

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Septuagesima Sunday



Christ's Lutheran Church
700 East Pennsylvania Avenue
Oreland, Pennsylvania

*Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church
connects individuals to God, each other, and the community.*

Welcome to Worship at Christ's Lutheran Church!

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

Our Gathering Song, "Will You Come and Follow Me" (called "The Summons"), was written by John Bell, an Irish theologian. The hymn was first published in 1987 and the song asks a series of 13 questions, a record for any hymn. We need to sing all 5 verses as we're challenged to "leave yourself behind" and to 'risk the hostile stare" (stanza two), "set the prisoner free" and "kiss the leger clean" (stanza three), and "use the faith you've found to reshape the world around" (stanza four). The tune is a traditional Scottish ballad entitled "Kelvingrove." Bell wrote that "the purpose of singing is to engage people in a fuller participation and stretch their faith and encourage them to live in a manner that reflects justice."

Gathering Song

**Will You Come and Follow Me
ELW # 798**

Please see the next page for the hymn.



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

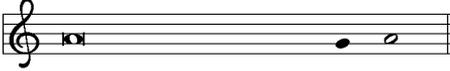
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Greeting

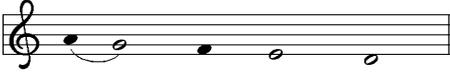
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

ELW Setting Four



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



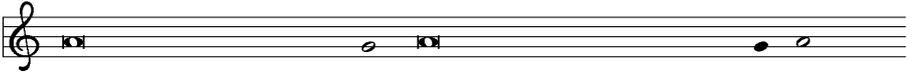
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



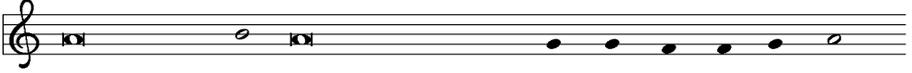
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

This is the Feast

ELW Setting Four



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

Micah 6:1-8

A reading from Micah, chapter 6.

¹ Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

² Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

⁶ "With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷ Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

W & P # 144 | Thy Word

The congregation will sing the following response:



Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

¹ LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your holy hill?

² Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right,
who speak the truth from their heart;

Response

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends;
they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear
the LORD.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their
word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take
bribes against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be overthrown. **Response**

A reading from First Corinthians, chapter 1.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

Please be seated.

Children's Message

Becca Shelor

A Moment of Prayer

Cradling Children in His Arm

ELW # 444



Cra-dling chil - dren in his arm, Je - sus gave his bless - ing.



To our babes a wel-come warm he is yet ad - dress - ing.



Take them, Lord, give life a - new in the liv - ing wa - ters!



Keep them al - ways near to you as your sons and daugh-ters!

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Johannes H. V. Knudsen, 1902–1982
Music: GAUDEAMUS PARITER, Johann Horn, 1490–1547
Text © 1976 Johannes H. V. Knudsen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The Message

Pastor Axel Kaegler

Please stand in body or spirit.

Hymn of the Day

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW # 710



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun.
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934
 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

Apostles' Creed

Let us name and proclaim the God who saves us, using the words of the Apostles' 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 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.**

Please be seated.

Scout Slide Presentation

Please kneel or sit as you are able for the prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

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.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. We pray especially for Bob, Jim, Mary Jane, Mark, Matt, Shane, Michael, Virginia, Hans, the Engstrom family, the Rothenheber family, the Daniels family, the Wendte family, the Miller family, and the Griffin Family. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and leaders who model love for their neighbor and care for others. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you. 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.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you
and to greet those who are worshipping online.*

Please be seated.

Musical Offering “Jesus Christ Was Born” Grier/Wagner

Flute: Carol Copland

*Before the night had turned to day,
Before the light of morn,
before the stars did drift away,
Jesus Christ was born.*

Please stand.

**Offertory Hymn
(Sing Twice)**

**Jesus, Lamb of God
W & P # 76**



Text: Dennis Jernigan, refrain of "You are my all in all"
Music: ALL IN ALL, Dennis Jernigan

Offering Prayer

Our God is a generous God,
providing manna in the wilderness.

Our God is a steadfast God,
with us even unto the end of the age.

Our God is a God of newness and calling,
inviting us to honor new visions and embrace new dreams.

Israel was fed with manna from heaven.
Elijah was sustained by bread and meat brought by ravens.
The disciples traveled with a common purse,
sharing their gifts with one another.

Christ invited those gathered at the Feast of the Five Thousand to witness a generosity beyond what they could imagine.

The ancient church shared all things in common, believing that the call to communal spiritual growth is also a call to give back to God what God has given us.

In keeping with this history and heritage, trusting that God provides us with everything we need to do, what we are called to do, and be who we are called to be, we gather our offering - the first fruits of our labor. We commend them to God, the source of our blessings and hope.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Generous God, you invite us to live generous lives, trusting that you have given us to each other to work together:

We are better together.

In service to our neighbor, in love for all creation, and in proclamation of your good news for all:

We are better together.

