

TLC Trumpet



Keeping you informed and sharing our experience, strength & hope in the love of Christ

Volume 10 No. 11

www.thanksgivinglutheran.org

November 2013

Pastor's Page

A Mighty Fortress of Radical Welcome R Us

How would you reply if someone asked you why you were Lutheran? I think that it's important that you know.

I hear unchurched people say that they were "born Lutheran," but, really, what that usually means is that their parents happened to worship in a Lutheran congregation. It might also mean that they were baptized in a Lutheran church when they were infants. I wager they wouldn't be able to describe much more about Lutheranism.

What if, within your lifetime, all denominational barriers were broken down and there was no longer a "Lutheran" distinction? Someday that could happen.

We are a Lutheran church that cherishes our mighty fortress of heritage, dogma, and grace-filled service and we are a community that practices radical hospitality: "Come as you are, *really*"

We are living in a period of major transition for Christianity. Heed any conversation of Christians and you'll hear pondering about where we are going and how we need to proceed to get there. Actually, we are living in a period of major transition for religion! Science isn't answering all the questions. The Gospel is drowned out by a virtual cloud of other stories, symbols, messages, appeals. The word "church" is slipping into the pool of archaic vocabulary as well as church language. Words (and all that they stand for) like "salvation", "justification", "confession", "grace", "redemption" are not drawing people to the Highest Power that is revealed in the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

It's not at all bleak, however. We can explore the divine in other sacred perspectives and

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Next Trumpet Deadline!

The next TLC Trumpet deadline will be Thursday, **November 21**. Editor requests articles be no longer than 500 words. Please email submissions to:

tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net

If you do not have email, place submissions (along with your name in case any clarification is needed) in Dorothy's inbox.

Pastor Jean Lebbert: 707-327-6292

Church office: 707-544-0241

Worship:

Sunday morning at 9:30 with Holy Communion

Thanksgiving Lutheran Church

1225 Fulton Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401

email: tlcsantarosa@sbcglobal.net

October hours for our administrative assistant

Church office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Friday 10-2.



Birthday Blessings to:

Grace Israelson	11/10
Martin Luther	11/10
Marilyn Schuler	11/14
Dorothy Fast	11/18
Brandy Hedrick	11/21



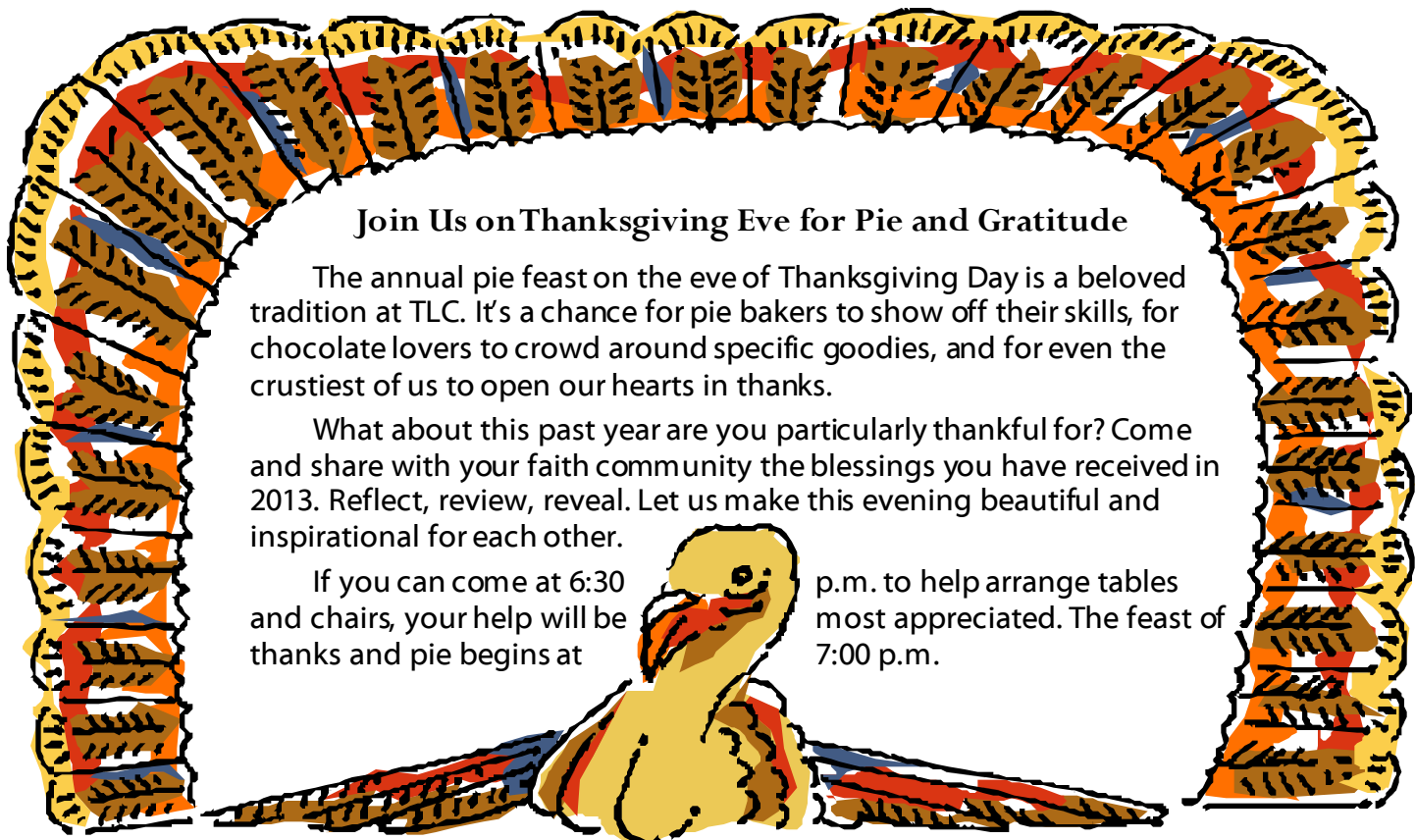
Join Us on Thanksgiving Eve for Pie and Gratitude

