

# SHARED LIFE

## Newsletter

### Known by Your Love

Through our baptism, we have become children of God and followers of Jesus Christ. As followers of Christ, Jesus gives us this commandment: *"that you love one another."* And he adds, *"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

This is a love that does not allow for the exceptions that we may be inclined to put upon it. It is indeed a difficult love to learn. But to settle for anything less is to settle for less than that to which Jesus calls us.

It emphasizes an understanding that true love goes beyond propriety. It goes beyond expectations. It knows no boundaries. It does not decide who does and who does not deserve it.

A young pastor has told the story of being honored to deliver the funeral sermon for a pastor who had died. The deceased pastor was a generation older than the young pastor and had been a mentor of sorts to him. They had lived and worked and eaten meals with one another in a church rectory for five years and thus they had been close to each other.

The young pastor shared that in all that contact he had never heard the deceased pastor speak negatively about another human being. He remembered being aware of how very rare that is. That was love. People knew that he was a disciple of Jesus even though he never had a bumper sticker on his car to that effect.

Another pastor tells about a social group that he and his wife had come to treasure. Their reason was that in all the times they had spent together, neither of them had ever heard anyone in that circle of friends put down another human being. How rare! How sad that it is so rare. These people knew how to advertise their faith and express true love. What a wonderful experience when it does happen.

Reflect on this in your own life. How often can you say that you have met such people. Even more to the point, how many could say that about us?

Those who know you - will they say that this is your trademark – that you have love for one another?

... Pastor Bish

Love one  
♥ ANOTHER ♥  
as I have  
LOVED  
you  
-JOHN 15:12

## Congregation Participation Checklist

Enclosed at the end of this Newsletter is our annual Congregational Participation Check List. Each member is asked to review this listing and then check the items in which you are willing and interested in participating. You may then return it to Pastor Bish at [kirk.bish@verizon.net](mailto:kirk.bish@verizon.net) or place it in his mailbox at the Church or send it to him at the church.

Also included in this Newsletter, a listing of the Responsibilities of each committee for your review and consideration.

Remember: if we want our ministry at Nativity Lutheran Church to be effective and meaningful, all members need to do our part.

Especially this year, with hopefully a new pastor coming soon, we need to have members willing to participate in the committees of our congregation.

Make sure you give attention to the committees and determine which one you would be willing on which to serve.

The deadline for returning these "check lists" is May 16th. Please "make my day" by completing this "check list" and returning it to me by the deadline!

.. Pastor Bish



## NHCO Spring Cleaning Collection

The current NHCO sharing project is the Spring Cleaning Collection. Cleaning products cannot be purchased with SNAP [food stamp] benefits. Thus, needy families must pay cash for these items.

The following products are on the collection list: laundry detergent 100 oz. or less, anti-bacterial wipes, all-purpose cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, dish detergent, pack

of sponges, roll of paper towels, and canvas shopping bags. There are containers under the church coat rack for your donations, Jim Zaffuto or Jim Kiefer can pick up your items at your home, or your donations can be dropped off at NHCO's Ferguson Road office.

This campaign continues through June 6.

## VBS/Family Fun Day

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for a VBS/FUN DAY which is tentatively being planned for **Saturday, August 7, 2021.**

We are hoping to host this event outdoors with various center activities for children and families. If you are interested in helping, please contact Merlinda Bisese or Ruth Kiefer.



## Thank You's

to Joanne Smith for all of her work and commitment to cleaning, refurbishing, and up-dating our Store Room and Furnace Room and their contents.

to Jim Zaffuto and Charlene Ott for assisting Joanne with the cleaning and painting of the Store Room.

to Linda Ryan for preparing our sanctuary for our celebration of the Festival of Easter.

to Quentin Romero Lauro for producing our Sunday School Easter Program video and to our puppeteers, Merlinda Bisese and Carol Huffman

## Communications

Did your email address change? What about your mailing address or phone number?

