

Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church January 11, 2026 Baptism of Our Lord



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

Welcome: Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

Worship: Communion: All are welcome to share in Holy Communion.

Passing of the Peace: It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

Physical Distancing: It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

Children Welcome: Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kids bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold** type.*

PRELUDE

Gathering

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

Amen.

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace. (*Psalm 29:3, 11*)

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

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into
freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the
Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us your children,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
for the waters of Lake Michigan, and DuPage and Des Plaines
Rivers,

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

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

GATHERING HYMN ***Shall We Gather at the River*** **ELW 423**

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

Refrain

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

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

Refrain

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

3 Ere we reach the shining river,

lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown.

Refrain

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

4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace.

Refrain

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

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

All are seated

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;

I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

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

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

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

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 29

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

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

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

Second Reading: Acts 10: 34-43

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

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

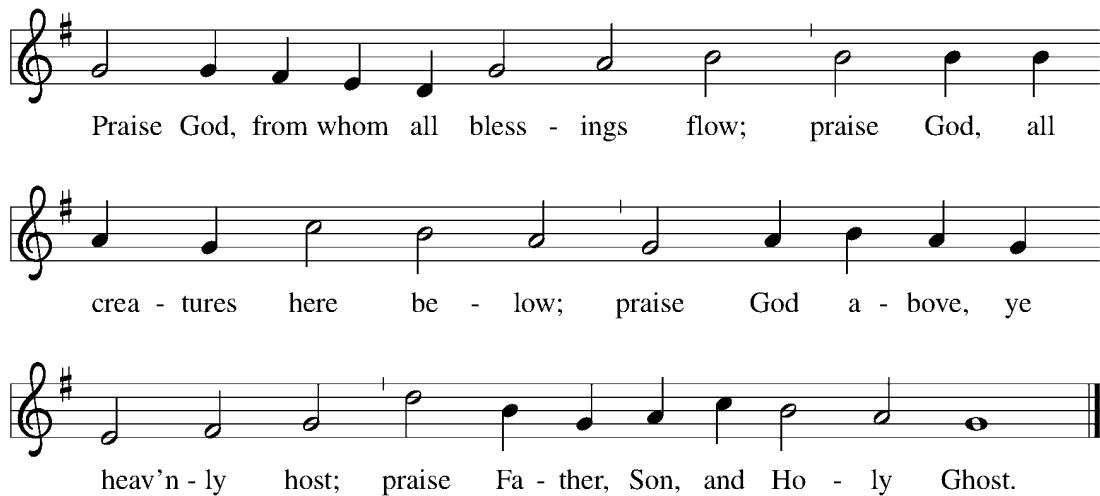
prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands as they are comfortable



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all
creatures here below; praise God above, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Alleluia. A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, **with whom I am well pleased.**" Alleluia. (Matt. 3:17)

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the third chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens

were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

All are seated

SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd

HYMN OF THE DAY *Down to the River to Pray* *Alison Krauss*

Response to the Word

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

All are seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the

dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill especially Art, Aimee, Donna, Ken, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, and Gale. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

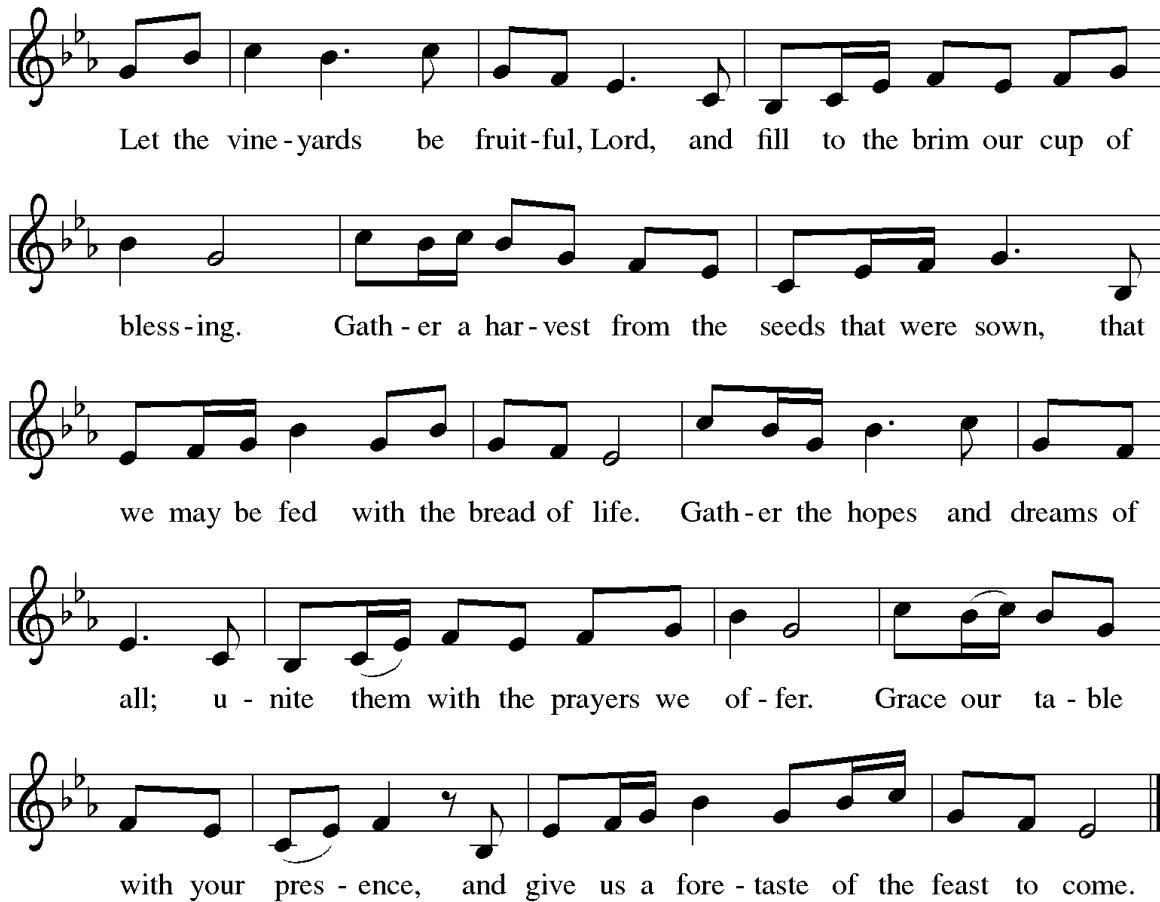
THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

