



## From Pastor Bill

Holy Week draws near as we start the month of April. It's the central week of the Christian year, and not simply because Jesus is going to be killed and then raised to life. Without a doubt, that is our big story, but the big story is not one told just of Jesus' life. In many ways Jesus is our stand in. He represents us all. His dying and rising is what happens to all of us. The Paschal Mystery is the mystery of life for all of us.

And what do I mean by that? Life itself is an experience of death and resurrection. Death is what life brings to us all the time. Life only makes sense when it is experienced over against death.

What's more, true, God-centered life (the Gospel of John calls it "eternal life") is discovered in dying and being raised. We won't discover the good life, unless we die, metaphorically speaking. Until we get over ourselves, until we die to our egocentricity, we won't uncover our best life. This insight was integral to Jesus' teaching, especially when he invited his disciples to pick up their crosses and follow him.

I urge you to live Holy Week this year. Make it a necessary part of your life. Be with us when we march into Jerusalem with Jesus on Palm Sunday. Be with us when we experience Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Be with us as say goodbye to Jesus. And then be with us as we are caught by surprise by the truth that death cannot contain Jesus.

Do all of this so that you can remember not only what happened two thousand years ago, but so that you can experience what happens daily, so that you probe the depths of life, the good life.

Note the schedule for Holy Week that you will find elsewhere in the Chimes. Note also the venues for our services. Maundy Thursday worship will take place at Edgewood Lutheran.



## From Pastoral Assistant Paula

During the month of March, I attended the Ecumenical Community of Michigan Retreat in Conway, Michigan (Petoskey Area). The retreat was held at the Augustine Center of the Sacramentine Monastery. The Sacramentine Monastery was initially founded in 1951 in Michigan for the express purpose of opening a House of Prayer. Currently the Monastery is housed in the Augustine Center in Conway, Michigan, which was named after Mother Mary Augustine, foundress of the Sacramentine Sisters. One sister remains on sight and she is 92 years old and still “gets around” the grounds.

I lay this ground work for the April Newsletter for two specific reasons. One, I believe it's vital to our spiritual wholeness and well-being to *retreat* when life gets hectic and we, ourselves, are in overdrive. Secondly, gathering with others of different denominations and theological differences is crucial if we are to understand others and dialogue about our differences. The monastery creates a safe place to do it. If we, as Lutherans, are called to welcome others - all the others - then we need to listen to others without judgement and respect varied viewpoints.

In reference to the first reason, Spiritual Wholeness/Health has been our focus during Lent this year. Several people in our congregation have shared various ways in which to seek some sort of balance in their lives either through Centering Prayer, Healthy Living, Bible-Centered Meditation and how Climate Change affects our overall health. Thank you to our presenters this year! Each one of these practices enable us to put the “breaks on” when the world overwhelms us. It's amazing how transformation occurs when we give *it* space to do *its* work within us. A monastery may not be an option for everyone to renew one's wholeness, but I encourage you to keep up the practices listed above and find that quiet place to just...breathe.

The second reason why I mentioned the monastical retreat is very near and dear to my heart. Too many times we look at another's religious practices, methods of prayer and places of worship and think they are doing “it” wrong when in essence, who's to say we are doing it all right? The point is, how do we expect a world reeling from deep chasms to heal if we are not part of the equation. Honestly, I think we have a lot of work to do as Christians in order to bring about justice and peace. It takes courage and vulnerability to listen and really hear what the other is saying and it takes courage to speak on behalf of our brothers and sisters around the world - even those who *do* faith differently than us. So how's your Spiritual Wholeness/Health today? Come, join me in prayer as we move closer to the cross and to the wholeness found in the resurrected Jesus.

