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MARCH NEWS

2024

Peace Lutheran Church
Fremont, Indiana

355 E. State Road 120

Fremont, IN 46737

Church Phone: (260) 495-4306

www.plcms.org

A member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear friends in Christ,

As we enter into the sacred season of Lent, I am filled with a sense of anticipation and hope. You see, Lent – often characterized by self-reflection, repentance, and spiritual discipline – provides us with a unique opportunity for growth and renewal. It is a time when we journey alongside Jesus, contemplating His sacrifice and recommitting ourselves to living lives of faith and love.

This year, I encourage each of you to approach Lent with a spirit of vitality. Do not view it as merely a time of giving up indulgences, but rather as an opportunity to deepen your connection with God and with one another. In these weeks, we seek to infuse our Lenten practices with energy and enthusiasm, as the Holy Spirit uses those practices to rejuvenate our spirits and revitalize our faith.

Vitality, in the context of Lent, means embracing the disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving with wholehearted dedication. It means allowing ourselves to be transformed by the power of God's grace, opening our hearts to receive His love in new and profound ways. It means stepping out of our comfort zones and embracing the challenges and blessings that come with following Christ more closely.

During this season, I encourage you to engage in practices that will nourish your soul and ignite your passion for God. Set aside time each day for prayer and reflection, allowing God to speak to you and guide you on your journey. Consider fasting not only from food but also from those things that distract you from God's presence, whether it be excessive screen time, negative thoughts, or unhealthy habits. Embrace opportunities for spiritual growth, such as attending additional church services or embarking on acts of service and almsgiving. All this is available to you here at Peace.

And as we make this Lenten journey together, we remember that our ultimate goal is not merely to endure the season but to emerge from it transformed – renewed in mind, body, and spirit.

But transformation is not always comfortable or easy. It often requires us to confront our weaknesses and shortcomings, to let go of old patterns of behavior, and to step into the unknown with faith and courage. Yet, it is through this process of dying to self that we find new life in Christ. Just as the caterpillar must undergo a metamorphosis within its cocoon to emerge as a beautiful butterfly, so too must we allow ourselves to be transformed by the renewing work of the Holy Spirit.

Let's approach this season of transformation with humility and openness, trusting in God's promise to make all things new. We should be willing to surrender our own agendas and desires, allowing God to shape and mold us according to His will. And have faith that, as you yield yourselves to His loving embrace, He will empower you to become the person He created you to be – fully alive, fully whole, and fully devoted to His kingdom purposes.

My prayer is that this Lenten season would be a time of profound spiritual renewal for each one of us, as we allow God to transform us from the inside out. Even more, my hope is that we emerge from this season more deeply rooted in our identity as beloved children of God, more fully committed to following Jesus in every aspect of our lives, and more passionately engaged in the work of building God's kingdom here on earth.

And, finally, as we move through the sacred journey of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, to Maundy Thursday's commemoration of the Last Supper and Jesus' washing of the disciples' feet, to Good Friday's solemn remembrance of His crucifixion, and finally to Easter Sunday's glorious celebration of His resurrection, be mindful of the profound significance of each moment. Allow the power of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection to permeate your heart and soul, filling you with hope, joy, and eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Our peace is Christ.

Pastor Jeff Teeple

Lenten Worship: Guided to the Cross

Lent is a season when we are Guided to the Cross. Throughout this holy time, we are drawn to Calvary to live.

On Sunday mornings each week, we will look at the symbolism of different crosses that we see: the Orthodox Cross, the Jerusalem Cross, the Latin Cross, and others. In connection with Holy Scripture, we will consider their meaning and symbolism in our faith journey.



In our midweek worship each week, the services in our series reveal how Christ and his cross serve as examples for us of how to live our lives for and through our crucified Lord and Savior.

We will be guided to: forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust, perseverance, sacrifice, and humility. Make plans to attend to your faith journey and be Guided to the Cross!



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY | MAUNDY THURSDAY | GOOD FRIDAY | EASTER SUNDAY

Palm Sunday

March 24th at 8:00am and 10:30am

Maundy Thursday

March 28th at 6:30pm

Good Friday

March 29th at 6:30pm

Easter Sunday

March 31st at 8:00am and 10:30am

Lent Worship:

Wednesday 3/6/24 at 6:30pm
Wednesday 3/13/24 at 6:30pm
Wednesday 3/20/24 at 6:30pm



Soup Suppers

Before our Wednesday evening Lent Services, we will be having our soup suppers, starting at 5:30pm.

