

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 FOURTH AVE NE
WASECA, MN 56093

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PERMIT NO. 100
56093

(Address Service Requested)

February 2024

Jesus Loves

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⁷ Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." ⁹ When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹ And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. Matthew 2:7-12

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH - (MISSOURI SYNOD)

314 - 4th Ave NE, Waseca, MN 56093
Church Office Hours (Mon-Fri): 9am-1pm

Phone: (507) 835-2647
Email: stpaulwa@hickorytech.net

Mission Statement

"Empowered by God's Word, we joyfully share the Love of Jesus with all people."

Vision Statement


"We will be a vibrant, welcoming church serving the needs of our members, community, and missions by partnering with other churches and organizations while preaching and teaching the inspired Word of God and our Savior Jesus Christ."

SUNDAY MORNINGS (SEPTEMBER THRU MAY):

- ✚ **Divine Service w/Holy Communion:** 9:00 a.m. (also Facebook Live; and Radio 1170 AM/106.3 FM)
- ✚ Sunday School begins at 10:15am
- ✚ **Adult Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Michael Grannis
952-686-3046
revgrannis@gmail.com

www.stpaulwaseca.org

 [@stpaulwaseca](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulwaseca)

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior,

I've now been serving St. Paul for a little over 4 months. We have gone through Reformation and Polka services, Advent and Christmas services, and all of the Sundays in between and since. My time here among you has certainly been a blessing, and my family is overjoyed to be a part of St. Paul and the greater Waseca community.

All of this being said, there has undoubtedly been some unintended friction as we have come together as congregation and Pastor. I know that while you were being served in your time of vacancy, there was not always consistency in how things were done. For example, Pastor Lund was not inclined toward the use of the liturgies in our hymnals. I on the other hand am much more of a "by the book" type of a Pastor. As such, the services I have led have been nearly twice as long as those he led while serving you. Rest assured, I have heard the concerns some of you have expressed and I am sure those who have been attending regularly have noticed the efforts I have been making to streamline the service, while maintaining the integrity of the liturgy. Regarding the liturgy: For the benefit of God's people, the ministers of God's Church have formed the parts and order of the Divine Service, slowly but surely, over thousands of years. Indeed, many parts of our liturgy have their roots in the worship life of God's Old Testament people (e.g. the Sanctus, the Prayer of Thanksgiving, the Benediction, etc.). While the liturgy itself is not handed to us by God, the parts of the liturgy have faithfully communicated God's Word and passed down the faith from one generation to another for thousands of years. It is my hope that God will use my time here as your Pastor to deepen everyone's faith in Christ through my preaching, teaching, and administration of God's sacraments within the context of the liturgy, as well as in non-liturgical settings. We call our time of worship the Divine Service, not because we are serving God, but because as we Gather in Christ's name, God serves us with His means of grace (His Word and Sacraments).

One final note. I know that Christmas Eve was a long service. Quite honestly, it was longer than I was expecting. While it was a blessing to have a Baptism on that holy night, I will not likely be scheduling a baptism during Christmas Eve service again. I have not been in the practice of considering length when planning services. My main focus has always been on communicating God's Word faithfully, and leading God's people in the joyful reception of that Word in the beauty and reverence that God is due. However as noted above, I have been paying much more attention to the issue of length and will be doing so from now on.

I cannot promise that service will always fit into a one-hour time block, but I will be considerate of the spiritual needs of each of our members, so as not to unintentionally set up a stumbling block to your receiving God's gifts. I apologize for those who have been bothered by the length of the services (the Christmas Eve service in particular). I pray that you will honor God by forgiving me as we seek to worship God in unity and truth together at St. Paul. God's blessing as we enter into the Lenten season of reflection and repentance.

Pastor Michael J. Grannis

A Walk Through the Liturgy: Confession and Absolution

Encore Post: We go from one activity to another, often without even beating an eye. This certainly can happen within the Divine Service. How much attention do we pay to what's going on? Do we know why we do what we do in worship service? Before confessing our sins as a whole congregation, we speak back and forth responsively, "I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord" and the congregation responds, "and You forgave the iniquity of my sin." After those words, there are some important red words printed in the hymnal. They say, "Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination."

