



The Epistle

From the Desk of Pastor Mews

Pastor Mews goes to the movies: “His Only Son!”

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son.....” John 3:16.

This past Palm Sunday, 4/2, following the Easter Egg hunt, my wife and I were invited by church friends to go see “His Only Son.” It was being shown at the new Phoenix Theater in Defiance. Nearly sold out due to a church youth group attending, my wife and I were blessed as we took the last two remaining seats to attend the 5:25 showing.

You should know I love movies and watching them on the silver screen adds all the more luster and meaning to it. Sadly, I’ve seen a lot of religious movies that left a lot to be desired or took their own liberty at interpreting Scripture poorly. “His Only Son,” was created by a small Christian movie company called, “Angel Studios,” that sees itself as a ministry supported mainly by believers and seeks to free itself from the grips of Hollywood and major film producers. The brain trust behind this was a recent convert from the sands of our wars in the Middle East. This created an interesting and moving back drop to this one hour and 46-minute film made with just a fraction of the cost of modern-day Hollywood A-List types of movies.

While it’s called “His Only Son,” I was expecting a “Chosen,” (By the way, a well-done and worthwhile show that really aims at staying textually true to the life of Jesus) type movie or a lesser form of the moving and superb, “The Passion of The Christ,” that reflected the life of “His Only Son,” Jesus Christ.

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MAY SERMONS

MAY 6-7
"EXTENSIONS OF MINISTRY"
ACTS 6:1-9

MAY 13-14
"THE BLESSING OF
CONSISTENCY"
JOHN 14:15-21

MAY 20-21
"NOT IF, BUT WHEN!"
1 PETER 4:12-19; 5:6-11

MAY 27-28
PENTECOST
GUEST PREACHER



CONTACT INFORMATION:
CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
Monday-Friday, 8:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Church Office: 419.782.5766
Pastor Mews: ext 103
pastor.mews@stjohntigers.com
419.670.5014
(after hours contact number)

Church Secretary:
church.secretary@stjohntigers.com

However, the movie takes one to the tents of Abraham, and the calling, ministry, challenges and life of Abraham and his wife Sarah. The film does a very good job of staying true to the text, and yet at the same time remarkably shares the backdrop and life of Abraham living in that time and place. The film brings to life the culture, customs and the changed life of Abraham and Sarah in a refined, yet accurate manner. It really is a movie about the life of Abraham, and more specifically it is a film about the struggle of Abraham to sacrifice “His Only Son,” Isaac, on the Mount of Moriah. The film keeps the viewer in the now of Abraham’s dilemma, while with precision walks the film-goer back into the specifics of the familiar events of Abraham and Sarah’s life that led them to this point. (The movie is an excellent guide for those wishing to learn and refine themselves in the Genesis account of Abraham’s life).

If you are unfamiliar with his life, then I recommend that you read Genesis chapters 12 to 24. The producer skillfully looks at the faith and relationship that Abraham has with God, as he must deal with the doubt of Sarah, who is yet barren and rather unconvinced of her role to bear a son, a descendant to fulfill God’s promise. The film shows the faithfulness of Abraham as he travels with his son and two of his servants of various backgrounds on their three-day journey to Mt. Moriah.

As with all Biblical films, there is some speculation and background color to Scripture's account and this film does so with much accuracy and integrity.

Ultimately, “His Only Son” closes out with a clip from a similar mountain. There, one watches another sacrifice between two crosses, and Bible verses weave the movie together in a very moving way. The movie ends with the producer tactfully and gently inviting support and sharing that his next film will tie Old Testament accounts of Jacob with the life of Christ.

What’s my recommendation? See it! I invite you to attend and reflect on the movie’s impact and meaning for you; share it with me! Either, way, “His Only Son,” reminds us that He died for all and for you, as God so loved You that He gave His Only Son that you may have eternal life. Peace, Pastor KFM.



American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge
St. John students raising money for the Heart Association and being the hands and feet of Jesus.
Participants were able to “Pie-in-the-Face” a teacher or principal.
Blessings, Mr. John March, principal



Students Who Participated



Top 2 Students

Teachers/Principal Being Pied in the Face
(Ms. Ordway, Mrs. Zachrich, Mrs. March, Mr. March)





Pastor Mews' Official Acts and Congregation Events

*Greg and Sue Becker transferred to Zion, Corunna, IN.

