



# The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI FEBRUARY 2018

As I sat down to write this month's cover letter I was looking out my window, watching the snow fall and hoping that the storm that was missing us would not. I thought having some more snow would be nice, after all it is winter in Wisconsin. But my hoping was to no avail, the storm moved South and East and all we got was a smattering.

As I struggled with my disappointment I began to think about the word hope. A quick search let me know that the word hope is used at least 240 times in the Bible. The first use comes in the book of Ruth in the Old Testament and the last in 3 John. In the Old Testament, it is used the most in the Book of Psalms, 28 times, and in the New Testament Paul uses it the most, 13 times in Romans and a total of 49 times in all his Epistles.

Now, hope is a good thing, we hope for the best, we hope our visit at the doctor goes well, in Jesus we hope for our salvation. Now wait a minute; shouldn't our hope for salvation be something more than just a hope. Doesn't that hope make it sound that our salvation is something that might happen? Well in present day English the answer to your question would be yes and that might be worrisome when it comes to our salvation. However, because of the limitations of our modern-day English we can be misled. In scripture the definition for hope is far more clear. In scripture when we are talking about hope we are talking about something that is assured. Hope in the Bible, particularly the New Testament is something we can bank on, it is not something that might be, it is something that is guaranteed. When we read the Gospels and Epistles, we can replace hope with assurance. Let me give you an example.

**Romans 8:23-25** *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

Here Paul is trying to let us know that the hope we have in Christ is not like the hope we have in the world. I am going to make a few changes to verses 24 and 25 and see if you can see what I am speaking of:

*<sup>24</sup>For in this assurance we were saved. Now assurance that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But we have assurances for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.*

(Continued on next page)

**Pastor Rick Williams -**  
715-209-0479

**Office Hours: M/T/W/Th**  
**8:00am-5:00pm**

Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor Williams as he may be visiting shut-in's, at a conference, etc.

**Office Secretary**

Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075

Office Hours M-W 8-3

Days and times may change upon need of work.

**Church President:**

John Pruss 715-292-4825

**Head Elder:**

Darryl Warren 715-492-0488

**Little Friends of Jesus Child  
Care Center: 715-682-5185**

**LFOJ Administrator:**

Karyn Leino 715-682-6075

**Website**

[www.zionashland.org](http://www.zionashland.org)

**E-mail**

[secretary@zionlutheranashland.com](mailto:secretary@zionlutheranashland.com)

**Northern Wisconsin District  
LCMS**

715-845-8241



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1111—11TH AVE WEST**

**ASHLAND, WI 54806**

**715-682-6075**

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am  
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm  
Sunday School 10:15am (Sept.-May)

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The hope that we have in Christ, the hope of our salvation is not the same kind of hope that we have when we hope to win the lottery. Our Biblical, scriptural hope, is the assurance from God, that through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we have been made righteous, we have been adopted as children of God, and because of our baptism, we have died a death like his and will also be raised on the last day in a resurrection like his. This is the hope the Apostle's write about, this is the hope that we believe in. So as Paul wrote to Timothy: *For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our **hope** set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe. (1 Tim 5:5)* It is my hope, that you are all assured of the grace and love of God, your Father and live in the assurance of your salvation through Jesus Christ, his Son, your Brother, our Savior.

As we are now heading into Lent, Ash Wednesday is February 14. I wanted to let you know that our Wednesday Lenten series is entitled: "Return to the Lord!" We will be looking at how we can Return to the Lord; Who is Gracious, Who has redeemed you, Who will restore you, Who will raise you up, Who does not change, and Who does not tire of Calling you!

Please join us for soup and sandwich before you Return to the Lord. God bless you in your Lenten journey and as we complete the journey of our Savior from Manger to Cross, to Grave, to his Glorious Resurrection.

