That confession comes with two applications. The first is confession of our sins. Not the sins we see in others, but those we see in ourselves. (2nd use of the Law as the mirror). This confession comes from a deep seeded

understanding of who we are and what we do in sinful thoughts, words and deeds. "*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9).

The second application has to do with our response to God's forgiveness. "*Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*" (Romans 10:9). We confess with our mouth what comes from the heart, that Jesus is Lord. That He is the One who gave His sinless life for my sinful life. The biggest bug in my life has been squashed under the nailed and pierced feet of the Savior.

I must confess that those little things on my list may still bug me, but in light of what Jesus has done for me, I look forward to my list becoming smaller and smaller as I draw closer to Him. Later dudes!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Geml



FAMILY FAITH LIFE

by Kimber Walsh, Director of Family Life Education, CFLE, Redeemer Lutheran Church

As we approach the time of year when the weather changes are in full swing—colder, warmer, then colder again—we tend to think about what’s coming: winter. Some years in Michigan we get a little more “in between” fall weather than others. But us Michiganders have come to realize that we can’t get too used to the fall. The in-between temperatures are short-lived. Our bodies and minds need to adjust quickly to the next season.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the way, when you lie down and when you get up.” Changing weather is another great time to talk about faith as you go about new rhythms of a new season. Here’s some ideas that might help get your brain ready to talk!

- **Changing Weather**—Dropping temperatures remind us that the things in this world around us change all the time. Mother Nature often gets the blame for unwanted weather changes and the credit for the desired ones. But this might be the opportunity to correct yourself or your kids and talk about how Mother Nature isn’t really a person, she doesn’t control anything, and people talking about her as if she does is a slight toward our God who does. Talk about the Bible verses that say there are storehouses of snow (Job 38:22-30) and what those might be like, the ones that say God has

treasuries of wind (Psalm 135:7) and how He might collect the wind in such a way, and how God gives rain to the earth (Job 5:10) and how He might decide when and where to do that. Wonder at our God who is over all of creation and all of the weather. And wonder at how confused people got that someone called Mother Nature could ever have more power over weather than our Mighty God.

- **Wardrobe Changes**—As we change out our shorts for sweaters, swimsuits for wool socks, and dig out the coats and snow boots, we can talk about how much we have to change in our lives. We change our clothes every day, we change our minds, we have to change out our wardrobes to fit the weather. But one thing we can be assured of is that God’s nature, being, and promises do not change (Malachi 3:6). Talk about what it means to be ever-changing people with a changeless God—what do you think/feel about that, how does it comfort you, etc.?
- **Anticipation**—With the changing weather comes anticipation of things...we are excited for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we long for visits with grandparents and days off of school, we cannot wait for the thrill of the future: fill-in-the-blank. It seems we have more anticipation around this time of year for something. And as our families anticipate whatever it is they are looking forward to, we can point them to the thing that we as God’s children get to anticipate most—eternity with God. Sometimes the things in this world that we look forward to don’t work out, but we know that God has promised to bring us to the place He’s prepared for us with Him because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. *That’s* something to anticipate.

I enjoy looking for opportunities to see how we might talk about and think about God throughout each day and each season. It's the challenge and responsibility that God has placed on us. Let's point to Him together!



Community Event

Saturday, November 10, 9-11 a.m. at Trinity we will be serving the community with a hygiene item, socks, and underwear giveaway as well as ministering through prayer. To join us in serving at this event, please sign up in the narthex on the board. We need lots of hands to volunteer! Questions? Contact Kimber Walsh at kimberwalsh@comcast.net or 517-750-3100.



Builders is our monthly family life time—covering various topics and doing various activities that will build up your family and build up the body of Christ.

We will meet the first Sunday of November, the 4th, 3:30-6:00 pm. This month we will have a new topic: Family Mission Statements.

Whether you're single, a couple, or a family

with kids, and no matter your age or stage of life, you're invited to join us to learn how to craft a Biblical personal or family mission statement. RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the narthex so plans can be made for childcare and dinner.

We also look forward to our December 2 time together with Advent activities. Keep up with the bulletin and newsletter for more details on that event.

Questions? Contact Kimber Walsh at kimberwalsh@comcast.net or 517-750-3100.



