

# ***The Messenger***

***March 2017***



**The Newsletter of Christ Lutheran Church  
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey**

**The Church: Proudly Proclaiming Christ since A.D. 33**

## ***The Life-Changing Magic of Lent***

I typically need to remind myself that there is a blessing in having stuff. When I step on a Lego with my barefoot, trip over the corner of a misplaced ottoman or bang my head on a ceiling lamp that is too low, I want to throw everything away. But having stuff is a problem I'm blessed to have. Too many people in our world and in our neighborhood do not have the stuff I have. Many spend their months trying to decide which bill to pay, which meal to skip or how they can make their old car last longer. Having stuff means I have resources at my disposal that others do not have. But it also means I run the risk in having stuff overwhelm, distort, and disrupt my life, relationships and spirituality.

As I prepare to lead a mid-week Lenten series on the Small Catechism, I have been reading books on decluttering. Marie Kondo's *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up*, Ruth Soukup's *Unstuffed, Stuffocation, Spark-Joy, A Decluttering Handbook for Creative folks*, and *The Joy of Leaving Your Stuff All Over the Place*, are on my nightstand. Each book promises that we have the power to gain order and control over our lives. We can, through certain acts and habits, clear the clutter from our homes, relationships and soul. By looking at what we have, we can see ourselves more clearly.

When Luther put together The Small Catechism, he was offering parents and heads of households an opportunity to look at what they have. They, and we, have Jesus. Through the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, the sacraments and prayers, entire families could discover Jesus' love for them and how Jesus' love changes everything. This Lent we're going to see how the The Small Catechism is more than just a book we teach to teenagers. It's a way to discover Jesus and live out our faith in a very real way.

See you in church!

Pastor Marc



## STATE-OF-THE-CHURCH



### ***Annual Meeting Review***

Thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>. We jokingly dubbed the meeting the Winter Wonderland Annual Meeting due to the ice and snowstorm that came through that morning. We're grateful for the 46 people who came out. As a community, we're blessed with many gifts and leaders. And we are called to prayerfully discern where Christ is leading us. Even when meetings become contentious, we are united to each other through Christ. If you missed the meeting, we reviewed the highlights of each committee, talked about things we're looking forward to in 2017, approved our 2016 budget and voted on many things: four council members, Nominating Committee, Special Gifts Committee members, Special Gifts applications (the 17 projects in the annual report were approved) and our reps helping Camp Koinonia in its outdoor ministry.

### ***Council Blessing and Installation - Coming Soon***

At our Annual meeting we elected four people to serve on our church council. The church council is empowered by the entire congregation to live out their baptismal calling of discipleship. Most of our daily ministry is practiced in the relationships outside the church. But individuals are also asked to express that ministry inside the church as well. The church council serves as leaders to make sure that the mission of the church is the focus of who we are. We're grateful for all who have ever served on council, and we're excited to welcome new people onboard. We will soon install each council person during a worship service. Stay up-to-date with our calendar by making sure you receive our e-newsletter every week! Contact the church office (201-391-4224 or [clc4u@verizon.net](mailto:clc4u@verizon.net)) if you need to be added to our e-newsletter list.

## *From Our President*

As I sit here writing, we are still in the midst of some volatile February temperatures. In the span of one week, we went from a warm 62° day to an 8" snow day to the freezing rain slush we had on the Sunday of our Annual Meeting.

With the grace of God, we did have a quorum (46 hardy members) who came and stayed for our Annual Meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>. If you missed it, we reviewed the highlights of each committee, approved our 2017 budget and voted on many things; Council members, Nominating Committee, Special Gifts Committee members, Special Gifts applications (all approved) and our Koinonia reps. There was some healthy discussion, and we all learned a few things. We will work on some processes and get back to you with all the changes.

We hope you enjoyed the bagels and coffee. Please let me know if you have any other suggestions for making the meeting more enjoyable or valuable.

