

Faith Lutheran Church
335 Main Street South
Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350

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OUR MISSION IS:

BUILDING FAITH

*"EQUIP THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY,
FOR BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST"*

EPHESIANS 4:12

TO LIVE OUT THAT MISSION, GOD CALLS US TO:

FOLLOW JESUS

ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL

INVITE ALL PEOPLE

TEACH CHRISTIAN TRUTH

HELP ALL WHO ARE IN NEED

**Newsletter via
USPS or E-mail?**

Would you like to receive your monthly Faith Matters newsletter via e-mail? It saves the church postage and printing costs, and you get to see it in color every month! You can request a change to e-mailed newsletters by sending an e-mail to office@faithlc.com requesting the change.



Faith Matters

February 2022

We love because
He first loved us!
1 John 4:19

Pastors' Page

One puzzling, but persistent aspect of Christian history is the reluctance or refusal of many Christians to attend worship services. Acts 2:48 says the first Christians "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." But already in the New Testament era, the author of Hebrews had to implore his readers, "Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." (Hebrews 10:24-25) Despite Jesus' promise to be present even "where two or three are gathered in my name" (Matthew 18:20) and his promise to pour out his saving grace through Word and sacrament, worship services still seem to be optional, if not something to avoid, for many people who otherwise claim to be Christian.

Through the centuries, church leaders have had limited success in persuading people to value regular church attendance, but I recently ran across an article that provides another, perhaps surprising benefit of worship services. A recent issue of *Christianity Today* featured an article by Tyler Vanderweele and Brenden Case, both from Harvard University, called, "Empty Pews Are an American Public Health Crisis."

That may seem over-the-top, but the authors say it is true. They describe the toll that decreased in-person worship attendance is taking on American public health, one which has been greatly exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. Their claim is not that lower attendance is bad for the church (although it surely is), but that it is a crisis for people's mental, emotional, spiritual and physical health. They are even so bold as to write, "People find their social and personal lives improved—sometimes their lives are even physically saved—when they go to church often."

That remarkable finding is not an opinion, but is based on extensive research. "A number of large, well-designed research studies have found that religious service attendance is associated with greater longevity, less depression, less suicide, less smoking, less substance abuse, better cancer and cardiovascular-disease survival, less divorce, greater social support, greater meaning in life, greater life satisfaction, more volunteering, and greater civic engagement...."

"Our research (at the Harvard University Human Flourishing Project) suggests that religious service attendance specifically, rather than private practices or self-assessed religiosity or spirituality, most powerfully predicts health...and...that declining religious service attendance accounts for about 40 percent of the rise in (national) suicide rates over the past 15 years. If the declines in attendance could have been prevented, how many lives could have been saved?"

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335 Main St. S.
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RADIO BROADCAST
KDUZ 1260 AM
SUNDAYS 8 A.M.

TV BROADCAST
CABLE CH. 10
SUNDAYS 10 A.M.
AND 5 P.M.
TUESDAYS 5 P.M.
THURSDAYS 10 P.M.

**YOUTUBE SERVICE
RECORDINGS**



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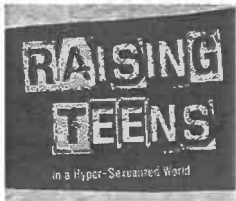
"Faith Seeks Understanding"
Continuing Learning Opportunities for Adults



*Sunday mornings
at 9:15 a.m.*

"Raising Teens in a Hyper-Sexualized World"

This 4-week class will be a conversation on how we, as parents, can help our teens stay grounded in who they are in Christ, and resist the sexual temptations they face every day in school and through the media. Join Pastor Dave in the third floor conference room beginning February 6.



Who Is This Jesus?

We just celebrated Christmas again! Now what? Who is the child who was born in Bethlehem? What does he mean for you, for other people, for the world? This class will explore some of the major aspects of Jesus revealed in the Gospels and their significance for us today. Continuing in the Faith Center with Pastor Scott through February.