The annual pie feast on the eve of Thanksgiving Day is a beloved tradition at TLC. It's a chance for pie bakers to show off their skills, for chocolate lovers to crowd around specific goodies, and for even the crustiest of us to open our hearts in thanks.

What about this past year are you particularly thankful for? Come and share with your faith community the blessings you have received in 2013. Reflect, review, reveal. Let us make this evening beautiful and inspirational for each other.

If you can come at 6:30 and chairs, your help will be thanks and pie begins at

p.m. to help arrange tables most appreciated. The feast of 7:00 p.m.



TLC Group News



HHR Movie Night

Movie Night is back this month on November 16th. Stay tuned for more details.

Quilters Are Back!

The Quilting Group is reconvening at the church at 1pm on Tuesday November 12. Anyone who is interested in quilting are welcome to



Christian Education

Our 4th Sunday of the month Adult Forums continue. Join us after the fellowship time on Sunday November 24th as Pastor Jean leads us through a study of Martin Luther's speech at the Diet of Worms in which tradition holds that Luther concluded with his famous line "Here I Stand."

Calendar Cookies & Carols on December 1

Add to your calendar now our traditional caroling party with neighbors at Sequoia Gardens on the first Sunday of December!

- Warm up your voice and enjoy a soup lunch after worship...then trek over to our neighbors' club house at 12:30 to sing carols and enjoy Pastor Jean's annual reciting of *The Grinch*.
- Bring a plate of cookies, fudge or your personal favorite holiday treat to share (homemade or purchased!)

Let Us Break Bread Together Nite

Join us for lasagna as We Break Bread Together Thursday evening November 21st at 6:30 pm. Food is provided and donations to cover the cost accepted. Stay for Prayers and Communion afterwards. All are welcome!



2014 Pledges

You still have time to turn in your pledge for 2014. Jean Harrison has the forms, Astrid Anderson is collecting and tallying them. You need not pledge to give. All donations are welcome. We encourage pledging though as it helps us plan and monitor the budget. The 2014 budget will be approved at the congregational meeting on November 17th.

Show Your Thankfulness at Thanksgiving

We are so blessed to have this beautiful place in which to worship and enjoy fellowship. Express your thanks for this glorious place by giving generously at our Thanksgiving service. All offerings help pay down our mortgage principal. We are making progress in paying it off and your special offerings towards this cause are greatly appreciated.