Please join us for food and fellowship!



Easter Breakfast Help Needed!



There will be a breakfast from 9:15am-10:15am on Easter Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. Help is needed. If you are able, please contact Larry or Marie Font.



Daylight Savings Time



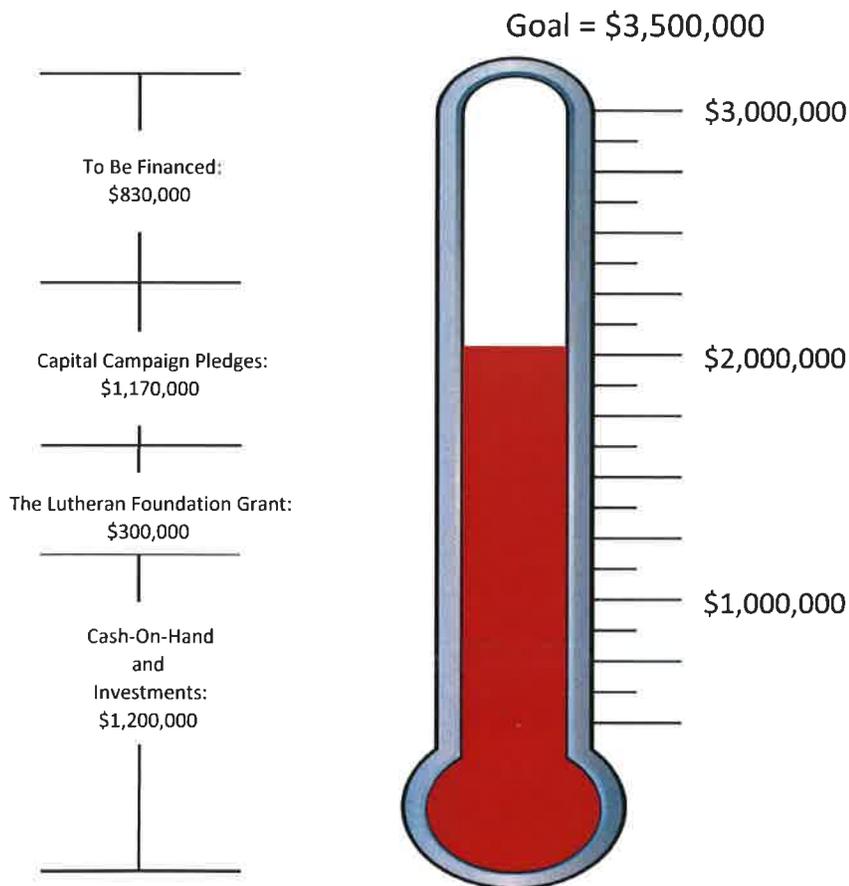
Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 10th. Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour.

Building Project Update

With a nice break in the weather in February, the construction crew was able to accomplish a lot! The hallway connecting Wee Creations and the church offices was completely removed. Concrete footers have now been poured. Ground prep continues as rebar is being laid for additional concrete.

Building Project Thermometer Information

Updated 2/23/24

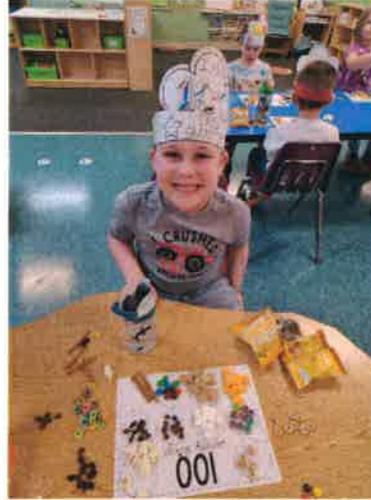


Breakdown of Funds Received (61% Complete):

- \$1,200,000 from Congregation (100% complete)
- \$ 300,000 from The Lutheran Foundation (100% complete)
- \$ 548,648 from Pledges (47% complete)
- \$ 111,095 non-Pledged/over and beyond pledge amt to reduce financing
- \$ 718,905 needed for financing

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL!

Wee Creations students enjoyed celebrating 100 days of school for this school year! Check out those cool hats!



