

### Pastor's Corner

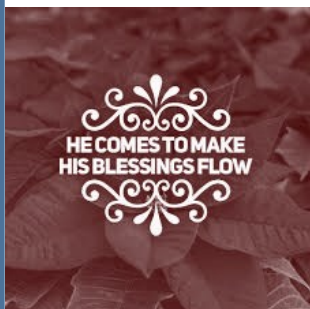
#### What Will Grow this New Year

With the New Year celebrations come the inevitable challenges to make a “new you” for yourself. Whether it be new fitness routines or vitamin supplements, this time of year is always so predictable. We are told that it is time to remake ourselves in our own image; whatever image that may be.

It's amazing how that drive to remake ourselves harkens back to Adam & Eve. Even though they were made in God's own image and likeness, they desired to remake themselves and, as the devil promised, become like their own little gods. It's a good thing for us that the celebration of New Year's (and everything that often gets dragged along with it) comes on the heels of Christmas. During Christmas we sing all of our favorite Christmas carols that remind us of what Christ came to do in this world. One of those hymns, *Joy to the World*, has this very relevant stanza for us:

***No more let sins and sorrows grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.***

This singular stanza reaches all the way back to Genesis. It speaks of the “curse” of the Fall into Sin. It speaks of “thorns” infesting the cursed ground. But this stanza also speaks of something wonderful. This stanza speaks of the Christ coming and bringing blessings; blessings that continually flow over His church from His pierced side. It is from out of this sacrifice of Jesus that the greatest blessing occurs which this stanza also speaks of. The stanza says, “No more let sins and sorrows grow.”



We have no idea what will “grow” in this new year. We hope it is filled with good days, but I bet it is safe to say there will be trying times. Thanks to Christ though, what will grow in this new year are not our sins, but the forgiveness of our sins. Thanks to Christ, what will grow this new year are not sorrows, but a grief that is mingled with the precious hope of the resurrection of the dead which provides us the greatest of comforts.

I am also so thankful that this year will be the celebration of Zion's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As we begin this new year, may all of us rally together around the promises of Christ, trusting Him in all times no matter what may befall us this coming year. And as we prepare to celebrate our 125<sup>th</sup> in 2023, may we now, and always, give thanks to Christ who continually “comes to make His blessings flow”!

-- Pastor Grimenstein

# President's Report

## Together We Stand...

Let's hope for a Happy New Year at Zion! There are some important things happening this year, not the least is our 125th Anniversary celebration! Imagine the feeling of the people who established this church in 1898! Personally, I'm very thankful they founded this congregation and that we're all a part of that dream -- a dream that lives to this day. They began something that -- God willing -- shall exist until Christ comes back to claim what is His and judge mankind. So, let's keep the faith and carry onward as Christian Soldiers, confessing Christ and looking to the cross with every breath and step we take in this life.

On January 29th, we're going to have our regular scheduled quarterly Voters' Meeting. Please attend this meeting. We need a quorum to modify the Constitution and By-Laws at this meeting. Our October meeting failed the quorum mandate. The changes in the Constitution are designed to bring the organization into a more efficient managerial posture in addition to establishing more formalized committees for the ministries. The proposed Constitution is in the membership section, online. Please take some time to read it and please come to the Voters' Meeting on January 29th to consider voting to accept it. I've written in the past that we're all members of this congregation and with that bond of membership comes responsibilities, one of which is participating in the business of your church.

As Christians, we're all "members" of a "body" that is special and blessed. We're chosen and with that blessing comes some real responsibilities to live in a manner that is as pleasing to God as possible. We'll all fall short, but we must continue to believe and fight the good fight daily to overcome the foe. Ephesians 2: 19 says: *"you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God"* -- St. Paul is saying that we're all one in Christ and we're all in this together.



There are five Sundays in January, so let's celebrate the Christmas season, which a couple thousand years ago marked the beginning of the Christian era on this planet. The prophesy was fulfilled and after the birth of our Savior, in 33 short years, salvation was created! Someday we're going to witness the Omega, the end of the story as told in the final book of our Bible. Pray for the Christians on earth, our LCMS and missions, our District, Circuit and Zion -- especially our members who need help overcoming health issues and rough times. It's 2023 -- let's keep the faith!