A prayer taken from: Guerrillas of Grace; Prayer for the Battle by Ted Loder

*Come, Lord Jesus,  
startle me  
with your presence, life-sustaining as air,  
to open my heart  
to praise you,  
to open my mind  
to attend you,*

(Continued on page 3)

# Official Acts



## Deaths

*Elin Frietsch*

Date of Birth: 04-20-1973

Date of Death: 03-04-2025

*Marilyn Nygren*

Date of Birth: 01-09-1939

Date of Death: 03-14-2025

*Pat (Patricia) Mullinnex*

Date of Birth: 11-17-1943

Date of Death: 03-18-2025

## Baptism

*Owen Scott Lloyd*

Date of Baptism: 03-23-2025

Date of Birth: 08-07-2024

Parents: Brady and Amanda Hutchins Lloyd

Sponsors: Theresa Hutchins and Mike Aboosamra



## From Shar Music 'Notes'

### "Be Still"

To me, this snippet of verse 10 from Psalm 46 is more than a reminder to us of the sovereignty and power of God. I think it can serve as a reminder to all of us that once our service leader steps up and says, "Good Morning," we should stop the jibber jabber and turn our hearts, minds and souls to the Lord.

I do love that we are an engaged community, excited to see and worship with friends, but I think it is also a good idea to ready ourselves for time with God. Music serves a vital purpose throughout the service to direct or redirect us in contemplation.

The very first thing in nearly every service is the Prelude. After seeing the Theme of the service, Elise chooses her music for the prelude very purposefully. She takes the time to practice it so you can enter into worship with the proper state of mind. Our courtesy during this time should be expected.

Throughout the service, when you hear music begin, it is often a cue for the congregation to make a transition to another section of the service. The music during the offering is an example. It tells us that the sharing of 'peace' is ending, and the collection plates will be circulating.

During the Pandemic, I think there were many things we 'forgot' when we were shut up in our homes. Let's rejoice for living in community again and return to some of our previous courtesies.

*(Continued from page 2)*

*to open my spirit to worship you,  
to open me  
to live my life  
as authentically and boldly  
as you lived yours.*

*Come, Lord Jesus,  
be with me  
in my longing;  
come, stay with me  
in my needing,  
come, go with me  
in my doing;  
come struggle with me  
in my searching;  
come, rejoice with me in my loving. Amen.*

# Confirmation

We are excited for our final year Confirmation students as they conclude three years of instruction and become the newest members of our faith community. Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 4 during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Please join us and support these kids!

This is always a bitter-sweet day for me as I let go of these kids, praying this is not the end of their spiritual journey and growth. We encourage our students to get involved in areas of service in the church and in the community. Don't hesitate to invite them in to your ministries and service projects. We strive as leaders to help the kids understand that being a member of First Lutheran holds a certain responsibility not only to our immediate faith community, but to our neighbors near and far.

Please hold these young confirmands and their mentors in your prayers as they continue their faith journey:

**Confirmand:**

Megan Badley  
August Frietsch  
Jordan Pruitt  
Bridget O'Connor  
Connor Simerick  
Lauren Slater

**Mentor:**

Bert Goodman  
Carl Luther  
Lisa Ferski  
Shar Bourdon  
Andy Luther  
Eva Backus

Please keep all our youth in your thoughts and prayers as they head into a busy spring schedule including, sports, extra-curricular activities, academic challenges and... church commitments.

## Retreat Information!!!!

Please let Paula know ASAP if your child is attending the retreat on Saturday, April 26, 27. We are traveling to Dearborn, Michigan and meeting youth from Mother of the Savior Church. Both groups and chaperones will be engaged in a service project in the area during the afternoon; games, activities and dinner will follow. We will be staying at the church and will attend the Arabic Service at noon on Sunday followed by a light lunch.

**What:** Middle School Retreat

**When:** 8:00 a.m. Saturday, April 26 - 6:00 p.m. Sunday, April 27

**Where:** Mother of the Savior, Dearborn, Michigan

**What to bring:** Stay tuned!! Our hosts are providing all the food for the weekend - very typical of Middle Eastern Culture

**RSVP now!!**

[paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org](mailto:paula@firstlutheranmuskegon.org) or  
text: 231.343.26440

### Parents and Guardians: Please note the updated Confirmation Class Schedule:

March 30	(Sunday)	Class for all students 1st, 2nd and 3rd year
April 2	(Wednesday)	3rd year students meet with their mentors
April 6	(Sunday)	Class for all students 1st, 2nd and 3rd year
April 13	(Palm Sunday)	Class for all students 1st, 2nd and 3rd year
April 17	(Maundy Thursday)	Not required but suggest attendance
April 20	EASTER	- No Class
April 23	(Wednesday)	3rd year students meet with their mentors/ tests/ Stoles
April 27	(Saturday & Sunday)	RETREAT in Dearborn!
April 30	(Wednesday)	3rd year students/dinner/ meet with mentors/ finish tests and stoles
May 4	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY & RECEPTION	
May 4	(Sunday)	Class for 1st & 2nd year only
May 18	(Sunday)	LAST Class for 1st & 2nd year/ End of year celebration!