*Funeral/Christian burial of Minnie Wagner on 4/3. She was called to her heavenly home on 3/30.

*Funeral of Kenn Sawmiller on April 27, he was called to his eternal home on April 20.

**Funeral for Virginia Mast, on April 28, she was called to her eternal home on April 20.

*Koby Bumb's baptism, 4/30 at 11:00 am service.

*Confirmation rehearsal on 5/5 at 7:00 pm.

*Confirmation Sunday with 5 Jr. Confirmands, 5/7, 11:00 a.m. service

*SJL SERVANT DAY, Sunday, May 21, 1:00-6:00 p.m.

includes a meal!

*2023 VBS will be held from July 23 to 26 jointly with/at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church from 5:30-8:00 p.m. with family meals at 5:30 each evening.

Pastor Mews will be on vacation 5/26-5/29 in NE Ohio
and 6/9-6/16 in IL.

*ACCEPTED! Rev. Ray Holman has accepted the call to serve as our associate pastor! His tentative arrival date is in early June as his wife, Melissa, is an upper grade teacher and a librarian. We thank God for answered prayers!

PRIVATE COMMUNION

The Pastor continues to offer private Communion for anyone who wishes to have Communion. Please call the church office for an appointment.

SHUT-IN CALLS

We have around 30 people who are designated as shut-ins in our congregation. The Pastor, Walt & Lorna Smith, and George & Phyllis Kaiser are keeping in contact with our members. If the shut-in person is comfortable having a home visit, arrangements will be made for this visit.

KIDS ZONE MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

VBS

VBS takes place on July 23-26 at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church from 5:30-8:00pm with a family meal each day at 5:30. The next VBS Meeting is May 23 at 6:30 pm at Christ Our Savior. You can sign up your kids or to volunteer at <http://vbspro.events/p/events/sjl23>

Cross Training

Cross Training leaders include Pastor Mews (8th), Mike and Nancy Kemper (7th), Dick Bonin (6th), and Kristina Phipps (1st-5th)

Cross Training ends this month but will start up again in the fall!

If you have any questions or would like to sign up your child for Cross Training please call (419) 782-5766.

Pastor Mews
(419) 782-5766 (Office)
(419) 670-5014 (cell)
pastor.mews@stjohntigers.com

CHILDREN'S Sunday School



The last day of Sunday School until after the summer is May 21. Sunday School is for children ages 3 (and potty trained) and older. Sunday School is from 9:30-10:30 downstairs in the nursery room. Text or call Megan Fritz for any questions at (419) 438-4905.

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL



Calling all youth. A Bible Study just for you. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Fellowship Room. Contact Roger Schafer at (763) 242-5643 for more information.

Confirmation 2023

Confirmation will take place on May 7 at the 11:00 service. Please join us as we witness five confirmands confirming their faith.

Addison Grace Becher

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

Koben Michael Bumb

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

Ruth June Green

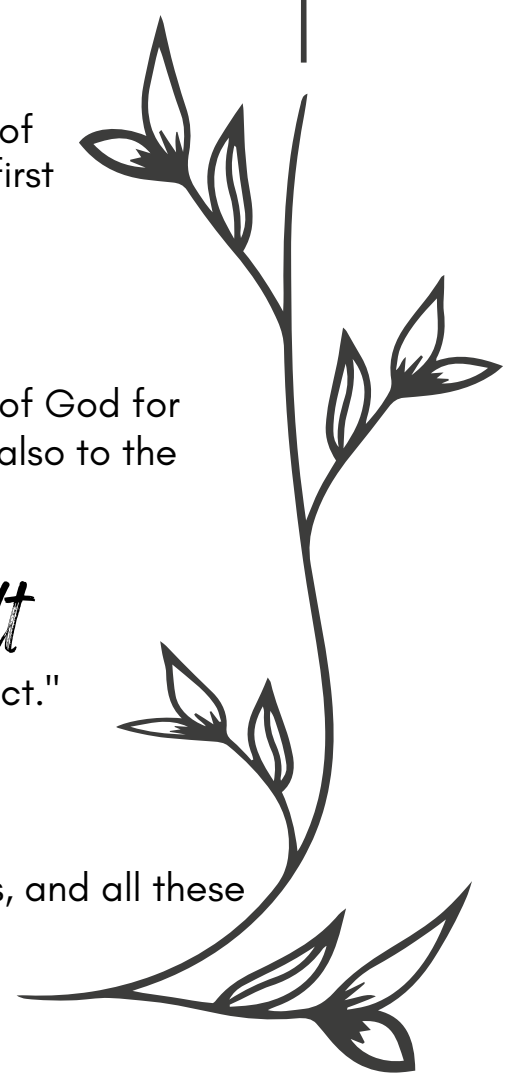
"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." Romans 1:16

