



November/December, 2024

Allen AveNews



November 3
Daylight Savings Time Ends



November 11
Veterans Day



November 28
Thanksgiving Day



December 25
Christmas Day

Special Collections



November 3
World Renew
November 28
Special Envelopes
December 1
Resonate Global Missions
December 25
Love INC

Allen Avenue Christian Reformed Church, Pastor Mark Hofman
695 Allen Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49442

Run with Perseverance



Cross-country meets are a display of perseverance. For runners, aiming for that personal record (PR). For parents, who's caffeine levels help them find the energy required to catch up and cheer at the next curve. For coaches and ad-

ministrators and race officials to stay committed over the course of a two-to-three month-long season. We all would understand when anyone chooses to "throw in the towel"—to give up when hitting that proverbial "wall."

To struggle with the mental and spiritual questions: "am I able to make it? Can I endure to the end?" If we are left with only our own power and strength and ability to rely on for our perseverance, we will all come up short at one time or another. When thinking about our life of faith, Paul wrote to Timothy by comparing it to a race: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7) Paul's whole letter is about helping Timothy guard the good deposit of the gospel and to not give up when false teaching or temptation come around. He talks about this challenge as a race (2 Tim. 2:5, see also 1 Cor. 9:24 and Acts 20:24) and doesn't sugar-coat how hard things will be. But Paul is confident that the Holy Spirit is the one who compels and sustains him. "For the Holy Spirit gives us power, love, and self-discipline." (2 Tim. 1:7) "Guard the good deposit ... with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us."

We must always remember that we do not run on our own. We run this race with the Holy Spirit who lives in us. And when we rely on his power, his love, his gifts and fruit of self-discipline – then, and only then, we are able to persevere. Thanks be to God: we do not run in vain (Phil 2:16) and he will complete his good work in us. (Phil 1:6) Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us! (Heb 12:1)

—Pastor Mark



Note: If you exchange assignments with someone, let Susan Vanderlaan know so she can have it right in the bulletin. susan.vanderlaan@allenavechurch.org or 231.722.6411

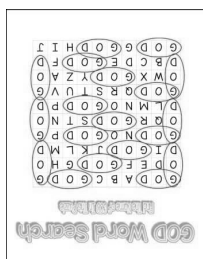
Coffee Schedule

November	3	Susan & Bob Vanderlaan
	10	Deb & Russ Vlasma
	17	Laurie & Jack DeJong
	24	Sue & John Sytsema
December	1	Sandy Volkers, Ron Friday
	8	
	15	Toni & Scott Schuitema
	22	Amber & Dean Johnson
	29	

Nursery Schedule

November	3	Toni Schuitema, Asher Hofman
	10	Nancy Rop, Deb Anderson
	17	Charry Snyder, Addie Maat
	24	Karen Alphenaar, Mary Patton
December	1	Lis Miedema, Tayla Vlasma
	8	Dale Johnson, Kristin Vlasma
	15	Renee Vlasma, Sherrie Wolffis
	22	Sue Sytsema, August Hofman
	29	Barb Malda, Emily Snyder

**Contract Susan Vanderlaan
if you can serve coffee on
December 8 or December
29**



GEMS NEWS

We have only held 2 meetings but we want you to know the exciting things that are already happening at GEMS. As most of you know, Aida Fisher has joined our team and is heading up the craft time of our meetings. And we're loving it!! She is such a gentle soul and has such a huge love for our Savior that the girls are quickly warming up to her. It's going to be a great year!

We have only just started but we have signed up 5 new girls so we're super excited to introduce them to the GEMS program. Most of them know only a little bit about the Bible so we can't wait to share the Good News with them!