# Youth Events



## Mission Trip Meeting

Sunday, April 13  
After worship service

## Evening Out at the Core Plaza

Join us in downtown Muskegon on April 11 at 6:00 p.m. Restaurants and spirits available. All cost is on your own. The bus will be available at church if transportation is needed but you must RSVP to Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 by April 9.

See Pastor Bill with any questions.

## Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

As part of our care for God's creation, First Lutheran has made a commitment to participate in the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway (AAH) program (<https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/programs/highway-programs/roadside-property-management/adopt-a-highway>). Every year, AAH volunteers collect more than 60,000 bags of trash from Michigan's roadsides! (Don't let that scare you - we usually collect 8-10 bags.)

We work along a stretch of M-120 to pick up trash three times each year. Anyone aged 12 and over is welcome to participate. This is a great opportunity to do something good in the community, care for creation, and get to know others from FLC. Please join us – many hands make light work!

This year's cleanups are scheduled for:

- Saturday, April 12 at 10:00 a.m.
- Saturday, July 12 at 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, September 20 at 10:00 a.m.

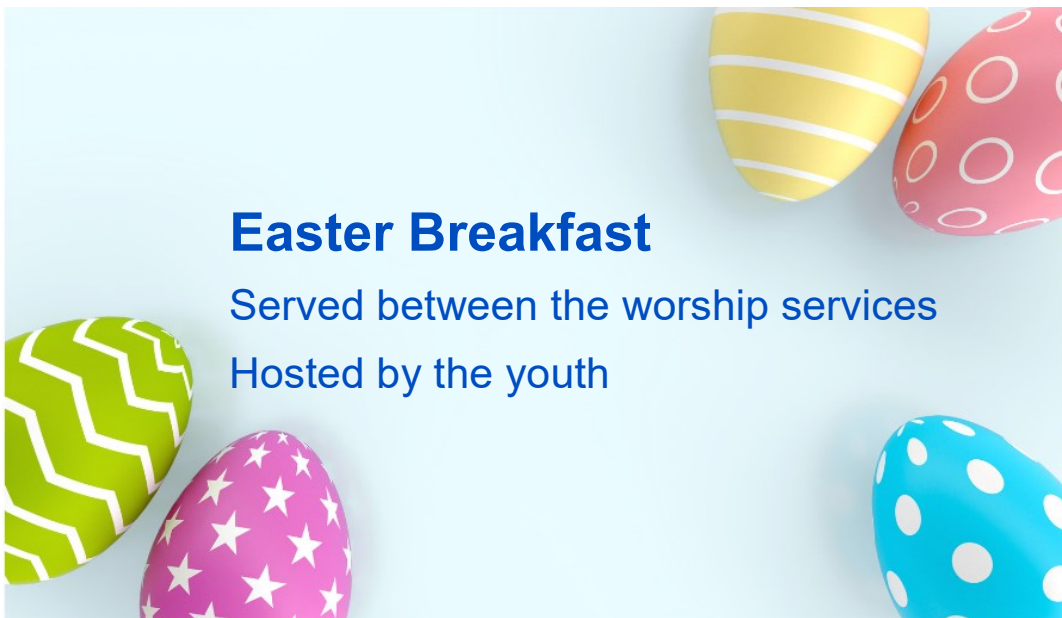
Each time, we'll meet at the church, have a brief safety meeting, and then head to our assigned location. Trash bags and safety vests will be provided. "Grabbers" are also available so there's not a lot of bending, but you might want to bring some work gloves. Make sure to dress for whatever Michigan weather we're having that day!