Kalyn Michelle Hastedt

"Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act." Psalm 37:5

Isaac John Webb

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." Matthew 6:33





As of April 25 we served 41 families or 128 people. We distributed 211 bags of food valued at \$2110.00. We always welcome non food items, such as laundry detergent and bath tissue.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.



LADIES AID

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Let us remember this verse from Psalm 113:3 "From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised".

We hope everyone had a blessed Easter.

Our next meeting is on May 25, 2023 at 2pm with chair hostess Lorna Smith. The food pantry items for the month are Shampoo, Laundry Soap, & Toilet Paper.

We will be talking about our events coming up in the fall. Remember this will be our last meeting till August 31, 2023. We hope everyone has a good summer.



THE CLOTHES CLOSET,

located across the street from the school, continues to provide gently used clothing at an affordable price to our community. The Clothes Closet is open on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. If you have a donation, you may drop it off on Monday or Tuesday from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. or during days we are open. Bring donations and come on in and do a little shopping.



Don't Forget to pick up your meal May 2 between 4:30-6:00pm from the Spring Election Day Drive-Through Dinner!

SJL YOUTH SCOOP MARCH 2023

YOUTH.SJL@STJOHNTIGERS.COM

Vision Statement: To equip today's youth to become leaders of the faith leading/living Godly lives & sharing Christ's love in the world through fellowship, Bible study, & service.

Mission Statement: Let your light shine as you walk like Christ: Knowing, Sharing, & Growing in His Love



Annual Mother's Day Flower Sale!

Sunday, May 14, 2023

***Orders will be ready for pick up.**

***We'll also have flowers on sale for anyone interested in purchasing flowers the day of.**

Mark your calendars now:

Coming in June: Recycling Pop Cans & a Movie--Date and Time TBA

August: Defiance County Fair (Aug. 19-26) & the Pie Pan

Scavenger Hunt Highlights!



419-782-5766

655 WAYNE AVE DEFIANCE, OH

WWW.STJOHNDEFIANCE.COM

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STJOHNLUTHERANDEFIANCE

Easter Breakfast Highlights!



HAPPY
Easter

Prayer Requests

Please let the church office know of any additional prayer requests. Call 419.782.5766 or email church.secretary@stjohntigers.com.

For the Prayer Chain, please contact Judy or Penny via phone, text, or email if you have a prayer request, an addition, a correction, or any feedback for the Prayer Chain Warriors to include in their prayers. Judy Detter (detterjudy@gmail.com), text Judy: 419.783.7032. Penny Mueller (pennym41@gmail.com) text Penny: 419.304.5768

Bible Study Opportunities

Led by Pastor Mews

In Depth Bible Study

This class is currently working through The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith by Timothy Keller. This book is an overview of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, and a continuation of the "Parables Through Peasant Eyes" class. This 2:00-3:00 p.m. class is held in the Fellowship Room on Wednesdays. Anyone is welcome to join!

Revelation Thursday A.M. Bible Study

Have you ever had questions over the Book of Revelation? This class discusses your questions about Revelation and gives hope in our victory in Christ. The class gathers from 10:00-11:30 a.m. every Thursday in the Fellowship Room. All is provided.

