



# The Mountain Top Messenger

ZION LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH, ASHLAND, WI MARCH 2018

Spring is almost upon us, as I come to you this month. I am again challenged, at least for a few minutes, regarding what I should write. I have just returned from a week in sunny Arizona with June. It was a great week with a few days of relaxation and a few days of work. We attended the Best Practices Ministry Conference put on by Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix. It was a very uplifting and re-energizing time. With that being said, as we are entering the third week in Lent you would think ideas would be gushing out of me. Perhaps the problem is too much information? So, as I pondered what the topic should be, I scanned the headlines, often what is in the news today reflects on our life as Christians in this fallen world. Well, I was not disappointed so here I go. One headline that caught my attention was as follows: "Chris Pratt offers Kevin Smith Prayers, So of course the internet attacks."

Kevin Smith, a movie director, suffered what was described as a "near fatal heart attack" and is recovering in the hospital. Now actor Chris Pratt (star of the Guardian of the Galaxy movies) sent a message on Twitter to Kevin, in part it said: *Kevin we don't know each other too good but I have loved you since Clerks and I'm praying my a#@ off for you cause I believe in the healing power of prayer. Can you please pray with me people!? 🙏❤️*

Within minutes Chris was being bombard with negative Tweets because of his statement. Some of the responses went like this: *"No!!! Please tell me you are being sarcastic! I don't want Chris Pratt to be a god botherer."* *"If you wanna help, actually help. Praying is just a way to feign helping so you don't have to go out of your way"* *"Great now I won't enjoy your films as much knowing you're a Jesus nut"*

It seems apparent that the world at large has lost its respect for prayer. The atheistic movement in the United States has gotten such a grip and voice, that it intimidates people for sharing their faith even if it is through something as simple as offering a prayer. And on top of that, they talk of prayer as being useless and if you really want to help someone or some cause, then you are to help physically. The same sentiments have echoed throughout the media regarding the Parkland School shooting, comments like don't pray for us, that does nothing, do something! Now they never really specify what that something is but they are constantly trying to downplay the power of prayer.

My friends, make no mistake, the ruler of **this** world is the devil and he will do everything within his power to turn it against God and Christ as well as all of us who follow the Triune God. We are the target, he will do everything he can to try and move us away from our faith. But through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have an advocate when we pray, we know that God hears our prayer, we are told to pray unceasingly and that we should never be afraid to ask our father for anything. Remember from Matthew 16:18 Peter has just confessed to Jesus that he is the Christ, the son of the living God and Jesus tells Peter and reminds us that that confession is the "rock" on which he will build his church and he says; "and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." We know the story, we know the ending, and it is Good! We know the devil will lose and God will win, and we the faithful in Christ shall win as well.

(cont. on next pg.)

**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**

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**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)  
Bible Studies  
Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am

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*(continued from front page)*

So don't ever let anyone intimidate you when it comes to prayer, know that the Holy Spirit is always there with you ready to intercede should your words fail you. Pray, pray my friends, pray unceasingly and fear not, why? Because Jesus himself tells us; "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) We will never be forsaken, we will never be abandon, he, Jesus will always be with us.

Oh, and on a closing note. Chris Pratt, has not let people's talk against his faith bother him. He regularly talks of the importance of Faith and Family, particularly living in Hollywood, he also has an Instagram account to express his faith to the world.

God bless you all in your Lenten journey, Paul tells his friend Timothy; "For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, <sup>5</sup> for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer." (1 Tim 4:4-5)  
I pray God's blessing be upon you.  
Pastor Rick

**My Dad's Better Than Your Dad**

Three boys on the playground were bragging about their dads. One said. "My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a song and they pay him 50 bucks."

"Oh, yah. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a poem and they pay him 100 bucks."

"That's nothin'," said the third kid. My dad scribbles a few words, calls it a sermon and it takes six people to collect all the money!"



# 2018 Lent

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  
March 7th  
LFOJ



March 14th Trustees

Good



*Maundy  
Thursday*



March 30th

6:30pm

The Word of the  
Lord Returns to

March 29th



April 1st Sunrise Service 7:00am



## 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, Joe Stach, Tyler Lehto, Doug Tutor, Patti Louko Berg, Barb Bjork, Joan Spalding, Ruth Goldman, Eric Kontny, Lloyd Koosmann, Sandy Fletcher, Tim Fulton, Jodi Kistner, Duane Lynch, David Palm, Jerry Karaba, Theresa Koosmann, 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*



**Mustard Seed**

# Daily Devotions

Lutheran Women in Mission

## *Joy in weakness*

### In the Word

*I can do everything through him who gives me strength.* [Philippians 4:13](#)

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### Of the Word

What is the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Starting over after the death of a loved one? Facing cancer? Divorce? Unemployment? Moving from familiar surroundings? Sending a son or daughter off to war? When Paul wrote the words of this text, he had experienced hatred, imprisonment, beating, lies, misunderstandings, and impending death. In all things, God gave him strength to face the future. He knew with certainty that his ultimate future was in heaven with Jesus, the One who had spoken directly to him on the Damascus road.