The NERD of the RINGS

An enjoyable and theological monthly book study of the Lord of the Rings beginning at 7 p.m., Sunday, February 20, in the office conference room.
Join Pastor Dave and other Lord of the Rings nerds for a discussion of J.R.R. Tolkien's classic tale of *The Lord of the Rings*. In this first gathering, we'll discuss "Book One" in *The Fellowship of the Rings*. So read or re-read it, grab your elven cloak and some *Lembas* bread, keep it secret-keep it safe, and join us for the fun!



Date Night!

A new ministry for couples on Friday, February 18, at the church from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come for an evening of good food, great folks, and friendly encouragement for your marriage. The night will feature dinner and a guest speaker on relationships and marriage. Couples of all ages are encouraged to attend!

Faith Groups are Underway
The Biblical Orchard:
Real-Life Models of the Fruit of the Spirit

We have started the new year by diving into the Word and enjoying great fellowship with others. You can still join this Faith Group series and take a look at how the fruit of the Spirit is manifested in real life! The videos and study guides are on the Faith Lutheran website so you can watch videos you might have missed or you can share them with friends.



Please Remember in Prayer

Please remember all those who are serving our country through active duty:

Braiden Borge (Marines, Jacksonville, NC - grandson of Sandy Curtiss)
Mike Borge (Air Force - son-in-law of Sandy Curtis)
Petty Officer 3rd Class Mason Rutledge (Navy, New Orleans, LA - son of Lenny Rutledge & Patti Rutledge)
LT Brett Stadskev (Navy, Corpus Christi, TX - son-in-law of Judy and Tom Felber)
Trevor Wersal (MN National Guard, son of Roger and Laurie Wersal)



Remember our Faith members in nursing homes and health care centers:

- Cedar Crest - Silver Lake**
Patricia Lambert
Lucille Wehking
- Cokato Nursing Home**
Clara Betker
- Harmony River**
LeRoy Barrick
Ruth Larson
Ellsworth & Delores Lorentzen
Fran Lundeen
Karol Nolte
Jean Pittman
Harriet Thor
- New Haven - Maple Plain**
Ardell Novotny
- Pines**
Ralph and Phyllis Blum
Milt Lueneburg
- Prairie Senior Cottages**
Harold (Swede) Sandgren
- Woodstone**
Dodie Fenske
Betty Garberich
Gerry Grams

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Surrounding ourselves with others who know and care for us is important when we feel lost or alone, and music is a powerful tool in uniting us together.

You may be thinking, "Well, Austin, I already do all of these things." And that's great! Keep doing them but make them intentional. Music can play a powerful role in our lives and have a great effect on our moods and emotions. Actively listen, listen with intent, and participate in community. Onward!

Soli Deo Gloria

Austin

SENIORS' SCENE

The police certainly captivate a lot of space and attention today, don't they? They are loved and respected, and they are hated and defunded. Headlines and talk shows pour out all kinds of descriptions of people's attitudes toward them.

What is it like in Hutchinson? How do you feel about our law enforcement officers? Are our police upheld with honor? Do they feel people look to them for protection and peace?

You seniors will have opportunity to hear from our police chief, Mr. Tom Gifferson, at our February **Seniors' Potluck** meeting on **Thursday, February 24**, beginning at **12:00 noon**. Perhaps you will want to have your questions ready for Mr. Gifferson to address. What issues do you want to hear about—scams, burglaries, shoplifting? Are there any ways we can help and support our people of law in uniform? Our thanks to Tom for his readiness to meet with us.

Please look ahead to our potluck meeting with eagerness to learn still more about our law enforcement officers right here in Hutchinson. Come, and bring a friend. Come prepared to cooperate in keeping Covid at arm's distance. Sign in as you come. Wear masks if you feel that is necessary. Keep your social distance, and be sure to use hand sanitizer before moving through the serving line.

"See you at Seniors' Potluck!"



Pastor's Page continued from pg. 1

Psalm 122 declares, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD!'" Who knew that such gladness is a measurable effect of gathering with the Body of Christ to hear the Word, receive the sacrament, pray together and support one another? So if for no other reason (though there are many others), for the sake of your health and well-being make weekly church attendance your top priority. As a song we recently sang in church puts it, we come into Christ's presence "knowing well that, as our hearts begin to worship, we'll be blessed because we came." Indeed we will!