-- Paul Klemash

**Mission Moment:**  
**Promoting Zion's Internal, local, and international missionary efforts**  
**Pastor Philip & Deaconess Rachel Jaseph**

**Uruguay & the FIFA World Cup:  
Perspectives on Faith . . . and "football"**

**"Football (*a.k.a soccer*) is the national religion of Uruguay"**

This statement has been said tongue-in-cheek by many people who have either lived or traveled in Uruguay, and during these weeks of the FIFA World Cup it's shown itself to be true. "El equipo que nous une", or "The team that unites us" is a motto of the Uruguayan national football team.



It's interesting to reflect on this concept of unity in a country made up almost entirely of immigrants or not-so-distant descendants of immigrants. When forming a national identity, what united those of Italian, Spanish, German, and Russian heritage? Common desires in life, for one. Freedom of (or for some, from) religion, a new start to raise a family in security, land to raise cattle, etc. Eventually, a common language, cuisine, dance, mentalities, customs, and worldviews all unite people of any nation. For many Uruguayans, football is another one of those unifying factors. And on a grand scale, it's the closest thing to a religious identity in this country of 3 million.



Christians from every place and time have always had a unity unrivaled by the world, especially in light of the astounding diversity of the Body of Christ. In Christ, we are given forgiveness, life, and a new identity. In baptism, God weaves us into a new family. This community of sinner-saints is broken, and our unity is not all that it should be this side of heaven, but all who confess Jesus as Lord are unified in this confession of faith and have the certainty of eternal unity perfected in the life to come. This unity, having Christ and being found in Him, is longer-lasting and far more vital than any football team that may unite its fans. In light of this, I'm thankful to have been able to cheer on Uruguay as they played in the World Cup alongside Christian friends who also believe and understand that our greatest unity is the life in Christ that we share.



And this is why we are here. To share this truth with others, with the many, many people who do not know who Jesus is, and what He has done for the world. Thank you for all the ways that you support us, pray for us, and have made it possible for us to be here to tell others of...

**"El Cristo que nos und." -- "The Christ that unites us."**

The children celebrated Jesus' birthday at the Sunday School Christmas Party on Dec. 18. During the party we read the Christmas Story, enjoyed a beautiful cake depicting the Nativity Scene, and did a craft in which the children recorded times when they have done something kind to one another. After the party, Mark Killinger led the class in several verses of "O Come Little Children" during the second service. (picture below)



Also, if you missed it, Tess Carter's wonderful video production of the SS Christmas program, which was played after both services, is available on the Zion web site at: <https://youtu.be/yC7vtfg-45U>

The children signed Christmas cards for Zion's shut-ins, hopefully bringing some joy to those who may not be able to get out to see friends and relatives.

January 2023 brings the start of Enduring Faith Unit 5 from CPH. On Jan. 8 we begin the series "God Leads His Nation", continuing our study of the Old Testament. The unit picks up during the exodus and continues through the building of Solomon's temple.

We also want to welcome a new substitute teacher, Megan Migyanko, who will be available to sub in all three grade levels. Thank you Megan!







THIS LITTLE CHILD, OF  
LOWLY BIRTH, SHALL BE  
THE **JOY** OF ALL THE  
EARTH.



**CHRIST CAME FOR YOU.**

Come join us to receive His forgiveness,  
life and salvation.

# Zion's Anniversary in 2023



January begins our year-long commemoration of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our congregation!

All throughout the year we'll be commemorating this milestone in some very special ways. Stay tuned for announcements about special anniversary events, historical articles and vintage photos in our newsletters, and how you can get involved in the celebration!



*Early members of Zion (then known as Zion Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's German Church) circa 1920. Included are Louis & Ella Erbrecht, grandparents of Tom Erbrecht and Judy Bridges (see Louis in back row, several over from left).*

If you can identify any other folks in the picture, please contact Susie at the church office!