CLASSROOM FUN!





PEACE YOUTH

- March 3** **Sunday School 9:15 AM**
Deaconess Mary Anne will be with us
to share about her trip to Tanzania!
- March 10** **Sunday School 9:15 AM**
Youth Serve Sunday 10:30 AM
- March 17** **Sunday School 9:15 AM**
Jr./Sr. High School 5:30-7 PM
- March 24** **No Sunday School—Spring Break**
- March 31** **No Sunday School—Easter**

Looking ahead:



The last day of Sunday School for this school year will be on 5/5. We will be having a pancake breakfast from 9:15-10:15 that day to celebrate all we've learned.



YOUTH SERVE SIGN UP

SIGN UP THROUGH THE QR
CODE TO HELP AT CHURCH ON
EITHER
3/10 OR 4/14.

SCAN ME



**KEEP YOUR EYES
PEELED FOR INFO
ON NYG 2025!**

Dove Tails

This past month I was again sent to a place with sad people. I went to a place called Indianapolis with my humans, Sue and Hope. There was a sudden death of a small 3rd grade human. The other small humans and friends of this sweet girl were hurting and confused. They told me all about their friend. They said she was nice to everyone, funny and a great friend. One friend even said, “I don’t think I’ve ever had a fight with her!” At one point, Sue was able to comfort the students by letting them climb onto her lap and talk with them. Two things I can’t do: let them climb on my lap and talk to them. But they did give me lots of hugs and pets and really loved me being there.

I also started my visits to more Angola Schools. It’s called MSD (I think it means “Meet Sweet Dog” or something). I got to see some of my friends from church! They were pretty excited to see me outside of church. Hope was even getting questions before my visits like “when is Dove coming to my school?”. I met a lot of new friends also. I think we will become best friends in no time. One little girl even wanted my “mat” to take home with her. She said she would put it in her room so she could see me every day! I still need my mat, but that made me feel special!

One other really good thing happened: Amber recently gave me a new “lambie”. It’s my favorite toy! I like to rip up all my other toys, but this one I carry around like a baby. I love my “lambie”. See my picture below.

Romans 8:28:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”



MISSION: TANZANIA 2024



Jambo - - Hello!

One day an evangelist was walking down the road and saw several women chatting under this baobab tree. She asked them if they'd like to hear about Jesus. They said, "Yes." The next day the women brought friends to hear about Jesus. Soon the evangelist was leading Bible study with 30 women under this baobab tree.



A year later this church, "Tree of Life Lutheran Church" has been built near that baobab tree and 100 people worship there each Sunday!

Tanzania is located on the eastern coast of Africa. It is one of the poorest countries in the world with a majority of the population farming, growing only enough to sustain their family. 63% of the population identifies as Christian; 34% identifies as Muslim.



The Lutheran Church in Tanzania is the fastest growing Christian church in the nation – partly because of the Holy Spirit working through men and women like this evangelist, who stopped to talk with people about Jesus.

The South East Lake Victoria Diocese has been working with Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne to train pastors and deaconesses, approximately half of whom will be serving as evangelists. Deaconess Mary Anne Hibbard was privileged to go to Tanzania in January 2024 to teach Deaconess students.



**Mungu awe nanyi daima - -
May God be with you till we meet again!**



"Give us this day our daily bread."

Luther gives us a good understanding of these Fourth petition words "Our Daily Bread" as "everything that belongs to the support and wants of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home." Actually, he goes on to say that included in "Daily Bread" are "peace, health, discipline, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors and the like." This explanation includes our Family Promise friends! Friends that I/we may not know personally, but friends nonetheless!

Can you imagine life without food or shelter, let alone those comfortable Skechers that you got for Christmas! We tend to take so much for granted!

Recently I was given opportunity to tour the Family Promise facility while under remodel. I was humbled! Family Promise in Coldwater, MI provides safe shelter to homeless women alone, women with children, and families. Instead of 8 guests, the remodel is hopeful to accommodate as many as 16. What a great visual as we pray the Lord's Prayer and what a blessing for these special friends!