Signup sheets will be available at the information stations. Please contact Kathryn Hall (734-612-8690 or [kathryn.a.sweet@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.a.sweet@gmail.com)) if you have questions. We hope you can join us!

## Easter Breakfast

Served between the worship services

Hosted by the youth



## Lenten Schedule

### Wednesday Adult Classes—6:10 p.m.

- April 2 McKenzie Jager  
*Bible-Centered Meditation*
- April 9 Kathryn Hall and Mark Thogerson  
*Climate Change and Health*

### Lenten Services and Talks—7:00 p.m.

- April 2 Amaia McKay  
*Taize*
- April 9 Kathryn Hall  
*Prayer for the healing of creation*

## Holy Week Schedule

- April 17 Maundy Thursday Service**  
Edgewood Lutheran Church  
7:00 p.m.

- April 18 Good Friday Service**  
12:00 p.m. *and* 7:00 p.m.

- April 20 Easter**
- |            |                         |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 7:30 a.m.  | Sunrise Worship Service |
| 8:45 a.m.  | Breakfast               |
| 9:30 a.m.  | Easter Village          |
| 10:30 a.m. | Worship Service         |



## Wednesday Night Dinner Fundraiser

We will be hosting a Wednesday night dinner on April 2 at 5:30 p.m. to benefit the family of our church member Elin Frietsch who lost her battle with cancer. Elin is survived by her husband and three teenage children. Proceeds will help defray expenses.

The menu will include sloppy Joe's, beef tips and noodles, chips, veggies and dip, salad, dessert and beverages.

We will also be doing a Silent Auction starting March 19 until the night of the dinner. The display tables will be in the hallway by the Music Room.

Call Deb Roest, Diane Kroll or Lisa Ferski if you would like to help out with this event.

### Items Needed!

We are in need of silent auction items for this event. We are looking for pre-made baskets and gifts, a gift certificate for services you can perform or are willing to donate i.e., bake items that you love, house cleaning, raking or grass cutting, or providing a dinner for an individual or a couple etc. Anything that will help raise money for the event. Please have donations to Lorey in the office by March 18. Call Deb Roest, Evie DiPiazza, Diane Kroll or Lisa Ferski for more information or if you need your donation to come after March 18.

Thank you.  
Fellowship Board



# *Victorian Tea Party*

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**The Fellowship Board Invites You to a Tea Party!!!**

May 7 at 5:30 p.m. *sharp*

Cost: \$5.00

Entertainment will start at promptly at 5:45 p.m.

Bring your favorite tea cup and saucer for a chance to win a prize

Wear your favorite fancy hat or Victorian attire - you may win a prize!

Dinner included

- ♦ See Lorey in the office for tickets
- ♦ Tickets will also be available after Easter week.
- ♦ Fellowship members will be selling tickets on April 27 and May 3 after 10:30 a.m. service.



*We are collecting personal hygiene items or monetary donations the night of the event on May 7 for Every Woman's Place.*

Any questions, please call Deb Roest at 231-744-1936 or Diane Kroll at 231-557-4637

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Weekly Scripture Readings</b>
3/2	Exod 34:29-35, Ps 99 2 Cor 3:12-4:2, Luke 9:28-36[37-43a]
3/9	Deut 26:1-11, Ps 91;1-2. 9-16 Rom 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13
3/16	Gen 15:1-12, 17-18, Ps 27 Phil 3:17-4:1, Luke 13:31-35
3/23	Isa 55:1-9, Ps 63:1-8, 1 Cor 10:1-13, Luke 13:13:1-9
3/30	Josh 5:9-12, Ps 22 2 Cor 5:16-21, Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



## Weekly Offerings

### For week ending 02-02-2025:

General Fund: \$7,123.20  
 Building Rent: \$348.00  
 Building Enhancement: \$340.00  
 Dollar A Day: \$679.00

### For week ending 02-09-2025:

General Fund: \$7,894.35  
 Building Rent: \$1,560.00  
 Building Enhancement: \$170.00  
 Dollar A Day: \$108.85  
 Noisy Offering: (Samaritas): \$203.28