Zion's Handbell Choirs were recently blessed with an anonymous donation of covers for their bell tables. Not only do the covers make the bell table look nicer, they also improve the sound of the bells when the choirs use sound distortion techniques.



Music ministry members are grateful for the donation!!!





# Chrismons at Zion



Chrismons from L-R, **top row** – Cross in Eternity, Son of Righteousness, Cross atop Orb; **bottom row** – Cornerstone, Greek Cross, Iota Chi, Latin Cross.

You may notice that the Christmas tree at Zion looks a little different this year. This year the tree will be decorated with Chrismons. What are Chrismons? The word is a combination of the words "Christ" and "Monogram", so Chrismons are signs and symbols of our Lord Jesus Christ. They are always white – symbolizing the innocence, purity and perfection of our Savior; and gold – a symbol for the glory and majesty of God and the Son of God.

Some Zion members have been hard at work making Chrismons using beads and styrofoam. We plan to have Chrismon workshops throughout 2023 and will be using many different materials, including Styrofoam and felt. Our goal is to make enough Chrismons to fill Zion's Christmas tree in the years to come. If you are interested in making Chrismons, please talk to Tracey Harris or Tracey Johnson.

---

## Bridgeville Area Food Bank

The January collection for the Bridgeville Area Food Bank is **Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>**. The "item of the month" is **HOT DRINKS**. Items may be placed in the wicker receptacle in the narthex near the coat rack.



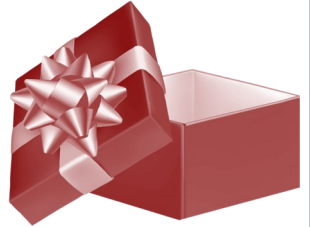
You are also welcome to help at the food bank every third Saturday of the month between 7:45 am and noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church (contact Barb Oechslein for more information). Many families in our area are in need due to the financial downturn. Please continue to support the Food Bank with your donations and volunteer service!



# In Appreciation

**Dear Members of Zion,**

**Throughout Advent and Christmas, you showered our family with gifts, deliveries, cards, and warm wishes. Thank you!! Your generosity and love for us and for one another is truly amazing! May God continue to bless you all with his mercy and grace this new year and forevermore.**



**Sincerely,**

**Pastor, Tevia, and the Grimenstein Children**

**THANK YOU all for the generous staff Christmas gifts. We appreciate your support for the work that we do here at Zion. Happy New Year!**

***The Zion Staff – Susie, John, Jim, Mark, Sandra, & Doug***



*Thank you to all who generously contributed to our Adopt-a-Grandparent program!*

*We collected almost 700 hand creams for local seniors.*

*-- Ginny Granke-Kimberland*



## *In Memoriam*

*It has pleased the Lord to call unto Himself our Sister in Christ Dottie Heslop. May the Lord comfort Deborah, Mike and all of Dottie's family with the assurance of eternal life in Him. A funeral service will be held Monday, January 9th at 10:30 at Zion, followed by a private graveside committal.*

# Festive Fun!

## Ladies Ornament Exchange & Dinner

*They came, they dined, they stole ...*

Organized by Zion Women's Ministry leads Tracey Harris and Tevia Grimenstein, this year's (now annual) social highlight of the Christmas season was attended by some 42 ladies bearing wrapped ornaments of all kinds. Following a delicious appetizer and Christmas buffet at our lovely venue, Napoli in Bridgeville, the ladies got down to business! Great fun was had by all with many oohs and aahs ... as well as the playful groans from stealing!



For more info about Zion Women's Ministry, please contact Tracey Harris at [tharris@zlcb.org](mailto:tharris@zlcb.org)



# *Youth Retreat*

## **Life By Drowning A Higher Things Retreat for Grades 9-12**

**February 17-18  
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
Lititz, PA**

When our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Repent", he intended that the entire life of believers should be repentance. This was the very first of Dr. Martin Luther's 95 Theses hammered to the church door in Wittenberg to begin the Reformation. So what? What does this mean for YOUR reformation, your rehabilitation, your repentance, your death, your life now, today in February 2023? Come and find out!