Returning this year are counselors Charry, Re'nee, and Amber (and Emily when she is not at college). Charry is leading the youngest girls, Re'nee has the 5th and 6th graders, and Amber is taking the older girls. Our theme this year is Transformed, changed by God's Word from the inside out and our theme verse is from Romans 12:2. We will be digging into our Bibles to see who God is and how He wants us to live. Each of the GEMS has her own Bible and will be highlighting the verses we'll be studying when we meet. We're praying this will help the girls know what a great God we have, know how special and cherished they are, and lead them to a dynamic relationship with our Lord and Savior.

In addition to our regular meetings, we have some bonus things going on this year. We will be carving pumpkins with the Cadets in October and we'll be joining them for an astronomy outing in January. We also hope to go to Maranatha for a Christmas story walk in December. Our object lessons this year center around butterflies (with our Transformed theme) and so we hope to visit Frederik Meijer Gardens when the butterflies are there in April. That should keep us busy!

We will be holding our traditional 2 fundraisers—the sub and croissant sale in January and the baked goods sale in March. We will use the money we raise to purchase supplies and buy tickets to see the butterflies. Thank you so much for supporting the GEMS program both with your money and with your prayers. We couldn't do this without you.

Please keep the GEMS and the counselors in your prayers as we work towards our goal of Girls Everywhere Meeting our Savior!

Jill Schuitema, Charry and Emily Snyder, Re'nee Vlasma, Amber Johnson, Aida Fisher



Mission Trip to David, KY, October 2024



On October 5th a small gathering occurred in the town of David, Kentucky; a little bit of a homecoming and a lot of anticipation to see how God would use 10 people to be His hands and feet for 4 days. What would we do? How would we change the lives of people that we would never normally meet? How would God use our skills?

Sunday provided us a chance to worship at the Presbyterian Church in Prestonsburg. Our green shirts were conversation starters and brought us welcome smiles both prior to and after the service. After church we returned

to St. Vincent Mission for lunch and then we departed for a walk at Jenny Wiley State Park. Followed by Pickleball (of course)!

Monday, we visited our first two work sites. We experienced driving on the winding roads of rural Kentucky. We observed the beauty of God's creation amongst the homes that have survived floods, storms and other disasters - eye opening to say the least. One team repaired and raised a porch and installed new stairs. In true Allen Avenue building fashion, details and planning provided efficient use of time and resources. Strategic placement of the jacks and coordination in raising the jacks resulted in a stable porch. The second team went into demolition mode. In a partial basement the lower portion of the wall had water damage and mold inside the wall. The drywall was removed, and we sprayed for mold. We were then able to reinstall the new drywall.



Tuesday, we returned to these sites. The porch was supported, stairs completed along with repairs to the railing and spindles. Our porch team was so efficient in their work, that they returned to St. Vincent where they built a deck and stairs that allowed access to a storage trailer while John assisted in raising a telephone pole for new electrical lines. At the second site, the joint compound was applied in layers to the basement wall. The homeowner volunteered to sand and paint

the repairs.

Wednesday, we started working on new projects. One group went to a home that needed a bathroom remodel. The subfloor was removed, plumbing was rerouted, a shower installation was finished, and a new sink was installed. A second group made a short trek down the road to a trailer that had a roof leak resulting in some very moldy walls and damage to the sub floor. Paneling, insulation, carpeting and the carpet padding were removed. We scrubbed the inner walls with a chemical to prevent more mold growth. Trash went through a window into a trailer, and we hauled a trailer full of trash to the waste transfer station. This house was clean and ready for the next crew to make roof repairs, install a new subfloor, insulation and drywall. The third group was assigned to a house



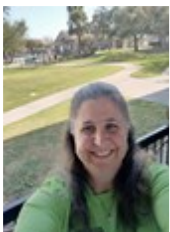


that had some major electrical issues, where they traced wiring, fixed short circuits and installed new lights.

Thursday, we finished the projects we started on Wednesday. The electrical house was left with working outlets and lamps. The second house's bathroom had new plumbing, a working sink and a floor that was safe to walk on. We tried to install a temporary ramp at the house with the repaired porch but soon discovered it was too short to fit. Since we couldn't work on the ramp, the ladies helped with random projects around St. Vincent including organization of donated clothing.