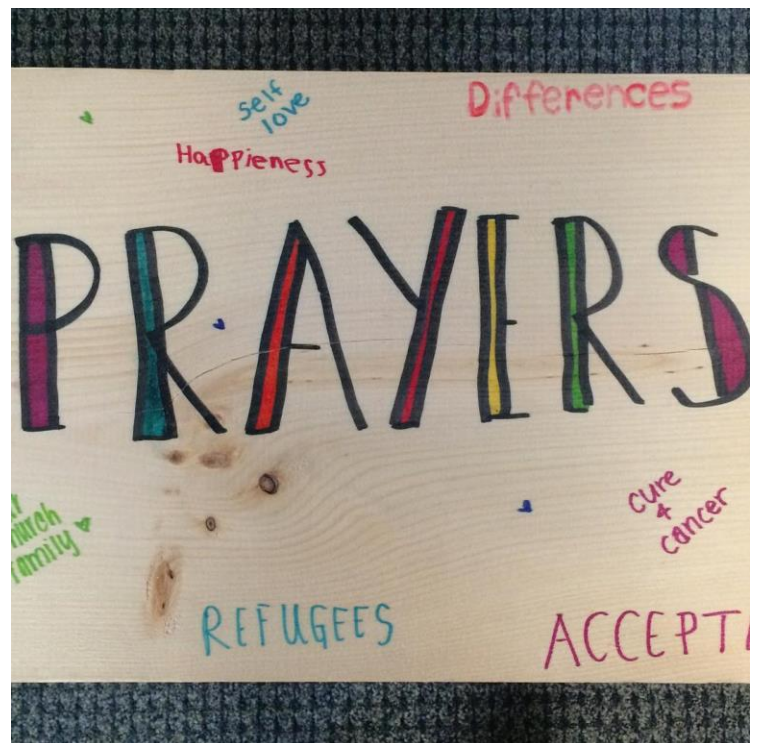
I would like to say a few thank you's to some of our members . . . Thank you to Janet Post for agreeing to continue on Council as the Youth representative, filling the spot vacated by Colin Post! (He'll be leaving for college in the fall). We are very blessed to have her take on this new role. We hope some of you will help with the Education Committee and assist Darleen Castellano, who is our new Education Council representative. Thanks Darleen and welcome aboard! We look forward to their contributions and fresh perspective as we work together.

As I said at our meeting, I am optimistic for the future of our church. We have some work to do to ensure that we are indeed reaching outside our walls to people in our communities. We will talk about and plan for how to adapt to the busy lifestyles of families today and go from there. I urge you to get involved with the areas that interest you . . . we need all voices (and hands and feet) to make the changes you want and need. I look forward to seeing the wonderful things we will do and see in the coming year!

Yours in Christ,  
Carla Hoenigmann  
carlah716@cs.com  
201-391-7843

## ***Winter Youth Assembly - February 2017***

This year's NJ Synod High School Youth Retreat was A “I belong, you belong, they belong, we belong, ALL belong At The Table”. Over 200 high schoolers came together at Harvey Cedars Retreat Center to explore, play, and practice living in God’s overwhelming welcome for all and our great gift of belonging to God and God’s family. We had over nine high schoolers, college students and adults who went. They came back with new memories, experiences, relationships and a table they decorated themselves.



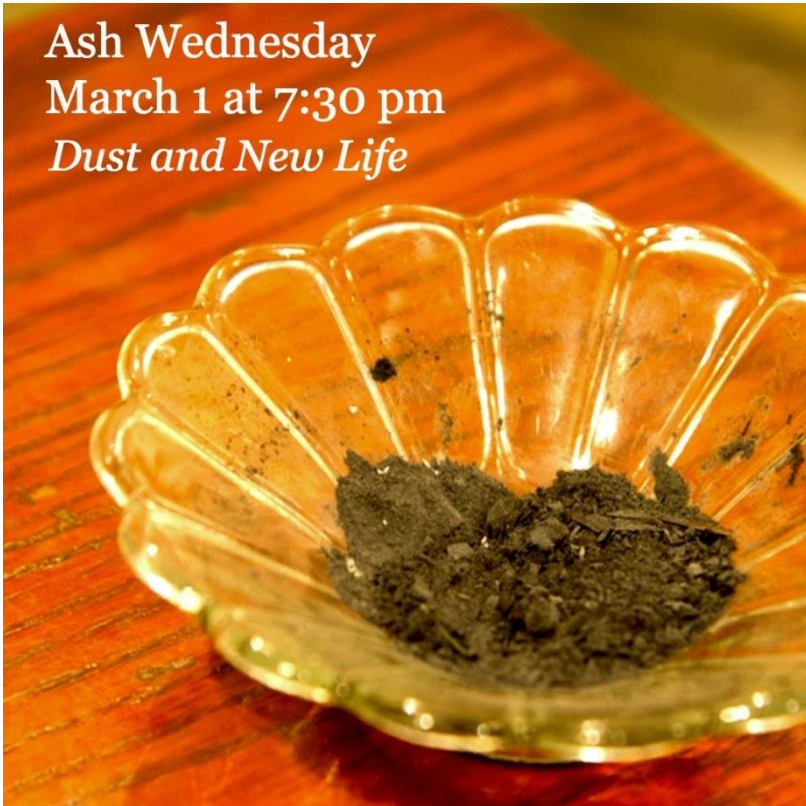
## ***Scout Sunday - March 12***

We are blessed by the Boy, Girl, and Cub Scouts that are part of our community. The lessons taught in scouting inspire a lifetime of service, connection and hope. At the church, we continue to be blessed by the gifts of all our Scouts. We're setting aside March 12 (the birthday of the Girl Scouts) as our Scout Sunday this year! We'll bless our Scouts at each worship service. Come out and celebrate our scouts!