**WATCH YOUR EMAILS THIS WEEK  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND A SIGN UP SHEET**



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:  
YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS  
FOR GRADES 6-12  
START UP AGAIN ON  
MARCH 19TH!**





## What About...

# Abortion

Abortion is one of the most significant moral issues of our day. Emotions run very deep when it comes to this issue. It is tempting to consider this issue from the perspective of our culture's standards. Christians want to be informed about abortion based on the Word of God.

### **What does God's Word say about abortion?**

God's Fifth Commandment is clear, "You shall not murder." This means, in the words of the Small Catechism, that "we should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need." God forbids us to take the life of another person, and this includes abortion.

God's Word also says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart" (Jer. 1:5). Psalm 139:16 says, "Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in Your book before one of them came to be." Our church's explanation of the Small Catechism puts the matter well when it says, "The living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception. Since abortion takes a human life, it is not a moral option except to prevent the death of another person, the mother." The sin of willfully aborting a child, except in very rare situations where it may be necessary to save the mother's life, is totally contrary to the will of God.

### **If abortion is legal, how can the church oppose it?**

Just because something happens to be legal does not make it moral, ethical or right. Abortion is perhaps one of the most dramatic examples of a situation where something is legal, but is very much a sin against God. Since 1973, abortions have been legal in the United States. Abortion remains a sin against God, whether or not it is legal in our society; therefore, we must "obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29). The church needs to inform its members that abortion is sinful and then encourage them, as Christian citizens, to use available legal means to change the law. Christians do not resort to illegal activities to change our nation's laws.

### **Why is the church involved in a personal decision?**

A personal decision is not necessarily a private decision.

The church, and the church's ministers, have God-given responsibilities to warn, exhort and rebuke from the Word of God with all authority (2 Tim. 4:2). The church is very concerned when Christians make decisions that are contrary to the Word of God and thus place themselves outside the will of God. Living in a state of unrepentant sin is a very serious situation. Thus, the church must warn its members against the temptation of abortion. The church also must minister to those who have had abortions. Furthermore, the church needs to speak out against the sin of abortion, since it is widely presented in our culture as perfectly acceptable.

### **Has the church always opposed abortion?**

Abortion was a common practice in the ancient Roman empire. The very fact that the Son of God was conceived in the womb of Mary was a powerful reason for Christians to hold a high view of all human life. The unborn Christ was not merely a blob of cells, but was in fact the very Son of God, who had assumed a human nature in order to save and redeem human beings from their sin. Early Christian writers make it clear that abortion was abhorrent to the first Christians. The early Christians understood their views on marriage, women and family to be unique. One church father said it quite plainly, "The hair-splitting difference between formed and unformed makes no difference to us. Whoever deliberately commits abortion is subject to the penalty for homicide." From its earliest days, the Christian church has been opposed to abortion, regarding it as infanticide and homicide.

### **Why do some churches take a weak position on abortion?**

Abortion is an emotional issue that is very upsetting to many. It is easier for a church to take a weak position and not speak out against abortion. However, a church that wishes to be faithful to the Scriptures cannot remain silent but must clearly indicate that willful abortions are sinful. Many mainline, liberal denominations, which tolerate doubt and indifference in their churches about many teachings of the Bible, also



What About...

## Abortion *Cont'd*

tolerate and even defend abortion. It is often confusing to Missouri Synod Lutherans when they hear that some other Lutheran churches have not taken a strong stand against abortion. It is important for us to make clear that our church does not share the position of those church bodies that do not speak clearly against the sin of abortion.

### **Isn't abortion acceptable in the case of rape or incest?**

While the emotional arguments for abortion in these situations might seem compelling, the fact of the matter is that it is wrong to take the life of one innocent victim (the unborn child), and further burden the life of the other victim of these horrible situations, the mother. It is indeed a strange logic that would have us kill an innocent unborn baby for the crime of his father.