Did you know? Thrivent has a grant program giving any Thrivent member access to \$250 seed monies to help you meet an unmet need in your community and make a bigger impact. Apply to lead your volunteer team in a one-time fundraiser, service activity or educational event that can be completed within 90 days.

Visit thrivent.com/actionteams for more information and to apply today.

*Each month "Relevant Resources" will feature a different resource that may be relevant to you. If you have a topic request, please email kimberwalsh@comcast.net.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

by Diane Siedzik

The Holidays will be upon us before you know it, and we need your help to make our Bethlehem Marketplace and Living Nativity outreach a success at telling the Jesus story. So... mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 17 at 10:00 a.m.** for our one and only meeting.



You can sign up to host a market shop in Bethlehem, or to be a visitor or guard, or to help serve visitors to our Marketplace of Bethlehem.



Lots of people are needed to make this a fun and blessed evening where we tell again the real Christmas story and share the GOOD NEWS with our neighbors and friends.

The Bethlehem Marketplace/Living Nativity will be enacted in the RAC (Redeemer Activity Center in our lower level) on **December 8** from **6:00—8:00 p.m.** Please set time aside for Christ this Christmas season. Have any questions? Ask Diane Siedzik, Craig Britton, or Kimber Walsh for more information on this event.

This **IS** our Christmas Program every year and we'd love to have everyone come and be a part of this great Christmas tradition.



YOUTH NIGHT

by Dave & Kim McFarland

The second Sunday of each month will be the time for our young people (middle school/high school youth) to get together, play games, have Bible study, and just have fun...and pizza.

Dave and Kim McFarland, and Chris Walsh will be the youth leaders for this monthly gathering at Redeemer. We'll meet in the Teen Room in the lower level from 5:30—7:00 p.m. on November 11 and December 9.

Mark your calendars, come join us, and bring a friend to share the fun.

CONFESSION

by Kimber Walsh

Confession is something that we, as sinners, need to do frequently. We confess and sin again sometimes before we even say “Amen.” I learned this song at a youth gathering in high school and it struck me. I often pray this prayer of confession and repentance and I wanted to share it with you.



“Seize My Heart” by Lloyd Garrelts

*Seize my heart and turn it your way
I've been willing, but I've gone astray
So upon my knees to worship and pray
I start anew today.*

*Forgive me my failings
I've been here before
Lost my intentions to change
Want to grow closer to knowing you
more
Can't find the strength from within*

*Seize my heart and turn it your way
I've been willing, but I've gone astray
So upon my knees to worship and pray
I start anew today.*

*No more excuses to cover my shame
Never did work anyway
Gone are my prideful and selfish desires
And all that I'm left with is grace*

*Seize my heart and turn it your way
I've been willing, but I've gone astray
So upon my knees to worship and pray
I start anew today.
I start anew today.
All things are new today.*

“Seize My Heart”

Lloyd Garrelts | Todd Anderson

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“Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.”-Proverbs 28:13

“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”-Lamentations 3:22-23

CHRISTIAN CARE MINISTRY

by Nyla Arvy

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord you labor not in vain. I Corinthians 15:58

These encouraging words from Paul will sustain us all as we go forward serving our Lord and the Redeemer family.

Feeling blessed, it is with gratitude that I announce and welcome nine new volunteers who have committed to assisting in the compassion/care of members of the Redeemer family. This addition of care gives to our already seasoned volunteers will provide new



energies to this ongoing ministry. Our new name is “Christian Care Ministry.”

Plans are in the works to organize Thanksgiving food baskets to benefit some of our Redeemer families as an act of kindness. In the coming weeks, you can look for signup sheets displayed in the narthex for your opportunity to help with donations of food staples to complement Thanksgiving dinners.

We now have a list of member shut-ins and will be coordinating visits with Pastor Geml and making plans to contact those members for other care needs that arise during health recoveries.

For members who may have a few free hours on Saturday morning, November 3, you are encouraged to join us in a semi-annual kitchen cleaning bee from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please bring a bucket, cleaning cloths and some elbow grease to help clean and polish our kitchen surfaces and reorganize the supply room.

Contact me anytime if needs arise that Christian Care Ministry can assist with at 810-923-8723.



by Rev. David Erber



Our LCMS International Mission Area Director sent a visitor, Reverend Jeffrey Ries from Tacoma,

WA, to visit each of our missionaries in West Africa.