*The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “**Peace be with you.**” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alone.*

OFFERING AND PRAYER

The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Meal

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...

join their unending hymn

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.
....We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:*

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us *pray* the prayer that Jesus taught us:

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION

All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.

We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
bless you now and forever.

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor and (+) give you peace.
Amen

SENDING HYMN

Spirit of Gentleness

ELW 396

Refrain

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

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

Refrain

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

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

Refrain

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

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

Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free;

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

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

Refrain

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

Presiding Minister

Pastor Adam Dowd

Assisting Minister

Ron Matta

Lector

Art Kardatzke

Organist

Jim Eckwall

Guitarist

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Greeters

Judy Padera

Ushers

Evie Fagan & Joy Prueter

Acolyte

Judy Padera

Video

Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

Announcements 1-11-2026

Wine and Candles this month are provided by **Jan Treibachs** in memory of family members.

God's Work our Hands As the cold weather settles in, we're gathering socks, hats, gloves, and hygiene items for South Loop Community Table. Every small gift brings comfort, dignity, and warmth to someone facing a difficult season. Donations can be placed in the wooden chest in the narthex throughout the month. Thank you for sharing Christ's love in such a practical, compassionate way.

Lunch Bunch We will meet at Chicken Basket, 645 Joliet Road, Willowbrook, on **Tuesday, January 13th at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Marilynn Sells at 630-927-9996. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

Church Council Our January meeting is on **Tuesday, January 13th at 6:00 pm**. It is an hour earlier, and we will meet in Fellowship Hall.

Senior Spirits Kick off the new year with an afternoon of fun, fellowship, and a little brain-boosting creativity! Senior Spirits will meet on **Thursday, January 15 at 12:00 PM**, and this month we're diving into a mix of classic puzzles and playful rebus challenges that are sure to spark some laughs and "aha!" moments. We'll also enjoy a potluck lunch, so don't forget to bring a favorite dish to share. It's the perfect chance to connect, unwind, and enjoy good company.

Everyone Has a Story A Night of Storytelling is a live storytelling event presented by the Darien Arts Council that celebrates the power of personal narratives. Taking place on **January 17, 2026, at 6:00**

PM, the evening will feature real people sharing real stories from their own lives—ranging from funny and surprising to heartfelt and deeply moving. This community-centered event invites audiences to listen, connect, and reflect through the art of spoken storytelling.

Chicago Wolves Save February 15th for an afternoon of exciting Chicago hockey with the Wolves. If you are interested, please call the office 630-323-3161, email lordlifesec@gmail.com or sign up in the Sanctuary.

Annual Meeting Reports The **Annual Meeting** will be held on **January 25, 2026** after service.

Please pray for members:

Art Sejnost	Aimee Jimenez	Donna Motes
Ken Gulliford	Vern Sima	Kerry Spitznagle
Roberta Sejnost	Judy Padera	Linda Matta
Paul Ristau	Toni Blesy	Jim Eckwall
Caryl Schaer	Gale Dyskie	

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

Last Week's Giving – \$5636.66

Electronic Donation for the month of December- \$1343.82

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday 1/11 10:00 AM Worship

		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Tuesday	1/13	11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch
		5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
		6:00 PM	Church Council
Wednesday	1/14	10:00 AM	Bible Study
		12:00 PM	RIC Meeting
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time
Thursday	1/15	12:00 PM	Senior Spirits
Friday	1/16	9:30 AM	Cards
Saturday	1/17	9:00 AM	SDA
		6:00 PM	Everyone Has a Story
Sunday	1/18	10:00 AM	Worship
		12:00 PM	Loving Word