*You are invited . . .*

Ash Wednesday  
March 1 at 7:30 pm  
*Dust and New Life*



Healing and  
Anointing with oil

9 am & 10:30 am

March 19



### ***Souper Bowl of Caring***

Thank you! You collected cans and your pocket change for weeks to help the Center for Food Action. More change is coming in but as of February 13, we raised over \$580 and over 100 cans of soup. Little bits of love, collected together, can change peoples' lives!

Wednesdays in Lent  
Soup & Study  
6:30 pm  
Starting March 8

## unstuff with the small catechism

the Lutheran art of decluttering  
soul and spirit

### ***From the Library***

During Lent we are studying Luther's small catechism, one of the basics of our faith and how to get back to basics in our lives. Look for titles on display in the library.

Dot Dohrmann

### ***Calling All the Wonderful Cooks at CLC***

We are again having soup and study during the Wednesdays in Lent. We need volunteers to make pots of soup. This year we will be studying the small catechism. This program is always instructive and fun. Sign up to make soup on the sheet in the narthex and join us for one or all Wednesdays. If you can't attend, but would like to make soup, talk to Dot Dohrmann.

## ***"I will become a monk"***

Martin Luther originally planned, on behalf of his own future and the future of his family, to become a lawyer. But something changed, and he soon became a monk. Below is a short selection from *Luther the Reformer*, available in our church library, about why that decision was made.

Six months later a thunderstorm overtook Master Martin while he was walking back to Erfurt [where Martin Luther was studying to be a lawyer] from Mansfeld [where Luther's parents lived]. A bold of lightning suddenly struck him to the ground. "Help me, St. Anne!" he shouted. "I will become a monk!"

One moment of triumph. Another of desolation. Now Master Martin had decided to enter a monastery, and father Hans was furious. Luther wrote to his father and declared that the thunderstorm and the vow were the will of God. Hans replied that he wondered whether his son had misinterpreted what had happened. Were the thunderstorm and the vow the work of God or the devil?...

Yet there was much more than this behind his father's anguished response, and Luther knew it. What Hans had lost was his insurance policy. With its brightest member now in a monastery, the Luder [Luther] family's security was gone. Luther responded that he could do more for his family with his prayers than he could as a well-heeled lawyer....

Luther's decision to become a monk nonetheless remains puzzling. At the time of the vow he was walking back to the University of Erfurt. He had taken an unexplained, but officially authorized, leave of absence to visit his family. This leaves suggests that the decision was not as sudden as a bolt of lightning that knocked him off his feet.

## ***Luther 101***

Why did Luther write the small catechism?

- a. to be used as a textbook in schools
- b. for the head of the household to teach family members
- c. to be used as a confirmation tool





## ***Tri-Boro Food Pantry - Lenten Hunger Appeal***

On Sunday, February 5, Pastor Marc shared in his sermon some of the good work of the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. The food pantry serves over 100 families (95% from the Tri-Boro area itself) who need help with groceries, cleaning products and more. Every year, the food pantry tries to supply all the fixins' needed for three large meals at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The pantry usually purchases everything it needs, but they're trying something different this year. Six different congregations are being asked to supply one food item to make the Easter meal fantastic. Pastor Marc volunteered our church to supply 70-3 lb. bags of onions. We don't have a date set for when we need the onions by, but Pastor Marc is confident we can help make 70 families in Park Ridge, Woodcliff Lake and Montvale have a great Easter meal.



## ***Sunday School focuses . . .***

. . . on a service project once a month. Recently the younger children made thank you cards for people who do special things for them. The older children baked cookies and delivered them to police, firefighters or neighbors as a thank you for helping to protect the children in the neighborhoods we live in. During the upcoming Lenten season we are inviting the children at worship to color large posters of the stations of the cross. Parents can participate, too. They will be displayed in the sanctuary during Lent. As the Sunday School children serve others they are learning that they are also serving Christ.