Reverend Ries was at our home for three nights, which gave us the chance to get to know him and to pray together. We spent most of our time visiting church members.

We visited Sylvester and Stephen, students of mine (Reverend David Erber). We met them in their work places and met their supervisors, and were also able to see these men's offices and work places. These were great visits, with time to pray together.

We also visited Dr. Ebenezer Boafo, who works for Biblica of the



International Bible Society. Dr. Boafo also serves as the new 1st Vice President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana (ELCG). We often work closely with each other and

always enjoy a chance to just meet and talk and pray.

Finally, we also visited Mr. Alex Lanbon who is the administrative accountant for the Ghana Red Cross Society and serves as the new 2nd Vice



President of the ELCG. He has a great passion for evangelism and outreach.

Rev. Ries commented that it was really amazing to visit people in their work places. It sounded like some of these men got home a bit later that night.

We give thanks for the opportunity to work with such special people! May God bless their work in the church and in the community and our work together!

Your prayers are always greatly appreciated!

David and Joyce Erber

You've heard my message, and it's been confirmed by many witnesses. Entrust this message to faithful individuals who will be competent to teach others. (2 Timothy 2:2; God's Word Translation)

TOPIC FOR DECEMBER

The topic for December is *Obedience*. How good are we with obedience? Obedience to our Lord? To the laws of the land? To school rules? Family rules? How about obedience to the Biblical truths? Obedience to parents?

The *Reflection* newsletter is meant to help reflect our Lord in the daily life and actions of His people, including our struggles, our service to those around us, our community activities, and our worship services here at Redeemer. Please consider sharing God-sightings in the community or within our church with others through this newsletter. You, our people at Redeemer, are invited to be part of revealing our Lord's activities visible and tangible in our world today.

Send your articles or information to bennitt49@yahoo.com, by the 15th of each month, to be included in the following month's newsletter. Articles on the topics of Family,

Prayer, and Outreach are always welcome and accepted for publication each month.



😊 **Saturday, November 3: Church Kitchen Cleaning Bee, 9:00—Noon.**

😊 **Sunday, November 4: BUILDERS**
Family building time begins; reserve the dates for the future. The first Sunday of each month, **3:30—6:00 p.m.**, with a meal included. This is for all who desire more “tools” for “doing family” the way God intends.

😊 **Community Event: November 10.** At Trinity. 9:00—11:00 a.m. See Kimber Walsh for more information and updated details.

😊 **Youth Group: November 11.** The second Sunday of each month will be a time for our youth to gather and have fun together with card and board games, Bible study, and food! See Dave and/or Kim McFarland for more information.

😊 **Living Nativity Meeting: November 17, 10:00 a.m.** See Diane Siedzic for more information and/or to sign up to have a booth/shop in the Bethlehem Marketplace.

😊 **Thanksgiving Day: November 22.**
For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. 1 Timothy 4:4-5

😊 **November 23. Church Office Closed.**

😊 **Sunday, December 2: First Sunday in Advent.**

😊 **Tuesday, December 4: Budget Meeting.** This meeting is for both Ministry Council and Leadership Board members and will be held in the library at 7:00 p.m. Members may attend.

😊 **Wednesday, December 5: Advent Services Begin.** Advent services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on December 5, 12, and 19.

😊 **Saturday, December 8: Living Nativity with Bethlehem Marketplace.** This community outreach event is open to the public. All Redeemer members are encouraged to come in period costumes to be Jewish market-goers to help make the display more authentic. It's always a fun and rewarding experience, with the Handbell Choir adding a special holiday touch. See Diane Siedzick for more details and/or information.

😊 **Sunday, December 9: Annual Voters' Meeting.** After the Late Service, at 11:45 a.m.

😊 **Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve Services will be offered at 7:00 p.m. and again at 10:00 p.m.** Both will be candlelight services as we celebrate the birth of the *Light of the World*.

😊 **Tuesday, December 25: Christmas Day. Happy Birthday, Jesus!**

😊 **Sunday, December 30: 10:00 a.m. One Service.** No potluck. God bless your holidays as you continue to celebrate the birth of His Son.

😊 **Saturdays, beginning in mid-January: Upwards Basketball** for Kids. Start date TBA.