### For week ending 02-16-2025:

General Fund: \$10,067.00  
 Building Rent: \$73.00  
 Building Enhancement: \$90.00  
 Dollar A Day: \$92.00  
 Noisy Offering (Samaritas): \$229.85

### For week ending 02-23-2025:

General Fund: \$6,264.52  
 Building Rent: \$196.00  
 Building Enhancement: \$160.00  
 Noisy Offering: (Samaritas): \$151.76  
 Abiding Memorial: \$170.00







*Thanks to the March Chimes assemblers:*

Carl Luther  
Joe Labiak  
Dennis DeVries  
Jerry and Robbin Dibble



A sincere "thank you" to ALL who contributed or attended my parents' ( Rose & Larry Loch) recent Celebration of Life, making it an absolutely beautiful tribute!

Poppy would definitely give it "2 thumbs up"! And heartfelt thanks to Barb Bonifield (and her team) for all she accomplishes! We all continue to marvel at her incredible spirit, efforts and energies!

Gratefully,  
Debby Jaquith and family

P.S.  
And whoever took the potted bulbs after the service, please enjoy, but I am hoping to have them back when they are spent, as they will be added to my memorial garden.

The St. Patrick's Wednesday night dinner at First Lutheran Church was amazing . We served well over 150 people that night. Thank you to Barb Bonifield for getting all the decorations and party supplies for the dinner. Thank you to Barb's crew to help her set up for the evening.

A big heartfelt thank you the Fellowship Board of Lisa and Steve Ferski, Julie Traver, Barb Pellerin, Sandy Hutchins, Katelyn Sutton and helpers Dale Roest, Evie DePiazza and Jimmy Sutton. Thank you to Barb, Diane, Julie and Sandy for all the cooking and all the others for all the prep work and day of the event work. Thank you to Marcy, Miley and Kate Neal and Andy Luther and Mark Thorgeson for helping with the clean up. The meal was absolutely wonderful and so tasty and we received so many compliments.

The entertainment was fabulous from the Mona Shores Fiddlers and Steph Steps. We love them coming to our church to help celebrate the St. Patrick's Holiday and support our church charities. Thank you to all of our church members and guests who came out to support us in anyway. Thank you to all the members who provided all of us the delicious desserts and so festive looking too. Thank you to Laura and Jeff Lucht and all the youth who helped serve the meal. The Fellowship Board paid for all food supplies and the entertainment and took it out of our budget. We are very proud to donate the \$1200 raised at this event to our Youth Group going on the Appalachian Mission Trip this summer. Thanks again to everyone who made this wonderful event si successful.

Sincerely  
Deb Roest  
Diane Kroll  
Co-chair Fellowship Board.

## April Birthdays

1	Florian Borowski	14	Randi Mock Gary Hansen	27	Suzanne Van Fossan Bill Patterson
2	Mason Milligan	15	Wayne Halpin	28	Glenn Fiebelkorn Madeleine Wosinski
3	Linnea Ostrom	16	Mason Zizak Bert Goodman Bonnie Hoekstra Kleis	29	Dale Mead Steve Smith
4	Barb Jammer Debby Jaquith	17	Tony McCleary	30	Sandy Hutchins Larry Boxer Tim Israels Matthew Besteman
6	Piper Sweet	20	Michaela Beidler Ken Ranos		
7	Chase Zizak Spencer Zizak Megan Badley BJ Paige Val Barnes	21	Bruce Meloche Michael Sweet Kristen Wilson		
8	Toni Pruitt	23	Kim Cooke Dylan Dahlstrom		
9	Boyd Freeman Bruce Milligan	24	Nancy Goudzwaard Sherrell Christenson Lynda Ferry Cathy Strait Michaela Milligan		
10	Dennis Cobler Pat Westjohn	25	Connie Larson Colden Jones Connor Paugh		
11	James Clark				
13	Thomas Freeman Carol Stowe-Byrd				