See you in church,

Pastor Scott Grorud

Stewardship Matters



Faith Lutheran Church was doubly blessed in its finances this year. The first blessing was that strong, steady giving throughout the year meant that the church did not need as much in year-end offerings to break even. Even so, the other blessing was that year-end giving was very strong and offering income slightly exceeded expenses in 2021. The leaders of Faith Lutheran are so grateful to all of you who faithfully support the work God is doing in our church. Please continue to give as the Lord first blesses you to do so. **Thank You!**

Faith Forward: 150K for the Next 150

Faith Forward was a short-term fund-raising campaign to cap off Faith Lutheran's 150th anniversary celebration. Gifts to this fund will be used for programs that make use of Faith's ministry to mold and train future leaders of the Church. By the end of 2021, Faith Forward had reached 50% of its goal. The formal campaign ended then, but *gifts to this "pay it forward" effort are still welcome*. Thank you to everyone who has or will support this vision to help provide for the future of Christ's Church!



Want to help support our Faith children as they attend Bible Camp?

This year Faith is bringing children to Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps for one week over the summer. Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps' program is built on a solid theme found in the Word, sets the foundation for great activities, has meaningful worship services, and a dedication to introducing campers to the God who loves them!

The cost to send a child to camp is between \$169—\$389, depending on which program the child will participate in for the week. This can get expensive for families, especially for those sending more than one child to camp. As a church, we want to make camp possible for all children. Will you help us in financially supporting our children? If you are able to help, please send a check to Faith Lutheran Church noting that it is dedicated to Camper Scholarships. You can also contact Laura Stowman, Director of Children and Family Ministry, for more information.

Lastly, please consider supporting with prayer our children who will be attending Bible Camp. Thank you!



CABIN FEVER Game Day

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

3RD FLOOR MULTIPURPOSE

WE WILL HAVE SNACKS AND GAMES AVAILABLE TO PLAY. WE WILL PLAY BINGO AT 3:30. BRING A GAME TO SHARE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

Cabin Fever Game Day!

Come in your most comfortable flannel on Sunday, February 6, from 2-4 p.m. and meet on the 3rd floor for this exciting INTERGENERATIONAL game day for ALL ages!

We will have a variety of games available but if you have a favorite at home, please bring it with you.

Snacks will be provided while you play.

*Brought to you by the Congregational Life Team and the Children, Youth and Family Team.



Q: Luke 2:52 says that “Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.” If Jesus was God incarnate, how could he grow in wisdom and if he could grow in wisdom, how can we claim that he was divine from birth?

A: This insightful question from a parishioner comes as close as any to the goal of this column, to stump the pastor! The problem, however, is not that your pastors don’t know the answer, but that there is no answer.

The question is a natural one. The Bible proclaims that “the Word became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14), but how did that actually work? As a child, how could Jesus be both fully human and fully divine? Did he skip the terrible twos? Was he some weirdly perfectly child who seemed more robotic than real? As a baby, he could hardly have known that he was the Son of God, so when did that awareness dawn on him?

The Gospels give us little help in answering those questions. Luke 2:52 concludes the only episode from Jesus’ childhood recorded in any of the four Gospels and by then he was 12 years old. But it does give us some insight as to how Jesus navigated his childhood. For example, when Mary and Joseph found him in the temple, he asked a pretty clueless question. “Why were you searching for me?” That clearly shows Jesus’ human nature. Like any 12-year old, he didn’t get why his parents were so worked up.

Yet it was not a disobedient or selfish question. In the next breath, he said, “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” No one around him had a clue what he meant, which reveals Jesus’ divine nature and that he was becoming aware of his unique identity. That was why he stayed behind in the temple in the first place, to learn everything he could about his heavenly Father.

It is safe to assume that Jesus expressed similar contrasts throughout his life—living fully as a human, but with a growing perception of his divine nature. The only way to know more than that, however, would be to locate Mary and Joseph in the halls of heaven and hear it directly from them!

Find more information on our Website,
Facebook Page, and YouTube channel!