Joint Ministry Events in 2013

Third Annual Blue Christmas

(but first time as a joint ministry event)

Christmas is a difficult time for those who are in mourning or making a difficult transition. Our Blue Christmas worship offers a solemn sacred space, stillness for your heart and soul in the midst of frantic holiday preparations, permission to stop and receive Spirit's consolation. Pastor Tim Carnahan from Faith will be the preacher this year. The worship event will be held on Thursday, December 19, at 7 p.m. at TLC



Christmas Day Worship and Holy Communion

This year, this worship event will take place at TLC, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Jean will be the preacher. Come and worship the newborn king.

Pastor's Page

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writings more now than I think we ever could in the past (that's an unfounded observation that your pastor often makes). I am still tickled that I was able to bring Greek mythology and butterfly science into the resurrection story on Easter Sunday.

And I still see prayers answered and faith provide strength and radical welcome go right to the heart. I still see Sunday morning worship as a thing that brings holy light and love and joy into the world. We struggle financially, as all small congregations do, yet I see us contributing to the ELCA campaign to wipe out Malaria, to a school in Rwanda, to F.I.S.H. to feed the hungry right here. Wow. We are helping the world go around. Little ole'us!

November is the last month of the church year. Look back for a little while, but then look ahead. We are a Lutheran church that cherishes our mighty fortress of heritage, dogma, and grace-filled service and we are a community that practices radical hospitality: "Come as you are, really"

I urge us to take on 2014 with a spirit of conspicuousness. What can we do to let people know that they are truly welcomed here? What do we need to change about ourselves so that all will truly become a part of us? What can we do with all of the blessings that have been bestowed upon us to meet the needs of our neighbors? For that matter, what ARE their needs?

So much to do. But I can't think of a better group of believers to do it all with!

I love you, TLC.

Pastor Jean

*Love,
Pastor Jean*

Sunday Worship in November

We continue in the Narrative Lectionary, which comes out of Luther Seminary, and hear from four of the first testament prophets. What will their ancient words spark in our hearts as we move into the season of darkness?



Nov. 3 **Elijah at Horeb; the prophet in despair, God speaks in stillness-All Saints**

Still, small Scriptures: 1 Kings 19:1-18; John 12:27-28

Voice Sermon title: Bred for the Journey

Liturgical color: White

Music: Griff Becker

Songs: "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" (LBW 383), "For All Your Saints, O Lord" (LBW 176), "I Love to Tell the Story" (LBW 390),

Nov. 10 **Let justice roll down like waters, righteousness like an ever-flowing stream**

Amos Scriptures: Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24; John 7: 37-38

Sermon title: Go with the Flow

Liturgical color: Green

Music: TLC Band

Songs: Gather Us In; Come to the Water (white book #13); You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore; You Are Holy (ELW 525)

Nov. 17 **People who walked in darkness have seen a great light**

Isaiah Scriptures: Isaiah 9:1-7; John 8:12

Sermon title: Lighting the Darkness

Liturgical color: Green

Music: Jan Loewen, Sandy Koppen, Karen Lehman, Jordan Eberly

Songs: Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn, Carry the Light, Come and Fill, Come Share the Bread

Nov. 24 **Christ the King Sunday**

Jeremiah Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14; John 14:27

Prophecies Sermon title: Kingly Consequences

To Zedekiah Liturgical color: Green

Music: Jan Loewen, Sandy Koppen, Karen Lehman, Jordan Eberly

Songs: Bring Forth the Kingdom of God (HS 821); Praise to The Lord the Almighty; Good Soil (512); Jesus Remember Me

TLC for TLC!

We recently received the following letter from Scott and Joanna Tilley. They are friends of Janet Ven erella, Pastor Jean's sister, and they live in Virginia.

Dear Pastor Jean and congregation of Thanksgiving Lutheran Church,

We were your guests one Sunday morning in May and were very taken by all that we saw and heard in your church. We were treated as welcome guests and had the sense that all are welcome. It seemed a place where everyone felt loved, no matter what their story was. The sense of community was apparent as many of you shared stories and musical offerings. What a feeling of connection when the peace was passed. We hope your church will continue to grow and thrive and welcome more people into its fold.

We read in the bulletin that your income is not keeping up with your expenses. Jean preached about the Holy Spirit that Sunday. We believe that the Holy Spirit is working through us to make sure that your church will continue its important mission in the community. Please accept this donation in the spirit of love in which it is given.

We look forward to the opportunity to attend your church again. We hope to be there next Memorial Day weekend.