Bless these gifts we've gathered,
give us generous hearts,
honest commitment to the call you've placed before us,
and sincere trust that we can rely on your grace and sufficiency
as we continue to serve you and your people. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting Four

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.

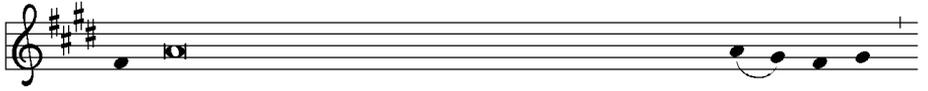
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

ELW Setting Four



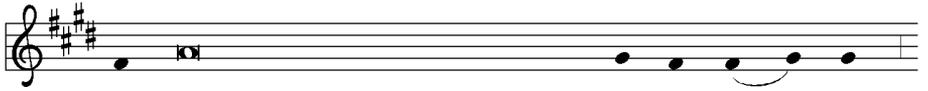
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



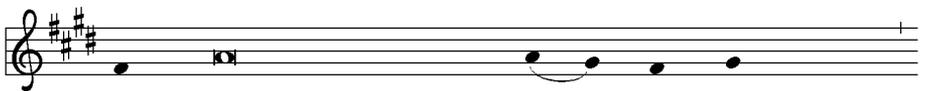
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al - mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



You comforted your people with the promise of the Re - deem - er,



through whom you will also make all things new



in the day when he comes to judge the world in righ - teous-ness.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,



with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting Four



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new testament in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and 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.

Please be seated.

Lamb of God

ELW Setting Four



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn

O God of Mercy, God of Light ELW # 714



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
may we each other's burdens share;
may we, where help is needed, there
give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
all those who live to live in love,
till you receive in heav'n above
all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896

Post Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen
you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Post Communion Song

Cares Chorus

I cast all my cares up-on you; I lay all of my
bur-dens down at your feet. And an-y-time that I don't know
what to do, I will cast all my cares up-on you.

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.

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.
Amen.

The Sending Song

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

ELW # 669



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Online Giving

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Your Prayers Are Invited

We hope you will add the following people to your personal prayers. Those who are listed longer than 6 weeks can be found on the long term prayer list through the link in the weekly e-news or the monthly Link newsletters. To add a name to the prayer list or provide an update, please contact the office.

Bob

Jim Brenneman

Mary Jane Brenneman

Matt Cirigliano (friend of Pastor Kaegler)

Mark Lance (Stephanie Staerk's cousin)

Shane Morrissy

Hans Noerr (friend of Don & Pat Hallman)

Michael Nugent (Stephanie Staerk's cousin)

Virginia Staerk (Stephanie Staerk's sister-in-law)

We remember in prayer the family and friends of Jay Griffin (Glenn Griffin's brother) who died on January 25. May his loved ones be comforted by the promise and hope of the resurrection.

*The flowers on the altar today have been sponsored by
Bill & Lynn Harkins*

in celebration of son-in-law Rob Nydick's birthday

AND

by the Polis Family in celebration of granddaughter

Max's birthday and in memory of

Jerry and Diane Polis' dad, Bill Polis.

The bread & wine we share today has been sponsored by

Earl & Allison Uehling in celebration of

Karen Bennion's birthday.

Christ's Lutheran Church
700 East Pennsylvania Avenue + Oreland, PA 19075
215-886-4612 + www.christs-oreland.org
clcsecretary@christs-oreland.org

Ministers	The People of Christ's Lutheran Church	
Senior Pastor	Reverend Axel Kaegler	
Director of Spiritual Formation	Becca Shelor	
Director of Music	Ken Selinger	
Administrative Assistant	Lorraine Pfeiffer	
Preschool Director	Sally Mead	
Sexton	Pete Carr	
Assisting Minister	John Frantz	
Communion Assistant	Jen Melnick, John Frantz	
Soundboard	Diane Polis	
Livestream	Rick Daniels, Don Hallman, John Melnick, Paul Zieger	
Altar Guild	Consy Finney	
Counter(s)	Jim and Mary Jane Brenneman	
Closer	TBD	
Assisting Minister next Sunday	Don Hallman	

This Week at CLC!

Sunday	9:00 am	Family Tables (chapel)
	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:30 am	Worship at CLC and online
Monday	9:30 am	Monday Morning Men
	10:00 am – 6:00 pm	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	7:30 pm	BS Troop 1 (PH)
Tuesday	9:00 am – 10:45 am	PBJ Collection (chapel)
	6:00 pm	Wolf Cubs (203/204)
	6:00 pm	Bears II (200)
	7:30 pm	Pack 88 Committee Meeting (203/204)
Wednesday	10:00 am	Bible Study (200)
	6:00 pm	Bear Cubs (203/204)
	7:00 pm	AA (PH)
	7:00 pm	Trivia Night (Tannery Run)
Friday	11:00 am (visitation at 10:00 am)	Paul Engstrom Service
	5:30 pm	Pinewood Derby Weigh-in (PH)
	8:00 pm	AA (200)
Saturday		Pinewood Derby (PH)