These were the nuts and bolts of the mission trip. We constructed, demolished, fixed, improved, removed and made things accessible. But it was so much more; our team shared and grew together. We celebrated two birthdays with cake and pie. We ate like kings and queens with so much food. Blessings came from friends at Allen Avenue and Texas in the form of food and recipes. Conversations flowed as we ate, shared rides to work sites, sat outside on the porch, and at the work sites. Every evening, we met for devotions which focused on the Holy Spirit. Are we listening to It when It speaks? Could we recognize It when It did speak? Would we see the results? Stories were shared among our little family about the voice of the Holy Spirit, experiences with the Holy Spirit and how it impacted our lives and the lives of others.

On Friday morning as our final meal was eaten together at McDonald's a little bit of sweat equity was left in the hills of Floyd County Kentucky, but the memories would remain with us.



On a personal note, this author made a 2,678 mile trip to spend 5 days with a family that provided a church home for a couple years and their support during a dark time. Would I do it again? YES, in a heartbeat because God provided me with a beautiful family that prays for me, welcomes me with open arms and I know will be there for me. And let me tell you the hugs that greeted me and sent me on my way south, are carefully tucked away in my heart. The devotions about the Holy Spirit tug at my heart strings to urge me to serve. I serve locally in Texas, but if

God shares with me that I could serve with my Allen Avenue family, I will gladly step up and say yes. The Holy Spirit has spoken to me clearly once in my life. It was within 12 hours of Joel's passing. In my darkest time He was there, and I don't want to miss any opportunity that I have left on this side of heaven to be His hands and feet.

Joel and I were given the gift of a cake server on our wedding day that had this scripture engraved on it. "But as for me and my household we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15. It became part of our foundation for how we choose to live our lives. It doesn't necessarily mean driving thousands of miles, it does mean that you can serve and do it as a family. And here is the best news, you get to choose what that family looks like. Until the next time I can walk with some of my Allen Avenue family again, know that you are in my prayers and heart.



—Blessings, Jennifer Darling

Responding to disasters involves attention to material: to lumber and protective equipment, federal and state grants as well as charitable donations. We can often overlook the toll that these acts of nature have on human hearts. In eastern Kentucky, our team met Subil and Ralph, Ricky, Pam, Mike, Brent and Addicus, as well as other residents who lost homes, livelihood, secu-

enity and peace of mind during flooding and its aftermath. Even years later, many of these families continue to struggle with how to piece together what remains after their challenging losses.

It was sobering to see the poverty of the region we served; it was profound how the need was also met with gratitude. Gratitude from our hosts for their lives and restored safety. Gratitude from our team for the things we take for granted every day. But also, the gratitude of sharing in restoration, God helping us.

With Subil, Ralph and Rickey it was the opportunity to see great-grandchildren playing and the hope shared by local church members who visited during our work. With Brent and Addicus, it was the heartache of the loss of a wife and mother; and yet the joy of entering a new home with working electricity and a prayer for strength to carry on. So many more stories of sharing in grief and hope could be told, but this glimpse into how the Holy Spirit was at work in our work is a memory of how God is bringing healing and hope in Eastern Kentucky.

—Pastor Mark

Preschool Word Search

GOD Word Search

Find the Name of GOD in the Puzzle

G	O	D	A	B	C	G	O	D	G
O	D	E	F	G	O	D	G	H	O
D	I	G	O	D	J	K	L	M	D
G	O	D	N	O	G	O	D	P	G
O	Q	R	G	O	D	S	T	N	O
D	L	M	N	O	G	O	D	P	D
G	O	D	Q	R	S	T	U	V	G
O	W	X	G	O	D	Y	Z	A	O
D	B	C	D	E	G	O	D	F	D
G	O	D	G	G	O	D	H	I	J