The Lord be with your spirit. Grace be with you. (2 Tim 4:22)

Pastor Rick



## Our Prayer Concerns

### **PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING**

For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

*Bob Heggie, Kevin Heggie, Joni Frisco, Brad Prill, Jean Wickman, Fran Fleig, Eddie Brown, Johnny Galligan, Alice Balmer, Mary Bullis,, Sheldon Henri, Violet Basina, Tim Smith, Jim Bullis, Ellen Hodgson, Tyler Lehto, Doug Tutor, Patti Louko Berg, Barb Bjork, Joan Spalding, Ruth Goldman, Eric Kontny, Lloyd Koosmann, Sandy Fletcher, Tim Fulton, Jodi Kistner, David Palm, Jerry Karaba, Theresa Koosmann, Randy Lauer, Mary Helen Bergschneider, Marie Carlson, Margaret Goodwin, Keisha and baby, Donna Graves, Mike Dimich, David Kaarre, and those in our hearts.*

### **PRAYERS FOR HOMEBOUND**

Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.

*Walt Schutte, Arlene Zimmerman,  
Madge Houle, Donna Graves*

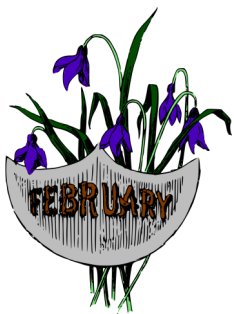
### **PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION**

For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.

*Aaron Esala, David Wright, Johanna Pearce,  
Emily Melecha, Tucker Melecha*



LWML collects your change and/or mite boxes the first Sunday of every month. The proceeds go to many projects that have been designated. Look on the bulletin board for more information.



LWML meets the third Saturday of most months at 10:00am. All women of the church are automatically members. Check the calendar and please join in some Saturday.



**Mustard Seed**

Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

## Decisions, Decisions

### In the Word

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. [Proverbs 3:5-6](#)*

### Of the Word

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" ([Jeremiah 29:11](#)). How wonderful it is to know that God has a plan for my life!*

When I am faced with important decisions, I know the Lord has a plan for me. I may spend hours or even days agonizing over what to do when what I really need to do is spend more time in prayer and reading God's Word, which will guide my decisions.

Although I may not be sure of where He is sending me, I can be certain that He is my Guide. *In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps ([Proverbs 16:9](#))*. The Father hears my prayer for wisdom, and the Holy Spirit guides my actions. I can trust that God will make my path straight.

### Walking with my Lord

Lord, please guide me through my days and help me to stay on the path You have chosen for me. Through Your Word, give me the wisdom to make decisions in accordance with Your will. In Jesus' name. Amen.



## Stewardship Thoughts

As we come forward after the joyous celebration of Christmas we now consider moving into Lent. This brings into account stewardship of the scars. The Lord Jesus became a steward when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and He faithfully used the gifts entrusted to Him to glorify the Father as no human being could. Jesus's stewardship was not failure, but rather His response to The Lord's call to offer His life as a ransom for fallen humanity.

How does this relate to us as stewards of God's kingdom? At the outset, we all have scars. Some deeply buried, some not so much. How we have dealt with these scars determines how we relate to each others scars. Fredrick Buechner writes, "If you manage to put behind you all the painful things that happen to you as if they never really happened or didn't matter all that much when they did, then the deepest and most human things you have in you to become are not apt to happen either."

The Lord can and does use stewardship failures and scars they leave to shape the steward into what He wants them to become. Jesus has healed us fallen stewards so that we may resume the task of faithful steward. This is where Law and Gospel apply. The Law, not to punish or condemn, but to call to repentance. The Gospel to shape and form the fallen steward. Forgiveness abounds for the broken, restored and scarred steward.

The reality is that fallen and restored sinners have memory. Life experience indicates people learn lasting lessons from their scars and failures. The Lord can and does use the discipline of that pain, through the working of the Holy Spirit, to lead through Gospel and move forward in faithfulness.

The Spirit leads the steward forward. When done, stewardship of the scars can be carried out for the glory of God and the extension of His kingdom!

