

Holy Crossings

Newsletter

APRIL 2024



"But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain" 1 Cor. 15:13-14

The apostle Paul cut to the core of Christianity with this statement on the Resurrection. So why do some Christians seem to neglect the Resurrection?

It is interesting that most Christians talk about the Cross often, and yet we seem to only speak about the Resurrection at Easter. One commentator on Christianity has been said that he has noticed that there is a big contrast between preaching today, which tends to assume the Resurrection while emphasizing the Cross, and the preaching of the book of Acts, which does the exact opposite. The early Church spoke far more about the Resurrection and how it has saved us. 19th Century preachers noticed this neglect as well, and argued that if our preaching better matched the book of Acts, we would see more people become Christians.

But it is not just preaching. Often when well-intended people speak about the gospel to unbelievers, they often bring them to the Cross and leave them there without even mentioning that Jesus had risen again. I am convinced that if we do that, we have only done half of the job. Without explicitly proclaiming the Resurrection, we have not declared the biblical gospel at all. We must also explain the implications of this event.

If our understanding of how Jesus saved us makes the Resurrection almost an optional extra, it is clearly deficient.

How did the disciples begin to comprehend what happened with the Resurrection? The Old Testament references to resurrection but only in what could be called "glimpses of resurrection". If these allusions are only hints then it shouldn't come as a surprise that the Sadducees didn't believe in an afterlife. By the time of Jesus, however, there were many Jews who, like the Pharisees, believed in the idea of a physical resurrection for believers. Although there are three examples of resurrections in the Old Testament, no one had yet risen to never die again. A careful reading of some of the suffering servant prophecies might have led people to believe that the servant would be raised after his death. But Jews did not tend to apply those promises to the Messiah, preferring to think of Him instead as a conquering king. Therefore, despite Jesus' repeated predictions of His own death and resurrection, it seems His disciples were not fully expecting what happened.

So where do we find the most compelling evidence for believing that the Resurrection truly happened? There is no historical doubt whatsoever that a man called Jesus lived and was crucified 2,000 years ago. It is also without dispute that a group arose quickly after his death claiming he was risen. Despite the apparent absurdity of such a claim and vigorous attempts to persecute them off the face of the earth, this group grew faster than any other before or since.

(continued on next page)

FROM THE PASTOR *(continued)*

Soon the whole Roman Empire became a Christian state without a sword being raised by the all-conquering new faith. This remarkable growth is impossible to explain without the Resurrection.

So what do Christians lose when they lose sight of the Resurrection?

Everything. Without the Resurrection, the Cross is a meaningless tragedy. Without the Resurrection, Jesus could not have been our Savior, and certainly was not divine. Without the Resurrection, we have no hope for our future. We would still be dead in our sins. We could not know the wonder of having the same power that raised Christ Jesus from the dead living in us. We would not know the joy of our salvation.

Paul tells us in Romans 4:25 that Jesus died for our sins but was raised for our justification. I believe justification is more than merely a declaration that it is "just as if we had never sinned." Jesus was Himself justified by His resurrection. He was vindicated and demonstrated to still be righteous. Because of the vast extent of the credit to His account, our sins are not just wiped away, but through His resurrection, Jesus' righteousness is credited to our account. God sees the true Christian in the same way as if he had lived his entire life and had never sinned once. That is a glorious liberating truth that we can only grasp when we meditate on the implications of the Resurrection!

If we start to grasp what God did by raising Jesus from the dead we begin to live differently. Through prayerful meditation on the Resurrection, the risen Jesus is able to become a real person who is very much alive and active today in our lives. When Jesus stops being a departed hero to us and becomes a living friend who has changed our life, surely we will want to share that with others. Sin will also lose its appeal when we realize it is offending the risen and conquering Lord of glory. The more we gaze on Jesus, the more we will become like Him. That's the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

So let it happen... Because Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!!!

APRIL

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

APRIL 7 - Easter 2

"Running on empty?"	John 20:19-31
Psalms 148	Acts 4:32-35
1 John 1:1-2:2	John 20:19-31

APRIL 14 - Easter 3

"So They Could Understand"	Luke 24:33-48
Psalms 4	Acts 3:11-21
1 John 3:1-7	Luke 24:36-49

APRIL 21 - Easter 4

"Our Identity in Christ"	Acts 4:12
Psalms 23	Acts 4:1-12
1 John 3:16-24	John 10:11-18

APRIL 28 - Easter 5

Guest Preacher - Rev Robert Nowak	
Psalms 150	Acts 8:26-20
1 John 4:1-11	John 15:1-8

THE MASTER GREETER

Attitudes that Turn Visitors Away

"Someone else will get to know them." Passing the buck only passes up an opportunity to reach into someone's life. Be the first to reach out your hand. Be the bridge that connects two people as friends so that Jesus can become their friend too. You may be the one person who makes the difference between their staying to hear the gospel or their moving on without knowing the gospel.

