



*My heart
rejoices*
in your salvation.

PSALM 13:5 NIV

May 2025



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 PASTOR TEEPLE

Dear friends in Christ,

It's hard to believe that just one year ago we were surrounded by the sights and sounds of construction—steel beams rising, walls going up, concrete being poured (and occasionally being poured on by rain!). We stood in the dust and noise, dreaming of what would be. And now? Now we gather each week in a beautiful new space, filled not just with light and fresh paint, but with laughter, music, prayer, and the joyful noise of God's people worshiping together.

Our building campaign wasn't just about bricks and mortar—it was about ministry and mission. It's such a joy to now see Wee Creations classrooms full of children, our fellowship hall ringing with conversation, and a sanctuary that lifts our spirits heavenward. Thank you to all who prayed, gave, worked, and trusted in God's timing. The fruits of that labor are all around us!

As May rolls in and we begin to spot more flip-flops than snow boots (Thanks be to God!), it's time to note a few seasonal changes in our church life. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, we'll shift to our summer worship schedule: Sunday morning late worship moves to 10:00 a.m., and both Sunday School and Adult Bible Class will take a summer break. This gives our teachers a much-deserved rest and allows for a little extra room for summer travels, slower mornings, and coffee that doesn't need to be rushed!

But let's not let our faith take a vacation—even as our routines change, let's recommit ourselves to our mission: **"Friendly People, Growing in Christ; Called to Praise and Proclaim, Learn and Love, Care and Celebrate."**

That's not just a catchy line for the newsletter—it's who we strive to be, year-round. Whether in a pew or on a pontoon, we are God's people, called to grow and go.

Speaking of vacation... I'll be away for a few weeks this month to recharge and reconnect with my family (and possibly to see if I remember what the sun looks like). During that time, Pastor Rudolph will be on call for any pastoral emergencies. Please don't hesitate to reach out to him if needed!

May this month bring sunshine to your days. (Did you like my pun on the month of May?) May this month also bring peace to your hearts, and fresh reminders of God's faithfulness. I am grateful to walk this journey with you. And I promise not to bring back any sermons about airport delays or sunscreen!

Peace to you all in Jesus Christ.
Pastor Jeff Teeple

A LETTER FROM PASTOR RUDOLPH

So when they had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. - Acts 1:6-9

May is a month that celebrates many things, Mother's Day and Memorial Day being important days that we honor great servants in our society. We honor mothers, who sacrifice much for the sake of the health and well-being of their children. We honor military service members who gave up their lives for the sake of the health and well-being of their fellow Americans. These are great days when we get to honor the great sacrifices people make on behalf of others. As Christians, sacrifice is near and dear to our knowing and understanding of love, for the greatest picture of love is in Christ's great self-sacrifice on behalf of His bride, the Church. This was the great celebration of April this year, where Christ gave up His life on the cross before taking it up again on Easter. These May holidays do a great job showing different ways and different levels of sacrifice in the ways we love those around us.

But May is also a time of change, whether it be from the April Showers to May Flowers or from winter home to summer home. It is the same in the Church as well. We will continue with the season of Easter for several weeks, and although we celebrate Easter every Sunday, the next Church holy-day comes in May, when we celebrate Christ's Ascension into heaven.

From now on, Jesus would not walk around with His disciples as He had for the past three years. Instead, He would be with them in a different way, through His Word and Sacrament. I'm sure His disciples longed for things to go back to the way they used to be as they stood, gazing into heaven, as Jesus left them. Yet two angels shake them to reality: Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven. What a great promise that is!