*LCMS Newsletter StewardCAST*

Are you interested in being a positive influence in the life of a child? **Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center** is accepting applications for an **Assistant Child Care Teacher (20 hours per week)**. Applicant must be willing to work with children of all ages. LFOJ is a licensed Christian childcare facility caring for children 6 weeks of age to 12 years and is open year round, Monday through Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Applicant must be 18 years of age & willing to complete state required childcare courses within 6 months of hire. To discuss position, please call Karyn at 715-682-6075. For an application and more information, please visit our website at [lfoj.org](http://lfoj.org) Resume with references can be emailed to [lfoj@zionashland.com](mailto:lfoj@zionashland.com). Old applicants, please re-apply!

## The Winter God (Jan. 2012)

-A. Ellis

Perhaps for many of us in northern Wisconsin the most challenging season to see God "out there" is during the barren-brittle winter. So I set my mind to consider His ways and I realized winter offers abundant evidence to instruct us about God's presence.

The biting wind of winter chills our bones and draws our breath. The winter God warms our hearts and breathes His spirit into our flesh and bones.

The sun on the white landscape often blinds our eyes. The winter God turns a blind eye to our sins and proclaims a forgiveness that makes us whiter than snow.

Winter ice can be a slip-and-slide hazard. The winter God is an unchanging rock and even when we fall, he picks us up and places us back on the well packed-road of faith.

Snowflakes are a fascination for their diversity and fragile beauty. The winter God knows how to reach all of us with our diversity and refashion our lives into eternal beauty.

Cabin fever defines the "shut in" feeling of winter. The winter God is in the business of plowing the corridor of faith and throwing open His heart of gentle grace and warm love.

Winter frost may sting our nose and bite our toes. The winter God took upon himself the sting of death and delivered an eternal invitation to come in out of the cold.

Brutal winter temps cause deer to yard up in the winter and birds to seek shelter. The winter God wraps us in His blankets of righteousness and beckons us to huddle with Him and be still.

Some may think the earth is asleep in the winter, but much is going on beneath the surface. The winter God also operates beneath the surface to awaken weary hearts to great grace and holy love.

Yes, we belong to the 4-season God. The God of spring-birth. The God of summer sun. The God of autumn color. The God of winter shelter. May the barren beauty of winter transform our hearts that together we cozy up to God for warmth and hope and proclaim the presence of the winter God among us: Immanuel