YouTube

Website
Find us @
FaithLC.com



Facebook.com/
FaithLutheranHutchinson



Fellowship Against Cancer Support Group

We continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month in the office conference room from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. We discuss topics related to those recently diagnosed, in treatment, in recovery, or embracing the “new normal.” We will continue to offer shared experiences, general tips, advice, and support. Through faith and love, we embrace this time together. Those with cancer or caring for someone with cancer are welcome. If you are interested in this group, please contact Jeff or the Pastoral Care team.



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Pastor Paulus Pilgrim e-mail paulusp@faithlc.com
Marsha Schmit e-mail marshas@faithlc.com



Our Partners in Ethiopia on the Mend and Thankful for Our Collective Responses

Report from Pastor Paul

Good things have happened for our partners in Ethiopia. The partnership the Augustana District has with the North Central Ethiopia Synod of the Lutheran church in Ethiopia, the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, has seen the end of the recent civil war that was devastating to congregations and the synod at large. The military forces that sought to overthrow the government were forced to retreat and end their hostilities, at least for now.

Pictured to the right you see just a sampling of the physical toll on the synod compound. You also see what happened with funds already sent to alleviate the suffering and repair the damage. Leadership of the synod and all that were helped by the abundant generosity of congregations and individuals of the AD are ever so thankful for these gifts. Miraculously, the funds that came in, approximately \$52,000, have brought and will continue to bring hope and healing to all who have been helped.

You, here at FLC, responded once again as generous participants in this endeavor. Thank you ever so much.



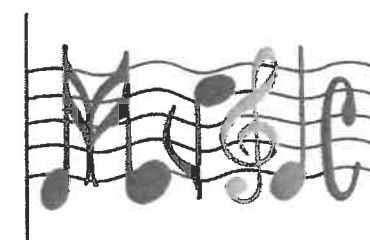
War damaged compound



Feeding the hungry



Supply storage of gifts sent



Greetings, friends!

Winter can feel long, cold, and dark. Emphasis on the cold, it was -12 degrees at the time I wrote this article! January and February are difficult months for many people, including me. Therefore, I wanted to take the opportunity to talk about some ways that music can help with that mid-winter slump.

First, music is a fantastic form of therapy! This can look and feel different in many ways. Turn the radio on in the car, listen to your favorite songs while cooking or cleaning, sing in the shower. Adding music to daily activities helps these tasks feel less mundane and more enjoyable.

Next, make your music selections right for you and your mood. When I am anxious or nervous, I listen to classical music. The intricate passages help distract me from my worries while calming my mind. When I am sad, I listen to my favorite Musical Theatre playlist. The up-beat and powerful scoring and voices of the actors help turn my mood around. When I doubt myself, I listen to my Christian music playlist which reminds me that God never leaves me and always has a plan for me.

Lastly, make music in community! Music making is a part of our design, a gift from God. You can sing in a choir, play in a band, or simply listen to the sounds of the congregation around you. Just be involved!

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FLY Ministries February 2022

VALENTINE'S FUNDRAISER 2022

Our annual Valentine's Fundraiser will look different this year! We have two ways that everyone can participate as we raise funds for our Mission Trip to Denver, Colorado. All proceeds will go towards the cost of the vans, adult leader expenses, and other mission trip expenses.



PART 1: HEART ATTACKS

\$10/heart attack

Nominate a friend or family member in Hutchinson, give us their address, and we will decorate a window or outside space with hearts. Sign up online, at the front desk, or on Sundays during services for the next couple weeks. Youth will deliver these hearts on Sunday, February 13 after the church services.



PART 2: DATE NIGHT KITS AND/OR CHILDCARE

\$25/date night kit + 10/child (\$25 maximum per family)

Registration will be open through February 13. Pick up for your kits Sunday, February 20.

Kit #1	Kit #2	Kit #3
Sparkling Charcuterie	Everything But the Movie	Dessert Kit for Two
This kit will include the fixings to make a charcuterie board at home!	This kit will include snacks and beverages that you can enjoy while watching a movie of your choice.	This kit will contain a tasty dessert for two that you can share with your sweetie!