Many blessings,
Joanna and Scott Tilley

It was Pastor Jean's thrill to get to read the letter at the opening of the next Sunday's worship and reveal that enclosed with it was a check for \$5,000.00.



You are invited to participate

At its 2014 assembly, the Sierra Pacific Synod (of which TLC is a part) will be electing the next synodical bishop. The Rev. Mark Holmerud, SPS's current bishop, is throwing his hat into the ring again, and Conferences around the Synod are discerning other candidates.

You are invited to have a voice in the expectations for our next bishop by completing the Synod Profile on line at <http://surveymonkey.com/s/PMK3892>. Participants in the Gateway Conference Fall Gathering, held at TLC on September 29, were given the chance to fill out surveys, so those folks from TLC who attended have had their say already.

Jump in deeper in your involvement in the church. Fill out a survey today.

Gift of G.A.B. (God's Abundant Blessings)

By Jean Harrison
October 6, 2013

Over the summer we focused on Random Acts of Grace, both ones we performed and ones done for our benefit. We also celebrated 25 years as a congregation and ten years at this address. Reflection leads me to realize that TLC has been the recipient of many Random Acts of Grace. Just the mere fact that Bob Willse was sent as a Mission Developing Pastor was a Random Acts of Grace. That this building was built was indeed a Random Act of Grace. The presence of Flak and Jack after Pastor Willse left was another Random Act of Grace. Becoming and RIC congregation qualifies as a Random Act of Grace. And also for the arrival of Pastor Jean qualifies as a Random Act of Grace.

There have been a number of financial Random Acts of Grace for us too, the Heckathorn bequest, and anonymous cashier's check for \$40,000, a generous gift a year ago of \$15,000, and partnering with Roco de Salvacion surely were Random Acts of Grace. Mission Investment has shown us Random Acts of Grace on more than one occasion. Without these Random Acts of Grace TLC would not still be here.

Today we begin our Pledge Drive for 2014. Our theme is Recurring Acts of Grace. Or to put it another way, "How much of what is Gods do we keep for ourselves?" Everyone who pledges and gives to TLC is performing Recurring Acts of Grace. Acts of Grace are what keeps us going, what allows us to fulfill our mission here in Santa Rosa and throughout the world. Not only our monetary gifts but our gifts of time and talents are Recurring Acts of Grace.

It's no Secret that we are struggling to pay our bills and fulfill our Mission. We have had substantial deficits every month this year except

for two. Through the end of September our deficit is \$18,663.67. We are operating on a bare bones budget. You will be asked to adopt another bare bones budget at our congregational meeting November 10th. It may well be a deficit budget again. The good news is that last year's deficit was projected to be \$73,041.76 and it has proven to be considerably less than that. Committees are super careful in spending money. Our mortgage is more than it should be. But somehow we carry on. We as individuals also manage to give to the Sierra Pacific Synod, to the

Rwanda School Project, to 2nd mile groups and to ELCA campaigns. We are nearly halfway to our goal of adding the Hearing Loop system so that everyone can hear our wonderful services.

Acts of Grace are what keeps us going, what allows us to fulfill our mission here in Santa Rosa and throughout the world.

What Random Acts of Grace these are!

Today each of you will receive your 2014 Pledge Packet. It includes two copies of your pledge sheet, one to lay on God's Altar on October 20th, and another for you to keep as a reminder of what you pledge to do. You will also receive a cloud paper listing Recurring Acts of Grace you can perform. Feel free to add to the list. A copy of the proposed 2014 budget without the income from pledges is also included. The congregation will vote on the budget at the November 10th Congregational Meeting. By then we will have a total to add in for the pledges received.

Please give Thanksgiving Lutheran Church's situation your prayerful consideration when filling out this years pledge paper. Please give generously of your time, talents, and money to keep our mission going.

OUR CHURCH'S
FINANCIAL HEALTH

Finance News

September marked our second month of the year without a deficit. (March was the other one). Income was \$357.33 more than expenses. Praise the Lord. Our deficit for the year is \$18,475.37 which averages \$2,052.82 per month and \$513.20 per week. We have a small amount of savings than will cover future deficits.