# 2018 Lent



**Ash  
Wednesday  
February  
14th**

**Wednesdays 6:30 pm  
February 14th to**



**M  
A  
R  
C  
H  
25TH**



**Service 9:00am  
Breakfast by  
Youth 10:15am  
(tentatively  
planned)**

**Soup/Sandwich  
Wednesdays  
5:00-6:00pm  
February 14th  
Altar Guild/  
LWML**



**February 21st  
Jim/Mary Bullis Fundraiser  
February 28th Sunday School,**

**Good**



**Maundy  
Thursday**

**March 29th**



**March 30th  
6:30pm**

**The Word of the  
Lord Returns to**

**April 1st Sunrise Service  
7:00am**

**April 1st Easter Sunday**



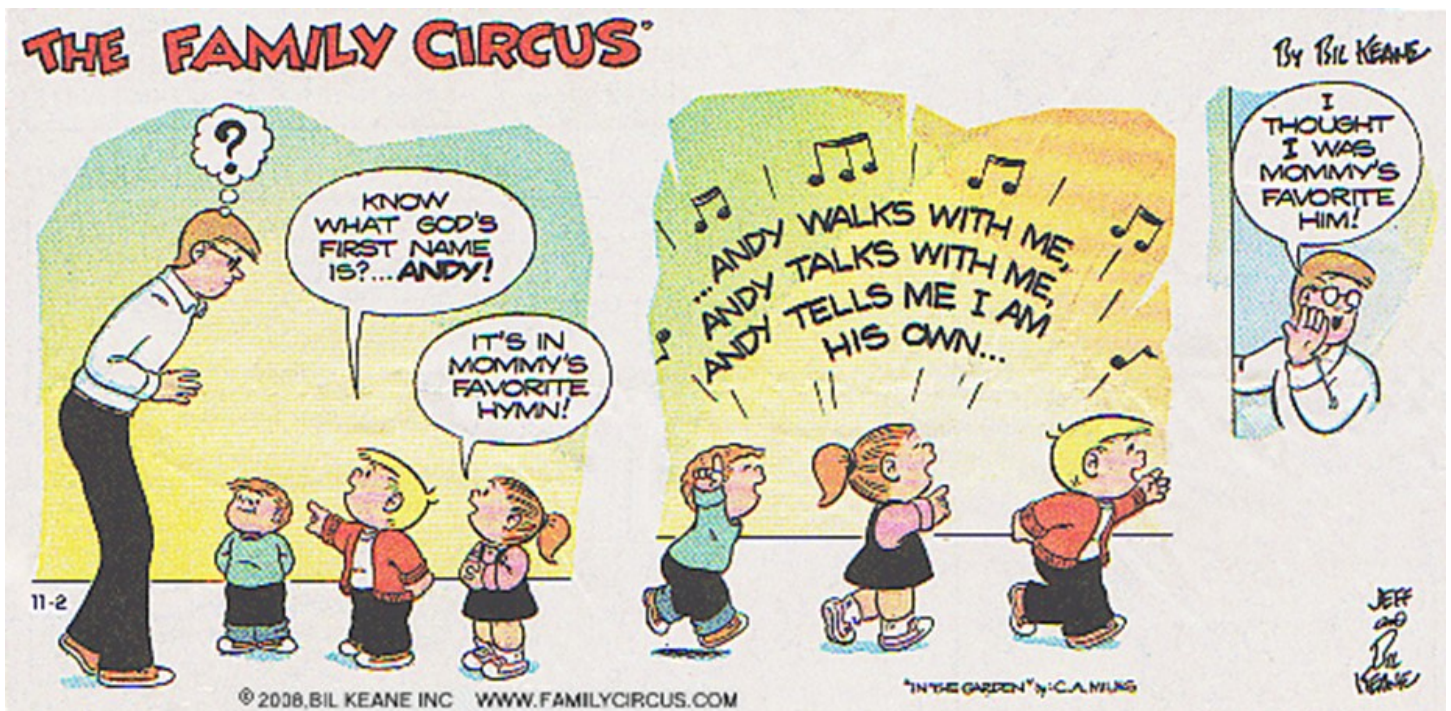
FEBRUARY MISSION  
"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY



During the month of February we will be collecting Soup and other non-perishable items for the BRICK. Drop off your items in the narthex.

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE BRICK.**

*Monetary donations also accepted, make your checks out to the BRICK.*





# REVIEW

Martin Luther's Small Catechism - when was the last time you looked through your catechism? One year? Ten years? Forty years?

A review at any time is a good thing and more times the better. It helps us to keep refreshed in our beliefs and ideals. This will be a monthly addition to the Newsletter. We hope that you will review and enjoy, and maybe learn

## **The Sixth Commandment You shall not commit adultery.**

What is this? or What does this mean? We are to fear and love God, so that we lead pure and decent lives in word and deed, and each of us loves and honors his or her spouse.



## **The Seventh Commandment You shall not steal.**

What is this? or What does this mean? We are to fear and love God, so that we neither take our neighbors' money or property nor acquire them by using shoddy merchandise or crooked deals, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.

## **The Eighth Commandment You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.**

What is this? or What does this mean? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.

## **The Ninth Commandment You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

What is this? or What does this mean? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not try to trick our neighbors out of their inheritance or property or try to get it for ourselves by claiming to have a legal right to it and the like, but instead be of help and service to them in keeping what is theirs.