## Keepers

**Gerald and Betty Crenno**  
1740 Village Dr Apt 318  
Village at the Oaks  
Muskegon, MI 49442-4288

**Theresa Hansen**  
Robbinswood-Northcrest Campus  
2650 Ruddiman Dr  
North Muskegon, MI 49445

**Keith Stapel**  
1228 Lawrence St  
Muskegon, MI 49442

**Dave Walborn**  
18552 W Spring Lake Rd  
Spring Lake, MI 49456

**Mary Warden**  
1740 Village Dr. Apt 222  
Muskegon, MI 49442-4283

# First Lutheran Church

## April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30AM-MARSP Meeting 4:30PM-New Bells 6:00PM-Lion's Club 6:00PM-Grief Share Group 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	2 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 5:30PM-Benefit Dinner for Elin Fretsch family 6:00PM-Kids' Music - 5-6 Year Olds 6:10PM-Bible Centered Meditation 6:30PM-Kids' Music-7 yr olds 7:00PM-Lenten Service	3 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 3:00PM-Clipper Preservation Group 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	4 7:00PM-AA Meeting	5 6:00AM-Rental-A.A. Breakfast 8:30AM-Care Team Mtg
**Dollar-a-Day Weekend ** 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Kids' Music 3-4 years 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	6 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 3:00PM-Sons of Norway Board Meeting 5:00PM-P.E.O. Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gently Restore Yoga	7 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 9:30AM-1st on 2nd Quilt Bee 4:30PM-New Bells 6:00PM-Grief Share Group 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	8 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 4:00PM-Lions Officer's Mtg 7:00PM-Lenten Service  **Wed Night Programming **	9 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 6:00PM-Private Group Mtg 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	10 5:00PM-Sons of Norway 5:30PM-Bunco 5:30PM-Evening Out at the Core 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	11 10:00AM-Highway Cleanup
** Palm Sunday ** 9:15AM-Confirmation 9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 7:00PM-AA Meeting	12 12:30PM-Quilter's Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Soul Flow Yoga	13 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 11:30AM-Muskegon County Garden Club 4:30PM-New Bells 6:00PM-Lion's Club 6:00PM-Grief Share Group 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	14 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:10PM-Bible Study 7:00PM-Confirmation for 3rd Year Students	15 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:00PM-Maundy Thursday Worship - Edgewood Lutheran	16 <b>** Good Friday **</b> 12:00PM-Good Friday Worship 6:00PM-Crafty Group 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Good Friday Worship	17 8:30AM-Men's Breakfast 8:30AM-Women's Breakfast 2:00PM-Rental
** Easter ** 7:30AM-Sunrise Worship 8:45AM-Easter Breakfast 9:30AM-Easter Village 10:30AM-In-Person Worship 10:30AM-Online Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	18 2:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Gently Restore Yoga	19 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 4:30PM-New Bells 6:00PM-Grief Share Group 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	20 9:00AM-Pickleball 12:00PM-Staff Meeting 6:10PM-Bible Study	21 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Private Group Mtg 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	22 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	23 8:30AM-P.E.O. Group 9:30AM-Per/Menopause Support Group 5:00PM-Kids Belong Event
9:30AM-Faith Formation 10:30AM-In-Person Worship/ 10:30AM-Online Worship 6:00PM-Listening for the Word 6:00PM-Taize' Worship 7:00PM-AA Meeting	24 12:00PM-Quilters' Group 5:45PM-Chair Yoga 6:00PM-Overeaters Anonymous 7:00PM-AA Meeting 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming 7:15PM-Soul Flow Yoga	25 <b>Bulletin Deadline</b> 9:00AM-Pickleball 9:00AM-Seniors Helping Our Parish (SHOP) 4:30PM-New Bells 6:00PM-Grief Share Group 6:30PM-Choir 9:30PM-Compline	26 12:00PM-Lectinary Bible Study 4:00PM-Burnished Brass Rehearsal 6:00PM-Private Group Mtg 6:00PM-In-Person Worship 7:00PM-Cardio Drumming	27 6:00PM-Baton Class 7:00PM-AA Meeting	<div>Youth Retreat</div> <div>Wednesday Night Programming 5:30PM-Wed Night Dinner 6:00PM-Kids' Music 5-6 years 6:10PM-Bible Study 6:30PM-Kids' Music 7yrs &amp; up</div>	