There is a time of silence. It is a time to consider myself and yourself in light of God's Law found in the Ten Commandments. Have I been the best father and husband I could have been for my children these past days? Probably not. I failed in my responsibility to my wife and children, breaking the 4th commandment not being a faithful to my calling as head of my household. Did I grudgingly congratulate someone who won the raffle or the lottery, when in reality wishing it was me? Yup, so I broke the 7th, 9th and 10th commandments. And oh, by the way, I broke the first commandment because I didn't trust God to give me all that I need. Lord, have mercy. I am a sinner. I deserve exactly what I am about to confess about myself. I deserve death. We plead for God to have mercy on us.

But God who is faithful and just forgives our sins. Thanks be to God that for Christ's sake, God forgives our sins. We cannot add anything to make God forgive us. Christ has done it all. Thanks be to Christ!

When we confess our sins and receive His forgiveness in the words of Absolution, we are prepared to sing our Redeemer's praises. We are prepared to receive from His bountiful goodness the forgiveness of sins purchased and won for us by our Lord Jesus by his death at the cross.

So, take a moment slow down and brush up on the Lord's Ten Commandments in preparation for Confession and Absolution as we begin the Divine Service where God comes to serve us His gifts of forgiveness, life, salvation given to us on account of Christ, our Lord.

Rev. Jacob Hercamp
Christ Lutheran Church
Noblesville, Indiana

A Walk Through the Liturgy: The Sign of the Cross

Encore Post: I began this series on the liturgy by talking about Confession and Absolution as preparation. Today, I am hoping to talk about one action that pastors do over the people: making the sign of the holy cross.

I received a question from one of my confirmation students asking about the sign of the cross, and why “we don’t do it.” I responded, that all Christians are encouraged make the sign of the cross for it is their mark, it was given to you all the way back at your baptism (see page 197 of the link). It is by this sign of the cross that you were and are marked as of one of the redeemed by Christ.

The *Lutheran Service Book* encourages all the baptized to make the sign of the cross at the Invocation and elsewhere throughout the service. There in red, we read, “The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.” The sign of the cross is not just for the pastor to make, but for the whole congregation to do for themselves.

The sign of the cross is the oldest symbol of Christianity. The cross and specifically the crucifix, that is the cross containing the body of Christ, represent clearly that Jesus Christ and him crucified is the object of our faith and worship. There is no other sign more Christian than the cross, and it is a sign for all the baptized to use in worship and devotional life.

Luther in the *Small Catechism* makes that explicitly clear. “In the morning when you get up [in the evening when you go to bed], make the sign of the holy cross and say: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” The sign of the cross is not just for Sundays. It’s for every day because every day we are to drown the Old Adam and rise to newness of life. Remembering our Baptism into Christ helps us in that fight. Making the sign of the cross then is a physical action in which our body and our brain are engaged in worship, helping us to further meditate on the gifts given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you have the desire, make the sign of the cross this Sunday when the hymnal suggests, and may it be an aid to you in your worship and devotional life.

Rev. Jacob Hercamp
Christ Lutheran Church
Noblesville, Indiana

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming event



Youth Mission Trip Team **Hot Beef Commercial Drive Thru fundraiser**
Will be **February 9th** from 5pm to 7pm. You don't want to miss this!!!
\$8.00 per meal \$2.00 for a slice of pie.

CLUB 3:16 will meet Friday February 9th from 6pm to 8pm. Kids 3 years to 16 years can come join us for snack. Fellowship and fun!! Parents (or older siblings) please stay and help with the younger kids.

In honor of "Sanctity of Life" during January, Cotta Guild will be collecting donations throughout the month for Rachel's Hope, a pregnancy center in Austin, MN, which we support. The items they need the most are baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby wash, and baby wipes, which can be purchased at Dollar Tree. Donation boxes will be at the north end of the church and by the elevator. Thank you for supporting life.