Paul's words encourage us in our darkest moments. In the midst of unrest, grief, and uncertainty, God's comforting arms reach out to surround us with love and hope. By His grace, we can echo Paul's inspired words, *I can do everything through him ...* ([Philippians 4:13a](#)).

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### Walking with my Lord

Lord, You know my hurts and weaknesses, for You know all things. Help me to remember You in my darkest moments. Help me to rely on You without any doubts or fears. In Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

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# VBS 2018

## August 6th - 8th

### (Monday - Wednesday)

VBS, this upcoming summer will only be for three days, with Wednesday night's service ending with a celebration. We need a "Lead" person for this to happen. The Lead keeps in contact with Camp Luther, gets the lists going for volunteers, campers, figures out the menu

for the three days, gets any supplies, etc. There are many parts of this that can be assigned to another individual. We need someone by mid-April. Please let Pastor or the office know if you might consider

### LWML

At the January meeting of LWML it was decided that only four meetings would be held in 2018.

This year's meetings will be held:

- January 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM
- March 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM
- August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM
- October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM



We are hoping anyone who attended meetings in the past or have never attended would find one meeting during the year to check us out!

The mite box will continue to be placed in the narthex on the first Sunday and Wednesday of every month for all who wish to contribute to our mission.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ZION DARTBALL TEAM.

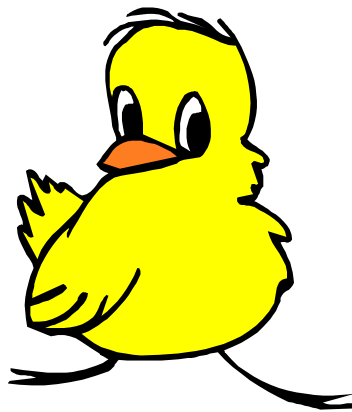
They placed FIRST for the regular season in the North Star Dartball League. Tournament Play started Feb. 26th and goes through March 12th. Slates are wiped clean and a new winner for the tournament round will be earned.





**We're doing it again. Guess when the snowbank on the south end of the parking lot will no longer be white. The "Guess Sheet" is on the bulletin board. Guessing ends March 11th.**

## **March Mission**



*During March, we will be collecting donations to buy chicks for impoverished families.*

*To a family living in a third world country, chicken eggs can provide nutrition as well as income from selling eggs.*

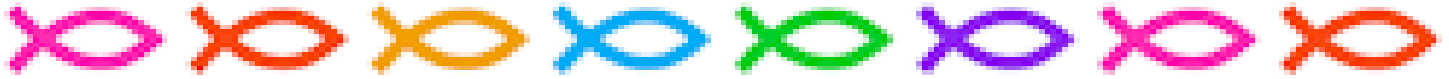
*There is a donation box in the narthex.*

*Checks can be made out to: Samaritan's Purse  
or go to [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org) to donate*

## Late For Class

A little girl, dressed in her "Sunday best" was late and running to her Sunday school class. As she ran, she prayed, "Dear God, please don't let me be late. Dear God, please don't let me be late." Then she fell.

She got up, dusted herself off and saw that her dress was now dirty and had a little tear. She started running again, still praying, "Dear God, please don't let me be late." But this time she added, "But please don't push me, either!"



## Stewardship Thoughts



This month we will focus on stewardship of fellowship partnering in the Gospel; not as individual parts making up the whole body. The local congregation is part of the whole - The Church whose head Jesus Christ. Though the body has many parts, the sum total equals the body.



The Lord assembles the local congregation with its gifts to serve in a specific place. The local congregation gathers around Word and Sacrament as a member of The Church as a partnership in the Gospel. This partnership in the Gospel expands to the circuit, district and synod. Although these layers are one removed from each other and from the baptismal font, altar and pulpit, combined they exist to serve partnership in the Gospel.

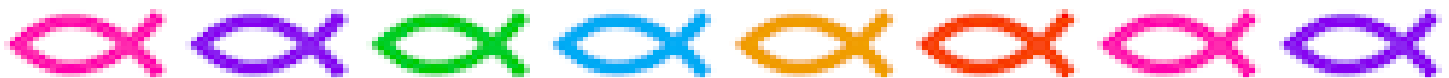


In the past, local congregations had duplicate resources as people were more concentrated and didn't travel far. Now people will travel farther to partner with other stewards of the Gospel, passing congregations on the way. The ones passed over may resent those that are chosen. This does nothing to expand the partnership of the Gospel. In the future, fewer congregations and resources will exist and this sense of being independent will only diminish the stewardship of the Gospel. Why not partner with local LC-MS congregations and share ministry resources? It has been done in the past. Trust in the partnership of sharing in the Gospel will help diminish duplications and multiple expenses furthering expansion Gospel ministry.