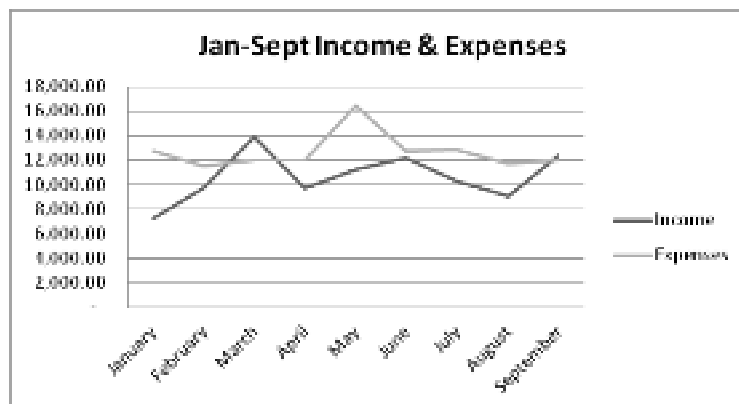
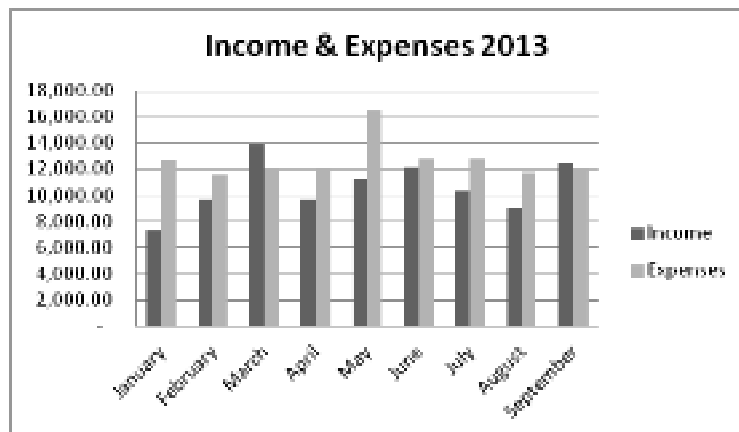
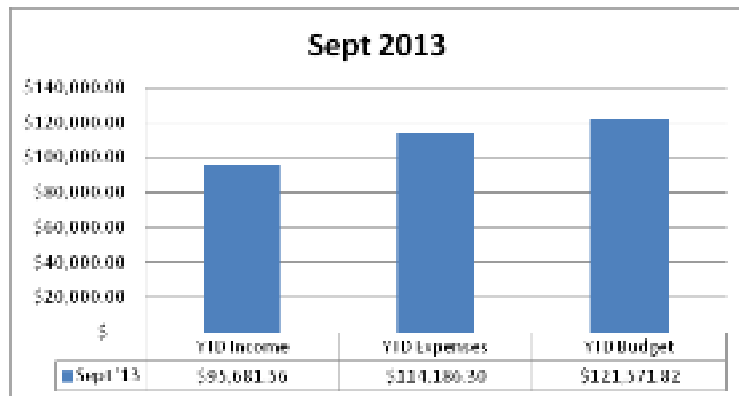
We are working with Mission Investment Fund to deal with our financial situation and the mortgage. They have agreed to a six month mortgage reduction which began October 1st. Our monthly payments will be \$3,500 instead of \$4,509 through the end of March 2014. This gives us some time to plan. We will be working closely with them and the Synod on ways to solve our financial problem. Stay tuned for details.

Hearing Loop Update

We are over half way towards the purchase of a hearing loop system. We need \$975 and have \$553. Only \$422 remains to be raised. Let's see if we can make that happen soon.

Gifts to Others in Need

Even with our personal and church financial needs we continue as individuals to think of others. As of October 22nd \$590 has gone to 2nd Mile groups, \$545 to the Rwanda School Project, \$20 to FISH, \$90 to the ELCA Disaster Fund, \$75 to the ELCA Hunger Fund and a WONDERFUL \$1,087 to the ELCA Malaria Eradication Project. If you have given your \$10 a person to the malaria cause please be sure to post your name and splat your mosquito on the bulletin board right outside the office door.



Finance committee meets Saturday November 16th at 9:30 am at Jean Harrison's home.

Spend Money and Help TLC

Please think of us before you shop online - it's free to you and valuable for us. Sign in to your eScrip account or shop anonymously. We earn contributions automatically.

It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3 :

1. **Enroll** with www.escrip.com
2. **Click** on the Online Mall logo at www.escrip.com
3. **Shop** at your favorite brand name stores and automatically donate to TLC.