HAVE YOU SHARPENED YOUR AXE?

A young man approached the foreman of a logging crew and asked for a job. "That depends," replied the foreman. "Let's see you fell this tree." The young man stepped forward and skillfully felled a great tree. Impressed, the foreman exclaimed, "You can start Monday." Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday rolled by. Thursday afternoon the foreman approached the young man and said, "You can pick up your paycheck on the way out today." Startled, the young man replied, "I thought you paid on Friday." "Normally we do," said the foreman. "But we're letting you go today because you've fallen behind. Our daily felling charts show that you've dropped from first place on Monday to last place today." "But I'm a hard worker," the young man objected. "I arrive first, leave last and even have worked through my coffee breaks!" The foreman, sensing the young man's integrity, thought for a minute and then asked, "Have you been sharpening your axe?" The young man replied, "No sir, I've been working too hard to take time for that!"

Our lives are like that. We sometimes get so busy that we don't take time to "sharpen the ax." In today's world, it seems that everyone is busier than ever but less happy than ever. Even Minneapolis came in 19th as the saddest or RAndall in a recent poll. Why is that? Could it be that we have forgotten how to stay sharp? There's nothing wrong with activity and hard work. But God doesn't want us to get so busy that we neglect the truly important things in life, like taking time to pray, to read and study scripture or to listen to "the still small voice of God." We all need time to relax, to think and meditate, to learn and grow. If we don't take time to sharpen the axe, we will become dull and lose our effectiveness. Take time today to sharpen your axe!

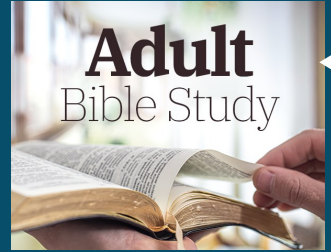
MAIN STREET LIVING

Main Street Living airs each Sunday at 9 am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with an episode of This Is the Life. For more information www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities



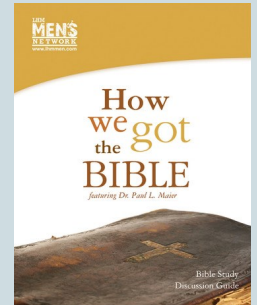
SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

HABITS - It's like we have moral muscles that are trained in the same way our biological muscles are trained when we practice a golf swing or piano scales. And so we do not merely try to be more like Jesus, more patient, generous, and faithful, we train for it, just like we train for any other challenging goal in our lives. On April 7th we will begin a five week study looking at what is real in of Christian training using the titles: **Real Desire - Real Prayer - Real Restraint - Real Celebration and - Real Life.** Are you ready?



TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Tuesday from 8-9:00 am. How we get the Bible featuring Dr. Paul Maier. The story of the Bible has been called "The Greatest Story Ever Told." But did you ever wonder where the Bible came from? Who wrote it? Why they wrote it? Who decided which books to include? In this study, Dr. Paul Maier travels to the Bible Museum in Goodyear, Arizona, to take a look at *how we got the Bible.*



GARAGE SALE

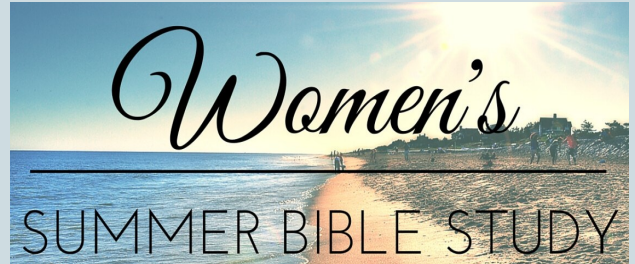
Save the Date! We will be holding a Missions garage sale this year on August 8, 9 and 10th. As you declutter, remember our sale. Proceeds benefit various mission efforts.



The next Voters' Meeting will be held on **April 28th at 10:15 am.**



SUMMER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Join us for the Summer Women's Bible Study on Ecclesiastes. Solomon shares a very human perspective on life in Ecclesiastes that matches our own frustrations with the world and our lives, and things that may seem meaningless. Join us for our women's study this summer on this great and unique book of the Old Testament that gives us much hope amid despair.

