

Zion Lutheran Church
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We're on the web! www.zionlc.com

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ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Zion's Good News

MARCH
2022

Worship Schedule

March 2nd / Ash Wednesday

Worship at 5:30 p.m. † Communion Service

March 6th

Worship at 9:00 a.m. † Communion Service

March 13th

Worship at 9:00 a.m. † Non-Communion Service

March 20th

Worship at 9:00 a.m. † Communion Service

March 27th

Worship at 9:00 a.m. † Non-Communion Service

March 2nd / Ash Wednesday

Worship at 5:30 p.m. † Communion Service

Midweek Lent

Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. beginning March 9



Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Siblings in Christ,

At the very beginning of Mark's Gospel, after Jesus heals Simon Peter's mother-in-law, Jesus and the disciples are swarmed by people wanting to be healed by Jesus. And then Mark tells this part of the story, "35 In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and his companions hunted for him. 37 When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' 38 He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do'" (Mark 1:35-38). What words, phrases or actions in this story stand out to you? What surprises you? What is something new that you haven't heard before? What is God stirring inside of you?

Reading a scripture text and then asking yourself these questions is part of a spiritual practice called "Dwelling in the Word." You can use it by yourself or in a group of people or with your family at dinner or bedtime. There is also a similar practice called "Lectio Divina" which means "Sacred Reading." It is one way in which we can listen for God's voice, to connect with the Trinity and to remain connected throughout the day or week. It means that we are focused more on what the Trinity is saying to us rather than gleaning information from the text. Lectio Divina is about deep listening.

Lectio Divina first introduced by St. Gregory of Nyssa (c 330- 395), and also encouraged by St. Benedict of Nursia (c 480-547). It is a similar practice to the way Jews read the "Haggadah," a text read during Passover that retells the Exodus story. Typically, the scripture or another reading (i.e. Small Catechism, Lord's Prayer, or a poem) is read at least four times. Between the readings is a time for prayer, reflection, and what God is stirring inside of you. Some people take this time to journal. If you would like a guided Lectio Divina, do a search on YouTube. There are a lot of options.

Even Jesus found time (early morning while it was still dark, anyone?) to connect with the Trinity. He went away in solitude and silence. He needed to for his own health and well-being. Just as we need to move our bodies, laugh, play and find joy, we also need to find time to have healthy spirits. Jesus needed this time away, in prayer, in silence, and in solitude, so that he had the creative energy required for the day.

This newsletter is filled with opportunities for you to practice and experiment with different ways to refuel your spirit. Midweek Lenten worship will be focused on these practices as well. Children and youth are invited to take this time to learn new skills for their lives and their faith journey. This worship will have interactive components in which we can move our bodies around too.

Lent is a beautiful season of the church year to intentionally reconnect with the Trinity - Creator, Redeemer, and Advocate. Take time to prepare your home and your heart this Lenten season.

In Christ,
Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel



YOUR CHURCH STAFF

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Dan Thompson
V. Pres.: Maryel Schoenfuss
Secretary: Carmella Moon
Treasurer: Marge Redetzke
Evangelism: Cory Wiesman
Faith Formation: Ray White
Jasmine Grell
Property: Robin Curtis
Stewardship: Amy Cournoyer
Worship: Lois Miller
Interim: Pastor Andrea Fluegel
Secretary: Kathy Busche
E-mail: office@zionlc.com

WAYS TO CONNECT

WITH ZION

Write us at Zion Lutheran Church,
213501 Legacy Street, Stratford,
WI 54484-9632

Phone us at 715-687-4110

7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or leave a
voice mail message.

Or email us at office@zionlc.com.

WEB SITE: www.zionlc.com

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:00 a.m.

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The 21st of each month.

ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

Wednesdays by 9:00 a.m.

WEEKLY E-MAIL

Goes out on Monday morning.
Email office@zionlc.com to be
added to the receiver list.