October 25, Chili Dinner and John Hayes Concert





Oh Holy Night Word Search

S	T	A	R	A	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y
N	H	S	Y	M	V	V	S	A	V	I	O	R
F	E	A	H	R	N	U	J	N	M	X	Y	U
B	Q	N	Z	E	S	C	E	O	R	W	E	T
B	F	G	J	E	P	M	A	E	S	Z	L	T
E	S	E	J	G	E	H	G	J	X	E	I	Y
T	T	L	B	S	O	N	E	J	O	Y	P	V
H	L	T	I	U	A	S	O	R	Q	T	Y	H
L	V	W	N	M	C	Y	P	W	D	Z	T	N
E	M	E	S	S	I	A	H	E	B	S	W	P
H	N	I	M	M	A	N	U	E	L	N	T	G
E	R	J	P	M	A	R	Y	X	X	E	J	O
M	P	J	K	V	X	B	T	D	Q	L	Z	P

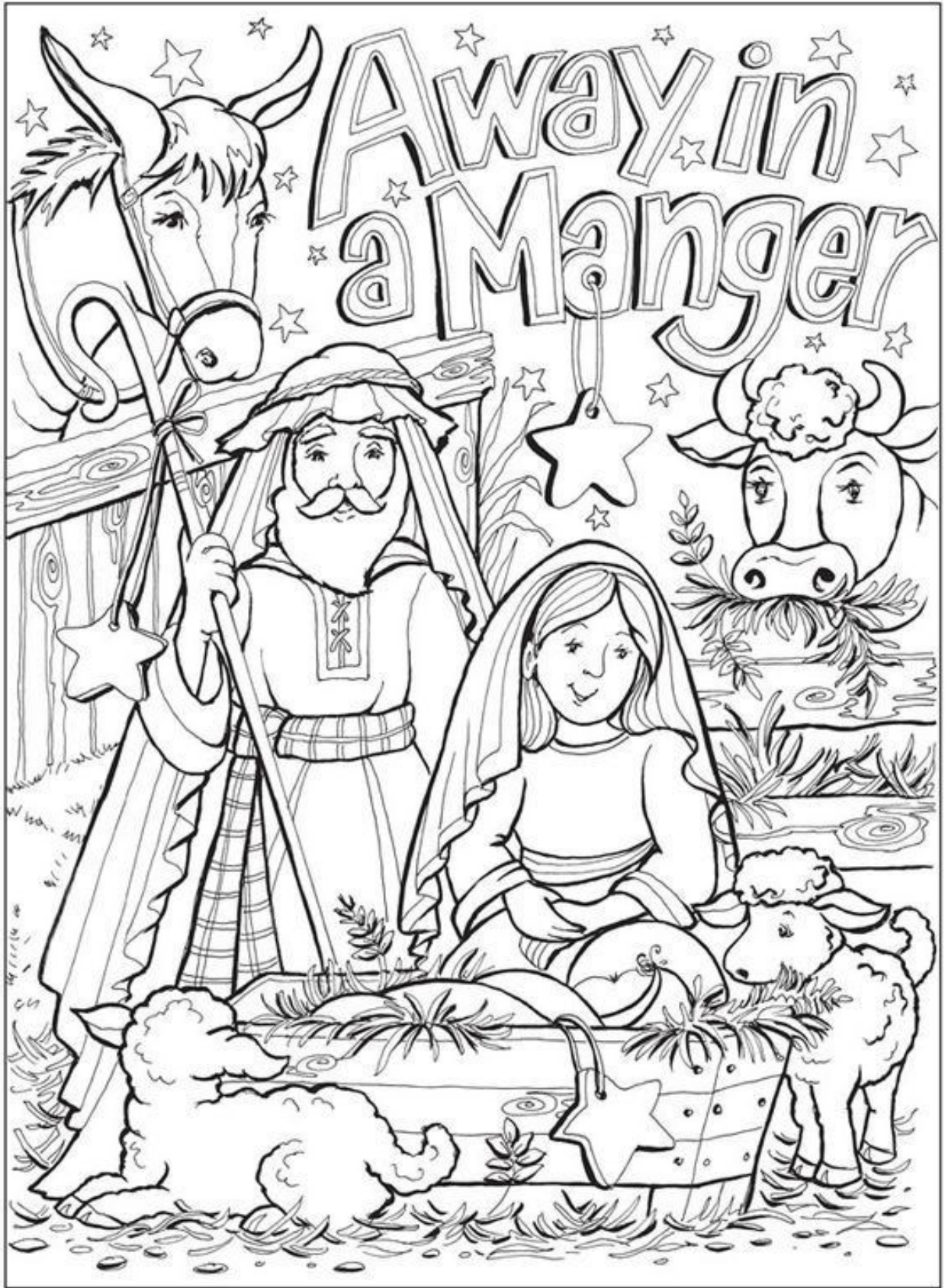
WORD BANK

**NATIVITY
MANGER
BETHLEHEM
JESUS
SAVIOR**

**ANGEL
MARY
JOSEPH
SHEPHERDS
WISE MEN**



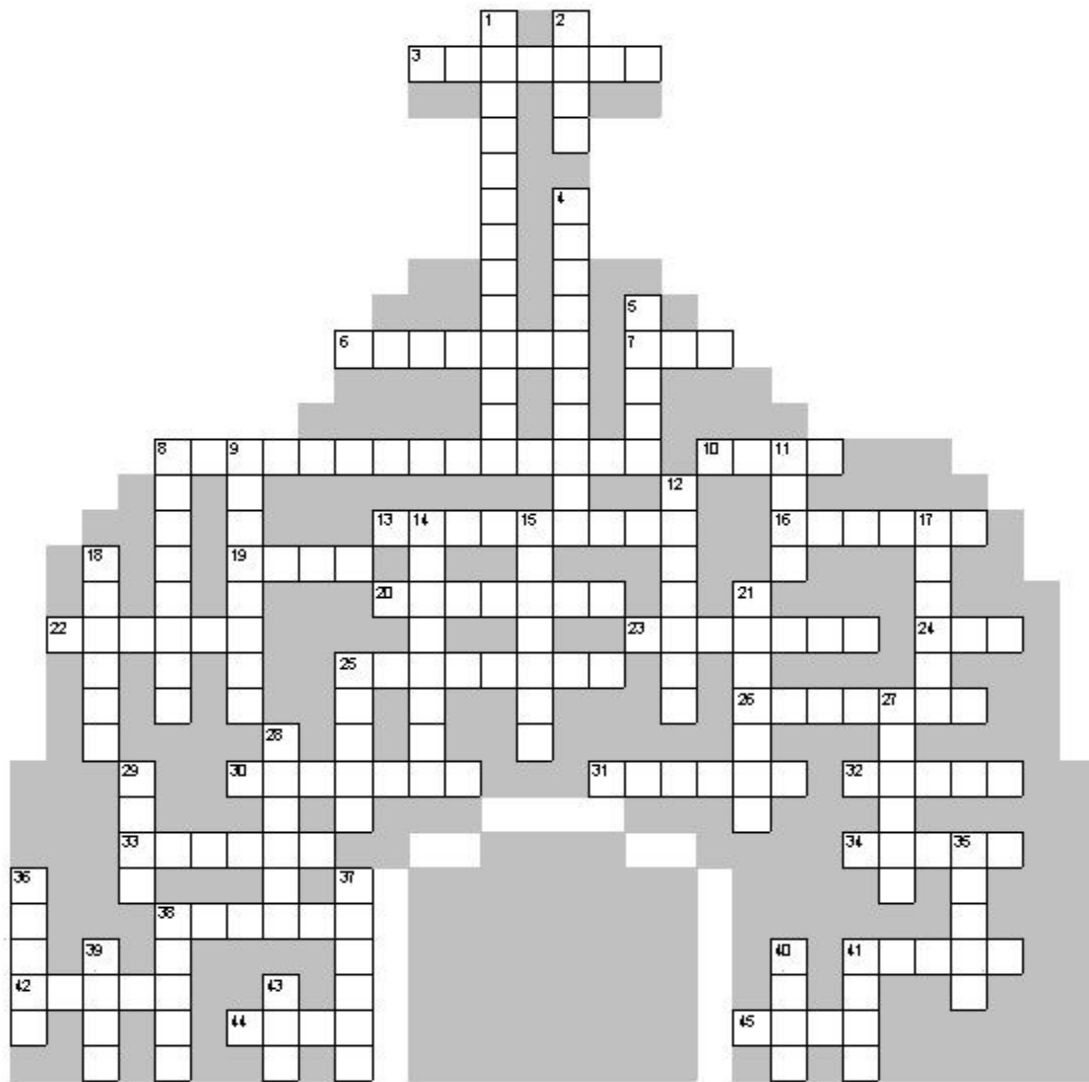
**IMMANUEL
STAR
JOY
MESSIAH
GOSPEL**



CHRIST IS BORN



People of the Bible



Across	
3. Title of the kings of Egypt	31. Thrown into the lion's den
6. Deceives Samson	32. Swallowed up by a great fish
7. First woman	33. Jacob's eldest son
8. Builder of Babylon; takes Jerusalem captive	34. A shepherd boy who God chooses to be King
10. First man	38. Destroys Jericho