If anything has changed, please email the church office at [info@nativitylutheranchurch15101.org](mailto:info@nativitylutheranchurch15101.org) to update your information. You can also call the church and leave a message: 412-487-1071





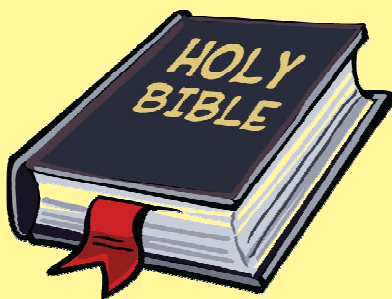
## **SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE**

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Wednesday, May 5th, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held on Zoom. Please check your email for the Zoom link.

The purpose of the meeting is to act upon the recommendation of the Congregation Council to purchase a new "HVAC" unit :

(one Lennox 14 SEER gas/electric packaged roof top unit) at the cost of \$ 7,300.00.



On Easter Sunday Pastor Bish presented a Bible to Janie Roefs. Janie is the daughter of Bethany Roefs and granddaughter of Tom & Judy Beecher.

It is Nativity's tradition to present a bible to students in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

## **Women of the ELCA (WELCA)**

All women of Nativity and their friends are welcome to join our weekly meetings which are held via the Nativity Zoom Account, with the exception of quilting.

Our schedule for May is as follows:

Tues., May 4, 10:00 a.m. - Quilting (In person)

Tues., May 11, 10:00 a.m. - Business Meeting

Tues., May 18, 10:00 a.m. - Bible Study:

*"Waiting to be Unwrapped"*

Tues., May 25, 10:00 a.m. - Book Review:

The Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

The Zoom meeting code for May meetings is **822 7414 2757** and the passcode is **235701**.

You will sign in and wait until the leader, Ruth Kiefer, lets you in to the meeting.

If you have questions or problems with this, contact Ruth at 412-512-6049.

## **Blessed Bundles Collection**

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Synodical WELCA Group's Designated Outreach Organization, Blessed Bundles, by providing families in Southwest PA with diapers, wipes and other essential items that babies need.

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

## **Wedding**

Emily Ann McElroy and Jeremy David Kins were united into the holy estate of Marriage at the Kimpton Hotel Monaca in Pittsburgh on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Pastor Bish was the officiating clergy. We wish God's blessing on Emily and Jeremy in their new life together as husband and wife.





## Kantor's Korner

"We have a Godly Heritage," as the psalmist says, especially when it comes to celebrating the unique heritage of Lutheran Hymnody. What sets Lutheran Hymnody apart, compared to other examples of Protestant hymnody? The answer is rooted in the Reformation itself.

Within the Protestant Reformation, there are two traditions: the Reformed and the Lutheran. There are many differences, but when it comes to examining what makes Lutheran Hymnody different than Reformed, it boils down to one issue: Do I choose Christ or does Christ Choose me? The Reform wing comes down on Personal decision, the Lutheran wing believes in trusting [key word] the promises of God, believing in his promises through faith, and accept that God "Choses" us. [John 15:12]

In some examples of "Reformed Hymnody," i.e. Baptist, Calvinistic, or American Gospel songs, a decision is required. Jesus own words in the Gospel of John say: "You did not choose me, but I choose you." It is hard to reconcile these words with the Calvinist Hymn "Once to every man and nation, comes the moment to decide," or Fanny Crosby's ELW 638 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine." Jesus Christ is far more than my personal decision to accept him as my Savior and Lord. Without question "Amazing Grace" is probably the most popular Hymn in all of our churches, but it is ironic that "Amazing Grace" does not mention the name of Christ or what He has done for us to secure this Grace freely offered.

Luther and those who picked up his mantle of "Trusting the Promises of God" hold out the idea that God acts first, we respond through Faith. Look, for example, at the words "Deck Thyself with Joy and Gladness," ELW 488 which speak about God seeking us out and inviting us to his Table of Salvation. For Luther, it is all about God. Lutheran Hymnody focuses on the promises of God and not on the decisions of men. Lutheran Hymnody is based on "Faith," much of Reformed Hymnody is based on "Works," in our decision to even make "Faith a Work" by making a decision to either choose to accept or reject Him.

I think Christians tend to be more influenced by the melody [tune] of their favorite hymn rather than the words of the hymn [text.] But texts are important because they describe the "faith we are singing about." So when we sing our favorite hymns we need to examine what the text is saying about our Faith. Are we aware of all of the riches found within the promises of God? How many promises can you remember as to what God so freely offers to us? That would be a good spiritual discipline to grow our faith. May the Holy Spirit guide your search.

