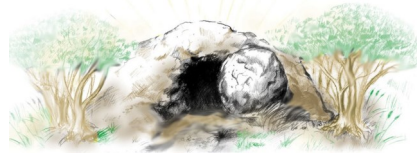




# Zion Lutheran Monthly

April 2024

## Pastor's Corner



*“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!”* These are the words we start Easter with. Our entire Easter season is peppered with these words, salted with them so we may never forget. Jesus Christ truly has risen from the dead. Because we have been baptized into Christ, united to Christ through baptism, we will also rise from the dead (Romans 6). It is very right and fitting we shout, *“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!”*

We need to say these words. We desperately need to be reminded of the reality of Christ's resurrection from the dead, because the reality we see around us is so often very different looking. We see our parents die, we see our spouses die, our friends, our family, even our children. We see the cold reality of death staring us in the face all the time. This is why we need the warm reality of the resurrection being shouted into our ears.

St. Paul understood what Christians like us go through. The church in the city of Thessalonica had Christians who were worried about the resurrection. They saw their loved ones die, just like we do. They saw spouses, friends, and children die as well. Seeing them die was just as hard for them as it is for us. St. Paul wrote to them, and you as well, saying:

*[we do not want you to] grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep . . . For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*



The reality of death we see around us is hard, it is bitter, it is heartbreaking. But the Easter proclamation *“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!”* can soften the blow of death, comfort the sadness, and soothe the bitterness of death. We do grieve, but we do not grieve as those without hope. May we shout it out loud and remind ourselves constantly, *“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!”*

Pastor Grimenstein

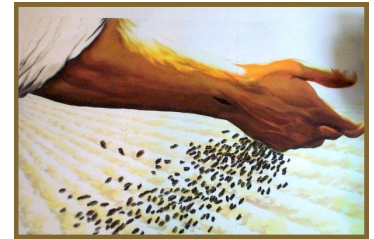
# President's Perspective

## Planting Seeds -- Not Just a Spring Thing

First, on behalf of your Council let me thank you -- the membership at Zion -- for supporting the ministry here with your time, talent and treasure. We've been able to get a lot of important work accomplished over the past several years and your support is very much appreciated.

At the Voter's Meeting on Sunday, April 28th following the 10:30 service, we're going to have a chance to put some action on the Great Commission here at Zion. The Elders and Pastor have been working for several years at defining the role of a Deaconess to begin the process of reaching out in special ways toward our preschool parents, and the youth, elderly and women within our congregation. At the January Voters' Meeting, the membership authorized the formation of a Call Committee to explore candidates for this position.

The Call Committee will be bringing their recommendation to you on the 28th. This is a huge step forward for our church and God willing, assuming we can fill this position, we will realize some very real blessings in the years to come. Evangelism efforts that can be realized with the help of a Deaconess are exciting to think about; we'll be able to cross that comfort barrier and touch the hearts of people with whom we don't normally have contact. We'll evangelize in an organized, deliberate manner and we'll grow our internal ministries at the same time.



We're at this inflection point at Zion where we can either sit satisfied each week as we worship, or perhaps we can step a bit out of a comfort zone and begin to try to be less insular and more proactive at spreading the Gospel inside and outside our walls. This is a wonderful and bold step for your church. I hope you will support this effort that will help promote and fulfill the Great Commission as we've never before been able to do. So, please come to the meeting on April 28th and hear what the Call Committee has to say about a candidate that would be a real blessing to our parish.

We're going to be planting some seeds in the future! We're looking for some fertile soil here at Zion and someone who will sow with divine purpose. We know the tiniest seed can produce the mightiest plants. In Matthew, we see that a tiny mustard seed is analogous to the Kingdom of Heaven in the way something small can grow to be so large. That's what we're going to work at with a Deaconess onboard -- planting small seeds and watching the Holy Spirit grow our church and God's Kingdom as we patiently wait for our Lord to return and claim what is His!