Mark your Calendar!!! Quilter's Pork Chop Dinner will be March 3rd, 2024. There will only be ONE sitting so watch for sales and get your tickets early!!



Lenten Service and meals begin with Ash Wednesday on February 14th, 2024. Keep an eye out for more information regarding times and meals.

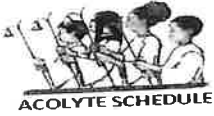


BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

This month we read about some of the sacrifices God commanded in the Old Testament. The priests who performed those sacrifices pointed to the Perfect High Priest Who was to come – Jesus Christ. The sacrificial lambs pointed to Christ the Lamb of God Who took away the sins of the world (Leviticus 1:10-13; John 1:29). The shed blood was an “atonement cover” for the sins of God’s people which pointed forward to the blood Christ would shed on the cross which would truly cleanse sinners from their sins (Leviticus 1:4; Hebrews 9:11-26; I John 1:7). Blood and water were agents of cleansing from sin in the Old Testament. In water (Baptism) and in blood (the Blood of the Lord’s Supper) Christ sinners are still cleansed from sin today (Numbers 19: 1-22; Matthew 26: 26-29; Acts 8: 36-39). May these Scripture readings help you grow in your understanding of Christ’s sacrificial death for your salvation.

FEBRUARY:

1. Exodus 30, 31, 32; Acts 8
2. Exodus 33, 34; Psalm 16; Acts 9
3. Exodus 35, 36; Acts 10
4. Exodus 37, 38; Psalm 19, Acts 11
5. Exodus 39, 40; Psalm 15; Acts 12
6. Leviticus 1,2,3; Acts 13
7. Leviticus 4,5,6; Acts 14
8. Leviticus 7,8,9; Acts 15
9. Leviticus 10,11,12; Acts 16
10. Leviticus 13,14; Acts 17
11. Leviticus 15,16,17; Acts 18
12. Leviticus 18,19; Psalm 13; Acts 19
13. Leviticus 20,21,22; Acts 20
14. Leviticus 23,24; Psalm 24; Acts 21
15. Leviticus 25; Psalm 25,26; Acts 22
16. Leviticus 26,27; Acts 23
17. Numbers 1,2; Acts 24
18. Numbers 3,4; Acts 25
19. Numbers 5,6; Psalm 22; Acts 26
20. Numbers 7; Psalm 23; Acts 27
21. Numbers 8,9,10; Acts 28
22. Numbers 11,12; Psalm 27; Mark 1
23. Numbers 13,14; Psalm 90; Mark 2
24. Numbers 15,16,17; Mark 3
25. Numbers 18, 19; Psalm 29; Mark 4
26. Numbers 20,21; Psalm 28; Mark 5
27. Numbers 22,23,24; Mark 6
28. Numbers 25, 26; Mark 7
29. Numbers 27; Mark 8



Please arrange a replacement if you can not acolyte at the service assigned to you. Please notify the church office at 507-835-2647 when you have changed with another acolyte. Please arrive to the church 20 minutes before the service begins, as the candles are to be lit 10 minutes before the service.

- February 4th, 2024: (Sunday) Wyatt Arndt
- February 11th, 2024: (Sunday) Owen Arndt
- February 14st, 2024: (Ash Wednesday) Mason Prechler
- February 18th, 2024: (Sunday) Nalyce Quillen
- February 21st, 2024 (Wednesday) Alex Bethke
- February 25th, 2024 (Sunday) Kyler Welander
- February 28th, 2024 (Wednesday) Peyton Ross

#29ERS

February 28th at Oscars at 11:30am, hosted by Kathy & Jery Flogstad.
We hope to see you all there!!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

(Please note: If your name is not listed; we do not have your birthdate in our church records. Please contact the church office and we will update our records. Thank you!)