PLEASE keep the office updated:

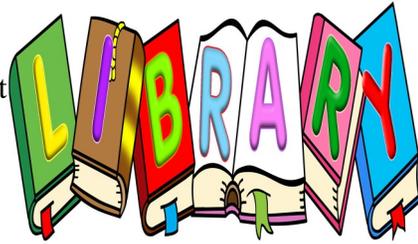
- Address & email changes
- Births, Deaths, Hospitalizations

Zion is on Facebook.

You can go to our website at www.zionlc.com
and click on the link to the Facebook page.

Library News

Of the nine new books available in the library, the three are all about love. The first two are novels by Fannie Flagg, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café* and *The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop*. Flagg's stories are wonderful affirmations of life and of living in loving and



compassionate community with others. In *Fried Green Tomatoes*, best friends Ruth and Idgie operate a café in the small town of Whistle Stop, a café that not only serves food for the body but also for the soul. Times are hard during the Great Depression, but Ruth, Idgie, and their friends find courage and strength to deal with the challenges they must face. *The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop* is a sequel to *Fried Green Tomatoes*. Ruth's son Buddy is now an old man and decides to take a trip back to his old home town, but sadly, since the railroad left, Whistle Stop is now a ghost town, but does that mean all the love and fellowship have died? Join Buddy as he discovers new friends and surprises about his loved ones and their beloved town. The third featured book for February, *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp, a spirited guide to living life fully, now, right where you are in joy. The author writes, "How do we find joy in the midst of deadlines, debt, drama, and daily duties? What does a life of gratitude look like when your days are gritty, long, and sometimes dark? What is God providing here and now?" Using her own parenting, farming, and writing life, Voskamp opens our eyes to a new way of living in God's presence that brings deep and lasting happiness.



Fair Trade Products Are Available

The Fair Trade 24/7 booths are full and awaiting your purchases! Enjoy tea, coffee, hot chocolate, chocolate bars, and more. Call Darla 715.506.0044 or email at dleick@msn.com or visit the 24/7 booth. Thank you for supporting independent farmers and Fair Trade!

What is Equal Exchange? The Equal Exchange products sold at Zion are fairly traded. Fair Trade is not a charity or handout; it is simply a process of giving a fair exchange. Equal Exchange provides high-quality foods at a fair price to you. By cutting out the middlemen, Equal Exchange pays the farmers more and gives you a better value. By making the choice to buy fairly traded products, you help provide health care, education and technical trainings for farmers, workers, and artisans around the world.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Ash Wednesday Worship will be on **Wednesday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m.** with Holy Communion and the Mark of the Cross. Ash Wednesday is similar in tone to that of the Jewish Day of Atonement. It marks the beginning of the Lenten season, which concludes on Maundy Thursday when we receive the forgiveness of sins. Ashes are a symbol deeply rooted in ancient customs and practices for both Jews and Christians. It suggests judgment and God's condemnation of sin, fragility, and our total dependence upon God for life, humiliation, and repentance. Ash Wednesday is traditionally a day of fasting. There will be no meal served.

Holy Solitude: In-Person Midweek Lenten Worship

Midweek Lenten worship service will be held on **Wednesdays, March 9-April 6 at 5:30 p.m.** This year's theme is "Holy Solitude." In the busyness of this world, there are few opportunities to "be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). The practice of silence, solitude and rest recharges us and reconnects us with the Triune God. During midweek worship, you will be introduced to some new spiritual practices and have time to rest, recharge and reconnect. In addition, if you would like to go deeper into the practice of silence and solitude, there is a Lenten devotional book, including daily and weekly practices, by Heidi Haverkamp called "Holy Solitude" that you can purchase from your favorite bookstore.

