

# The Mountain Top Messenger

*Come Worship with Us...*

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI DECEMBER 2019

Well it doesn't happen very often; the month of December and Advent start on the same day. Two beginnings. The beginning of December, the month that ushers in Christmas and then the New Year. And then Advent, the New Church Year, that ushers in the birth of our Savior. As we wound down last church year we focused on our Lord's second coming and how we must always be watchful and ready. For the first twenty-four days of this month we change gears and prepare to welcome the child Jesus into the world once again. As we think of Christmas, the birth of that sweet little baby in the manger, sometimes we lose perspective of who that innocent child really is. We forget about the understanding that, that precious little package is God, God incarnate, God come into the flesh, God who stepped away from a Holiness and Awesomeness that we cannot even begin to imagine. One of the things I love about the season of Advent and Christmas itself is the music. All those songs that we know and love so well. As I write this, we are still a few days away from Thanksgiving and a few more away from Advent, and if you promise not to hold it against me, I will tell you that I have secretly started listening to Christmas music in the confines of my office. And my favorite piece is a simple song sung by the group Pentatonix, I know others have sung this song, but in my opinion no one does it better. This song tells of where Jesus, that little child has come from, why He is here, and who he really is. I am going to cheat on word count this month and share with you the lyrics of this song; read them, take them in, think about what they mean. What they mean for Mary, what they mean for the world, and what they mean for you. I also encourage you to find the song, listen to it and enjoy. If you can't find it, stop my office anytime and we can listen together. My dear friends I ask the Lord to bless you all with Christ's peace this season, may you have a blessed season that includes as many of your family and friends as are humanly possible. And I ask you to always leave room in your heart for that baby boy. God Bless.

(continued on next page)



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1111—11TH AVE WEST  
ASHLAND, WI 54806  
715-682-6075

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm  
Sunday School 10:15am (Sept.-May)

**Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479 Office Hours: M/T/W/Th  
8:00am-5:00pm**

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's, at a conference, etc.

**Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M-W 8-3**  
Days and times may change upon need of work.

**Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 Head Elder: Darryl Warren 715-492-0488**

**Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185**

**LFOJ Administrator: Karyn Leino 715-682-6075**

**Website** [www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org) **E-mail** [secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)

*(cont. from front page)*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you  
Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God  
Mary did you know? Mary did you know? Mary did you know?  
The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb  
Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?  
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am  
Mary did you know? Mary did you know? Mary did you know?*

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.  
(Luke 2:11)

## PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

<i>Linda Larson-Nelson</i>	<i>Tim Smith</i>	<i>Bob Heggie</i>
<i>Kevin Heggie</i>	<i>Kate Smith</i>	<i>Alice Balmer</i>
<i>Brad Prill</i>	<i>Johnny Galligan</i>	<i>David Kaarre</i>
<i>Mary Bullis</i>	<i>Jim Bullis</i>	<i>Mike Dimich</i>
<i>Lloyd Koosmann</i>	<i>Theresa Koosmann</i>	<i>Jim Johnson</i>
<i>Marty Kaarre</i>	<i>Rachel Juoni</i>	<i>Ally Gumz</i>
<i>Rebecca Gurske</i>	<i>David Gustafson</i>	<i>Mary Siefers</i>
<i>Penny Mattson</i>	<i>Vi Basina</i>	<i>Penny Larson</i>
<i>Janice Clements</i>	<i>Eugene Juoni</i>	<i>LeAnn Billing</i>
<i>Clarence Osmak</i>	<i>Ellen Hudgeson</i>	<i>Max Juoni</i>
<i>Helen Korpela</i>	<i>Curtis James</i>	<i>and those in our hearts.</i>

## PRAYERS for:

### Homebound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

<i>Walt Schutte</i>	<i>Arlene Zimmerman</i>	<i>Violet Basina</i>
<i>Madge Houle</i>	<i>Donna Graves</i>	<i>Nancy Zehe</i>

## PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

### **[Romans 8:26]**

Belgium - Vrolijk Kerstfeest  
French - Joyeux Noël  
German - Frohe Weihnachten  
Bulgarian - Vesela Koleda  
Czech - Veselé Vánoce  
Danish - Glædelig Jul  
Finnish - Hyvää joulua  
Greek - Kala Christouyenna or Καλά Χριστούγεννα  
Hawaiian - Mele Kalikimaka  
Hungarian - Boldog karácsonyt  
Irish - Gaelic - Nollaig Shona Dhuit  
Israel/Hebrew - Chag Molad Sameach (חג מולד שמח)  
Italian - Buon Natale  
Japanese - Meri Kurisumasu

Merry  
Christmas



12-25  
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"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!"

