



Greetings in Christ!

In our day, there are many ways to communicate that don't involve face to face, in person contact. This can be a great blessing at Christmas if you have family members who cannot be present in person for family celebrations. In those cases, it is certainly better to have some kind of online video call than to have no contact whatsoever.

Nevertheless, online video calls are not the same as having your loved one with you in person around the dinner table, opening gifts in the same living room, talking while you clean up the dishes. Gathering in person is always best.

And Christmas is proof of that fact. Jesus took on our human flesh and lived here with us for 33 years. He was present with people, healing, teaching, living the perfect life for them. He was crucified before their eyes, suffering the punishment for all their sins. He rose and appeared to them. He ascended to the right hand of the Father before their eyes. God was present with us human beings. He came to us in-person to take on all our sins and pay for them.

And He still comes to us in person. He called people to faith in Him and gathered them around His forgiveness in Word and Sacrament. This is the Holy Christian Church, which is His body (Eph. 1:22-23). And this body is served with Jesus' forgiveness people who come in person to forgive sins (see John 20:21-23). And He does not want any member of His body to think that they do not belong, that they are not needed (1 Cor. 12:12-31), or that they do not need to gather in person with the body (Hebrews 10:24-25 – "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one

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another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.").

And He gathers the members of His body, who are baptized into Christ, around His Supper, where He still comes to us in a tangible, personal way to forgive our sins.

God came to us in person when God the Son took on our human flesh to live, suffer, die, and rise amongst us human beings. He gathers His people together around the person of His Son in the body and blood of Jesus.

This Advent, gather in person with the family of God around the person of Jesus Christ in His body and blood. It just isn't the same without you. It just isn't the same to be apart from God's family and the person of Jesus in His body and blood. Come gather in person around Jesus every week and at our special services this month. – Pastor Burfiend

Nov. 27 Decorating at 11:30 am.
Lunch will be provided.

Advent Dinners/Services. Join us Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and 21 for dinner at 6 pm and Evening Prayer at 7. This year, we will look at God's creation of the world and what that means for contemporary issues surrounding evolution, marriage, gender, environmentalism, etc.

Dec. 1 – 5-8 pm– Open House/Nativity Display (Christmas Carol Singing at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary)

Dec. 10 Parents' Afternoon Out – Drop your child (toilet trained to age 10) off from 1 to 5 pm for snacks, devotions, and activities. \$20 per child.

Dec. 11 – New Member Welcome Lunch. Please join us after church for lunch and cake to welcome our newest members.

Sundays, 1 pm – Every other Sunday, New Hope provides a service for the residents of Ossian Health Care. Please join us to gather residents and assist them in the service. Upcoming Sundays include Dec. 4, 18, Jan. 1.

Invite a Friend to Advent and Christmas services with a flyer (see your church mailbox and the narthex tables).

Advent Devotions available on the stand in the narthex.

Thrivent Cards – If you own Thrivent products and have not used both of your \$250 Thrivent Action Cards, please consider using them for the Dec. 20 Preschool Christmas Program and sign up in the gym.

Sunday School Teachers needed from in January, March, April, and May. If you are able to teach on any Sundays in those months, please sign up in the gym.

From the Finance Board:

YTD Income: \$125,039

YTD Expenses: \$132,122

(Income does not include donations toward the mortgage)

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Nov. 27 Advent 1 Jeremiah 23:5-8 Rom. 13:8-14 Matt. 21:1-9 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30 Decorating: 11:30</p>	November 28	November 29	Nov. 30 Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel 6 pm Advent Dinner 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service	1 5-8 pm Open House and Nativity Display for Ossian Hometown Christmas 6:30 pm Christmas Carol Singing	2 10 am Mary Martha	3 Parent's Afternoon Out 1-5 pm
<p>4 Advent 2 Malachi 4:1-6 Rom. 15:4-13 Luke 21:25-36 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30</p>	5	6	7 Bible Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel 6 pm Advent Dinner 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service	8	9	10
<p>11 Advent 3 Is. 40:1-11 1 Cor. 4:1-5 Matt. 11:2-11 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30 Welcome Lunch, 11:30</p>	12	13	14 Bible Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel 6 pm Advent Dinner 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service	15	16	17
<p>18 Advent 4 Deut. 18:15-19 Phil. 4:4-7 John 1:19-28 Bible Study: 8:45 Divine Service: 10 NT Class: 11:30</p>	19	20 Preschool Christmas Program, 6:30pm	21 Bible Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse 11:10 am Pre-K Chapel 6 pm Advent Dinner 7 pm Advent Evening Prayer Service	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight, 7 pm Holy Communion Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20
<p>25 Christmas Day Service, 10 am Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-12 John 1:1-18 No Sunday School</p>	26	27	28 Bible Study, 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse Good News 6 pm Bible Study 7pm	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Service, 7 pm Holy Communion Isaiah 30:8-17 Romans 8:31b-39 Luke 12:35-40