Life with God

Life with God begins May 1. This class is for those seeking to join, wishing to explore the basics of Christianity, or learn "Lutheranism 101." Please contact the church office if you would like to be a part of this class Monday nights from 6:30-8:30pm in the Fellowship Room. Members are encouraged to attend every five years.



MOMS IN TOUCH

Faye Luhring invites to you join a group of ladies who pray for not only our congregation and its members, but also our community and world affairs. They meet every other Monday at 9:00 a.m. at 274 Wilson St. This month, they meet May 8 and 22.

Bible Studies

SUNDAY-9:30 a.m.

- Phil Rohlf/Rita Bergman – "In the Footsteps of the Savior" by Max Lucado, Lunchroom A
- Faye Luhring—"Making it Through a Life Shift" Lunchroom B
- Jeff Rohlf – "The Foundations" By Ken Ham, Adult Room A
- Sandy Gyurnek –"You Were Made for this Moment" by Max Lucado, In the Fellowship Room
- Roger Schafer—Youth Bible Study, In the Fellowship Room
- Sunday School: The Nursery Room

SECOND TUESDAY AND FOURTH TUESDAY



KNIT 'N STUDY—This group will meet on the 9th & 23rd of May. This group makes crocheted or knitted baby/children's items for the Women's Health Center in Defiance.

ACT: Adult Cross Training

"Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life."

Prov. 22:6 GN

Cross Training isn't just for children!

We are all children of God!

A group of adults is studying the Bible each week on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Please join them during this season!

Birth to Death, St. John Church has something for you!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

40+ years

Marc & Margaret Beach, May 1 (40)
Mark & Lucretia Hageman, May 10 (43)
William & Suzanne Hultz, May 16 (58)
Keith & Shelly Decker, May 28 (47)
Dave & Kristine Graham, May 28 (46)
Joseph & Joan Bilyew, May 28 (40)
Thomas & Karen Kent, May 30 (52)
David & Sandra Pergram, May 31 (48)
Theodore & Phyllis Nicely, May 31 (65)

Happy BIRTHDAY

80+ years

Vicki Vogel, May 5 (81)
Maggie Mack, May 10 (91)
Bonnie Gomez, May 15 (91)
Dolores Notestine, May 16 (89)
Gloraine Stelzer, May 23 (98)
David Boehm, May 25 (82)
Karen Haaser, May 25 (80)
Bonnie Warncke, May 25 (81)
Marvin March, May 26 (88)
John Marcellus, May 28 (80)
Marilyn "Toot" Guillian, May 29 (88)
Helen Miller, May 29 (88)

PASTOR'S SERMONS

IF YOU MISSED A SERMON, YOU CAN FIND IT ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL, ON OUR WEBPAGE (WWW.STJOHNDEFIANCE.COM) AND ON OUR PODCAST SITE.

GOOGLE SEARCH: ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH DEFIANCE OHIO YOUTUBE. THEN SUBSCRIBE TO ST. JOHN CHANNEL TO GET NOTIFIED WHEN WE ARE BROADCASTING "LIVE".

LINK TO OUR WEBPAGE

[HTTPS://WWW.STJOHNDEFIANCE.COM/SERMONS-2/](https://www.stjohndefiance.com/sermons-2/)
LINK TO OUR PODCAST

[HTTPS://WWW.BUZZSPROUT.COM/54964](https://www.buzzsprout.com/54964)

PUT YOUR FAVORITE PODCAST APP ON YOUR PHONE AND LISTEN TO THE SERMONS ANY TIME OF DAY.

RADIO

WONW 1280 AM DEFIANCE

WZOM 105.7 FM DEFIANCE

OUR SERVICE IS BROADCAST A WEEK LATER ON SUNDAY AT 9:30 A.M. ON WONO 1280 AM AND ON WZOM 105.7 FM AT 8:00 A.M.

DCTV

THE 11:00 A.M. SERVICE IS VIDEOTAPED EVERY WEEK AND EDITED AND SENT TO DCTV-DIGITAL CHANNEL 1021. IT IS BROADCAST A WEEK LATER.