Make your holiday shopping count for TLC.

Also, don't forget every time you use Good Search as your search engine online you earn money for TLC. Every little bit helps!



2014 Advent Theme: Everything Old Is New Again

Re-forming doesn't necessarily mean we throw out the old. It also means what we value most we let move and evolve and remain valuable in new ways. We will explore this part of "Committed to Being Re-formed" during Advent. One movement you'll notice on the first Sunday of Advent is a reconfiguration of the seating for worship! Come and see!

Cen\$ational Sundays Update

\$150.15 in July.

\$150.05 in August.

\$284.55 in September.

For a total of \$584.75 and counting.

That is the amount of excess change (and one hundred dollar bill) collected through September in the wonderful coin jar. This money helps pay the bills. Remember to bring that loose change the last Sunday of every month. As you can see every bit helps. Thanks.

Like Us on Facebook?



Recently, Councilmember Mary Weber took over administering TLC's Facebook page. If you are "friends" with either Pastor Jean or Mary, you may have noticed a significant increase in postings. Way to make us more conspicuous, Mary!

On February 8, 2014, the Congregational Life Discipling Team of the Sierra Pacific Synod is offering a workshop entitled "Using Media in Your Congregation." Topics to be discussed include Projectors, Twitter, Websites, Screens, Podcasts, and Facebook. What do all of these have to do with ministry? Pastor and Mary are planning on attending. If you would like to join them, you are most welcome. Talk to Pastor.

TLC Executive Committee:

Jordan Eberly, President
 Keith Becker, Vice-president
 Lisa Bartlett, Secretary
 Jean Harrison, Treasurer
 Astrid Anderson, Financial Secretary

Council Liaisons to Committees:

Christian Education	Cindy Heiller
Congregation and Community Care	Barbara Kling
Finance	Lisa Bartlett
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Mary Weber
Property	Keith Becker
Stewardship	Keith Becker
Worship and Music	Jordan Eberly

**Please Support Those
who Support Us**



At the Mission Investment Fund, we use the money you invest to fund building and renovation loans for ELCA congregations and related ministries. Give us a call at 877.886.3522.

Committee Chairs

Christian Education	Jean Harrison
Congregation and Community Care	Jordan Eberly
Finance	Jean Harrison
Mutual Ministry	Pastor Jean Lebbert
Outreach and Evangelism	Jan Thomas
Property	Jan Loewen
Stewardship	Keith Becker
Worship and Music	Mary Thompson
Youth (in hiatus)	

Who's Who In Worship

Altar Guild Coordinator:

Mary Dawson

Greeters Coordinator:

Jan Thomas

Asst. Ministers Coordinator:

Ingrid Feiertag

Offering Teller Coordinator:

Paul Feiertag

Readers Coordinator:

Ingrid Feiertag

Ushers Coordinator:

George Land

Who's Who In Special Taskforces

Community Garden Coordinator:

Karen Lehman

Landscaping Coordinator:

Jean Harrison









Quilters Coordinator:

Gloria Feiertag

Women's Retreat Coordinator:

Karen Lehman

TLC November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>27 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship 11:00 AM Christian Education 3:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	28	<p>29 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Narcotics Anon small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>30 7:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	31	<p>1 7:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	<p>2  10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon</p>
<p>3  9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship 3:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	4	<p>5 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Narcotics Anon small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>6 7:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	7	<p>8 7:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	<p>9 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon</p>
<p>10 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship 3:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	11	<p>12  1:00 PM Bible Study 1:00 PM Quilting Group 6:00 PM Narcotics Anon small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>13  6:30 PM Property Meeting 7:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	<p>14 5:30 PM Christian Education Committee</p>	<p>15 7:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	<p>16  HHR Movie Night 9:30 AM Finance Committee 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon</p>
<p>17 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting 3:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	18	<p>19 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Narcotics Anon small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>20 7:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	<p>21  6:30 PM Break Bread To- gether Night</p>	<p>22 7:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	<p>23 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon</p>
<p>24 9:30 AM Sunday Moming Worship 3:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	25	<p>26 1:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Narcotics Anon small group 8:00 PM Narcotics Anon</p>	<p>27  7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Worship, Pie, and gratitude</p>	<p>28  Happy Thanksgiving</p>	<p>29 7:00 PM Roca de Salvacion</p>	<p>30 10:00 AM Alcoholics Anon</p>