### **What can we do for people considering abortion?**

It is a sin for parents to counsel their children to have abortions. An unplanned pregnancy comes as a shock to all involved and abortion may be seen as a "quick and quiet" way to move past the problem, but it is not. It merely compounds an already sinful situation with another sinful choice. A woman who is considering an abortion has the option to keep her child or to give it up for adoption. Adoption is a noble choice, for it allows a child who otherwise may not be well cared for to receive the love and attention he needs in a family that is able to care for him. Our pastors are aware of the various agencies that deal with adoptions.



### **How can the church minister to those who have had an abortion?**

A woman who has had an abortion may feel at first that she is free of her "problem." Her partner, either a boyfriend or a husband, may also feel that he is "off the hook." It may be soon after, or perhaps not until years later, that they realize what they have actually done: destroyed the life of their unborn child. Perhaps this realization comes as they hear God's Word correctly explained on this point. The Law of God reveals their sin to them and they feel guilt and great sorrow, and they begin to wonder what can be done about it or if there is any hope at all. The woman who has had an

abortion needs to hear that for this sin too the blood of Jesus Christ was shed, and that there is in Him now full and free forgiveness. This assurance needs to be given over and over; namely, that in Christ Jesus, there is forgiveness—complete and total forgiveness. This is how the church best ministers to those who continue to feel the burden of the sin of abortion, by again and again pointing them to the cross of their Lord Jesus Christ and assuring them of the full and free forgiveness He won for them there, for all sins, for each and every one. It is important then that people who have repented of their sin continue to remain close to their Lord through regular and faithful church attendance where they will receive the Lord's Supper regularly. Private confession and absolution with their pastor is another powerful means by which God gives His grace, pardon and peace to a person feeling guilty over the sin of abortion. The grace and love of God is stronger than any human weakness and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7).

### **What resources are available?**

There are many worthwhile resources available. Our church has a commission on the sanctity of life that has produced a number of helpful materials.

*That They May Have Life* is a useful summary of how Christians reflect and think about life issues. *Real and Abundant Life* is a broad theological overview of God's gift of life and the eternal life He offers to us in Christ. Both of these documents are available from Concordia Publishing House.

Lutherans for Life is an organization that also provides numerous resources to help Christians understand better a wide range of life issues. Visit them at their website [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org).

-Dr. A. L. Barry  
Past President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Lutherans  
For Life

AT THE MARCH  
JANUARY 19-21, 2023

LEL



## Conference and March OPEN TO ALL ADULTS!

### BLESSED WITH HOPE @ 6 PM ET

Thursday

19

January

- Registration and Exhibits
- Opening Devotions: Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller
- Conference Session 1: Rev. Mark Chavez

### BLESSED FROM THE BEGINNING @ 9 AM ET

Friday

20

January

- Pre-March Devotion: Rev. Harrison Goodman
- March for Life: Rally, March, and Testimonials
- Dinner on own
- Exhibits, Social Time
- Conference Session 2: Dr. Donna Harrison

### BLESSED FOR SERVING @ 9 AM ET

Saturday

21

January

- Conference Session 3: Rev. Greg Schultz
- Conference Session 4: Chaplain Craig Muehler
- Closing Devotion: Rev. Michael Salemink

Conference ends @ noon ET.

Location:

Hilton Crystal City at Reagan National Airport  
2399 Richmond Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202

Cost:

Register for \$50. Rooms cost \$120 per night with group rate, up to 4 people per room. Breakfast included. Limited availability.