*Kantor Cyril Hurnyak*



## MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

## MAY Baptisms

Tom Henne	1
Amanda Zelnis	1
Carl Heyne III	6
Joyce Burkett	6
Merlinda Bisese	6
Jeremiah Bennett	9
Nancy Coon	9
Kathleen Knapp	9
Tom G. Richardson	13
Donna Heyne	18
Joanne Smith	21
Kelsey Bishoff	25
Evelyn Rosenberger	25
Rev. Ralph Kusserow	27
Nathaniel Hazelton	28
Allen Kuechenmeister	31

Rev. Brian Bennett	5/ /71
Corey Bennett	5/15/03
Rev. Kirk Bish	5-06-45
Tim Bishoff	5-02-71
Denise L. Britenbaugh	5/ /63
Jack Brookman	5/28/06
Caroline Bukauskas	5/03/92
Carolyn J. Cooper	5/09/43
Marlene Grimes	5/ /39
Mary A. Heyne	5/18/86
Ivy Kara	5/25/17
Samuel H. Kara	5/18/14
Elijah G. Krop	5/23/99
Alisa Michael	5/ /86
Rosemary D. Meyer	5/16/37
Kaylee G. Sever	5/28/06
Marina J. Smith	5/03/98
Andrew J. Werner	5/07/06
Emily L. Werner	5/16/10

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Ray & Louise Smith	1
Matthew & Holly Werner	5
Joe & Lori Coon	11
Kevin & Pam Hoskins	11
David & Kelly Rembe	18
Robert & Merlinda Bisese	26

### On-Going Prayer List

Pat Brick  
Linda Tozier  
Rob Miller  
Kenny Shoemaker  
Carol Gufstafson  
Eric Holsinger  
Erica Erlich

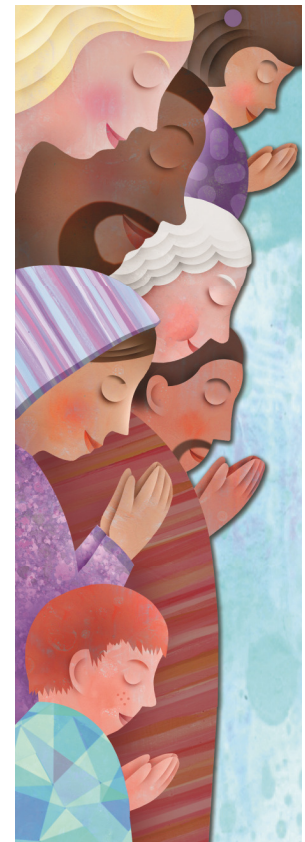
### Service Personnel

Sarah Ashmore

### Need to submit a Prayer Request?

You can do so on-line by visiting our website's home page and click the link for the Prayer Request form. Your request will be automatically sent to the church and the outreach committee!

Or you can call the church office and leave a message!



# COUNCIL MINUTES

In addition to the HVAC and Call Committee updates, below are the highlights April's Congregation Council meeting:

1. Council approved an additional week's pay for Pastor Bish for the extra hours incurred during March.
2. Committees were requested to provide Lori Coon with their 2021-22 budget requests.
3. Charlie Brandt requested that the annual committee reports be submitted by May 11th.
4. The annual congregational meeting was scheduled for Sunday, June 6th after church.
5. AA and NA have been given approval to resume their use of the building for their meetings.
6. Singing of hymns during the worship service, wearing a mask, was approved.
7. We will be seeking 5 volunteers to fill council vacancies. Those whose terms have expired include Lori Coon (appointed), Kevin Hoskins, Joanne Smith, Carol Huffman and Charlie Brandt. A Nominating committee has been formed and will be reaching out to members. Please prayerfully consider being on the council and let Carol Huffman know if you are interested.
8. We have purchased a large print hymnal (a set of 3 books) for anyone with impaired vision. Notify Pastor if you need the large print for a worship service so the appropriate pages can be made available.
9. Worship and Music will study reconfiguring the sanctuary seating at the May meeting. Health guidelines have changed in the last 6 months with the current vaccination experience.