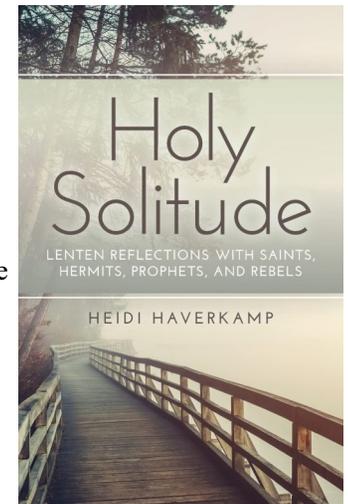
March 9 - When God is Silent

March 16 - Enduring Yourself

March 23 - Going to the Poustinia

March 30 - Hospitality and Solitude

April 6 - Be Who God Meant You to Be



Midweek Lenten and Holy Week Worship Online

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - ELCA is providing weekly pre-recorded videos for Ash Wednesday, Lent, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday that are less than 20 minutes called "Holy Everything." You can find them online at <http://nswi.org/lent-holy-week>. Each video presents and helps you participate in a spiritual practice.

During these 40 days of Lent we will strive to draw closer to God. Lent is a time, as we prepare for Easter morning, to take the opportunity to pray and reflect. It is a time to begin a process of changing things up spiritually, to come out of our comfort zones, so that we can bring ourselves into greater union with God in preparation to receive our Resurrected Jesus more fully. Join us this Lent, as we will engage in weekly spiritual practices to draw ourselves closer to Jesus Christ and understand that God is everywhere and in everything.

Third Grade Bible Sunday

On Sundays, March 13 and 20, during worship, the Third Graders will receive Bibles as part of their faith journey. When they were baptized, their parents, sponsors and congregation members promised to place in their hands the Bible, the Holy Scriptures, to nurture their lives in faith and in prayer, to share with others the message of Christ through words and deeds. Receiving their Bible as a gift from the congregation is one part of fulfilling those promises made in baptism. Come and celebrate this faith milestone with the 3rd graders and their families.

First Communion Workshop

A First Communion Workshop will take place in the Family Center on **Saturday, March 26, from 9:00 a.m.—12 noon.** This workshop is for any child or youth who would like to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. They will receive their first communion on **Sunday, April 3** during worship. There is no age requirement to receive Holy Communion. Children, youth and adults grow in their faith differently. If you have questions, concerns, or would like to discuss first communion, please contact Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel at 715-391-9311 or at pastor@zionlc.com.



New Member Sunday

New Member Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, March 27. If you are interested in becoming a member of Zion Lutheran Church or want to know more about the mission and ministry at Zion, please contact Deb Wieland at wieland.dandeb@gmail.com or 715-506-0030.

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, April 10 - Palm Sunday Worship/Peeps Diorama Contest
Thursday, April 14 - Maundy Thursday Worship at 5:30 p.m.
Friday, April 15 - Stations of the Cross from 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Friday, April 15 - Good Friday Worship at 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 17 - Easter Worship at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, May 8 - Confirmation Sunday
Sunday, May 22 - Graduation Sunday

Peeps Diorama Contest

Have you ever wondered what to do with all of those marshmallow Peeps? Well, now you can build a diorama with them. On **Palm Sunday, April 10**, there will be a Peeps Diorama Contest following worship in the Family Center. All ages of individuals, families, and groups can participate. Create your favorite Bible story or verse from either the Old or New Testament using Peeps, edible materials, or anything you can find around your home or in the church's craft supply room. You can use a shoebox, box, or anything else as a container for your Biblical scene. You may enter more than once.



Peeps Diorama Contest Categories:

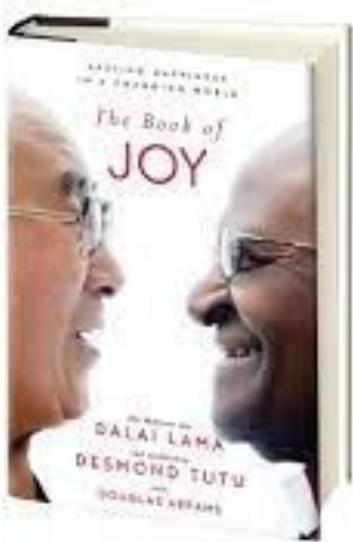
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Most Edible
- Under 12 years Old
- Family
- Group

Drop-Off your diorama in the Family Center from Friday, April 8—Sunday, April 10 (before worship) and complete an entry form.