Paul Klemash



Thanks be to God, our search for a Deaconess at Zion is progressing nicely! In recent weeks Zion's Call Committee has reviewed documentation from seven candidates, and from there narrowed its search down to two. Most recently, on March 20<sup>th</sup> the Committee interviewed the two candidates. Following the interviews and much discussion, the committee unanimously chose one Deaconess to whom they would like to extend a call.

As was shared previously at the January Voters Meeting, Zion's Deaconess will focus on the following:

- Creating a preschool outreach initiative;
- Overseeing youth group programming;
- Assisting with Women's Ministry;
- Creating new ways to minister to seniors.

**On Sunday, April 28th following the 10:30 service, a Voters' Meeting will be held during which the committee will recommend the candidate for approval by the congregation. Lunch will be served.**

**Please make every effort to attend this important meeting and learn more about the Deaconess candidate.**

# **FOCUS** ON FELLOWSHIP



***More than 60 members and guests came out for Zion's Bingo & Potluck Night on Friday 3/1. The lucky winners posed with their prizes at the end of the festivities. A great time was had by all!***



***Zion teens gathered at Top Golf for a Youth Group outing on Sunday 3/17. Good drives, great food, a brief devotion, and lots of fun!***



***Around 75 Zion members and guests celebrated Easter Sunday with a delicious buffet breakfast organized by the Events Committee, pictured below. Thank you, ladies!***



We hope you had a wonderful and blessed Easter! During April, Sunday school classes will be continuing with Enduring Faith Unit 8:

Date	Lesson	Description
4/7/2024	5	The Thankful One -- Jesus Heals Ten Lepers
4/14/2024	6	The Kingdom of Children -- Jesus Blesses the Children
4/21/2024	7	The Passion Prediction -- Mary Anoints Jesus
4/28/2024	8	Jesus Rides into Jerusalem

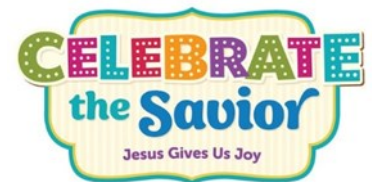


**Adult Bible/Teen Bible Study ...** Adults and youth 7th grade and older are invited to the Fellowship Hall for Pastor's fascinating study on the book of Numbers! All are welcome ... bagels, donuts and coffee provided. Sunday School and Adult/Teen Bible Study are from 9:15-10:15 am.

**"...man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV**

**VBS week is set for July 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>**  
please mark your calendars!

We thank Karen Kress for again volunteering to lead Vacation Bible School this year. The date for VBS week has been selected as July 22-26, from 9:00am to 11:30am (time-tentative). Our program will be Concordia Publishing House's "Celebrate the Savior" [VBS Promo Video](#).



Volunteers are needed!!! If you are interested in helping, please contact Karen at [kkress5@gmail.com](mailto:kkress5@gmail.com). There are lots of opportunities to help in hands-on roles with children, and with behind-the-scenes tasks!!



**LUTHERANS  
FOR LIFE**

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors  
to be Gospel motivated voices For Life!

## Unchanging

Only another --and greater--certainty can deliver us



*by Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director, LFL*

Springtime brings changes. Weather, wildlife, and wardrobe are switching. Timepieces, taxes, and athletics are shifting. Improvement? Erosion? Or just over and over again? Whichever, we rarely and barely keep up with all the moving targets.

The sanctity of life has also seen its share of changes. Medical ultrasound machines arrived in the 1940s. Chemists first synthesized hormonal birth control in the 1950s. The “sexual revolution” started in the 1960s. Abortion access became mandatory in the 1970s. In vitro fertilization commenced in the 1980s. Physician-assisted suicide gained acceptance in the 1990s. Pill abortions arose in the 2000s. CRISPR genetic engineering originated in the 2010s.

Public regulations and political regimes continue to fluctuate. Novel measures using death as a solution keep emerging. As the hymnwriter memorably said, “Change and decay in all around I see.” It echoes the Apostle: **“the present form of this world is passing away”** (1 Corinthians 7:31, in a discourse directly addressing marriage and sexuality).