The dates are June 12, 19, 26 and July 10, 17, and 24. We will be meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm. Invite your friends, family and neighbors. Watch for sign up and more information coming. Questions contact Michele Lein.

WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

Worship For Shut-Ins is a 30 min television service that is distinctly Lutheran. It is a traditional weekly service that includes the assigned readings for the day, the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, sermon, and traditional hymns sung by choirs. The messages, shared by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors, are designed for individuals who do not go to church because they are not able or choose not. You can view this program on DIRECTV channel 377 at 10:30 am, or you can go to their website at www.worshipforshutins.org.



GOT SOCKS?



Relief for Human Need Worldwide

The Holy Cross Lutheran Women's Missionary League group is collecting new socks, child through adult sizes. The socks will be sent to Orphan Grain Train, a Christian volunteer network that shares Jesus, food, clothing, and medical supplies in 71 countries. Drop your socks in the bin in the commons area through April 5. Got sock questions, contact Joy Anderson at 612-423-1204 or spitjoy@hotmail.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Andrew Busse April 2
- Eric Brown April 4
- Darvin Fulbert April 5
- Buffy Mobrotten April 5
- Brittany Erickson April 9
- David Busse April 13
- Joe DeRosier April 13
- Stefan Einarson April 20



CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Church Council meeting will be **Monday night, April 8th, at 7:00 pm.** All members of the boards are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.



Happenings

Please submit all articles for the Happenings by Wednesdays at 10 am! We also need some new and fresh content for the Happenings, so if you have any great ideas, please send them over to megan@holycross-pl.org.

SOCCER GOALS

We are looking for donations or Thrivent Action cards to buy two soccer nets for our IFC (POBLO) Soccer Team, as they are currently using cones. The nets cost a total of \$350. Issa is working hard building relationships with young men through the soccer program he has created. If you could help with any amount, big or small, we would really appreciate it! We recently were given practice jerseys! If you are interested in donating something towards the nets, please reach out to Shari Schulze.



- APR 2** Elder's Meeting
- APR 6** Lutheran Women in Mission Spring Event
- APR 8** Council Meeting
- APR 12** Game Night at Immanuel Fish Lake
- APR 23** Bible Bookenders
- APR 28** Voter's Meeting
- MAY 5** Confirmation Sunday
- MAY 7** Elder's Meeting
- MAY 10** Spring Flowers Baskets Arrive
- MAY 13** Council Meeting
- JUN 4** Elder's Meeting
- JUN 10** Council Meeting
- JUN 12** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUN 19** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUN 26** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 10** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 17** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 23** Bible Bookenders
- JUL 24** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 28** Voter's Meeting
- AUG 8-10** Missions Garage Sale
- OCT 23** Bible Bookenders
- OCT 26** Mission Fest

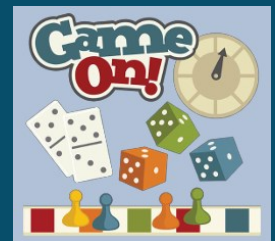
IMMANUEL FISH LAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join the planning team for the Fish Lake 5K Festival. Everyone welcome, bring your ideas! Meetings are at 11:30am in Ed Wing on March 24, April 7, 14, 21, 28.

(include name, phone number & description). Questions: Contact Tessa Braatz at 612-618-9173.

Game night and potluck. Friday, April 12th at 5:30pm. Bring your favorite game to play and something delicious to share. Beverages will be provided.



Donate new items for the Fish Lake 5K Silent Auction. Drop off at Immanuel Fish Lake before April 28, 2024



2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



A WEEKDAY 2-MINUTE DEVOTION THAT HELPS YOU SEE JESUS AT WORK IN YOUR WORLD

Tiny

"How're you doing?" The "you" was a friend who lost his job a month ago. "Ok. Income should start coming in by June. At least that's the plan." "Making it financially? Your wife works, right?"

"No, she's still in school. But my West Texas parents are helping. Fracking and sideways drilling turned nothing into something. A corporation bought up all the farms. Everyone gets a tiny slice of the pie."

He paused, "Tiny slices of a large pie turn into plenty." We tend to ignore tiny. Consider it not worthy. Or powerful. Too small to count. Or make a difference. Miniscule often multiplies into large. Compounding good upon good. Other times, bad, bad, bad.

A little word of encouragement expands like a sponge in the soul and fills you with confidence. Creates a springy step and a lighter heart. A seed of ignored guilt grows into an orchard consuming your thoughts and coloring your actions. Depositing doubts. Breaking trust.