Voting will take place following worship in the Family Center. Zion members and friends will vote by placing coins, dollar bills, and checks made out to Zion Lutheran in a container next to each entry. Money collected will go to the local food pantry. Winners will be announced on Easter Sunday.

Please take your Peeps Diorama home before Easter Sunday.





Book of Joy

Join Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel and ELCA Pastor Grant VanLishout, from Marywood Spirituality Center near Minocqua, for a four-week series and discussion on “The Book of Joy” by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. This is a Zoom discussion group on Sundays, April 3, 10, 24, and May 1 from 1:00-2:30 p.m.

For more information and to register, go to <https://marywoodsc.org/services/programs/>.

Lenten Lectio

Lectio divina is an ancient way of reading, pondering and praying the scriptures or other spiritual writings. Let’s read, ponder and pray together the Lenten Sunday scripture passages and discover new insights for our daily living. This is a free online opportunity through Marywood Spirituality Center on **Thursdays March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7, 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm**. Donations are welcome. **Register by Thursday, March 3 at <https://marywoodsc.org/services/programs/>.**

Spirituality Centers

Did you know that there are three spirituality centers within two hours of Zion Lutheran? One is within 25 miles. These spirituality centers provide a variety of ecumenical experiences for you to connect with the Triune God through art, nature, retreats, books, prayer, labyrinths, spiritual direction and much more. Often times, opportunities are free or at low cost, both in-person and online. Check out their offerings at:

Marywood, Woodruff - <https://marywoodsc.org/services/programs/>

St. Anthony, Marathon - <https://sarcenter.com/retreats-and-events/>

Franciscan Spirituality Center, La Crosse - <https://www.fscenter.org/>



The CAT: Your Voice Is Important!

The Transition Team is requesting your feedback through *Church Assessment Tool* (CAT) so Zion's leadership can better understand the key issues about pastoral transition and the skills and experiences we should seek in a new pastor. All members, age 16 and older, as well as current 10th graders, are encouraged to complete the online questionnaire online at

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZIONLCSWI>. Paper forms will be available at the back of the sanctuary or in the church office. Contact June Krueger if you would need assistance with the online or paper version at 715-897-0617.

Online Survey



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZIONLCSWI>

Technology Task Force

The Zion Church Council is seeking people to serve on a technology task force.



This task force would be charged with assessing the various technology needs of the congregation (office, worship, computers, Wi-Fi, website, phones, sound system, etc.) over multiple phases.

The task force would also need to get bids from various companies and then work with a company or companies to upgrade the equipment.

If you are interested in participating in this task force, please contact Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel at pastor@zionlc.com or at 715-391-9311.

Transition Team Updates >> Super Sunday and beyond!

February 13th was a **SUPER SUNDAY** at Zion!

Following the worship service that included a blessing of the Transition Team, we celebrated God's work in our lives through the wall-sized timeline.



Please view the timeline in the Family Center over the next weeks, keeping in mind that it is a "living" document.

Along with the many details of Zion's history, members are adding their personal dates (baptisms, marriages) and memories to the timeline.

Feel free to continue to add notes and dates as you can -- It has been fun to see the additions to the timeline each week! Be sure to also check out the photo albums, church directories, and memorabilia from Zion's past.

The Church Assessment Tool (CAT) is open through March 6th. The CAT is an online questionnaire for members and visitors age 16 and older to share your thoughts about your life at Zion and your hopes for Zion's future as we prepare to call a new permanent pastor. If you've already completed the survey, thank you! If you've not yet had the opportunity, please dedicate 20-30 minutes and use the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZIONLCSWI>



If you are not comfortable completing the survey online or don't have internet access, please request a paper copy from the church office. To get the best broad picture of our congregation's wishes for our future, we have set a goal to have 80-100 surveys completed.

Other work of the Transition Team is to gather and update church procedures and policies, while assessing our stewardship of human, financial, and structural resources. The final step will be to complete a comprehensive Ministry Site Profile to introduce Zion to potential pastoral candidates.