The whole creation convulses in the aftershocks of humankind’s fall. Since the forbidden fruit, sin and death have remained a constant of our race and our universe. Whatever our size or skills or circumstances, brokenness retains its hold. Evil may change clothes but never its core.

Only another—and greater—certainty can deliver us. The grace of Almighty God stands universal. The love of Jesus Christ still prevails as it always has and ever will. His work of creating proclaims every human life special—fact. His labor of redeeming proves every human life precious—truth. His activity of calling pronounces every human life priceless—reality. From the beginning—both the first moment of creation and the split-second of fertilization—until eternity this Gospel endures.

We speak this truth because it changes even the hardest and darkest hearts. We show this love because it saves lives in the most desperate situations and despite age, appearance, or ability. And we receive every neighbor as a gift and privilege because we delight together in a steadfast, faithful, and unchanging God.

# Welcome to our Newest Members

On Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the 8 am service, Jon & Jackie Dever became members of our church family. If you haven't had an opportunity to meet them yet, be sure to welcome them to our fellowship!

Jon and Jackie (like the Kennedys) recently moved to this side of the state in order to be closer to Jackie's family. Originally from CT, Jon met Jackie after his college friend married her sister. After a bizarre first date during homecoming week at State College, they were married at Jon's home church (ironically Zion Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, CT) before moving to Bristol, near Philadelphia, until they decided to move closer to more of their relatives out here. They were particularly excited to find such a vibrant church full of members genuinely excited to be in church and to love, know and serve God more. They hope they can continue to fulfill the mission of this Zion to the best of their abilities, once they find out what those are.



In their free time, Jon is particularly fond of movies and reading when the book is interesting, usually non-fiction. Jackie is an accomplished artist trained in many mediums, though drawing, felting, and writing occupy her days. They spend many days with friends and family out here and hope to find many more friends in the church as time goes on. Fair disclosure, ironically, Jon, despite studying history in college, has a terrible memory and hopes for patience in learning names and faces!

Editor's Note: Allan Stewart and Rick Valentino were also welcomed into our church family at the same service with Jon and Jackie. Their introductions will be included in the May edition of the newsletter.

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## Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The April collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. The "item of the month" is FRUIT (canned and dried). Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack. You are welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church (contact Barb Oechslein for more information).





**Pittsburgh Zone LWML  
Spring Rally**

**Bethel Lutheran Church  
301 Scott Avenue  
Glenshaw, PA 15116**

**April 13, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.  
Lunch will be provided**

**Spring InGathering to benefit  
The Hearth Women's Shelter:**

**Lotions, Perfumes, Soaps, Make-up, Hair  
Products, Body Sprays, Washes,  
Donations may also include gently used  
purses and/or bags.**

**Can't attend but want to donate?  
Leave your donations in the bin at the back  
of the sanctuary on Sunday, April 7th.**

**RSVP to Tevia Grimenstein  
no later than April 7th  
[grmnstns@live.com](mailto:grmnstns@live.com)**



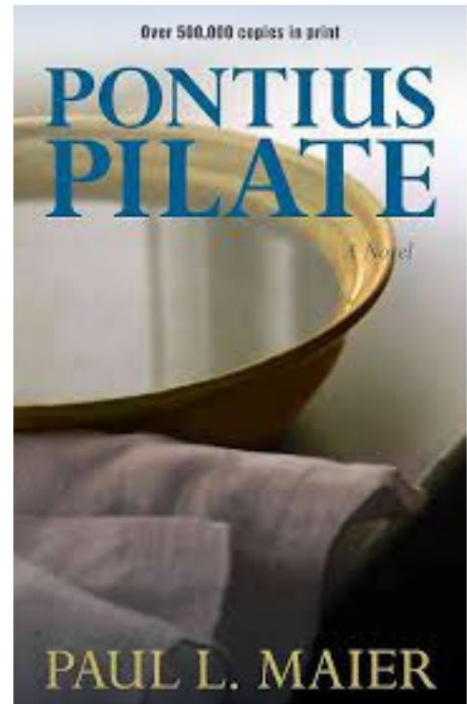




**Women's Brunch & Book Club**  
**\*\* New Date & Time \*\***  
**There's still time to read!!**

Saturday, April 20th  
10:30 a.m.  
Zion Fellowship Hall

Please bring a brunch item  
to share. We look forward  
to seeing you all there!