## Council Meetings

Second Tuesday of each month – ask Charlie for details if you wish to attend

### Worship Participation

	In-Person	Viewed via Live-Stream	Viewed on YouTube
March 28, 2021	19	44	19
April 4, 2021	40	24	13
April 11, 2021	25	18	
April 18, 2021	19	22	8
April 25, 2021	29		6
Lenten Holy Week Services			
April 1, 2021	15	13	6
April 2, 2021	21	27	14

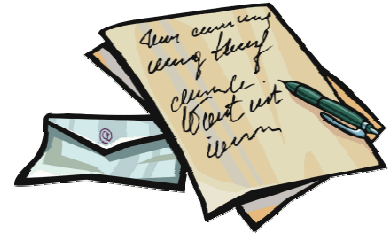


Easter Children's Video: 41 views



## A Note from Margie Radebaugh

Dear Nativity Church Family,  
Thank you so much for thinking of me and sending your prayers along with the warm, soft Serenity Blanket. It means a lot to me.  
Thanks again, Margie



## A Note from Lutheran Campus Ministry

Thank you for the support of this ministry.

We know there are many places where a congregation can send mission support. Thank you for being a partner with us.

Your support helps people in the universities we serve connect their faith to their vocation.

Thank you for your generosity.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. B.O. Bennett.



## Mothers in the Bible

Children have always had a special place in their mother's heart.

Directions: First, cover up the second column and see if you can name some of the mothers' children from the Bible. Then write the circled letters on the correct lines below to complete Proverbs 23:25, NIV.

### MOTHERS

Eve <sup>31</sup> .....	bore .....	Cain, Abel and Seth <sup>11</sup>
Sarah <sup>23</sup> .....	bore .....	Isaac <sup>18</sup>
Rebekah <sup>7</sup> .....	bore .....	Jacob and Esau <sup>15</sup>
Rachel <sup>13</sup> .....	bore .....	Benjamin and Joseph <sup>20</sup>
Leah <sup>12</sup> .....	bore .....	Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun and Dinah <sup>43</sup>
Zilpah <sup>44</sup> .....	bore .....	Gad and Asher <sup>28</sup>
Bilhah <sup>34</sup> .....	bore .....	Dan and Naphtali <sup>38</sup>
Jochebed <sup>19</sup> .....	bore .....	Moses <sup>29</sup>
Naomi <sup>2</sup> .....	bore .....	Mahlon and Kilion <sup>32</sup>
Ruth <sup>14</sup> .....	bore .....	Obed <sup>5</sup>
Hannah <sup>26</sup> .....	bore .....	Samuel <sup>21</sup>
Bathsheba <sup>10</sup> .....	bore .....	Solomon <sup>42</sup>
Elizabeth <sup>3</sup> .....	bore .....	John the Baptist <sup>37</sup>
Mary <sup>6</sup> .....	bore .....	Jesus <sup>16</sup>
Eunice <sup>6</sup> .....	bore .....	Timothy <sup>4</sup>



“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

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PROVERBS 23:25, NIV

## Some of the special days celebrated in May

- 6 – National Day of Prayer
- 9 – Mother's Day
- 13 - Ascension of the Lord
- 23 – Pentecost
- 30 – Trinity Sunday
- 31 – Memorial Day

Answer: "May your mother rejoice, may she who gave you birth be joyful!" Proverbs 23:25, NIV

## Scripture Readings for May 2021

**MAY 2** - 10:15 a.m.

Scriptures: Fifth Sunday of Easter (white)

Assistant: Ken Saunders

- First Reading: Acts 8:26-40
- Psalm 22:25-31
- Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21
- Gospel: John 15:1-8

**MAY 9** - 10:15 a.m.

Scriptures: Sixth Sunday of Easter (white)

Assistant: Alisa Michael

- First Reading: Acts 10:44-48
- Psalm 98
- Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6
- Gospel: John 15:9-17



**MAY 16** - 10:15 a.m.

Scriptures: Seventh Sunday of Easter (white)

Assistant: Cheryl Kilbert

- First Reading: 1:15-17, 21-26
- Psalm 1
- Second Reading: 1 John 5:9-13
- Gospel: John 17:6-19

**MAY 23** - 10:15 a.m.

Scriptures: The Festival of Pentecost (red)

Assistant: Kim Brandt

- First Reading: Acts 2:1-21
- Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
- Second Reading: Romans 8:22-27
- Gospel: John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