Your part in the transition process is to continue to pray for the Transition Team and for Pastor Andrea as she guides us. Please also pray for our new pastor as God prepares them to partner with us in mission and ministry.

Summer Job Opportunities

Did you know that the ELCA has over 121 affiliated camps and outdoor ministry opportunities? Many of these camps and outdoor ministries are looking for camp counselors, canoe guides, lifeguards, cooks, nurses, property maintenance, and a variety of other jobs for the summer for those 18+ years old.

There are opportunities across the country and as well as many in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan.

Check out the various camps and their job opportunities at <https://www.elca.org/our-work/related-ministries/outdoor-ministry>.

Applications for most camps are being accepted now.



Audio Sermons Online

Sunday sermons with Pastor Andrea Fluegel will be available to be heard on the church webpage at www.zionlc.com.

Confirmation members helping build Baptismal Chests that are given to members who have their loved ones baptized here at Zion.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Heather Pupp
- 4 - Gary Lang
- 5 - Wynn Schoenherr
- 7 - Travis Moen
Russ Dahlke
Heather Trachte
- 8 - Denise Marg
- 10 - Isaac Kramer
Anna Spaeth
Megan Johnson
Sandy Grell
- 11 - Jordan Weber
Colin Cole
Brenda Castellano
- 12 - Scott Trachte
- 13 - Macey Kilty
Maxwell Fischer
Levi Balz
- 14 - Ruby Thompson
- 15 - Evalyn Joswiak
- 16 - Emilie Greenberg
Malia Hoesly
Finley White
Dayton White
- 17 - Colten Heiting
- 18 - James Carpenter
- 19 - Tom Schoenherr
- 21 - Dan Weber
Shane Moen
Amii Kreft

- 22 - Shirley Skerhutt
- 26 - Diane Dennee
Bernie Huser
Chris Murphy
- 27 - Megan Custer
- 28 - Michelle Multerer
Jordy Trachte
Avery White
- 29 - Charles Foley
Mackenzie Frueh
Opal Ford-Werner
Natalie Messerschmidt
- 30 - Olivia Ballerstein



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 - Russ & Cheryl Dahlke
- 12 - Gary Plank & Dar Pawlik Plank
- 19 - Douglas & Marilyn Bolen
- 24 - Jim & Cory Wiesman

Bible Study and Discussion

Come for a Bible study and discussion on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. We will be studying the first reading (Old Testament) and the Gospel reading (New Testament) scripture for the upcoming Sunday worship. No experience needed. No memorization required.

It is a time of learning and exploring God's Word together. Interim Pastor Andrea Fluegel facilitates the discussion. For upcoming readings, check out: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>.

Wednesday Mornings at 10AM. If you need a ride, call the church office 715-687-4110 Everyone is welcome to come.



Shop with Scrip for your Every Day!

Are you shopping through Amazon, Target, Walmart? Getting gas at Kwik Trip before grocery shopping at Festival Foods? Ordering dinner from Applebees, Red Robin, or Pizza Ranch? *We've got it!* Looking for a gift card for Buffalo Wild Wings, Bass Pro Shop, Bed Bath & Beyond? *We can get it!*

Worried about items being out of stock? Consider SCRIP gift cards instead and support Zion youth programs at the same time!

Scrip gift cards are available for many retailers, restaurants, and gas stations. You pay the face value of the gift cards and the retailer pays a percent back to Zion, designated for youth activities and mission trips.

It's so simple! Visit ShopWithScrip.com to check the list of retailers available in many shopping categories. Then contact June Krueger by text or email (715-897-0617, rajmkrueger@gmail.com) to place your order and make arrangements for payment and pickup.

Thanks for continuing to support of Zion's Scrip program!