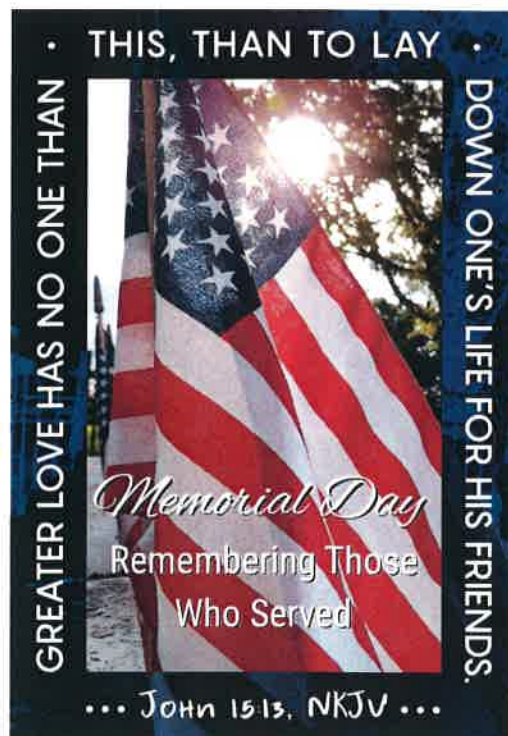
The day is coming when Christ will come again, just as He said. But there are things to do. As Jesus said, they would be witnesses. Just as Jesus Christ is the faithful witness (as you've heard in our Sunday sermon series on the book of Revelation), we too will be His witnesses to all people around the world. Let us not sit back and gaze into heaven as if there is no work to be done. Let us witness to the great things God has done for us! Look for ways in your everyday lives at work, at home, at the store, and wherever you might be "to the end of the earth" to witness to this great truth. Act as God's witness to your neighbors around you, as kind and loving servants who have a great hope for the time when Jesus will come again to bring them to eternal life with Him. In this way, we act as Jesus's witnesses until He comes again, just as they saw Him go.

Pastor Jared Rudolph

SUMMERTIME

SCHEDULE CHANGES

- Last day for Handbells Practice- **5/7**
- Last day for Choir Practice- **5/7**
- Last Day of Sunday Bible Class- **5/18**
- Last Day of Online Bible Class- **5/21**
- Last Day for Thursday Adult Bible Class- **5/22**
- Worship Times Change to Summer Hours- **5/25**
- Office and Wee Creations closed for Memorial Day- **5/26**



FINANCIAL UPDATE

As promised, the Board of Directors and Business Administrator are committed to keeping the members of Peace updated on our financial situation throughout the year. Here are a few noteworthy highlights from the first quarter of 2025:

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>OVER/UNDER</u>
Revenue (envelopes):	\$138,773.26	\$119,469.00	+\$19,304.26
Expenditures:	\$153,266.67	\$159,849.00	-\$6482.33
Net Loss:	-\$14,593.41	-\$40,380.00	+\$25,786.59

What does this mean?

Our revenue (envelope giving) was over budget and our expenses were under budget. We had a loss, however the loss was not as great as anticipated at the time the budget was accepted.

Additionally, our mortgage principal (as of April 17) is \$389,507.25. We have not yet converted to a permanent mortgage, therefore we are still making interest-only payments (while paying down the principal).

The staff is very aware of the deficit budget in place this year and has been diligently doing their part to help control expenses. And the congregation has responded generously and envelope giving has been very healthy thus far. THANK YOU ALL!!

As always, if you have any financial questions, please contact Kristin in the church office.



SECOND ANNUAL
**ICE
CREAM**
Social

YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR
A SWEET TREAT SPRINKLED
WITH APPRECIATION
AT PEACE LUTHERAN'S
ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

HERE'S THE SCOOP:
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21
6:30 PM-7:30 PM
PEACE'S
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Wee Creations students spent time last month preparing for Easter through crafts and art. They also learned about Earth Day and how it reminds us what God gave us and that we need to care for it always. Dove the Comfort Dog even made a visit!







DOVE Tales



The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else...Acts 17:24-25 NIV

Dear Friends,

Don't you love springtime? So many wonderful sights, sounds, and smells. Isn't it a wonder – all the beauty God has given us? Even His breath gave us life! Last month I saw life everywhere – at church, all the schools, Cameron Hospital, training with Tom Gerbers and lots of other Comfort Dogs. The trainer told us to breathe in. I guess we got an extra powerful dose of God's love that way!

Many times I meet humans who need the breath of God. We were deployed to St. John Flatrock because their Athletic Director died suddenly. About forty students plus staff left part of their grief with me. We were glad to share God's love with them.

Back home we met a third grader determined to visit with me. After she left we learned that she and her sister get themselves up and ready for school every day by themselves. Sometimes they seem to be left alone too much. I think we filled her with God's breath, His joy and love.