**MAY 30** - 10:15 a.m.

Scriptures: The Festival of the Holy Trinity (white)

Assistant: Pastor James Dollhopf

- First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8
- Psalm 29
- Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17
- Gospel: John 3:1-17



Offering Tellers for May: Betty Weller & Charlie Brandt

Altar Guild: Diana Mitchell



**Congregational Member Volunteer Check List**  
**2021**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Serve on a Committee**

- \_\_\_\_ Christian Education
- \_\_\_\_ Worship and Music
- \_\_\_\_ Stewardship
- \_\_\_\_ Fellowship
- \_\_\_\_ Property
- \_\_\_\_ Finance
- \_\_\_\_ Social Ministry
- \_\_\_\_ Christian Outreach
- \_\_\_\_ Communications
- \_\_\_\_ Youth

**Worship**

- \_\_\_\_ Sing in the Choir
- \_\_\_\_ Altar Care
- \_\_\_\_ Usher
- \_\_\_\_ Greeter
- \_\_\_\_ Lector (read lessons)
- \_\_\_\_ Assisting Minister
- \_\_\_\_ Acolyte/Crucifer
- \_\_\_\_ Nursery Attendant

**Learning**

- \_\_\_\_ Sunday School Teacher
- \_\_\_\_ Vacation Church School Teacher
- \_\_\_\_ Class Room Helper
- \_\_\_\_ Craft Person
- \_\_\_\_ Youth Group Adviser

**Participate in:**

- \_\_\_\_ Women of the ELCA
- \_\_\_\_ Adult Sunday School Class
- \_\_\_\_ An Evening Bible Study

**Property Care**

- \_\_\_\_ Painting
- \_\_\_\_ Carpentry
- \_\_\_\_ Electrical Work
- \_\_\_\_ Lawn and Shrub Care
- \_\_\_\_ Sidewalk Snow Removal

**Service**

- \_\_\_\_ Provide Transportation
- \_\_\_\_ Visit the Sick and Shut-ins
- \_\_\_\_ Sit with a Shut-in
- \_\_\_\_ Office Help
- \_\_\_\_ Give Computer Assistance
- \_\_\_\_ Help with Church Dinners
- \_\_\_\_ Provide Cookies
- \_\_\_\_ Visit other Church Members
- \_\_\_\_ Provide food for Funeral Dinners

**Ways the Church can Help Me**

- \_\_\_\_ Transportation for Worship
- \_\_\_\_ Transportation to Activities
- \_\_\_\_ Church Members Visit Me
- \_\_\_\_ The Pastor Visit Me
- \_\_\_\_ Someone occasionally sit with  
a family member for me

Other Ways that I wish to Participate at Nativity Lutheran Church:

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Please return to Pastor Bish by May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Responsibilities of the Committees

**Christian Education Committee.** This committee, in association with the pastor, shall oversee the conduct and promotion of the schools and the activities of all organizations within this congregation. It shall encourage the use of teaching and worship materials published or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and seek to introduce the church's periodicals and books of family devotion into homes of congregation members. A primary aim of this committee, in cooperation with the Youth Committee, shall be to bring the call to the ministry of the Gospel and to other church vocations to the attention of qualified youth of this congregation.

**Church Property Committee.** This committee shall see to the proper maintenance and protection of all property of this congregation and shall take care that the same is kept in good repair. The committee shall be responsible for the cleanliness and maintenance of the church property, including the specification of job duties for custodial employees or contractors and supervision of their activities.

**Christian Outreach Committee.** This committee shall stimulate and lead all members of this congregation in continuous and, from time to time, concerted endeavors to reawaken the spiritually indifferent and to reach others, as yet unwon, with the Gospel and attach them to Christ's Church. To this end, the committee shall devote itself to deepening spiritual life and shall periodically study this congregation in the context of its surrounding community.

**Stewardship Committee.** It shall be the function of this committee to evoke and promote the expression of Christian faith in daily living, to teach the Christian use of money, to diffuse knowledge of this congregation's local national, and global ministries, and to lead all its members to higher levels of proportionate giving for the Lord's work. This committee shall also be responsible for congregational efforts which lead to informed and grateful giving, including Every Member Visits when Congregation Council directs the inclusion of such in a congregational year. This committee shall also encourage all members of this congregation to make greater use of their God-given talents in performing the Lord's work and to that end it shall conduct time and talent surveys among the membership when directed to do so by Congregation Council.