The Lord is leading to expand and enhance the stewardship of partnership in the Gospel. He is faithful. He will make it happen!

*LCMS Newsletter StewardCAST*





# Where is God?

By Alice J. Ellis

Some travelers to Mumbai (Bombay), India, expect to see poverty. But few are prepared for the sprawl of squalor that defines the daily lives of one-half of the twenty million people in this compressed city. The landscape is laced with world-weary bodies stretching curled fingers for frayed money and fresh-baked children (as young as three) dodging traffic to slip tiny hands into open car windows. Naked poverty has ten million faces.

In Mumbai, cardboard and tin shacks shelter human cargo, skinny cats and fat rats. Like the slam of a cage, poverty shreds the stories of children, sucks the sewage of polluted water, decays scraps of garbage, and pawns a cup of rice for counterfeit coins. The fast-burning candle of hope quickly collapses into a puddle of human despair for this cancerous sinkhole is clogged with a tangled knot of diseased dreams. After I left Mumbai, Job's ancient question "where is God" was a loose marble rolling in my brain. One month later, the question revealed an unexpected answer.



God sent his beloved Son wrapped in the fragile threads of swaddling cloth and placed him in a lowly manger. But the world knew Him not and at the appointed time, Jesus was rejected and pinned to a rough-cut stake like an old rag. Poverty also drives nails into flesh-and-bone dreams and weaves a toxic shroud that suffocates the breath of hope. The fabric of redemption isn't pretty.

So where do I find the Bethlehem-God in Mumbai? Is my question an arrogant "not in my backyard" response? Do I truly expect to see God's footprints in the alleys of squalor? Does God rub elbows with oozing sores of filth? Are angels truly tending the slumber of thin bodies bedded on roadsides? Does a holy God really draw close to sin-infected humans? Has heaven come to earth in Mumbai?

When I consider Jesus' life, how can I **not** acknowledge His presence in the gullies of poverty? For our sake, Jesus abandoned his heavenly suite to dwell empty-handed in a lowly stable. He held nothing back and even offered himself to be the dead weight of despair. He dyed the eternal texture of redemption blood-red.

The magnification of poverty in Mumbai challenged me to consider my inner landscape. I realized that when the wrappings of my life are stripped away I, too, am joined to the beggar. I am poor and needy...I am empty-handed!

So where is God? Even today, poverty stalks and slays the dreams of the fragile and forgotten. But Jesus transformed poverty into a fertile habitat for grace. He scattered seeds of hope in lowly stables, crowded sidewalks, cardboard places, and empty spaces. He welded my poverty to the poverty of others. Therefore, let us draw near to our brothers and sisters in poverty that together we may open our empty hands and be filled with the abundant grace and love of Jesus: the Seed of eternal hope offered for all people. God is in Mumbai... and Seattle... to the ends of the earth. Claim your riches in Him.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. 2 Cor. 8:9

# 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 something that was forgotten.

## The Creed

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH IT  
IN A SIMPLE WAY TO HIS HOUSEHOLD

### The First Article CREATION

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

*What does this mean?* I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.



### The Second Article REDEMPTION

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*What does this mean?* I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

### The Third Article SANCTIFICATION

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*What does this mean?* I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

(cont. on next page)

(Creed cont.)

The using of creeds is from a Biblical foundation. The Apostles used creeds in their earlier forms, and many are recorded in the New Testament (Ephesians 5:14; I Timothy 3:16; II Timothy 2:11-13).

**Definition:** A creed is a statement of belief. Creed is from the Latin *credo* which means “I believe.” It is a summarization of the faith that Christians profess. Jesus brought important information to everyone about God and His message of salvation. Our acceptance of this information is faith. A Creed sums up the truths that God gave us and allows us to profess our beliefs so that we can acknowledge the truths by faith.

Every person believes in some kind of a creed because this is what influences his whole life. This is the guiding principle that persuades a person in his thoughts and actions. As far as Christians are concerned, the Nicene Creed sums up our attitude towards God, man, and our religion. In our spiritual life, we need to have a set of guidelines that we know are true in order to focus on what God revealed to us through His Son.

The Nicene Creed was created as result of many heresies that were being circulated in the early Church. One of the major heresies that were being taught was called Arianism, which stated that Jesus was not truly God. In order to clarify this issue, the very first ecumenical council was convened to resolve this as well as other important issues of the time.