😊 **Thursdays, beginning January 24: 7:00 p.m. Joining Jesus Bible study:** A 12-week class.

CONFESSION

by Peggy Bennitt

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. [But] If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8, 9 (ESV).

I confess that I am not perfect. Now I know some of you have long suspected it; others have flat-out known it for a long time. Unfortunately, I can't help it. There is no way I can change my state. Although I am responsible for great sins, I cannot fix that. I am totally "to blame" for a big pile of hurt, too huge to even fathom. I confess that I am a miserable sinner and deserving of death. God's Word tells me this. But, it also gives me hope.

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

No, I am not perfect, but through God's eyes, looking through the blood of Jesus and His sacrifice and grace, I am perfect in my Lord's sight. What a relief confession is, and what a blessing!

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I confess, I don't want "cheap grace." I want the real deal. God's Word gives me Jesus, gives me salvation, gives me hope and a future with Him. I confess, I need HIM more than I need life itself. Eternal life with Him is my *Goal*. What is the goal you strive for? Is it Jesus?

I MUST CONFESS

by Craig Britton

Life is flawed, and life is fierce.
Its pains and tears the heart they pierce.
Life, sometimes seems, is such a mess ...
I must confess.

Life moves the heart, taxes the mind.
With children's games and more I find.
Life mirrors moves I learned from chess ...
I must confess.

Life frees our movements from the shelf.
Too often gaze we just on self.
We ought to love with selflessness ...
I must confess.

Life comes from heaven born of Mary.
Sin's dark and deadly blows to parry.
Life comes to raise us for to bless ...
I must confess.

CONFESSIONS OF A PARENT

by Peggy Bennett, FLE

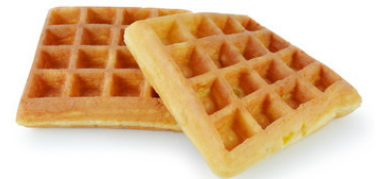
I look back on my parenting days and see a whole lot of mistakes. But I can also see the times when my husband and I made good, solid decisions that helped our children grow into the responsible, intelligent adults that they are. The biggest gift you can give each other as parents is the gift of forgiveness. You are NOT perfect, and never will be this side of heaven.

I can't give you the gift of perfection in parenting, but I can share some insights that may help you as you try to be Biblically strong parents who build security and confidence into your children's lives using the tools provided in God's Word.

✘ The hardest part of being a parent is being the adult. Children need security and that comes from having someone who cares enough to confidently make

decisions for their good. Children will push back against these decisions or BOUNDARIES, but good parenting requires you as the adult (and loving parent) to stand your ground and not resort to arguing your position. You are the adult, and your children need to feel secure in your right to make those decisions for their safety and eminent good. Do not argue with your little ones! They need your firm stand to feel safe, without the panic they will feel when left to make unnecessary choices. You are the adult. Make the necessary choices for them.

✘ Being a parent means NO WAFFLING! You are "the boss of them" when they are in your home. God gave you the gift of children and the job is yours to do. Handle with care, but don't abdicate your role as their parent and their guide. Respect is a key tool in your parenting toolbox. Children learn respect by learning to follow rules and listen to leadership, whether it be parent, teacher, policeman, or boss. NO WAFFLING earns that respect. Handle with love.



✘ When making decisions and establishing rules, a key to success is being CALM. When a parent states a rule or a decision calmly and firmly, children are more likely to pay attention and follow through. Suggesting that your child do something makes them feel as if it's their decision to make, which often creates a panic within them to make a choice. Do not make the task or plan an option. There will be fun opportunities for them to make choices at another time. By stating a decision, "We'll get our p.j.s on

and then have a snack,” the child can get right to the task without having to think about it or worry. If there’s any argument, repeat the plan in a firmer voice and/or state, “This is what we’re doing now.”

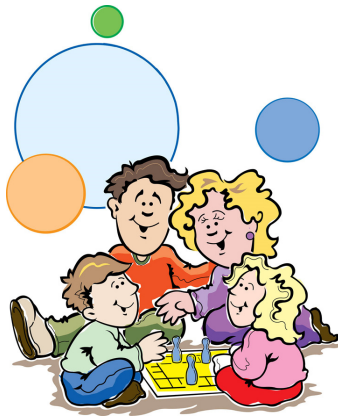
✘ Consistency is a key necessity in parenting. Stick-to-your-guns once you’ve established the rules that will work for your family. If you’ve waffled up until now, it’s not too late to start. But be CONSISTENT as you begin. Children take comfort in routine. Too many



activities during the week, or weekends chocked full of activities and visits, can cause excessive stress and meltdowns in children, especially elementary

school age and younger. Make sure you save some time each week for just being family.