SCOUT NEWS

MAY 2023



After an Easter Egg Hunt in April, the Pack will be having an overnight camp at Camp Lakota this month. In addition to hiking, fishing and a variety of other activities, the Webelos (grades 4-5) will be practicing their outdoor cooking skills. The Pack will also be having an awards ceremony for Cubs who have earned rank and various other requirements. In addition, planting trees at Lakota as a service project is a possibility.

With service being a very important part of Scouting, hand-made cutout butterflies will be distributed to Laurels Nursing Home and Kingsbury Place this month to put on residents' windows. This activity not only provides joy to those at those facilities but also reinforces an empathetic attitude in the Cubs. Summer activities will begin with attendance at the Memorial Day service at Riverside Cemetery. Through the months of June, July and August, Cubs and their families will be visiting either the Binder Zoo in Michigan or the Planetarium in Toledo, enjoying loads of fun at the Rain Gutter Regatta and water games, and having a get together with activities at a local park and a join hike for new Cubs in August. Opportunities are also available to attend Cub summer camps at Lakota.

The Troop continues to plan for the annual week-long camping experience at Lakota. Available merit badges to be earned are being discussed as well as fun time activities such as swimming, kayaking and canoeing in 48-acre Lake Glengary, shooting sports that includes archery, rifle and shotgun ranges and climbing the tower in addition to a number of other choices. All Scouts look forward to rousing evening campfires in the Council Ring as well.

Youth and adults are always welcome to attend Pack and Troop events to learn more about the program. Questions at any time can be addressed to Mike Saxton, Chartered Organization Representative, at 419-439-2079.



419 EGG HUNT



OUTREACH MINISTRY



Outreach Ministry seeks to share the Gospel of Christ within and outside of our walls to proclaim Jesus and the ministry of our church and school locally, nationally and globally.

Due to its deteriorating condition, the St. John welcome sign at the junction on Routes 15/18 will soon be replaced.

The Outreach Ministry team is seeking additional lay readers and ushers. Please consider this opportunity.

The Outreach Ministry Committee will have a presence in Kingsbury Park at Defiance Days in July. In addition to church and school promotional literature, free snow cones will be passed out.

St. John will be providing two meals and Christ Our Savior two meals for the combined VBS, scheduled at Christ Our Savior from July 23-26.

A tri-fold flyer showcasing our church and school is being developed and will be passed out at community gatherings.

The Outreach Ministry Committee meets monthly to plan additional opportunities to be more welcoming to worshippers and be more visible in the community.

The Church Office will be CLOSED on Memorial Day,
May 29.

SPRING/SUMMER 2023, St. John Lutheran, Defiance, OH

LIFE WITH GOD: (LWG 1) Starting, Monday, May 1, 2023

Does God exist? What happens after death? Why are there so many different religions? Can the Bible be trusted? Why do bad things happen to me? I want to learn more about Lutheranism and become a member of a Christian Church. St. John's "Life with God," explores and answers these questions and more in an informal, enjoyable, yet beneficial way through a 12 session/week course called "**Life with God.**" (LWG) Sign up below, we ask that participants attend 10/12 classes and there are videos over each class that can be viewed for missed classes. For those who complete this course they can become communicant members if they desire. **Life with God** will be offered each Winter, Spring and Fall. **St. John members are asked to attend a "Life with God," class once every five years to renew and refresh their faith!**

TOPICS: Evidence for God's existence, Saving Faith, Baptism, The Lord's Supper, The Bible, Law and Gospel, Living a Christian Life, Being a part of the Body of Believers at St. John, The Reformation, Good Works, The Ten Commandments, Worship, & Christian Stewardship. Come to learn and grow together.

DATES: Monday, May 1, 2023 to Monday, August 21, 2023. Classes are held on Monday Evenings in the Adult Bible Study room A from 6:30-8:30 P.M.. Bring nothing, on the last class we will bring refreshments to share. After the 2nd class, no new class members are to join. Class dates: Monday, May 1, 8, 15, 22, June 5, 19 and 26, July 10 and 17, August 7, 14, 21, make- up date, August 28. All will have a take home and keep class notebook. A confirmation/new member date will be set in the future.

TEACHERS: Pastor Mews and or Pastor Holman who have extensive experience teaching these classes.