Childcare is an optional addition to these kits. We will watch your children between 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner and activities will be provided while you are able to enjoy the house to yourself, go shopping, or have a night out! We will split children into age groups for our activities! Please register by February 13 so we can plan accordingly.

Contact Kristen Durst, Director of Youth and Family Ministry with any questions at kristenm@faithlc.com or 320-587-2093



Please contact Laura Stowman,
Director of Children and Family Ministries,
with any questions.

Thank you!

lauras@faithlc.com or 320.587.2093

Mark Your Summer Calendars!

Vacation Bible School	June 27—30
Bible Camp	July 17—22
Mystery Bus	July 25—27
Day Camp	August 8—11

Come to Camp!

Faith is bringing children to Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps the week of July 17—22. Read more to discover the amazing programs that are available.

Pathfinders



For campers completing 2nd-5th Grade

Cost per camper: \$169

\$199 after March 1st

Deposit of \$50 due at registration

As the youngest overnight camp, Pathfinders camp is designed to nurture childlike faith and teach campers what Bible camp is all about. Campers will love the atmosphere, the counselors, and the fun chapel times. Campers will stay two nights in a cabin with other campers their age and one of the trained summer counselors. They will also get a taste of exciting outdoor adventure with canoeing, swimming, and hiking! With age appropriate Bible studies and exciting camp activities, Pathfinders will discover how God can use them at even a young age to impact the world around them. This program is from July 17-19.



Trailblazers



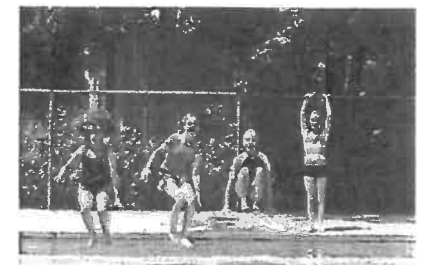
For campers completing 4th-6th Grade

Cost per camper: \$369

\$399 after March 1st

Deposit of \$100 due at registration

The Trailblazers camp experience is designed to draw campers into a deeper faith relationship with their Savior. At a full week of camp, running Sunday to Friday, Trailblazers campers will have tons of FUN as they explore camp activities like swimming, archery, canoeing, crafts and more. Trained counselors will help model positive peer relationships. Most importantly, engaging chapel times and Bible studies will nurture camper's growing Christian faith.



Senior High Encounter



For campers completing 9th-12th Grade

Cost per camper: \$389

\$419 after March 1st

Deposit of \$100 due at registration

This year, campers will engage in dialogue about some of the central ideas of our Christian faith. The Alpha Youth series provides an opportunity for youth to understand the basics, gain a strong foundation in truth, and be able to communicate faith with others. Here are some highlights: DEEPER, STRONGER FAITH, DAY OF SERVICE, FUN, FUN, AND MORE FUN, and LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT.