✘ The most important tool in your parenting toolbox is love: yours and God’s. You can be firm without being mean, and you can be loving without forfeiting respect.



“Believing and confessing go together; and you cannot be saved unless you take them both. ‘With the mouth confession is made unto salvation.’ If you ever are to see the kingdom of heaven, you have to take this way.” - Dwight L. Moody



NOVEMBER

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Lori Zeidan | 11/01 |
| Worly Mays | 11/03 |
| Kirsten Mogle | 11/06 |
| Dean Potter | 11/06 |
| Leah Anderson | 11/07 |
| Pastor Michael Geml | 11/07 |
| Richard Kline | 11/07 |
| Tony Farley | 11/09 |
| Kristofer Herrick | 11/12 |
| Bill Poland | 11/15 |
| Don Curl | 11/21 |
| Duane Coon | 11/27 |
| Jon Bahr | 11/27 |
| James Gamet | 11/28 |
| Karen Krauss | 11/29 |

“Prayer in the sense of petition, asking for things, is a small part of it; confession and penitence are its threshold, adoration its sanctuary, the presence and vision and enjoyment of God its bread and wine.” C.S. Lewis

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

NOVEMBER



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2018

C—Denotes
Communion
Services

1

Community Prayer
7:00—8:00 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
2:00 p.m.
Craig's Bible Study
2:30 p.m. in S. A.

2

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.
Kitchen Work Bee
9:00 a.m.—Noon

3

4

Divine Service— C
8:00 a.m.
All Bible Classes & Confirmation
9:20—10:20 a.m.
Praise Service
10:30 a.m.
Family Builders
3:30—6:00 p.m.

5

Adult Choir
6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir
7:30 p.m.

6

**Prayer Chapel—
Hour of Prayer**
7:15 a.m.

7

Craig's Countryside Bible Study
1:30 p.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.

8

Community Prayer
7:00—8:00 a.m.
Women of Redeemer
10:00 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
2:00 p.m.
Craig's Bible Study
2:30 p.m. in S. A.

9

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.
Community Event w/Trinity
9:00—11:00 a.m.

10

11

Divine Service
8:00 a.m.
All Bible Classes & Confirmation Class
9:20—10:20 a.m.
Praise Service— C
10:30 a.m.
Youth Group
5:30—7:00 p.m.

12

Adult Choir
6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir
7:30 p.m.

13

**Prayer Chapel—
Hour of Prayer**
7:15 a.m.

14

Quilters
9:00 a.m.-12:00
Craig's Countryside Bible Study
1:30 p.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.
Ministry Council
7:00 p.m.

15

Community Prayer
7:00—8:00 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
2:00 p.m.
Craig's Bible Study
2:30 p.m. in S. A.

16

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.
Living Nativity Meeting
10:00 a.m.

17

18

Divine Service— C
8:00 a.m.
All Bible Classes & Confirmation Class
9:20—10:20 a.m.
Praise Service
10:30 a.m.

19

Adult Choir
6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir
7:30 p.m.

20

**Prayer Chapel—
Hour of Prayer**
7:15 a.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.

21



thanksgiving
service
7:00 p.m.

22



Thanksgiving

23

**CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED**

24

Men's Choir
9:30 a.m.

25

Divine Service
8:00 a.m.
All Bible Classes & Confirmation Class
9:20—10:20 a.m.
Praise Service— C
10:30 a.m.


26

Adult Choir
6:30 p.m.
Bell Choir
7:30 p.m.

27

**Prayer Chapel—
Hour of Prayer**
7:15 a.m.
Praise Team
7:00 p.m.
Leadership Board
7:00 p.m.

28

Craig's Countryside Bible Study
1:30 p.m.

Advent
7:00 p.m. Service

29

Community Prayer
7:00—8:00 a.m.
Pastor's Bible Study
2:00 p.m.
Craig's Bible Study
2:30 p.m. in S. A.

30