Name	Birthday	Name	Birthday
Shirley Bluhm	February 1 st	William Larson	February 19 th
James Brase	February 1 st	Loren Frink	February 19 th
Ethan Brase	February 2 nd	Nith Phouthavoangxay	February 20 th
Sue Schoenfeld	February 2 nd	Owen Arnold	February 22 nd
Duane Brase	February 6 th	Jonny Klinger	February 22 nd
Arica Gehloff	February 8 th	Nicolas Miller	February 22 nd
Kohen Grannis	February 8 th	Michael Buker	February 24 th
Josephine Larsen	February 11 th	Cheryl Sybilrud	February 24 th
Joyce Sikel	February 11 th	Geraldine Wegner	February 24 th
Donald Doberstein	February 13 th	Jonah LaCroix	February 25 th
Teshua Grannis	February 14 th	Jen LaCroix	February 26 th
Carol Brooks	February 15 th	Justin Manthe	February 26 th
Andrea Schumacher	February 15 th	Maureen Sunday	February 26 th
Rebecca Mueller	February 17 th	Barb Denn	February 27 th
Audrey & Harper Gilmore	February 19 th	Kathy Flogstad	February 27 th
Loren Frink	February 19 th	Amber Proechel	February 27 th
		Kathleen Lenz	February 28 th

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:

Sunday School News

All children and youth Preschool age 3 through Grade 8 are invited to join us Sunday mornings 10:15 – 11:15. We begin in the upstairs Parish Hall with snacks and go down to the Old Parish Hall for opening with music. We then go to our individual classrooms for class time. Students are released to their parents at 11:15am.

Operation Christmas Child Collecting for Next Year

Valentine's toy and school supply clearance is a great time to shop for the children of Operation Christmas Child. Small toys and games, trinkets, jewelry, cups/water bottles and craft/school supplies are perfect items for ages 2-14, for both boys and girls. (No liquids, pastes, glue, putty, gels, dough or slime of any kind. No candy or gum. Also, no toy guns or military items.) Items may be brought to church anytime throughout the year; we will store them for packing shoeboxes in the fall. Monetary donations to the Sunday School account cover the cost of the \$10 shipping fee per box; it takes \$2250 to ship 225 boxes. Thank you!

Please pray for the workers delivering the boxes and for the children receiving the shoeboxes around the world. Upon receiving a shoebox, each child is invited to attend Bible study in their community. We pray the Holy Spirit uses these gifts in amazing ways to share salvation found only in Jesus.

Questions about Operation Christmas Child? Please contact Jen LaCroix or Aimee Hill. We appreciate your partnership in this outreach ministry!

Updated suggested needs for Boys and Girls ages 2-14:

Monetary donations for \$10 shipping per box – to pack and ship 200 boxes, we need \$2000

Toothbrushes (no toothpaste) – NEED up to 200 more

Washcloth wrapped around bar soap with rubber band – NEED up to 210 more

Paper of all sizes, lined or unlined, spiral bound or not bound – NEED up to 150 more

Coloring books – NEED up to 75 more

Pens in black, red, blue – NEED up to 300 more

~~Pencils~~ – THANK YOU!

Colored pencils and Markers – NEED up to 75 more sets of each

Crayons – NEED up to 25 more

Erasers, Dry watercolor paint sets

~~Small pencil sharpeners~~ – THANK YOU! There are plenty

Combs, Brushes, Hair accessories, Necklaces, Rings

~~Cups or Water bottles~~ – THANK YOU! We have over 200

Jump ropes, Marbles, Jacks, Outdoor activities

Playing cards, small games

Solar calculator, Sunglasses, Band-Aids

Socks, Bags, Small backpacks, Flip flops/Sandals

Plain T-Shirts in larger sizes of youth large and adult small/medium/large

Wow! Toys for BOYS larger cars/trucks and balls that fit in a shoebox – NEED up to 100 more

~~Wow! Toys for Girls~~ – THANK YOU! We have over 50 baby dolls

Wow! Toys for Teens anything your young teen children/grandchildren like, they would like too!