## **The Tenth Commandment You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

What is this? or What does this mean? We are to fear and love God, so that we do not entice, force, or steal away from our neighbors their spouses, household workers, or livestock, but instead urge them to stay and fulfill their responsibilities to our neighbors.

**What then does God say about all these commandments?** God says the following: "I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments."

What is this? or What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore we are to fear his wrath and not disobey these commandments. However, God promises grace and every good thing to all those who keep these commandments. Therefore we also are to love and trust him and gladly act according to his commands.

**After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.**

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."

## Zion Lutheran Council Minutes: January 15, 2018

The January Meeting was called to order by Council President John Pruss. Pastor Williams opened with a Devotional.

**Roll Call:** John Pruss – President, Darryl Warren-Elders, Lori Landry-Evangelism, Nick Jarvela-Trustees, & Pastor Williams.

**Approval of the November Minutes:** Motion to approve by Warren. Second by Jarvela.

**Pastor's Report:** Conducted 15 Worship services in December. Confirmation classes going well, students are working on confirmation banners. Monday morning Bible study continues—on Book of Proverbs. Pastor completed all visitations, including those in the hospital. LFOJ Chapel was 01/2&3. Sunday Bible study is a video study on Martin Luther. There was no December Winkel. Conducted Nursing Home Services on Wednesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at Ashland Health and Rehab and Court Manor. Pastor reported he will be at a PALS conference in Minocqua February 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> and a Best Practices Conference in AZ February 17<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report was not available .

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Jarvela to approve the Agenda. Second by Landry:

### Board Reports:

**Elders:** Warren reported the Elders did not meet in December.

**Trustees:** Jervela reported Trustees had an organization meeting 1/14/18. Only a few minor things to repair at LFOJ i.e. rocking chairs. Met with Acuity Insurance to review church's policy. Acuity rep highly recommended Zion to start doing background checks on all who will be working with youth.

**Financial Secretary:** no report      **Education:** no report

**Little Friends of Jesus:** Report submitted. Looking for Assistant Teachers. Otto Bremer grant application was completed and submitted on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018; awaiting response. LFOJ's next board meeting is February 12, 2018.

**Evangelism:** Landry reported the 1<sup>st</sup> Coats Plus for kids mission went well. Were able to purchase coats, ski pants, boots, hats, & mittens for over 30 children. Sent out 26 care packages to Zion college students and Zion members who have a non Zion family member in college. Evangelism met Monday, January 8, 2018 with Pastor, and strategize ways we can improve our Evangelism to the community. Pastor asked the Evangelism committee members to come to the February Meeting with 2 Strengths and 2 Weakness related to how we can improve.

Motion to accept board reports by Warren. Second by Jarvela.

**Official Acts:** Baptism Kaylee Sue Hildebrandt 12-12-17

New Members: Harold & Penny Larson 12-7-17. (Larson's was a transfer in from Cadillac, MI)

**Old Business:** Praise Service with Baynet 1/28/2018

### New Business:

Lent Soup/Sandwich schedule: Altar Guild Ash Wednesday-February 14<sup>th</sup>. 2/21 will be a fundraiser for Jim and Mary Bullis. Suggested that Youth group, confirmation and Sunday school take 2/28—Pastor will follow up. LFOJ- 3/7, Trustees -3/14 and Evangelism/Elders – 3/21.

Education Board: Open Sunday School Superintendent position. Pastor suggested he develop a small committee to assist in rewriting the Superintendent job description. This will get tabled to old business for next meeting.

The Brick is looking for a donation basket for the Taste Across the Bay fund raiser. Landry made a motion to approve this request and Warren second.

Usage of the Church – Guidelines/policy. Nick Jarvela offered to draft a new set of guidelines/policy. This will get tabled to old business and presented at next meeting.

Youth Group: Need of additional leaders. John and Paula Pruss are looking for additional leaders to help with the Youth group activities. After new leaders join, Paula and John would like to slowly phase out.