FOR: Adults or High School students desiring to be members of St. John Lutheran Church, or those who want to support those attending. This is also for those who simply desire to renew their faith or explore the basic teachings of Christianity and Lutheranism.

REGISTRATION: Return the church office by **Sunday, April 30, 2023** or hand to pastor.

SPRING/SUMMER 2023, St. John Lutheran Church "Life with God 1" (LWG 1) Registration Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Baptized: Circle; Yes No Current Church Membership: _____

Check those which apply;

_____ I plan to attend Life with God and my desire is to become a communicant member of St. John.

_____ I plan to attend Life with God to renew my faith and/or to support a friend attending.

_____ I plan to attend Life with God to simply explore and learn about Christianity and Lutheranism.

_____ I plan to attend Life with God and will decide later about possible membership.

Other thoughts or concerns;



May 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Worship Leader Mtg 11a Finance 5:30p Life with God 6:30p Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Telecare Calling 6:30p Bible Study with Lisa Mews 6:30p	2 Food Pantry 9:30a Bible Study 10a Book Club 2p Drive Thru Dinner 4:30p Youth Board Mtg 6:30p	3 Admin Mtg. 1p Prodigal God 2p Early Childhood Chapel 2:45p Hand Bells 5:30p Senior Choir 6:30p	4 Clothes Closet 9a Chapel 9a Food Pantry 9:30a Revelation 10a CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 11:00a-1:30p Elder Meeting 7p	5 Clothes Closet 10a Confirmation Rehearsal 7:00p	6 COMMUNION Worship 5:30p
7 COMMUNION Worship 8:00 & 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Bible Study 9:30a Worship with Confirmation 11:00a Dartball 6p	8 Moms in Touch 9a Finance 9:30a Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Bible Study with Lisa Mews 6:30p Life with God 6:30p	9 Pastor at Circuit Pastor Meeting Food Pantry 9:30a Bible Study 10a Knit 'N Study 1p Outreach 6:30p PTL Meeting 6:30p	10 Endowment 11:30a Admin Mtg. 1p Prodigal God 2p Hand Bells 5:30p Senior Choir 6:30p	11 Clothes Closet 9a Chapel 9a Food Pantry 9:30a Revelation 10a BCDS Meeting 7p	12 Clothes Closet 10a	13 Worship 5:30p
14 Worship 8:00a & 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Bible Study 9:30a Worship 11:00a Dartball 6p	15 EPISTLE ARTICLES DUE Finance 5:30p Life with God 6:30p Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Bible Study with Lisa Mews 6:30p Life with God 6:30p	16 Food Pantry 9:30a Bible Study 10a Book Club 2p Trustees 6:30p	17 Endowment 11:30a Admin Mtg 1p Prodigal God 2p Hand Bells 5:30p Senior Choir 6:30p	18 Chapel 9a Clothes Closet 9a Food Pantry 9:30a Revelation 10a Parish Planning 7p	19 Clothes Closet 10a	20 Worship 5:30p K-8 sings 5:30p
21 COMMUNION Worship 8:00 & 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Bible Study 9:30a Worship 11:00a Servant Day 1p Worship at Laurels 3p Dartball 6p	22 Moms in Touch 9a Finance 9:30a Boy/Cub Scouts 6:30p Bible Study with Lisa Mews 6:30p Life with God 6:30p	23 Food Pantry 9:30a Bible Study 10a Knit 'N Study 1p	24 Admin Mtg 1p Prodigal God 2p Hand Bells 5:30p Senior Choir 6:30p	25 Chapel 9a Clothes Closet 9a Food Pantry 9:30a Revelation 10a Ladies Aid Mtg 2p	26 Pastor on Vacation Clothes Closet 10a	27 Pastor on Vacation Worship 5:30p
28 Pastor on Vacation Worship 8:00 & 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Bible Study 9:30a Worship 11:00a Dartball 6p	29 Pastor on Vacation Memorial Day—Church Office is Closed Finance 5:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p	30 Food Pantry 9:30a Bible Study 10a Book Club 2p	31 Admin Mtg. 1p Prodigal God 2p Hand Bells 5:30p Senior Choir 6:30p			