**LET'S GET TOGETHER - SAVE THE DATE**  
**EASTERN DISTRICT LWML RETREAT 2024**

**September 20-22, 2024**

**PIONEER ON THE LAKE, ANGOLA, NY**

**NIAGARA LWML HOST ZONE**

**Theme "Abound in Hope" Romans 15:13**

May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy  
and peace as you  
trust in Him, so that  
you may overflow with  
hope by the power  
of the Holy Spirit.  
Romans 15:13-14

# Saving Souls: Christ's Work, not ours



*by Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church -- Missouri Synod  
from Reporter, March 5, 2024*

The Synod does a lot of research to know what works. For instance, Concordia Publishing House just published a fantastic new book by the Rev. Dr. Mark Kiessling, LCMS Youth Ministry director, and DCE Julianna Shults, Youth Ministry program manager. The book is [\*Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry\*](#), and it's the culmination of extensive research, surveys and interviews designed to find out what works in youth ministry and what has the highest likelihood of retaining youth in a faithful Lutheran congregation. Go to [cph.org](http://cph.org) to buy your own copy! You'll be surprised at what we've found.

In other news, the Synod is embarking on a significant church-planting initiative. Here, as with Youth Ministry, we've spent years studying the data to know what practices (always under the Scriptures and our Lutheran Confessions) have yielded and continue to promise the best results in church planting. These are



just two examples of the thoughtful, informed and long-term preparation behind the work your Synod is doing. There are many more I could offer from the LCMS Office of International Mission, Mission Advancement, Communications and the Office of Pastoral Education.

We want to be good stewards of the resources you've entrusted to us to do the work you've asked us to do. It's a matter of trying to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves," as Jesus says (Matt. 10:16). But for all our research, we must confess that nothing we do makes anyone a Christian. By God's grace, we might clear out the junk in front of the door, but the work of saving souls is Christ's.

In fact, more often than not, the Lord does His work of converting sinners quite in spite of us. I recently heard LCMS Eastern District President Rev. John Pingel preach about how the times he spends, hour upon hour, with a person or family who needs Christ often seem to result in nothing, while a moment with a passing acquaintance or a chance incident happens to bring a person to church.

Who of us could have imagined [an LCMS church plant in Rome](#)? Your LCMS missionary in Rome, the Rev. Tyler McMiller, reports that people are hungry for the comforting, pure Gospel preserved in the Lutheran Confessions. Read about how a handful of young men stumbled across the LCMS via the internet, one thing led to another, and now we have a confessional

Lutheran church plant just a couple of miles from the seat of Roman Catholicism. Even in Rome, when people find out what they can expect to receive from our Lutheran pulpits and Lutheran altars, they seek us out.

It is like how Luther describes why we should go to confession: “If this were explained in detail and if the need that ought to move and lead us to make confession were pointed out, then one would need little urging or coercion. For everyone’s conscience would so drive and disturb him that he would be glad to do what a poor miserable beggar does when he hears that a rich gift of money or clothing is being handed out at a certain place. So as not to miss it, he would run there as fast as he can and would need no bailiff to beat and drive him on. For those who really desire to be true Christians, to be rid of their sins, and to have a cheerful conscience already possess the true hunger and thirst. They reach for the bread, just as Psalm 42:1 says of a hunted deer burning in the heat with thirst, ‘As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for You, O God.’ In other words, as a deer with anxious and trembling eagerness strains toward a fresh, flowing stream, so I yearn anxiously and tremblingly for God’s Word, Absolution, the Sacrament, and so forth” (*Brief Exhortation to Confession*, 23, 32–33).