With that, your food and money donated, drivers willing to transport, and the prayers offered for these friends in need is so appreciated! If you are interested in helping with this "Daily Bread", please let me know! We'd love to have your support, even more so with the expansion! **Our next opportunity comes March 18th-22nd! You will find the sign-up sheet on the information desk.**

Thank you,
Luanne Haupt (260-639-7339)

GriefShare

Starting up again in April. They will meet on Tuesdays at 6:00 pm starting April 2nd-June 25th.

This is a program designed for those who have experienced a loss through death. Even if you decide to come at the last moment, you are by all means welcome.

Group facilitators are Doug and Luanne Haupt. Please feel free to contact them with any questions.



The Next Peace Lutheran Blood Drive is:



**Wednesday, March 27th
1:00pm-5:00pm**

To schedule a donation time visit:
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

or call: 1-800-RED CROSS

What is Lutheran Senior Care Ministry?



Lutheran Senior Care Ministry (LSCM) shares the Christian message with seniors in a variety of care facilities in the greater Fort Wayne area. This is carried out through 20 chaplains and pastors (mostly retired), who preside over weekly 30-minute devotional services in 40 different senior care facilities. This LSCM ministry reaches over 600 seniors each week. Many of the seniors attending these devotional services are otherwise unchurched.

Lutheran Senior Care Ministry was founded in Fort Wayne and will be celebrating 100 years of sharing the Gospel message with seniors this spring.

Please keep the Christian outreach mission of LSCM in your prayers, and see next month's newsletter for additional ways you can support LSCM.

Peace Garden Ministry

It really has been “The Winter that Wasn't!” There was that brief very cold spell in January but since then it has been quite mild and even spring-like. Here at Clear Lake the ice totally left on February 9 – the earliest that I can ever remember.



So what am I thinking about?

Yep, I am organizing seeds and planning where they will go. Even started onion and leeks today. Our Creator has gifted us with blessings of all kinds - even hundreds of thousands of seeds ready to burst forth into goodness. And so thoughts abound of delicious, fresh vegetables and gorgeous, fragrant flowers that we can be growing in the garden this year. This will be the twelfth year for the Peace Garden. There are 28 plots available for members as well as interested persons of our community.

There will be additional information in the April newsletter as well as a sign-up sheet on the information desk in the narthex later this month. Yes, certainly gardening is work, but oh the glorious rewards coming from our Creator's hand. For more information contact Don Luepke at donluepke@juno.com

Prayer List Update:

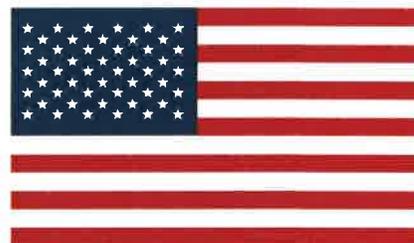
Those with family members serving in the military or as first responders, please email their names and how you are related to:

Pastor Teeple
pastort@plcms.org

or Emily

secretary@plcms.org

so we may update the prayer list.



Stephen Minister Testimonial

“I am always amazed to see how much relief the care receivers experience when they are encouraged to talk about their problems and explore their feelings. We, Stephen Ministers, provide care in such a simple way while Jesus provides the healing. Sometimes He removes the storm and sometimes He comforts His child, with peace, in the midst of the storm. I feel very blessed to watch His work in the lives of others! To Jesus be the glory!”

Patti Baals

- 4 years as a Stephen Minister
- Commissioned in June, 2019



What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry offers a proven and effective way to organize, equip, and supervise a team of congregation members—called Stephen Ministers—to provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing crises or life difficulties.

If you or someone you know could benefit from confidential Stephen Ministry care, please contact Pastor Teeple, Rick Kirkton or Ellen Luepke.

Lenten Almsgiving Project



The mission of Elijah Haven of LaGrange and Steuben Counties is to provide a safe, healing, nurturing environment for individuals affected by domestic violence and to advocate violence-free living.

Elijah Haven now has a satellite office in Angola. Parenting classes, children's programs, addictions/PTSD counseling sessions, and an NPO class (education regarding protective orders) are offered through this agency. Victims learn about the different types of domestic violence and begin to understand the effects on the victims and children in the long term.



The Lenten Almsgiving Project, organized by Peace's Lutheran Women in Mission, will furnish supplies for clients of Elijah Haven and for the upkeep of its short-term emergency shelter. Throughout Lent, you are invited to support this project!