At Cameron Hospital we met two Trine students interning there, plus an employee who was so impressed with me that his family chose a golden retriever for themselves! A patient even came out of his room to meet me.

Wee Creations was a funny visit. A boy told me that he has a mini golden doodle who will always be one year old! Another student grabbed his teacher's phone to take pictures of me. Then there were my visits to Menard and Meijer – maybe I'll share those with you at a later time!

Anyway, remember to breathe in God's healing breath and all the life He has given you, then breathe out all the bad stuff. And come say hello to me at church!

Love,

Dove

PS: There are many ways you can be part of Team Dove.

Contact Hope Korte at atcomfortdog@plms.org or talk to the pastors.



Hope, Dove, and Crew,
We just wanted to thank you
all for taking time out of your
busy schedules to have Dove
visit Easterseals RISE.

Dove loves the visits and
always calls us to let us
know "her church dog" visited.
This ministry means so much
to her and the other clients
and staff.

Thank you again!
Many blessings!!

I got "fan mail" this week! My handlers tell me it says:
"Hope, Dove, and Crew,

We just wanted to thank you all for taking time out
of your busy schedules to have Dove visit Easterseals
RISE.

[She] loves the visits and always calls us to let us
know 'her church dog' visited. This ministry means so
much to her and the other clients and staff.

Thank you again!

Many blessings!!"



The Shield of the Apostle Philip: A Symbol of Faith and Evangelism

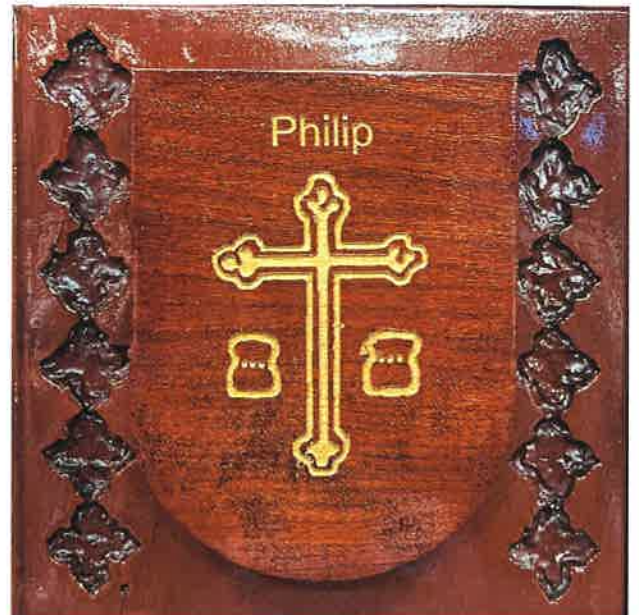
As we have seen, each of the twelve apostles is often associated with a unique symbol or emblem that represents their life, mission, and martyrdom. The Apostle Philip, known for his role in spreading the Gospel and for his bold faith, is commonly represented by a cross-topped staff or a basket filled with loaves of bread.

However, one of the more striking and lesser-known representations is Philip's shield – as we see in our Old Sanctuary Cross – depicted with a cross and two loaves. Sometimes the shield is set against a background of deep blue.

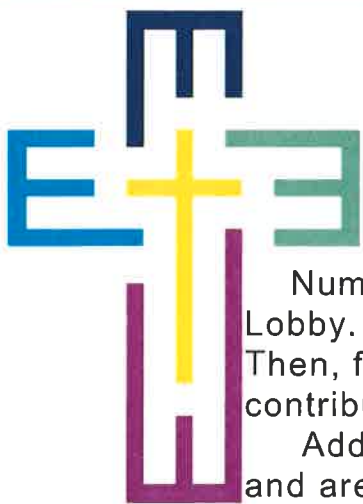
The cross signifies Philip's unwavering commitment to Christ and the Gospel. According to early Christian accounts, Philip preached extensively in Asia Minor and was ultimately martyred for his faith—crucified upside down in the city of Hierapolis. His shield's cross is not only a symbol of his martyrdom but a reminder of his call to follow Christ, no matter the cost.