December 2016

This year, winter is arriving with a gentle hand. A few snowflakes, an occasional cold temp, gusts of wind, but nothing so far to match the blizzard power that Old Man winter carries in his bag of tricks.

What does this light touch mean for nature? The squirrels continue to rule the bird feeders. Chickadees dance around these persistent rodents and wait their turn. The deer freely move around and do not have to watch their backs for hungry coyotes. Turkeys parade in the neighborhood and show no distress. It seems like nature has joined winter's gentle game. I am even inclined to poetically express winter's beauty and hum an old song, "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," rather than scrambling to make urgent phone calls comparing information about drifted driveways and shut-down highways.



But, dear friends upnorth, we are not deceived. We know the day is coming when a nor'easter blows in, and Old Man winter trips the trigger on the snow machine. Suddenly we will be forced to remember where shovels are, where we put insulated boots, wool hats, scarves, mittens, and more. For anyone who has experienced the wicked ways of winter knows a full-blown snowstorm is no joke. And those who are unprepared are caught off guard by a cruel reality.

Mary and Joseph did not have to contend with winter as we know it, but they had their own challenges. How amazing, they accepted the Bethlehem reality of a humble stable, and a crude manger for their newborn baby. They did not even seem rattled when strangers (shepherds) showed up and said that angels sang the news of Jesus' birth. And later foreigners (Wisemen) came to worship the baby and present gifts fit for a king: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Yes, a holy storm blew into Bethlehem the night Jesus was born, and Mary kept these wondrous things in her heart. She believed the angel's message that she was chosen by God, and Joseph said "yes" to the dream to take Mary as his wife. Mary and Joseph were prepared to be part of something good. Something big. A heaven to earth God reality!

So, as winter once again gets a grip on our lives, let us remember to hold the gentle hand of the newborn in Bethlehem. And when the power of winter blows over us, let us remember that God is with us. For His presence is a promise for the long haul of all seasons of life. Yes... this Christmas season, let us be watching for singing angels and a shining Star. This "wonder and awe" event makes all the difference forever.



LWML

## Away in a Manger

Almost everyone knows “Away in a Manger” , at a minimum anyone who has been in Sunday School or Church during the Advent/Christmas season. Close your eyes and hum the tune and imagine the glorious time of the year. Now, sing the first verse, soft and serene or strong and mighty.



Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.      Verse 1

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:11-12).

Jesus our Lord came down from His heavenly throne to be born in a humble manger, to live here on earth as a man, and to experience the same temptations we have. He was sinless, yet died on the cross for the sins of the world. He rose again and lives and reigns in heaven. He is with us and blesses us with His guidance and protection each day of our lives.

Though most often sung at Christmas, this hymn can be used throughout the year in praise to the Savior. This favorite children’s hymn closes with the beautiful prayer:

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.      Verse 3

Prayer: Jesus, Emmanuel, thank You for coming in the flesh, as a humble baby, to be our exalted Savior! Move us, in response to Your love, to live joyfully for You and for others. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

Ojibwe (Chippewa) – Niibaa' anami'egiizhigad &  
Aabita Biboo  
New Zealand (Maori) - Meri Kirihimete  
Norwegian - God Jul or Gledelig Jul  
Polish - Wesolych Świąt  
Portuguese - Feliz Natal  
Romanian - Crăciun Fericit  
Russian - s rah-zh-dee-st-VOHM (С рождеством!)  
Sami (North-Sami) - Buorit Juovllat