Please bring these to the Fellowship Hall:

Week 3 – February 28 – March 5

Shampoo, conditioner, body wash

Week 4 – March 6 - 12

Liquid hand soap, washcloths

Week 5 – March 13 - 19

Dish soap, disinfectant wipes



Week 6 – March 20-26

Deodorant, Kleenex

Gas, grocery, and Walmart gift cards welcome anytime

LWM Mite Box Collections



A check of \$538.16 was sent to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League through the MITE box collection. It was Peace's LWM largest MITE box donation yet! Thanks to all for collecting and donating your change through the MITE boxes. Extra boxes and cans are available at the information desk in the narthex. See Carol Gepfert to turn in your filled boxes or if you have any questions.

Based on the Biblical account found in Luke 21:1-4 and Mark 12:41-43, the MITE Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS.

Additional information and photo taken from <https://www.lwml.org/mites>



Peace Lutheran
Women in Mission

Almsgiving Project
Wrap-Up Gathering

6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 11
Fellowship Hall



The Food Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary is open to all seminary students and their families. Food and household items are available to these families at no charge. Students volunteer service time for the privilege of shopping. The Food Co-Op is set up like a small grocery store.

The Food Co-Op relies solely on the generous donations of perishable and non-perishable food and household items from individuals and congregations.

Peace contributes monthly to the Food Co-Op through the donations of members. There is a large blue bucket that sits underneath the mailboxes; that bucket is our donation bin for the Food Co-Op. Please consider donating each month!

While all pantry type donations are welcome anytime, this month's donation focuses on pantry items.

Wish list items include:

- canned fruits and vegetables
- canned meats and tuna
- canned soups
- pasta sauce
- pasta and rice



BIZARRE BIBLE STORIES

Once upon a time, a bunch of children came across a prophet. They began to make fun of him and his baldness, as children are prone to do...So the prophet cursed the children, and two bears came out of the woods and ate them. The end.

Want to hear more great stories like this?

Join Deaconess Gina Teeple for adult Bible class between services at 9:15am.

Study will continue through the month of March.

Peace Praise Team



The Praise Team is looking for male and female vocalists, specifically team members who would be available to lead the congregation in praise songs on Sundays at the 10:30am service and Mondays at 6:30pm. Of course, additional instrumentalists are always welcome too!

If this is you, and you want to join the Peace Praise Team, please see Judy Scharpenberg for more details. We would love to have you!

Peace Resources

PHONE NUMBER — 260-495-4306

Office Extensions:

PHONE NUMBER — 260-495-4306

Office Extensions:

Secretary- 301

Pastor Teeple- 302

Kristin McGee- 304

Amber Vonderau- 309

Wee Creations Office- 350

Church Text Messages & Email App

To sign up for church text messages:

Send a text to the number **81010**.

In the message type “**@peacefrem**”.

You will receive a text asking for your name.

Respond with your first and last name. You will receive text messages regarding church updates.

If you have already signed up, you do not need to sign up again.

**We welcome you to
join us for our
Worship Services**

Sunday

8:00am Worship
9:15am Educational Hour
10:30am Worship

Wednesday

6:30pm Worship

WEBSITE — www.plcms.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES — at church:

Pastor Jeff Teeple – PastorT@plcms.org
Sara Miller – Director@weecreations.org
Kristin McGee – Admin@plcms.org
Jodie Church – JChurch@plcms.org
Emily Disbro – Secretary@plcms.org
Amber Vonderau – Amber@plcms.org
Hope Korte – ComfortDog@plcms.org



RightNow Media – Please remember all the resources that are available to you and your family free of charge through RightNow Media! It is a clearinghouse of videos, Bible studies, and podcasts that help you grow in your faith toward God and love for others! If you haven't signed up (and even if you have!) be sure to access this amazing library of Christian material! (Checkout the link in our e-news to sign up!)