The Council of Nicaea met in 325 A.D. and established the Creed named for the location where it was formulated. Here the bishops composed a Creed to clearly state the beliefs of the Church and to reject many of the false understandings that were being taught. The Nicene Creed now stated the truths that the Church had been teaching since the time of the apostles. Since this was an ecumenical council that had the assurance of infallibility that was promised by Christ, we know that this Creed stated the truths about God and Jesus. This Creed was later reaffirmed in the next ecumenical Council of Constantinople in 381 A.D.

The Creed is divided into three parts. The beginning speaks of the first Divine Person, God the Father, and the wonderful work of creation. The first thing our Creed tells us about God Himself is that He is the Father Almighty. Here we affirm that there is only one God and He is the creator of everything.

The middle part speaks of the second Divine Person, Jesus Christ, and the mystery of His Redemption for mankind. Beginning with stating that Jesus is indeed God, this is the longest section where Jesus’ role in the salvation process is defined. Here, Jesus’ life story is told and how He came to save mankind.

The final part speaks of the third Divine Person, the Holy Spirit, who is the source of our sanctification. Again, there is emphasis that the Holy Spirit is also God. The Holy Spirit is the part of the Trinity that is able to dwell within us so that we can have the gift of the grace of God.

The Nicene Creed is a summary of the principle truths of our God given to us by the early Church and has been passed on to every generation. As we profess and reaffirm the common faith that is the foundation of Christianity, we today share in the same truths as did the earliest Christians.





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

- ELDERS**
- Mar. 4 John Pruss Doug Warren
  - Mar. 7 Andy Pruss
  - Mar. 11 Scott Thimm & Darryl Warren
  - Mar. 14 John Pruss
  - Mar. 18 Andy Pruss Doug Warren
  - Mar. 21 Scott Thimm
  - Mar. 25 John Pruss Scott Thimm
  - Mar. 29 Darryl Warren
  - Mar. 30 Andy Pruss
  - Apr. 1 Darrel Warren Doug Warren
  - Apr. 1 Scott Thimm Andy Pruss



- ACCOLYTES**
- Mar. 4 Adeline Bauer
  - Mar. 7 Trista Bolz
  - Mar. 11 Lilly Truchon
  - Mar. 14 Logan Esala
  - Mar. 18 Daniel Truchon
  - Mar. 21 Faith Dickrell
  - Mar. 25 Austin Vyskocil
  - Mar. 29 Adeline Bauer
  - Apr. 1 7:00am Emily Dickrell
  - Apr. 1 9:00am Logan Esala

- GREETERS**
- Mar. 4 Vyskocil Family
  - Mar. 7 Ron & Brenda Schwiesow
  - Mar. 11 Moreland Family
  - Mar. 14 Lori Landry
  - Mar. 18 Lipske Family
  - Mar. 21 Jim Johnson
  - Mar. 25 Sunie Family
  - Mar. 29 Janet & Tiffany Houle
  - Apr. 1 7:00 am Nick & Jule Jarvela
  - Apr. 1 9:00am Ingrid Pocernich Lou Pearce
  - Apr. 4 Adam Hinch

*Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid - Jesus*

- USHERS**
- Mar. 4 Kyle Sapper Ron Schwiesow
  - Mar. 7 Alan Sunie
  - Mar. 11 Kurt Harpster Larry Hildebrandt
  - Mar. 14 Chris Bolz
  - Mar. 18 Brian Klobucher Adam Hinch
  - Mar. 21 Scott Sapper
  - Mar. 25 Todd Vyskocil Paul Osmak
  - Mar. 29 Tim Bauer
  - Apr. 1 7:00am Loren Munson Jim Johnson
  - Apr. 1 9:00am Jordan Thimm Jim Hebert



**Altar Guild**

**March**

Jule Jarvela 682-0385  
Janet & Tiffany Houle 682-2387



# March 2018

6SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	<b>✂ Time change - spring ahead March 11th</b>			<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	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  Confirmation 4-5:30pm Soup/Sandwich 5-6pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> ✂  <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 Altar Guild 6:00pm Dartball Tour- nament	<b>13</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:00am Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>14</b> LFOJ Chapel 11:00am  Confirmation 4-5:30pm Soup/Sandwich 5-6pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>15</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	<b>19</b> 10:00am Bible Study  Council Mtg. 5:30pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  Soup/Sandwich 5-6pm Confirmation 4-5:30pm <b>Worship 6:30pm</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Food Shelf Sun- day <b>Worship 9:00am</b> Palm Sunday Youth Breakfast ?	<b>26</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>27</b>  Sewing Circle 1pm	<b>28</b> Court Manor 10:15am AHRC 1:45pm  <b>No Wednesday Service</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Maundy Thursday 6:30pm</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Good Friday 6:30pm</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Sunday April 1st - Easter 7:00am Sunrise service 9:00am Easter Celebration</b>						