Jesus' ministry routinely involved tiny. A tiny touch. A tiny word. A tiny amount of bread and fish. (Especially when compared to the task of feeding over 5,000

folks.) The size of the resource never hindered Jesus. The size of the faith never stopped Him from performing the miracle.

A mustard seed amount? More than sufficient. A theologically inadequate understanding? If it involved placing one's trust in Him for whatever reason, well, that worked.

Even more so the grace Jesus gives. He offers it for the itty bitty grain or the monstrous mountain. His grace calls us to confront what's broken - or what we've broken - and receive restoration.

To be reconciled both to Him and the one we've harmed. To not give guilt the soil it needs to grow out-of-control. Guilt doesn't have to be a forever plant.

What's the tiny in your life that you need to appreciate? What's the tiny you need to jettison? A little tiny is more than enough with Jesus.

Rev. Bill Woolsey
President and Founder
FiveTwo Network

Sign up to receive the *2 Minute Multiplier* emailed to you! www.fivetwo.com/2mm

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

SPRING EVENT—SAVE THE DATE! Join us as we come together on **Saturday, April 6th, 9:00 am** registration, program 9:30 am at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Bloomington. Enjoy fellowship, learn about the work of Lutheran Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea (PNG) by speaker Michelle Gillard, new program assistant for PNG. We'll enjoy a catered lunch.

Tickets are \$10 and available from Pam Hunter. The Gifts from the Heart will be socks for Orphan Grain Train. Carpooling will be available from Holy Cross.



LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – APRIL 2024

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship

COFFEE SERVERS

April 7	Randy & Nancy Baldwin
April 14	Steve & Dorene Oak
April 21	Shari Schulze
April 28	Charlie & Donna Vig

If you are not able to serve on your assigned day, please find an alternate to fill in, and make the notation on the serving list on the bulletin board. Thanks!



NEWSLETTER REMINDER!

Reminder to get your newsletter additions in to Megan by the 15th of each month. **We’d love to have some new ideas, articles, anything you find relevant to add to the Newsletter!**



▶ THE LUTHERAN HOUR



The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, www.lhm.org. Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

APRIL 7

"Raise the Flag"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Learn how the followers of Christ are raising God's flag in the world. (Acts 1:1-11)

APRIL 14

"Breathe In, Breathe Out"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez
The Holy Spirit breathes life into the Church and the Church breathes that life out to the world, with the love of Christ. (Acts 2:42-47)

APRIL 21

"More Than He Bargained For"

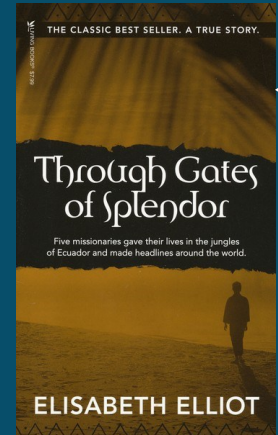
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Whatever we ask of Jesus is probably too small, because Jesus provides more than what we expect. (Acts 3:6)

APRIL 28

TBD

BIBLE BOOKENDERS

Our next meeting will be **April 23, 2024** at 7pm. We will be reading **"Through Gates of Splendor"** by Elisabeth Elliot. This is a past book we have read. Feel free to re-read it or read any of her other works. She has written many books. We also have three different autobiographies on her that we can read and share from. Invite your friends to join us,



all are welcome, men, women and teenagers. If you have any questions, please ask Bonnie Nowak, Patricia Harvey or Michele Lein. Mark your calendars for these other Bible Bookenders dates:

July 23, 2024 "The Great Divorce" by CS Lewis. We will be discussing this book and touch on other works of C. S. Lewis as well.

October 23, 2024 "The Hiding Place" by Corrie ten Boom. This is also a selection we have read. Feel free to reread or read a newer book called **"The Watchmakers Daughter"** by Larry Loftis.

January 21, 2025 "Shepherd's Abiding" for the 30th Anniversary of the release of Jan Karon books. (The Mitford Series)

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Pastor Mike Novotny

The Core, Appleton, WI • KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request on Sunday, please fill out the form in the pew and put it in the offering plate. Pastor will include them in Prayer of the Church during the service. You can also email weekly prayer requests, and any prayers that should go out to the whole congregation, to megan@holycross-pl.org.

WHY DOES MONDAY HAVE TO FOLLOW SUNDAY?