Motion to adjourn by Jarvela. Second by Landry. Next Council meeting will be February 19, 2018. January meeting was closed with *The Lord's Prayer*.

Respectfully submitted: Lori Landry




**FEBRUARY  
Servers for  
Worship**

Our Servers for our Worship Service are very important. We ask that if you are unable to serve on your designated date, please find someone else to take your place. We really appreciate your help in this matter!! If you would like to be added or taken off one of our lists please contact the office. Greeters and Ushers should arrive 20 minutes before services start. Thank-you to all who serve.

<b>February</b>	<b>Elders</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Greeters</b>
<b>Sun. 4</b>	Randy Spangle Andy Pruss	Trista Bolz	Adam Hinch Larry Hildebrandt	Loren & Ellie Munson
<b>Wed. 7</b>	Darryl Warren			
<b>Sun. 11</b>	Randy Spangle Scott Thimm	Lily Truchon	Chuck Chronis Carson Honkala	Pat & Katie Colgrove
<b>Wed. 14</b>	John Pruss Doug Warren	Logan Esala	Jerry Frisco	Warren & Peggy Draeger
<b>Sun. 18</b>	Darryl Warren Andy Pruss	Daniel Truchon	Jim Hebert Paul Osmak	Roger & Sally Gustafson
<b>Wed. 21</b>	John Pruss	Emily Dickrell	Nick Jarvela	Loren & Ellie Munson
<b>Sun. 25</b>	Doug Warren Andy Pruss	Austin Vyskocil	Jim Johnson Don Moreland	Brian & Linda Klobucher
<b>Wed 28</b>	Darryl Warren	Faith Dickrell	Jake Pruss	Linda Stenroos
<b>Mar.Sun. 4</b>	John Pruss Randy Spangle?	Adeline Bauer	Kyle Sapper Ron Schwiesow	Honkala Family
<b>Mar.Wed. 7</b>	Scott Thimm?	Trista Bolz	Alan Sunie	Ron & Brenda Schwiesow

**February**  
Linda Klobucher 746-2064  
Lori Landry 292-2122



**North Star Dartball League Schedule**

Feb. 5th Zion at Saron  
Feb. 12th Zion vs. Sanborn Methodist  
Tournament—  
Feb. 19th, 26th, Mar. 5th  
tentatively set to be at Zion.



**February Services**

Sunday, Feb. 4th Fifth Sunday after The Epiphany  
Sunday, Feb. 11th Transfiguration of Our Lord  
**Wednesday, Feb. 14th Ash Wednesday**  
Sunday, Feb. 18th First Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, Feb. 25th Second Sunday in Lent

# February

# 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Mite Sunday <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	<b>5</b> 10:00am Bible Study Evangelism Mtg. 5:30pm Dartball vs. Saron 7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Confirmation 4-5:30pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>Pastor at PALS Conference - Minocqua →</i>						
<b>11</b> Elders' Mtg. 7:45am <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am	<b>12</b> 10:00am Bible Study  LFOJ Brd Mtg. 5:30pm Dartball vs. Sanborn Methodist 7pm	<b>13</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:00am Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>14</b> Court Manor 10:15am AHRC 1:45pm LFOJ Chapel 11:00am Confirmation 4-5:30pm <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Winkel Mellen</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Newsletter Reports Due</i>	<b>17</b> LWML 10:00am  → →
<b>18</b> <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am Trustees' Mtg. 10:15am  <i>Pastor at Arizona Conference → → → → → → → → → → → → → → → →</i>	<b>19</b> 10:00am Bible Study Council Mtg. 5:30pm Dartball Tournament	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> soup/Sandwich 5-6pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Food Shelf Sunday <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 10:15am  → → → →	<b>26</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Dartball Tournament	<b>27</b> Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>28</b> Confirmation 4-5:30pm Soup/Sandwich 5-6pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>