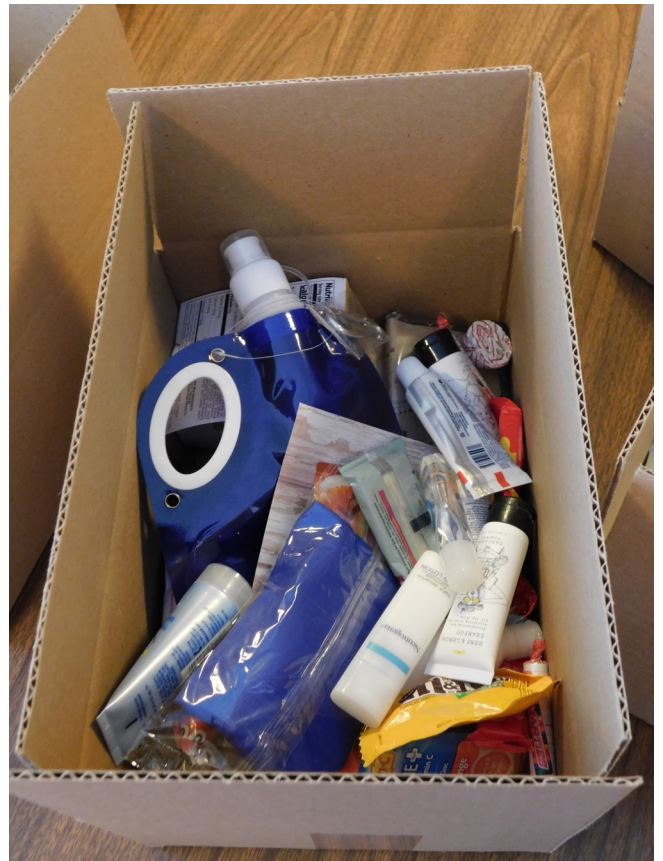
Scots - Blithe Yule  
Gaelic - Nollaig Chrìdheil/Buorit Juovllat  
Slovakian - Veselé Vianoce  
Swedish – God Jul  
Vietnamese - Chúc mừng Giáng Sinh  
Any idea of the following 3?  
toDwI'ma' qoS yItIvqu'  
Alassë a Hristomerendë  
Mereth Veren e-Doled Eruion

*Merry  
Christmas*



## Evangelism

Sent out 18 boxes, Nov. 13th to college daughters, sons, grandchildren, nieces, nephews to at least 8 different states to help them through their finals for the semester.



Advent Sundays 9:00am Dec. 1,8,15,22  
Midweek Advent Wednesdays 6:30pm Dec. 4, 11, 18  
Christmas Eve 4:00pm and 7:00pm  
Christmas Morning 9:00am  
*(No Wednesday, Jan. 1st service)*



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND



**Sunday, December 15th 9:00am  
Sunday School Christmas Program**

The Sunday School theme for this year is, "Let Your Light Shine". What better way then to gaze at our Advent Wreath. Do you know the story of the Advent Wreath? That each candle has a special meaning? Join us and learn from our Sunday School children with enlightenments and singing. It's something special. Refreshments will be served after the service.

## Christmas Quiz - True or False

1. Jesus was born on December 25th
2. On the night Jesus was born, a star shone to mark the spot.
3. We don't know how many wise men there were.

## HOLLY LEAF PROJECT

### Ashland Health and Rehabilitation Center (AHRC)

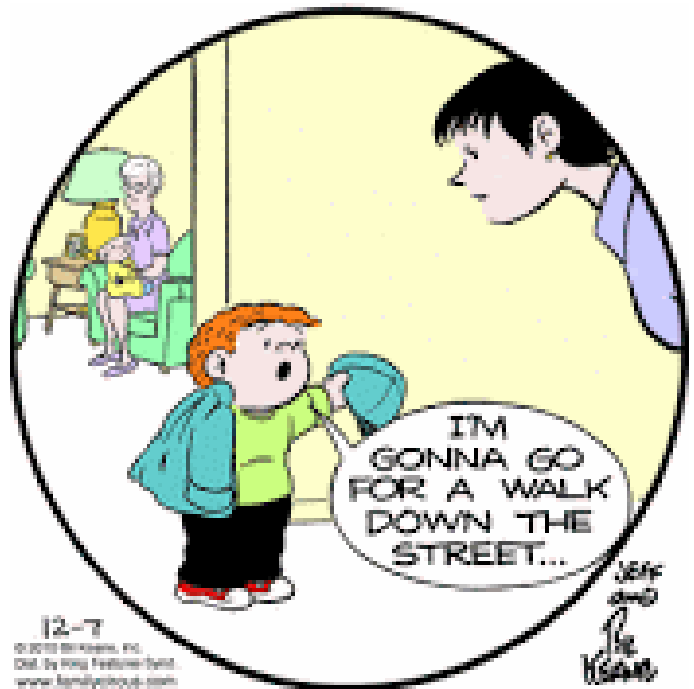
We will be posting leaves to take off the bulletin board soon. Each leaf will have a gift suggestion that will be presented to one of its residents. You can drop off the present directly at AHRC or then to the office by December 10th. *AHRC would like to thank all of those who have sent over gifts in the past!! The residents sure have big smiles on the day of their party when they receive a present. AHRC*