E-News – Just a reminder that we continue to publish our e-news and announcements every week. If you haven't signed up to receive e-news through your email, please email Pastor Teeple and he will get you signed up! If you did sign up and haven't seen it, please double check your SPAM folder; it is an email that comes from the secretary's email address: secretary@plcms.org

MARCH

BIRTHDAYS

3/2 Dan Toigo
3/3 Grant Korte
3/4 Bonnie Hollman
Earlene Panning
Sue Shollenberger
3/5 Scott Bond
Chuck Crosby
Rick Panning
3/6 Kelly Johnson
3/7 Marla Toigo
Andrew Miller
3/8 Jack Clark
3/10 Chris Hanke
Bill Metzger
3/11 Jaeger Bergquist
3/12 Ken Scharpenberg
3/13 Audrey McDowell
3/15 Cheryl Johnson
3/18 Luanne Haupt
Sandy Heilman
Larry Hibbard Casault
3/20 Tammy Panning
3/22 Emma Griffiths
Brian Parrish
3/23 Tom Gerbers
Ron Oldsen
Barbara Kraegel
3/24 Lois Susin
3/25 Loren Jackemeyer
Dan Haffner
Lori Lowie
Cindy Wilson

3/28 Sydney Hinchliffe
Brooke Shelburne
Taylor Shelburne
3/29 Amber Vonderau
3/31 Tina King
Joshua Mann

ANNIVERSARIES

3/3/1967 Dan & Patti Haffner
3/18/1967 Don & Joyce Schuller
3/18/1972 Jerry & Linda Lake
3/26/1966 Jim & Linda Miller
3/27/1981 Dick & Pam Lehman
3/27/1982 Peter & Randi Keck

Altar flowers

3/3 Dan & Patti Haffner
3/10 Jim & Linda Miller
3/17 Don & Joyce Schuller
3/24 Eugene Sumney
3/31 Brian & Shannon King



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 8am - Worship 9:15am - SS/BC 10:30am - Worship/HC 12pm - Dodgeball Event	26 10am - Women's Study 5:30pm - Scouts	27 10am - WCM Chapel	28 9:30am - Sewing/Crafts 10am - Online Zoom Bible 5pm - Handbells 5pm - Special Olympics - 5:30pm - Soup Supper 6:30pm - Lent Worship 7:15pm - Adult Choir	29 WCM DF: Sauss Day 9:30am - Bible Study	1 10am - SM Superv.	2
3 Daylight Savings Begins 8am - Worship/HC 9:15am - SS/BC 10:30am - Worship	4 10am - Women's Study 5:30pm - Scouts	5 10am - WCM Chapel 6:30pm - BOO Mtg.	6 9:30am - Sewing/Crafts 10am - Online Zoom Bible 5pm - Handbells 5pm - Special Olympics - 5:30pm - Soup Supper 6:30pm - Lent Worship 7:15pm - Adult Choir	7 WCM DF: Sauss Day 9:30am - Bible Study	8 10am - SM Superv.	9 10am - Gym reserved
10 Daylight Savings Begins 8am - Worship/HC 9:15am - SS/BC 10:30am - Worship	11 10am - Women's Study 5:30pm - Scouts	12 10am - WCM Chapel 6:30pm - BOO Mtg.	13 9:30am - Sewing/Crafts 10am - Online Zoom Bible 5pm - Handbells 5pm - Special Olympics - 5:30pm - Soup Supper 6:30pm - Lent Worship 7:15pm - Adult Choir	14 9:30am - Bible Study	15 Newsletter Deadline	16
17 8am - Worship 9:15am - SS/BC 10:30am - Worship/HC 5:30pm - Jr/Sr High Youth	18 10am - Women's Study 11:30am - Staff Meeting 5:30pm - Scouts	19 10am - WCM Chapel	20 9:30am - Sewing/Crafts 10am - Online Zoom Bible 5pm - Handbells 5pm - Special Olympics - 5:30pm - Soup Supper 6:30pm - Lent Worship 7:15pm - Adult Choir	21 9:30am - Bible Study	22 10am - SM Superv.	23
24 Palm Sunday 8am - Worship/HC 9:15am - BC 10:30am - Worship	25 WCM Closed-Spring Break 10am - Women's Study	26 WCM Closed-Spring Break	27 9:30am - Sewing/Crafts 12pm - Red Cross Blood 5pm - Handbells 7:15pm - Adult Choir	28 Holy (Maundy) Thursday 6:30pm - Worship/HC	29 Good Friday 6:30pm - Worship	30
31 Easter Sunday 8am - Worship/HC 9:15am - Easter Breakfast 10:30am - Worship/HC	1 10am - Women's Study	2	3 9:30am - Sewing/Crafts 12pm - Red Cross Blood 5pm - Handbells 7:15pm - Adult Choir	4	5	6