13. Father of John the Baptist	41. Betrays the Christ
16. Queen who helped Mordecai save the Jews	42. Led the Israelites out of Egypt
19. Brother of Jesus	44. Built an ark
20. A prophetess and judge of Israel	45. Marries Boaz
22. Aaron's sister who leads a victory song	
23. Called out of his tomb	
24. Afflicted by Satan	
25. Saul's son; loved by David	
26. Paul's young "son in the faith"	
30. A king known for his wisdom	

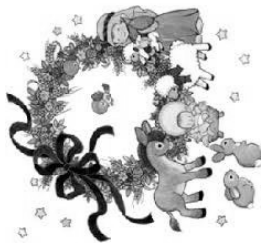
Down	
1. First to see the risen Christ	27. A doubtful one
2. Killed Abel	28. Mary's husband
4. The handwriting was on his wall	28. Had a coat of many colors
5. A fisherman who walked on water	29. Mother of Jesus
8. Cupbearer to Artaxerxes I; rebuilds Jerusalem's wall	35. The promised son of Abraham
9. Jacob's youngest son	36. Ruth's mother-in-law
11. First murder victim	37. Lazarus' busy sister
12. Son of Abraham and Hagar	38. The Christ; the Son of God and Savior of the world
14. One of the three who survived the fiery furnace	39. Hairy hunter who sold his birthright
15. Father of the faith	40. First king of Israel
17. Was transported into heaven in a chariot of fire	41. Wrote the Book of Revelations
18. Brought Nathanael to Christ	43. Abraham's nephew; his wife turned to a pillar of salt
21. A tax collector who became an apostle and an author of the gospel	
25. Wrestles with an angel	



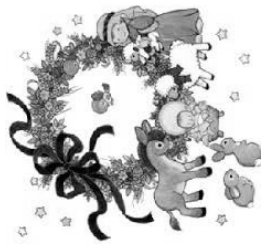
November 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 June Walcott Judy Vaandering Tiffani Schelske	6	7	8 Mary Kortman	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Dave VanRees	16 Jean Botting
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Scott Schuitema	29 Bob Vanderlaan	30 Marcia Breuker



December 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Addy Maat
8 Cam Vlasma Charry Snyder	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Dave Bishop Tekalegn Vlasma	21 Barb Malda
22	23 Luke Maat	24	25	26	27	28 Becki Fisher
29	30	31				