### A Prayer to See the World in Jesus' Light During the Holidays

Dear Jesus, as we celebrate Your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding You give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship You in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in the season of giving. Amen.

### Poinsettia Box

Donations for purchasing poinsettias will be in the Narthex. Dates will be posted.



"... Grandma said Christmas is just around the corner."

**VOTERS' MEETING**  
Sunday, December 1st  
10:15am - following the  
service

Thanks to Raelyn Pearson for all the years (too many to count) of making our Advent Wreath. Because of an arm/shoulder injury Raelyn will be assisting Michelle Vyskocil for the wreath this year. The Advent Wreath is a special part of our Advent and Christmas season. The Sunday School program will be telling us about the Advent Wreath on December 15th.







## **FOR SALE**

**Variety of styles and sizes - \$25 each**

**Proceeds from the sale of hats will go toward LFOJ staff incentives. As many of you know, child care providers don't make a lot of money. So, to compensate and encourage our staff, the proceeds made from sales will go toward prizes for staff who go above and beyond, such as come in when not scheduled, help another co-worker, take time to cheer up someone, do extra duties, etc.**

**This includes Teachers, Assistant Teacher, Cook, Janitor and Administration**



**PJ Mask Hats (Catboy, Owlette & Gekko) Coming Soon!**

**If you have a hat you want made that is not listed ~**

**Contact Karyn 682-6075**

# CHRISTMAS QUIZ - Answers to the True and False

## No. 1 **Jesus was born on December 25.**

**It's false!** While December 25 is the traditional date to celebrate Christ's birth in the Western church, it's more likely that Jesus was born in the spring (during lambing season, when shepherds would have been watching their flocks by night on the hillsides).

So how did we get to December 25? It may have been an attempt by the church to create a holiday during the dark midwinter. More likely, however, it's counting forward nine months from March 25, the traditional date of Christ's crucifixion (an old tradition held that Christ was conceived and crucified on the same day of the year).

## No. 2 **On the night Jesus was born, a star shone to mark the place.**

**It's false!** The Bible does not mention a star shining on the night Jesus was born. The star is first mentioned in relation to the Wise Men, who may have arrived as much as two years after Jesus' actual birth. While it's possible the star was there, the angels did not mention it to the shepherds as a sign to look for; they were told to look for a child in a manger.



## No. 3 **We don't know how many Wise Men there were.**

**It's true!** Nearly every Nativity set comes with three Wise Men (even though the actual Wise Men didn't arrive until well after Christ's birth). Over the years, they've been given names, nationalities, and stories of their own. But in reality, the Bible simply says that Jesus was visited by a *group* of Wise Men. The tradition of *three* comes from the three gifts they brought: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Maybe there were actually eight, ten, or even more!



## No. 4 **Mary and Joseph were turned away from the inn.**

**It's false!** While the mean innkeeper is a fixture of Nativity plays, the Greek word *kataluma* is better translated as "the place where they were staying" rather than "the inn." Joseph is more likely to have looked for a place to stay with relatives. With the town full for the census, you can imagine those relatives squeezing them in to any small space available—a space not large enough to have a baby. So Mary probably gave birth in the main room of a relative's home, a place where domestic animals would be brought in at night for safety and warmth—hence the manger.