**Finance Committee.** This committee shall prepare a draft budget for the succeeding fiscal year . . . and it shall submit such draft budget to Congregation Council for its action and for later presentation at the Budget Meeting. The committee shall oversee all financial affairs of this congregation, making certain that they are conducted efficiently and giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer. It shall, subject to the approval of Congregation Council, be responsible for this congregation's investments and its complete insurance program. It shall be responsible for reporting the financial status of the congregation to Congregation Council at its regular monthly meeting and to the congregation's membership at the annual Budget Meeting.

**Social Ministry Committee.** The purpose of this committee shall be to extend Christian compassion and helpfulness to the ill, the aged, the orphaned, the poor, the imprisoned, and, in general, to persons of all ages in need of aid in body or soul. It shall strive to enlist in these efforts as many as possible of the individual members and organizations of this congregation. This committee shall further have the duty to study social conditions, primarily in the local community, in order to bring the cleansing and thoughtful light of Christian truth to bear upon critical problems through thoughtful Christian discussion of acts and issues.

**Worship and Music Committee.** It shall assist Congregation Council in ensuring that the services of God's house are conducted regularly and in accordance with the liturgy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, that competent ushers, acolytes, crucifers, lectors, and sacristans are recruited and trained, and that hymnals and other devotional materials are provided and properly maintained. This committee shall supervise the choirs of this congregation, and strive to advance their welfare and effective service. It shall arrange for the care of paraments, vestments, liturgical vessels, and musical instruments. In consultation with the organist(s) and the Director of Music, it shall furnish music supplies appropriate for use in the worship of a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Fellowship Committee.** This committee shall be responsible for arranging and scheduling fellowship and social events for members of this congregation, their families, and friends and assisting Congregation Council in other ways that promote Christian fellowship.

**Youth Committee.** This committee shall assist Congregation Council in overseeing activities of the youth of this congregation. The committee shall try to involve youth in activities of the church and assist them in developing and completing their own activities. This committee shall share joint responsibility with the Christian Education Committee in bringing the call of the ministry of the Gospel and to other church vocations to the attention of qualified youth of this congregation.

**Communications Committee.** This committee shall be responsible for providing methods and materials, such as a periodic parish newsletter, bulletin boards, calendars, press releases, etc., whereby committees and Congregation Council can inform members of this congregation and the larger community of their activities. This committee shall be responsible for maintaining the history of the congregation. The secretary and historian, when the latter exists, shall be members *ex officio* of this committee. Other committees, both standing and special, shall designate one of their members to serve on this committee to ensure that information on their activities is adequately presented to the congregation.

**Fellowship Committee.** This committee shall be responsible for arranging and scheduling fellowship and social events for members of this congregation, their families, and friends and assisting Congregation Council in other ways that promote Christian fellowship.

# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Pastor Bish's hours Tues., Thurs., Fri. 10:00 am – 1:00 pm	All Worship services are "live-streamed"	Committee Meetings are conducted via Zoom				1
2 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30am-Youth SS Class 10:15 am – Worship 11:30 a.m – Christian Ed. Meeting on Zoom	3 8pm - AA Meetings	4 2:00 pm – Worship and Music Mtg. on Zoom	5 7:00 pm Special Congregational Meeting "HVAC"	6	7	8
9 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class 10:15 am – Worship 11:30 a.m. – Christian Ed. Meeting	10 8pm - AA Meetings	11 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Business Meeting 7:00 pm – Council Meeting	12	13	14	15
16 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30 am-Youth SS Class 10:15 am – Worship	17 8pm - AA Meetings	18 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Bible Study	19	20	21	22
23 <b>PENTECOST</b> 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30am-Youth SS Class 10:15 am – Worship	24 8pm - AA Meetings	25 10:00 am – Women of the ELCA – Book Review	26	27	28	29
30 8:30 am-Adult SS Class 9:30am-Youth SS Class 10:15 am – Worship 11:30 am – Coffee Hour "via zoom"	31  8pm AA Meetings <b>Memorial Day</b> ★ ★					