COTTA GUILD NEWS:



Lutheran
Women
in Mission

January Cotta Guild Meeting:

Cotta Guild opened at 1pm, Cindy did devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministry on "Jealousy". Secretary report with corrections were read and approved.

We are still looking for a person to fill June on the flower guild. Now that Common Cup has resume, napkins that wipe the chalice need to be cleaned by the Altar Guild person of the month. They are put in a hanging white wicker basket leaving the flower room to the hallway.

Cindy will do the MITE box for January 14th. Judie will do MITE box for February 11th.

Cotta Guild serving coffee hour on January 14th. We will serve muffins. Bakers will be Judie, Cindy, Rhonda and Kathy doing gluten free/dairy free.

If any Thrivent Action Plans are used, please order 25 youth Thrivent T-shirts of various sizes to be used for Christmas shoeboxes.

Quilter's Pork Chop meal will be on March 3rd. There will be ONE seating only this year. Get your tickets early!!

Our next coffee hour will be February 11th. We will be serving sweet breads. Kathy will do they gluten/dairy free.

A case of dish towels was ordered. They went up to \$564.00 including freight.

Birthdays for January are Cindy W., Deb R., Karen W., and Bev S.

New caring brother's and sisters were drawn.

Our next meeting is Feb 8th at NOON with potluck and Linda S. circle serving. We will color valentines for homebound members.

LWML Winter Retreat will be here at St. Paul on February 17th, beginning at 9am and potluck following.

Remember items for Rachel's Hope.

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned.

Kathy Flogstad Public Relations/Secretary

In honor of "Sanctity of Life" during January, Cotta Guild will be collecting donations throughout the month for Rachel's Hope, a pregnancy center in Austin, MN, which we support. The items they need the most are baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby wash, and baby wipes, which can be purchased at Dollar Tree. Donation boxes will be at the north end of the church and by the elevator. Thank you for supporting life.

Mites for Missions:

Our Cotta Guild supports missions near and far through the collection of our Mites for Missions donations. These mission projects are voted on at our Lutheran Women's Missionary League national and district conventions by the delegates. Thank you for your support of our Mites for Missions collection on the second Sunday of each month. Your donations may be placed in the mite boxes located at the church entrances. Your donations help share God's Word.

The following mission grant was approved at the LWML National Convention in Milwaukee in June. A service project I helped with at the Milwaukee Convention was making Braille books. Cindy Wood

2023–2025 LWML Mission Grant #4

Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment

Lutheran Braille Workers — \$100,000

About This Mission Grant

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has the opportunity to reach individuals with visual impairment who live in spiritual darkness without the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ. There are millions of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired. They seek to strengthen their Christian faith while coping with isolation and dealing with physical, mental, and spiritual struggles. They often find it difficult to access Scripture-based reading materials.

This grant will provide LBW the opportunity to produce and add to their library 50 to 100 Scripture-based topical materials in Braille and specialized large print to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people who are visually impaired. Because LBW works with every Christian denomination, these materials would be available for outreach and evangelism at no cost to those who are blind or visually impaired regardless of faith or belief.

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Women's Bible Study plans to meet Wednesdays, Feb. 7 and Feb. 21, 9:30-10:45 in the old basement parish hall. All women are welcome to join us. We watch a video of a Bible lesson, read it in the Bible, and discuss what we learned.

St. Paul Lutheran 2023 Nativity Scene

This year 285 people attended the presentation on December 15 and 16. 241 pounds of food was donated by our attendees and \$477.00 received. Thank everyone who provided for our presentation.

Expenses include \$250.00 provided by Thrivent
 \$291.71 expenses provided by Board of Evangelism-Nativity byline
 \$330.00 donated by volunteers
 Use of electric cords, spotlights, characters for the scenes donated
 Total expenses: \$871.71

We want to recognize everyone who helped and attended the birth of Jesus. Please thank everyone who provided their talents to tell his story.