## No. 5 **Jesus was born sometime between 6 B.C. and 4 B.C.**

**It's true!** Since B.C. stands for "Before Christ" and A.D. stands for "Anno Domini," "in the year of our Lord," it seems obvious that Jesus would be born in 0 A.D. But the date of 0 A.D. is based on an early miscalculation. We know that Herod the Great, who plays such a role in the Christmas story, died around 4 B.C., giving us the last possible year in which Jesus could have been born (dates B.C. are counted backwards, so 6 B.C. comes before 4 B.C.).



**DECEMBER  
Servers for  
Worship Services**



Our Servers for our Worship Service are very important. We ask that if you are unable to serve on your designated date, please find someone else to take your place. We really appreciate your help in this matter!! If you would like to be added or taken off one of our lists please contact the office. Greeters and Ushers should arrive 20 minutes before services start. Thank-you



**ELDERS' SCHEDULE**

- Nov. 27 Doug Warren
- Dec. 1 Randy Spangle John Pruss**
- Dec. 4 Scott Thimm
- Dec. 8 Doug Warren Darryl Warren**
- Dec. 11 John Pruss
- Dec. 15 Darryl Warren**
- Dec. 18 Randy Spangle
- Dec. 22 Scott Thimm Doug Warren**
- Dec. 24 4:00pm Randy Spangle  
Scott Thimm
- Dec. 24 7:00pm Doug Warren  
Darryl Warren
- Dec. 25 9:00am John Pruss
- Dec. 29 Darryl Warren Doug Warren**

**ACOLYTE SCHEDULE**

- Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> Emily Logan**
- Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Adeline Eli
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Gloria Austin**
- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> Ayeisha Faith
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> Sophia Adeline**
- Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> Logan Eli
- Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> Faith Gloria**
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 Adeline Eli
- Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 Austin Ayeisha
- Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00am Gloria
- Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> Logan Sophia**

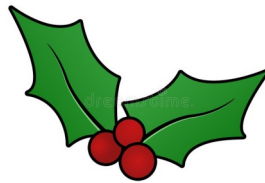


**GREETERS' SCHEDULE**

- Dec. 1 Brian & Linda Klobucher**
- Dec. 4 Warren & Peggy Draeger
- Dec. 8 Lori Landry**
- Dec. 11 Janet Houle
- Dec. 15 Don and Laurie Moreland**
- Dec. 18 Karen Wahl
- Dec. 22 Jim Johnson**
- Dec. 24 4:00 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
- Dec. 24 7:00 Vyskocil family
- Dec. 25 9:00 June Williams
- Dec. 29 Herb and Alice Ellis**

**USHERS' SCHEDULE**

- Dec. 1 Bruce Honkala**
- Dec. 4 Rick Nutt
- Dec. 8 Larry Hildebrandt**
- Dec. 11 Loren Munson
- Dec. 15 Nick Jarvela**
- Dec. 18 Warren Draeger
- Dec. 22 Curt Harpster**
- Dec. 24 4:00pm Tim Bauer
- Dec. 24 7:00pm Scott Sapper
- Dec. 25 9:00am Pat Colgrove
- Dec. 29 Ron Schwiesow**



**December Altar Guild**



- Shannon Esala  
715-292-0711
- Diane Beiersdorff  
715-278-3291
- Sharon Polencheck  
715-682-6499

**OFFICIAL ACTS**

Baptism: November 10, 2019  
Cora Rosalie and Winter Lory Pagels



12-22  
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JEFF  
AND  
BILL  
KEANE

“... When the shepherds came they had a place to park their sheep.”

# December 2019

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Mite Sunday <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> <b>Voters' Meeting</b> 10:15am Sunday School 10:15-11:00am	<b>2</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Evangelism Mtg. 5:30pm Dartball 7:00pm at St. Anne's	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm <b>Advent Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15-11:00am	<b>9</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Dartball 7:00pm vs. Messiah Lutheran	<b>10</b> Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>11</b> Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm <b>Advent Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Trustees' Mtg. 10:15am	<b>16</b> 10:00am Bible Study Council Mtg. 5:30pm Dartball 7:00pm t Good Shepherd	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Confirmation 3:30-5:00pm <b>Advent Worship</b> <b>6:30pm</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve <b>Worship</b> 4:00pm 7:00pm	<b>25</b> Christmas Morning <b>Worship</b> 9:00am	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Food Shelf Sunday <b>Worship</b> <b>9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am	<b>30</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>31</b>	<b>January 1st</b>			