The older I get, the more I wake up not knowing what day it is. That is particularly true on Mondays. My favorite day of the week is Sunday. I enjoy attending church, fellowshiping with other Christians, and of course, the Sunday worship services. I enjoy Sunday morning and evening like no other time of the week.

Since I became a Christian about 65 years ago, I have only missed a Sunday service when I was sick or having some emergency. Sunday is the most important day of the week for me, and it has been for years. I don't see it changing anytime soon.

As much as I love Sunday, I can't say the same about Monday. Sunday is filled with joy and, rejoicing and delightful fellowship. I get up each Sunday morning with great expectations. Monday is a different story, filled with gloom, doom, and a "What day is it?" mentality.

When I wake up on Monday morning, I often don't remember what day it is. Monday is the kind of day that I can't remember anything that I've done for the week because I haven't done anything for the week yet. I often forget it's the first day of the week. Confusion seems to be my partner.

Tuesday is not so bad because I can somehow remember the day, some of the things I did on Monday, and my plans for the rest of the week. But on Monday, I have to start the week all over again, and who has the energy to do that?

I understand that Saturday is the day we prepare for Sunday. I get that, and I do it every week. There should be some kind of law making Monday a day to recover from Sunday's activities and prepare for the week ahead.

Often, I'll wake up on Monday morning, look at The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and say very soberly, "What day is it?" Usually, she looks at me and says sarcastically, "I don't know; check your calendar."

By Wednesday, I will be in my regular work mode and get up every morning eager to start working on my weekly plans.

I've had a thought along this line. Sometime I'm going to sleep all day on Monday, get up Tuesday morning and see if I remember what day it is. That might help me understand all this nonsense I wallow in every week.

I need to be very careful along this line. For example, if The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knew I got up

on Monday morning not knowing what my plans are for the day, she may make those plans for me. Believe me; she knows how to plan out every minute of every day.

That's one reason I need a calendar to schedule my plans for the week. It doesn't matter if I finish all those plans or not. It only matters that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage sees I have scheduled work for myself.

The problem is, Monday morning, when I get up, I'm not even sure what day it is, and there is a certain danger that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage may come to my rescue. After all these years, you would think I would have discovered a better way to plan my days.

The problem is that since my retirement, I moved my office out of the church and to our home. When my office was in the church, I could get up Monday morning and say, "I gotta get to the church office and get started on my work for the week." I then could figure out what I was going to do for the day as well as the week ahead of me. That worked for many years.

I must say The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has taken advantage of this weakness of mine. On a Monday morning, when I get up and shuffle out to the kitchen, she greets me by saying, "What plans do you have for today?"

At that time, I usually mumble and confess that I don't know. Then she says, "That's good because we need to go across town and pick up a few things." Where she got the "we," I don't know. After hearing this for a few years, I have discovered she is talking about a whole day of shopping. Who knew?

Maybe I could plan better for Monday if I didn't get so excited about Sunday. Perhaps I could have some things on my "to-do list" that would occupy me for the whole day. Of course, even if I have such a list on Monday morning when I get up, I sometimes can't even remember my name.

It will be a shocking Monday when I get up very lucid, remember my name, and have a plan for the day all in my head. I don't think The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage would recognize me that day.

In all of my frustration I was reminded of Philippians 4:6 – *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."*

My frustration only brings stress into my life. Each day I need to discipline myself to give the elements of my life over to God. Only He can sort out my life in a way that glorifies Him. Learning to pray for everything solves my problems.

by James Snyder
www.faithwriters.com



2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		8:00 am 4:00 pm 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	10:00 am 8:00 pm Happenings Articles Due Choir Practice			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	7	8	9	10	11	12
	7:00 pm Church Council	8:00 am 4:00 pm Adult Bible Study Confirmation	10:00 am 8:00 pm Happenings Articles Due Choir Practice			
3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	8	9	10	11	12	13
	10:00 am Newsletter Articles Due	8:00 am 4:00 pm Adult Bible Study Confirmation	10:00 am 8:00 pm Happenings Articles Due Choir Practice			
	15	16	17	18	19	20
4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	21	22	23	24	25	26
	10:00 am Newsletter Articles Due	8:00 am 4:00 pm Adult Bible Study Confirmation	10:00 am 8:00 pm Happenings Articles Due Choir Practice			
5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Voter's Meeting	28	29	30			27
	10:00 am Newsletter Articles Due	8:00 am 4:00 pm Adult Bible Study Confirmation	10:00 am 8:00 pm Happenings Articles Due Choir Practice			