Volunteers include: Linda Seifert, Anita Nelson, Jen Lacroix, Bob Lacroix, Hannah Lacroix, Gabe Lacroix, Jackie Tiegs, Bobby Shrock, Jerry Flogstad, Kathy Flogstad, Barb Denn, Doug Draeger, Neveah Pitts, Taylor, Cindy Kolander, Ton Bethke, Alex Bethke, Ed Bethke, Jim Wyffels, Mary Wyffels, Grant Duffy, Gene Schwartz, Kristy Grannis, Elora Grannis, Eliana Grannis, Pastor Michael Grannis, Joe Schumacher, Pam Rudolph, Dale Rudolph, Cheri Brummund Mikayla Clark, Dean Worke, and all the Sunday School Students and teachers.

We will be meeting in May to start planning the next event. We are exploring different options to make our story better. And maybe broaden our identity. Please give ideas the church office at 507-835-22647 or call Dale Rudolph at 507-461-741. We would like to include YOU and your talents to tell this wonderful story.

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The Neighborhood Service Center, which includes the Food Shelf, is feeding more families than ever from the food shelf. On average about 20 families a day are coming in for food. The most needed items are cereal and ramen noodles. The Board of Stewardship has placed collection boxes by the church entries for your donation to those individuals needing our support. If you prefer to make a cash donation, please make checks payable to Neighborhood Service Center and mark your church envelope appropriately or drop off your cash donation at the church office. A receipt will be sent to you at the end of the year by the Neighborhood Service Center.



Are you in need of transportation to appointments or to the store? Are you able to drive someone to an appointment or to the store?? If you fit into either of these categories, please call the church office so, we can help you coordinate the rides that you may need.



A reminder to contact the Church Office when you are hospitalized, so that a pastoral visit can be arranged. Thank you.



Prayer Team will meet every Monday at 10am. Please feel free to come and join us in the Fireside Room.



Know someone who is in need of a "hug from above"? The Quilters are starting "**The Quilters Rocking Chair Project**". These quilts are located at the back of church and are available for anyone who may need one, no questions asked. Please check it out and if you have any questions please talk to Donna Hildebrandt.



Famous Words from our Church President

When you reach a child, you change a life. when you reach a parent, you change an entire family.



February 2024

St. Paul Lutheran Church – Waseca



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1. 6:00 am Bible study @ Johnnie Bean	2.	3.
4. 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible study	5. 10:00 am Prayer Team 12:30pm Education	6. 1:00 pm Quilters 6:00 PM Stewardship 6:00 PM Elders	7. 9:30 am Women's Bible Study 3:30 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir 7:00 pm Trustees & Evangelism	8. 6:00 am Bible study @ Johnnie Bean 1 pm Cotta Guild	9. 5pm-7pm: Youth Mission Trip Hot Beef Commercial Drive thru Club 3:16 6pm – 8pm	10.
11. 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study	12. 10:00 am Prayer Team	13. 1:00 pm Quilters NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	14. ASH WEDNESDAY 9:30am Women's Bible Study 3:30 pm Confirmation 4:30 -5:45 Meal 6pm Service 7:00 pm Senior Choir & ensemble	15. 6:00 am Bible study @ Johnnie Bean	16..	17.
18. 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Bible Study	19. 10:00 am Prayer Team 6:00 pm NSC Board	20. 1:00 pm Quilters	21. 29ers Potluck at Noon 3:30 pm confirmation 4:30 -5:45 Meal 6pm Service 7pm Senior Choir & ensemble	22. 6:00 am Bible Study @ Johnnie Bean	23.	24.
25. 9:00 am Divine Serv. 10:15am Sunday School 10:15 am Bible Study	26. 10:00 am Prayer Team	27. 1:00 pm Quilters	28. 3:30 pm confirmation 4:30 -5:45 Meal 6pm Service 7pm Senior Choir & ensemble	29. 6:00 am Bible Study @ Johnnie Bean		