Register for Bible Camp by going to okoboji.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 AP Theology 9:00 Facebook Faith Encouragement 9:00 Exercise 12:00 Lectionary study 1:00 Faith Group 2:30 Worship planning meeting 5:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 5:00 Faith Group 5:15 Faith Group Dinner	2 7:00 Morning Prayer 9:00 Faith Quilters 10:45 Pastoral Care meeting 11:30 Staff meeting 2:30 56er's 3:00 Middle School Bells 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Ringers of Faith 6:15 Faith Singers 7:00 FLYouth night	3 6:30 Men's Bible study 9:00 Facebook Faith Encouragement 11:00 HAY High School Free Lunch 12:00 Theo Thursday 1:30 Communion at Woodstone 6:30 Crossways year 3 6:30 Faith Group 10:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast	4 7:00 Women's Bible study 9:00 Women's Bible study 1:00 Bulletin Assembly	5
6 8:00 First Word Service with Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School 9:10 Digging Deeper 10:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 10:10 Sanctuary service with Holy Communion 10:10 Foundation service 2:00 Faith Family Fun - Game Day 4:00 Free Community Meal 5:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 6:00 Crossways Year 1	7 10:30 Monday Bible study 6:30 Crossways year 2	8 6:00 AP Theology 9:00 Facebook Faith Encouragement 9:00 Exercise 12:00 Lectionary study 1:00 Faith Group 2:30 Worship planning meeting 5:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 5:00 Faith Group 5:15 Faith Group Dinner	9 7:00 Morning Prayer 9:00 Elementary Release Time 9:00 FACe Support Group 10:45 Pastoral Care meeting 11:30 Staff meeting 2:30 56er's 3:00 Middle School Bells 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Power Ridge: High School 5:00 Ringers of Faith 6:15 Faith Singers	10 6:30 Men's Bible study 9:00 Facebook Faith Encouragement 11:00 HAY High School Free Lunch (Faith Serves) 12:00 Theo Thursday 1:30 Communion at the Oaks 2:00 Communion at the Pines 5:00 Powder Ridge: Middle School 6:30 Crossways year 3 6:30 Faith Group 10:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast	11 7:00 Women's Bible study 9:00 Women's Bible study 1:00 Bulletin Assembly March Faith Matters articles due	12
13 8:00 First Word Service with Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School 9:10 Digging Deeper 10:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 10:10 Sanctuary service with Holy Communion 10:10 Foundation service 12:00 Heart Attacks Delivered 5:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 6:00 Crossways Year 1	14 Valentine's Day 10:30 Monday Bible study 2:30 Book Club 6:30 Crossways year 2	15 6:00 AP Theology 8:00 Middle School Release Time 9:00 Facebook Faith Encouragement 9:00 Exercise 12:00 Lectionary study 12:30 TAP Kids here 1:00 Faith Group 2:30 Worship planning meeting 5:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 5:00 Faith Group 6:00 Ministry Team and Church Council meetings	16 7:00 Morning Prayer 9:00 Elementary Release Time 10:45 Pastoral Care meeting 11:30 Staff meeting 2:30 56er's 3:00 Middle School Bells 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Ringers of Faith 6:15 Faith Singers 7:00 FLYouth night	17 6:30 Men's Bible study 9:00 Facebook Faith Encouragement 11:00 HAY High School Free Lunch 12:00 Theo Thursday 6:30 Crossways year 3 6:30 Faith Group 10:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast	18 7:00 Women's Bible study 9:00 Women's Bible study 1:00 Bulletin Assembly 6:30 Date Night	19
20 8:00 First Word Service 9:00 Sunday School, 1st Communion Intro & B23 9:10 Digging Deeper 10:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 10:10 Sanctuary service 10:10 Foundation service with Holy Communion 3:30 Date Night Kids & Childcare 5:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 6:00 Crossways Year 1 7:00 Nerds of the Rings	21 10:30 Monday Bible study 6:30 Crossways year 2	22 6:00 AP Theology 9:00 Facebook Faith Encouragement 9:00 Exercise 9:00 Faith Matters Assembly 12:00 Lectionary study 1:00 Faith Group 2:30 Worship planning meeting 5:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 5:00 Faith Group 5:15 Faith Group Dinner	23 6:30 Morning Prayer 9:00 Elementary Release Time 9:00 FACe Group Meeting 10:45 Pastoral Care meeting 11:30 Staff meeting 2:30 56er's 3:30 Middle School Bells 3:45 Confirmation 5:00 Ringers of Faith 6:15 Faith Singers 7:00 FLYouth night	24 6:30 Men's Bible study 9:00 Facebook Faith Encouragement 11:00 HAY High School Free Lunch 12:00 Seniors' Potluck 4:00 Caregiver Support Group 6:30 Crossways year 3 6:30 Faith Group 10:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast	25 7:00 Women's Bible study 9:00 Women's Bible study 1:00 Bulletin Assembly	26
27 8:00 First Word Service 9:00 Sunday School 9:10 Digging Deeper 10:00 Ch. 10 Worship Broadcast 10:10 Sanctuary Service 10:10 Foundation service with Holy Communion 5:00 Ch. 10 worship broadcast 6:00 Crossways Year 1	28 10:30 Monday Bible study 6:30 Crossways year 2					