The loaves of bread recall Philip's role in the miraculous feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:5-7), where Jesus asked Philip where they could buy food for the crowd. His response—realistic yet limited by human understanding—opened the door for Jesus to reveal divine abundance. The loaves thus serve as a powerful symbol of provision, humility, and the transformative power of faith.

Together, the elements of St. Philip's shield reflect a legacy of bold witness, compassionate ministry, and trust in the miraculous. It stands as a reminder for today's believers to step forward in faith, even when the task seems impossible.



National Youth Gathering Fundraiser Opportunities



Would you like to help send our teens to the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer? Consider participating in one of the Youth Fundraisers!

Numbered envelopes are available on the table in the East Lobby. Choose a number—that number is your donation amount. Then, follow the steps on the information sheet to make your contribution.

Additionally, beaded bookmarks have generously been donated and are for sale in the Fellowship Hall. Your freewill donation to purchase these bookmarks will go directly towards sending our youth to New Orleans this summer for the National Youth Gathering.

Thank you for your support and prayers as the children of Peace prepare for this opportunity to deepen their Christian faith.

Peace's Lutheran Women in Mission will gather:
Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall



Come prepared to celebrate the generous response of Peace's congregation to the Lenten Almsgiving Project as we sort, count, and box supplies for the Concordia Theological Seminary of Fort Wayne's Clothing Co-Op!

Tirzah Rudolph will also provide insight and give details about the Clothing Co-Op at this meeting.

Contact Sharon Aldrich or Elaine Elsner for more information.



Peace will resume it's monthly contributions to the Food Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary. The Co-op is available to students enrolled at the seminary at no financial cost. Students volunteer their time for the privilege of shopping.

There is a large blue bucket that sits underneath the mailboxes; that bucket is our donation collection bin for the Food Co-Op.

While all donations are welcome anytime, this month's donations focus on breakfast items such as:

- oatmeal
- cereal
- toaster pastries
- pancake mix
- muffin mix
- granola bars

ACTSFW
FOOD & CLOTHING CO-OP

AMERICAN RED CROSS

**BLOOD
DRIVE**



Peace Lutheran Blood Drive

Wednesday, May 21
1:00pm-5:00pm

If you are interested in donating, please visit:

www.redcrossblood.org

or call:

1-800-RED-CROSS



*"Go into all the world and preach
the good news to all creation."*

-Mark 16:15

Join Us for a Special Missionary Presentation!

*Peace Lutheran is excited to welcome
Barb Rebentisch on Sunday, May 18,
during the Adult Bible Study hour.*

Barb serves the Lord in Taiwan through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), where she is based in the city of Chiayi.

In her mission work, Barb helps bridge the gap between Mandarin and English, translating and interpreting to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with Chinese-speaking communities. Her ministry focuses on building relationships, sharing the Gospel through both spoken and written Word, and equipping others to do the same within their neighborhoods.

Since 2022, Barb has also been a student in the Deaconess Studies program at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne—a journey Peace Lutheran has had the joy of supporting.

Come hear firsthand about the powerful ways God is working through Barb's ministry in Taiwan. Her stories and insights will inspire and encourage you. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about mission work and God's Church around the world!



PICKLEBALL BEGINS SOON

**Pickleball starts up
in the gym:**

**Wednesday, May 21
starting at 4:30pm**

A big shout of thanks to all who helped with the wonderful Easter breakfast. Thank you to those who donated food, and also to those who helped behind the scenes. It could not have happened without all of you!

This event is truly a show of the love and fellowship of Peace Lutheran Church. It was so good to see the room full and everyone enjoying the community of friends.

Many thanks to all,
Larry & Marie Font

**THANK
YOU**



*Peace's Mental Health Advocates
are thrilled to share
Mental Health America's 2025 theme:
"Turn Awareness into Action."*

This theme celebrates the progress made in recognizing the importance of mental health – and challenges us to turn understanding into meaningful steps toward change.

The "Cs of mental health" refer to five key elements that contribute to overall mental well-being: Clarity, Connection, Coping, Control, and

Compassion. These elements work together to foster a healthy mindset and emotional well-being.

Clarity: This refers to gaining clarity on your thoughts, emotions, and goals, which can be challenging during times of stress or mental health difficulties.