Registration:

Register at [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org) or call  
515-382-2077

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION  
CLOSES DEC. 15, 2022

For more information, visit: [LUTHERANSFORLIFE.ORG](http://LUTHERANSFORLIFE.ORG)

Or email Events Coordinator, Erika Peterson, at:

[EPETERSON@LUTHERANSFORLIFE.ORG](mailto:EPETERSON@LUTHERANSFORLIFE.ORG)

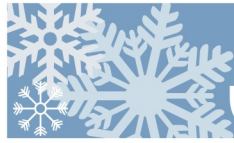


# January Service Participants

	Acolytes	Time
Jan 1	Elder	10:00
Jan 8	Claire Schrag Elder	8:00 10:30
Jan 15	Claire Schrag Christine Chilcott	8:00 10:30
Jan 22	Emily Trentini Callista Chilcott	8:00 10:30
Jan 29	Lindsey Liberatore Daniel Grimenstein	8:00 10:30



	Elders	Altar Guild	8:00 am Ushers	10:30 am Ushers
Jan	TBD	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Joshua Grimenstein, Tim Sheldon, Larry & Janet Zreliak	Andy Weldon, Aaron & Mike Kozak, Chuck LaJeunesse
Feb	TBD	Janet & Marian Oelschlager	Ron Meier, Noah Wallace, Brian Pasquini, Decklan Pasquini	Dan & Tracey Harris, Sam & Jack Bishop



# JANUARY

## Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Daniel Grimenstein  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lois Klemash  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Brooklyn Boyle  
 4<sup>th</sup> Christine Chilcott  
 4<sup>th</sup> John Eckels  
 5<sup>th</sup> Steve Dibert  
 5<sup>th</sup> Gloria Godfrey  
 6<sup>th</sup> Decklan Pasquini  
 6<sup>th</sup> Douglas Krantz  
 7<sup>th</sup> Luke Lemonovich  
 7<sup>th</sup> Thomas Bicusky  
 12<sup>th</sup> Ronald Valentino  
 13<sup>th</sup> Lexi Meyer  
 13<sup>th</sup> Debra LaJeunesse  
 14<sup>th</sup> Brooke Glasser

14<sup>th</sup> Barbara Oechslein  
 16<sup>th</sup> Mary Lou Neill  
 20<sup>th</sup> Carol Schrag  
 21<sup>st</sup> Pastor Grimenstein  
 21<sup>st</sup> Shane Bryant  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Jessica Boyle  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Tim Sheldon  
 24<sup>th</sup> Will Schrag  
 27<sup>th</sup> Callista Chilcott  
 27<sup>th</sup> Molly Oelschlager  
 27<sup>th</sup> Shea Wilson  
 28<sup>th</sup> Linda Kroeger  
 31<sup>st</sup> Ted Siek  
 31<sup>st</sup> Sara Hajduk

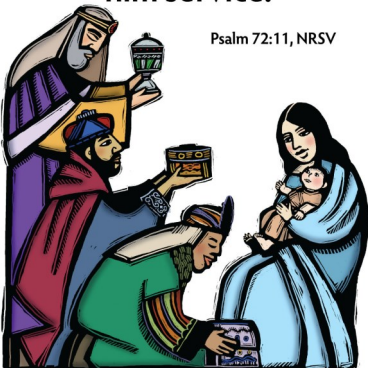


# JANUARY

## Anniversaries

May all kings  
 fall down before him,  
 all nations give  
 him service.







Psalm 72:11, NRSV



21<sup>st</sup> Mike & Michele Wallace  
 26<sup>th</sup> John & Susan Stone  
 28<sup>th</sup> James & Mary Lou Neill



# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation  7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm -- Elders' Meeting	<b>6</b> <b>7</b> 	
<b>Pastor out of town</b>						
<b>8</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	<b>9</b> 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg. 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	<b>10</b> 7:00 pm Board of Ed Meeting	<b>11</b> 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm -- Council Meeting		
<b>15</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	<b>16</b> 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Pastor away at conference</b>						
<b>22</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship	<b>23</b> 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2:00 pm Worship & Bible Study	<b>26</b>		
<b>29</b> 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Adult/ Teen Bible Study & SS 10:30 am Worship Voters' Mtg after second service (lunch served)	<b>30</b> 6:00 pm 1st yr Confirmation 6:15 pm Grace Bells 7:00 pm 2nd yr Confirmation 7:15 pm Choir 8:15 pm Faith Bells	<b>31</b>	