No amount of research or planning can save anyone. God will save all of His elect. This is the wonderful comfort of the Doctrine of Election. If a year from now we discovered that all our supposed best practices, based on the best research and statistics, were completely wrong, it would not change the number of God’s elect by a single one. All His elect will be saved. We simply cannot mess up His good and perfect work.

“We know that out of pure grace, without any merit of our own, we have been elected in Christ to eternal life. No one can pluck us out of His hand [John 10:29]. He has not only promised this gracious election with mere words, but has also certified it with an oath and sealed it in the holy Sacraments. We can call these to mind in our most severe temptations and take comfort in them, and with them we can quench the fiery darts of the devil [Ephesians 6:16]” (FC Ep XI, 13).

*The Son of Man  
came to seek out  
and to save the lost.*

Luke 19:10, NRSV



God’s elect will be saved, to be sure, but God wills to save His people through His blessed Word spoken through miserable sinners like us, and it is our deepest privilege to participate in His mysterious work of electing — of saving — sinners. People all over the world are seeking out The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for our clear confession of the Word of God. They want what we have; the blessed Gospel of the free forgiveness of sins, without any work or merit on our part. There are more requests from sister churches and emerging church bodies all over the world than we can manage. We have requests for over 200 more missionaries worldwide. There is a worldwide hunger for the clarity of the Gospel. The harvest is ripe, indeed!

# Stations of The Resurrection

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FOCUS ON THE VARIOUS APPEARANCES OF JESUS DURING THE 40-DAY PERIOD BETWEEN HIS RESURRECTION AND HIS ASCENSION.

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ALL THE STATIONS ARE BASED ON SCRIPTURALLY RECORDED INCIDENTS IN THE FOUR GOSPELS AND THE BOOK OF ACTS.

***Presented by The Pittsburgh Lutheran Chorus***

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 6**

LUND CARE CENTER @ 2 PM  
OERTEL CARE CENTER @ 3:30 PM  
134 MARWOOD ROAD -- CABOT 16023

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

@2:30 PM ~ CONCORDIA OF THE SOUTH HILLS HARMONY ROOM  
1300 BOWER HILL ROAD ~ MT. LEBANON 15243

## **SATURDAY, APRIL 20**

@2 PM ~ CONCORDIA AT RIDGEWOOD PLACE  
1460 RENTON ROAD ~ PLUM BORO 15239

## **SUNDAY, APRIL 21**

CONCORDIA AT REBECCA RESIDENCE CHAPEL  
3746 CEDAR RIDGE RD ~ ALLISON PARK 15101 @ 2:30 P.M.  
HIGHPOINTE AT REBECCA CHAPEL  
1871 HIGHPOINTE LANE ~ ALLISON PARK 15101 @ 4 P.M.



## **SUNDAY, APRIL 28**

CONCORDIA OF MONROEVILLE  
4346 NORTHERN PIKE ~ MONROEVILLE 15146 @ 2:30 P.M.



# Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Greetings in Christ!

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has served the congregations, schools and associated ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for over 40 years. Our mission is to ensure you have the resources available to fulfill your call for God's glory. In accomplishing our mission, we place LCEF District Vice Presidents in your area to help and support you and the congregations of the LCMS.

LCEF is currently seeking an individual to serve as the LCEF District Vice President in the Atlantic, Eastern and New Jersey Districts. I humbly ask for your assistance in identifying potential candidates to fill this critical role. Please know that this position is intended to help and support you and the congregations of the LCMS. It's important we find the right person for this position. To support our search, we will be awarding a \$1,500 referral grant to the congregation who assists us in finding the right person.