Connection: Humans thrive on connection, and it's crucial to maintain strong relationships with others, whether friends, family, or support systems.

Coping: Developing healthy coping mechanisms to manage stress and navigate challenging situations is essential for mental health.

Control: This refers to feeling in control of your own thoughts, emotions, and actions, rather than feeling overwhelmed or helpless.

Compassion: Cultivating compassion for yourself and others, including understanding and empathy, is a vital aspect of mental well-being.

Please take time this month and every month to practice positive mental wellness. It is our duty as the Body of Christ to work together to uplift and support those who are mentally struggling.

Peace Lutheran offers support through several different ministries such as GriefShare and Stephen Ministry. The Peace Lutheran Mental Health Advocates have also put together an information station regarding mental health issues. Look for the Mental Wellness Center on the rolling cart currently in the East Lobby by the choir loft door. This collection of resources includes topics such as anxiety, substance abuse, and trauma, among many, many others.





Ministry Needs that Stephen Ministers Could Meet



Who do you know at Peace, in your family, in your neighborhood, or perhaps even yourself who is struggling with one of the situations named below? These are circumstances in which an individual could benefit from the emotional and spiritual care of a Stephen Minister:

GRIEF: over separation from a loved one through death, divorce, or regarding permanent disability or mobility at home.

MAJOR MEDICAL CRISIS: diagnosis or treatment of a terminal illness, rehab from an accident or injury, dealing with an ongoing health issue or chronic pain, or palliative or hospice care.

JOB RELATED CRISIS: job loss, long term unemployment or under employment, job stress, retirement issues.

BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS: with a spouse or significant other, between parents and children, siblings or friends.

These are a few of the situations with which Stephen Ministers are trained to walk along side of you. Read the above carefully and see if you can identify someone in your circle of friends or family experiencing one of these life issues. Talk with them about Stephen Ministry and discern whether this person could benefit from the presence of a Stephen Minister in their life. Then ask their permission to refer them to our leadership team and we will take it from there.

There is no obligation or commitment at that time. If you are that person in need, please call one of us. We will share this ministry with you and answer questions. Stephen Ministry leadership includes Pastor Teeple, Rick Kirkton, and Ellen Luepke.

In the June Newsletter we will share even more areas in which Stephen Ministers are trained and ready to walk the journey with you.

GriefShare®

Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a
loved one*

At a GriefShare group,
you'll find understanding,
guidance, relief, and a safe
place to navigate the
challenges of grief.

Come join us!
griefshare.org

Contact Us Today

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 PM
Continues now through May 27
Peace Lutheran Church
Fremont, IN
Call or text Luanne Haupt
260-639-7339
with any questions or concerns



*Our next opportunity to serve will be
May 19 - May 23.*

Family Promise prevents and ends homelessness for families with children and helps them achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Peace Lutheran serves residents of Family Promise in Coldwater, Michigan by providing evening meals for a week every few months.

If you would like to serve Family Promise, please consider providing a meal item during our designated week. Items contributed may be homemade or purchased. We usually provide meals for 8 adults and a few children during our week. In addition to providing food items, we also need people to deliver the evening meals.

There is also opportunity this month to provide cleaning supplies to Family Promise. If you would like to contribute any of the following items, you may label them "Family Promise" and leave them in the kitchen: Toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, Pine Sol, 409 cleaning spray, and trash bags.

Please continue to pray for the families served through this important ministry. Look for the sign-up sheet on the information desk. You are much appreciated! Contact Connie Sweeney with any questions (260) 665-5146.

Peace Resources

PHONE NUMBER — 260-495-4306

Office Extensions:

Secretary- 301
Pastor Teeple- 302
Pastor Rudolph- 303
Kristin McGee- 304
Wee Creations Office- 305
Church Service Hours- 321

**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
9:15am Educational Hour
10:30am

Monday

6:30pm

WEBSITE — www.plcms.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES — at church:

Pastor Jeff Teeple – PastorT@plcms.org
Pastor Jared Rudolph – PastorRudolph@plcms.org
Sara Miller – Director@weecreations.org
Kristin McGee – Admin@plcms.org
Emily Disbro – secretary@plcms.org
Amber Vonderau – amber@plcms.org
Hope Korte – ComfortDog@plcms.org
Mary Anne Hibbard – mhibbard@plcms.org
Judy Scharpenberg – kjscharp@mchsi.com