Building Update 2021

Payment Bi-Weekly Dates	Start Balance	Payment Amount	Interest Paid	Principal Paid	Ending Balance
11/05 & 11/19	\$174,915.67	\$3,100.00	\$ 525.22	\$2,574.78	\$172,340.89
12/03 & 12/17	\$172,340.89	\$3,100.00	\$ 517.46	\$2,582.54	\$169,758.35
12/31	\$169,758.35	\$1,550.00	\$255.81	\$1,294.19	\$168,464.16
12/31	\$168,464.16	\$8,000.00	\$.00	\$8,000.00	\$160,464.16
01/14 & 01/28	\$160,464.16	\$3,100.00	\$481.64	\$2,618.36	\$157,845.80

Total monthly principal payments	\$ 17,069.87
Total monthly interest payments	\$ 1,780.13
Balance of loan as of 01-28-2022	\$157,845.80

Partners Bank	
Building checking acct balance as of 02-07-2022	\$ 10,584.25

Date	3/02/2022 Ash Wednes- day	3/06/2022 1st Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM	3/09/2022 1st Wed of Lent 5:30 PM	3/13/2022 2nd Sun- day of Lent 9:00 AM	3/16/2022 2nd Wed of Lent 5:30 PM	3/20/2022 3rd Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM	3/23/2022 3rd Wed of Lent 5:30 PM	3/27/2022 4th Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM	3/30/2022 4th Wed of Lent 5:30 PM	4/03/2022 5th Sunday of Lent 9:00 AM	04/06/2022 5th Wed of Lent 5:30 PM
Assisting Minister	Darla Leick	Casey Dasler	-----	-----	-----	Dan Thompson	-----	-----	-----	Dan Thompson	-----
Reader	Darla Leick	Casey Dasler	-----	Brenda Castellano	-----	Dan Thompson	-----	Rhonda Thompson	-----	Dan Thompson	-----
Acolytes			-----		-----		-----		-----		-----
Ushers	Mark &Sandy Andersen	Jim & Cory Wiesman	Darla Leick Brenda Huther	JoAnn & Rudy Werner	Harold & Barb Wrensch	Wendy & Keith Grell	Brenda Huther Jill Dasler	Chris & Alison Murphy	Darla Leick Lois Miller	Frank & Angie Guralski	Rod & Brenda Huther
Commun- ion Assistants	Dan & Rhonda Thompson Brian & Darla Leick	Nancy Schoenherr Casey Dasler Jill Dasler Brenda Huther	-----	-----	-----	Sandy An- dersen Dan & Rhonda Thompson Alison Murphy	-----	-----	-----	Dan & Rhonda Thompson June Krueger Angie Guralski	-----
Commun- ion Steward	Rhonda Thompson	Amy Grell	-----	-----	-----	Wendy Spaeth	-----	-----	-----	Sandy Andersen	-----
Host	-----	Maryel Schoenfuss	-----	Marge Redetzke	-----	Cory Wiesman	-----	Robin Curtis	-----	Amy Cournoyer	-----
Media	Conner Kreft	Rodney Huther	Rodney Huther	Kevin Miller	Kevin Miller	Rodney Huther	Rodney Huther	Leon Tietyen	Leon Tietyen	Kevin Miller	Marge Kollmans- berger

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>6pm Worship Team</i>	2 <i>10am Bible Study</i>	3	4	5
6 <i>9am Worship/ Baptism</i>	7	8 <i>6:30pm Faith Formation</i>	9 <i>10am Bible Study 3pm JT/Little Lutherans 6pm Elective (7th - 9th grade)</i>	10	11	12
13 <i>9am Worship</i>	14 <i>6pm Executive Team</i>	15	16 <i>10am Bible Study</i>	17 <i>Happy Saint Patrick's</i>	18	19
20 <i>9am Worship 1015am CORE (7th - 9th grade) 5:30pm Disciples For Christ</i>	21 <i>6pm Council Meeting</i>	22 <i>6pm Transition Team</i>	23 <i>10am Bible Study 3pm JT/Little Lutherans 6:00pm CORE (7th - 9th grade)</i>	24	25	26
27 <i>9am Worship 1030am Elective (7th - 9th grade)</i>	28 <i>6:30pm Evangelism Meeting</i>	29	30 <i>10am Bible Study 6:00pm CORE (7th - 9th grade)</i>	31		