Please consider passing along the position description and application found [HERE](#). Thank you for your assistance in finding the right person for this position and for your service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Vanda Toner  
Senior Vice President, District Solutions  
Lutheran Church Extension Fund



# April Service Participants

	Elders	Acolytes	Time
April 7	Mike Wallace & Bob Schmidt Roger Diederich & Mike Sterba	Emily Trentini Elder	8:00 10:30
April 14	Sam Garloff & Mike Wallace Roger Diederich & Mike Sterba	Pippa Carter Elder	8:00 10:30
April 21	Sam Garloff & Mike Wallace Roger Diederich & Mike Sterba	Claire Schrag Madison Killinger	8:00 10:30
April 28	Sam Garloff & Mike Wallace Roger Diederich & Mike Sterba	Madison Killinger Elder	8:00 10:30



	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Apr	Tracey Johnson & Sharon Bogdan	Bill, Ken & Will Schrag and Jason Trentini	John, Liz, Claire & Luke Lemonovich
May	Carrie Lemonovich, Carolyn Wible, Deb LaJeunesse	Larry & Janet Zreliak, Tim Sheldon, Joshua Grimenstein	Mike & Aaron Kozak, Chuck LaJeunesse, Max Gresh



# April

## BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> -- Savannah Killinger

2<sup>nd</sup> -- Tom Richards

4<sup>th</sup> -- David Hutula

6<sup>th</sup> -- Barbara Fisher

7<sup>th</sup> -- Sandra Quinlan

8<sup>th</sup> -- Rae Murphy

11<sup>th</sup> -- Lydia Grimenstein

12<sup>th</sup> -- Allan Stewart

18<sup>th</sup> -- Lauren Liberatore

18<sup>th</sup> -- Ava Pasquini

22<sup>th</sup> -- Carrie Bonacci

23<sup>rd</sup> -- Bobbie Hoelle

25<sup>th</sup> -- Mike Kroeger

25<sup>th</sup> -- Mike Wallace

26<sup>th</sup> -- Cheryl Debowski

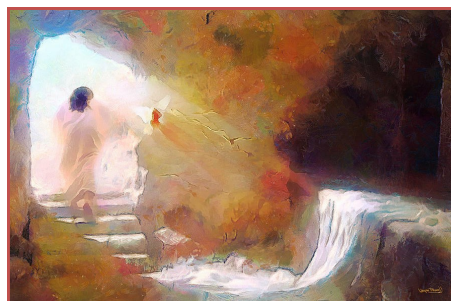
27<sup>th</sup> -- Sarah Grimenstein

27<sup>th</sup> -- Andrew Weldon

28<sup>th</sup> -- Bob Schmidt

28<sup>th</sup> -- Bethany Schrag

29<sup>th</sup> -- Ryan Harris



# April

## ANNIVERSARIES

12<sup>th</sup> David & Gretchen Schinkel

13<sup>th</sup> Chuck & Debbie LaJeunesse

22<sup>nd</sup> David & Cheryl Arter

26<sup>th</sup> Carl & Karen Bauer

# April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 6:30 pm Faith Bells 7:00 pm Trustees	<b>2</b> 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:15 pm Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30 pm Events Mtg	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	<b>8</b> 6:30 pm Faith Bells	<b>9</b> 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:15 pm Choir	<b>10</b> 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Council Mtg	<b>12</b> <div style="background-color: #6666ff; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">             Pastor out of office           </div>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am LWML Pgh Zone Rally at Bethel Lutheran, Glenshaw
<b>14</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	<b>15</b> 6:30 pm Faith Bells	<b>16</b> 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:15 pm Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Elders Mtg.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:30 am Ladies Book Club in Fellowship Hall
4/12 -- 4/17						
<b>21</b> <b>LHF SUNDAY</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	<b>22</b> 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:30 pm Faith Bells 7:00 pm Confirm.	<b>23</b> 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:15 pm Choir	<b>24</b> 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship <b>VOTERS' MTG AFTER 2nd SERVICE (lunch served)</b>	<b>29</b> 6:00 pm Confirm. 6:30 pm Faith Bells 7:00 pm Confirm.	<b>30</b> 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:15 pm Choir				