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 the secretary and she 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



BIRTHDAYS

5/2	Mary Anne Hibbard	5/15	Debbie Jo Miller
5/3	Al Hermann		Lauren Teeple
	RuthAnn Hullinger	5/19	Patti Haffner
5/4	David Biddle		Abby Hinchliffe
	Katie Kirkton	5/20	Maya Harris
5/5	Karla Cordes	5/21	Marie Font
5/6	Bill Eyster	5/22	Jaspin Brown
5/7	Don Ahlersmeyer	5/25	Sue Korte
5/10	Gary Tinkel		Ryan Smith
5/11	Ashley Oberst	5/27	Mary Fortuna
	George Oberst	5/28	Karen Spake
	Connie Sweeney	5/29	Jennifer Hagerty
	Nick Biddle		Jaxon Brown
5/12	Joe Mowrey		Jayse Brown
	Sarah Koch	5/30	Grey Baals
	Jazmine Lahnum	5/31	Stan Sweeney
	Dean VonDeylen		
5/13	Marion Hatcher		
	Curt Shelburne		
5/14	Marty Jackson		

ANNIVERSARIES

5/4/1968	Steve & Joan Wright
5/7/2022	Tom & Carol Harkins-Outman
5/10/2023	Thom Horton & Gail Rhoades
5/15/1993	Don & Jennifer Alfeld
5/16/1992	Dave & Tammy Panning
5/25/1963	Bruce & Linda Yerks
5/28/1966	Marty & Judy Jackson

ALTAR FLOWERS, 2025

5/4	Jim & Linda Miller
5/11	Tom & Carol Outman
5/18	Dan & Patti Haffner
5/25	Steve & Charla Cygan

History of Mother's Day

Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) loved her mother dearly. It was Anna who first suggested a national day to honor all mothers.

At a memorial service for her mother on May 10, 1908, Anna gave a carnation, her mother's favorite flower, to each person in attendance. Within a few years, the idea to honor mothers gained popularity, and Mother's Day was soon observed annually in many large cities of the United States.

On May 9, 1914, by an act of Congress, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. He established the day as a time for "public expression of our love and reverence for the mothers of our country." By then, it had become customary to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers, and red carnations to honor the living. This custom continues to this day.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
				6:30pm - LWM Meeting-FH	Pastors' Day Off	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8am - Worship 9:15am - BC/SS 10:30am - Worship/HC 6pm - Youth Group	10am - Women's Study- 5:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - Worship	10am - WCM Chapel 6:30pm - GriefShare-Conf Rm	9:30am - Sewing Sisters 10am - Online Bible Study 6pm - Handbells 7pm - Peace Choir		Pastors' Day Off 10am - SM Superv. Conference	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Mother's Day 8am - Worship/HC 9:15am - BC/SS 10:30am - Worship	10am - Women's Study- 5:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - Worship	10am - WCM Chapel 6:30pm - BOD Mtg. 6:30pm - GriefShare-Conf Rm	9:30am - Sewing Sisters 10am - Online Bible Study	Newsletter Deadline 9:30am - Bible Study 6:30pm - WCM Preschool	Pastors' Day Off	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8am - Worship 9:15am - BC/SS 9:15am - Missionary Presentation 10:30am - Worship/HC 6pm - Youth Group	Family Promise Meals Week 10am - Women's Study- 5:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - Worship	10am - WCM Chapel 4pm - CD Mtg 6:30pm - GriefShare-Conf Rm	9:30am - Sewing Sisters 10am - Online Bible Study 1pm - Red Cross Blood Drive 4:30pm - Pickleball-Gym 6:30pm - Ice Cream Social	9:30am - Bible Study	Pastors' Day Off 10am - SM Superv.	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8am - Worship/HC 10am - Worship	Church Office Closed WCM Closed 5:30pm - Scouts 6:30pm - Worship	10am - WCM Chapel 6:30pm - GriefShare-Conf Rm	9:30am - Sewing Sisters 4:30pm - Pickleball-Gym	Ascension	Pastors' Day Off	