*"Whatever you do, work heartily for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving Christ".* — Colossians 3: 23-24

Rich Osenbruck



***From Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Old Tappan, NJ***

*On behalf the congregation of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Old Tappan, I would like to extend our deep gratitude for your very generous gift of \$1,000 for our church building elevator repair. For almost 30 years our elevator has provided access to our sanctuary for those with physical limitations. As our congregation's core membership has aged through the years we have found the elevator to be more needed than ever. Your very generous contribution will ensure that stairs are not a barrier to people seeking to access our worship space. Thank you so very much for this kindness to us!*

*We wish all of you much joy and happiness in the year ahead and always! Thank you so much for your partnership in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ!*

*Yours in Christ, The Rev. John C. Holliday, Pastor*

***From Buddies of New Jersey, Inc.***

*We want to express our sincere appreciation for the generous donation of food and toiletries you provided for our Pantry. Because of you, we are able to help address the nutritional needs faced by the poor of the HIV/Aids community here in Bergen and Passaic counties. This year we were able to help provide food for over 400 clients and their families.*

*Because of you, Buddies of New Jersey, Inc. can make a real difference in the lives of the individuals we serve. Our services include substance abuse treatment, oral health, mental health therapy, case management, housing, transportation and our food pantry all which play a critical role in helping our clients maintain a true quality of life.*

*With your help, all of these amazing things happen. Thank you for caring. You are a true partner in our fight against HIV/AIDS.*

*Bob Sorbanelli, Board of Directors*

## ***Long Road Ahead***

By Sharei Green, Program Communicator for Lutheran Disaster Response

From [blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/2986-2/](https://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/2986-2/)

Visit [www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/](http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/)

to see how Lutheran Disaster Response is making a difference all over the world.

In a host community in Jordan, a delegation of Global Mission staff met Jasmine, a widowed woman from Syria. She, like many others, fled to Jordan for safety with her sisters and her 2 young children. She had been offered the opportunity to be resettled in the U.S. “I denied the offer,” she told us through an interpreter. “I thought I’d be back home [in Syria] by now.” As time passed, and the conflict continued, she realized that she may not be going home anytime soon, and that she wishes she had taken the offer.

In late January, President Trump signed a series of executive orders that would hinder/halt immigration and migration to the United States. The order that garnered the most media attention essentially banned anyone from 7 countries where the primary religion is Islam – Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Yemen, Iraq and Sudan.

With the signing of the Executive order, refugees, like Jasmine, are feeling less hopeful for new opportunities. Rachel Luce, Country Director for Lutheran World Federation-Jordan – Our partner for work in the camp and host communities in Jordan – told us that there has been a “palpable sadness” in the region. “They [Syrian Refugees] already felt like no one cared about them,” she said. “But this blatant law against them has made them feel unwanted and further depressed.”

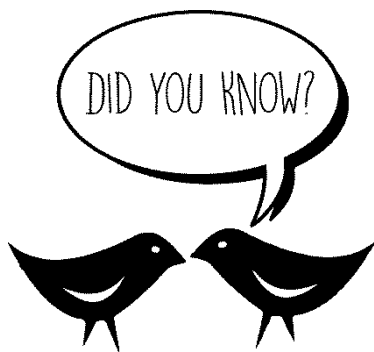
The ELCA responded to the Executive Order through blog post, action alerts, social media, video and a statement from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, taking a firm stand in opposition of the string of Orders that would stop or greatly reduce the efforts of asylum-seekers, refugees, etc. In her statement, Bishop Eaton said, “I agree with the importance of keeping our country secure as the administration stated in its executive order last Friday, but I am convinced that temporarily banning vulnerable refugees will not enhance our safety nor does it reflect our values as Christians.”

Matthew 25 says, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” The ELCA is committed to continued work with the most vulnerable.

Domestically, through congregations, partners such as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Church World Services, along with several Lutheran social ministry organizations, the ELCA is committed to refugee resettlement in the United States.

Internationally, the ELCA continues to support internally-displaced persons (IDPs), migrants and refugees through the accompaniment of companion churches and partner organizations in Europe and the Middle East, and through the AMMPARO strategy that was approved through Church-wide Assembly last summer.

### ***Calling All Alumni of Lutheran Colleges and Universities***



. . . that our denomination, the ELCA, is affiliated with 26 colleges and universities? Our friends in other Lutheran denominations support other colleges as well. If you attended a Lutheran affiliated college or university, Pastor Marc would love to hear from you. Visit [/lutherancolleges.org/](http://lutherancolleges.org/) to see schools Lutherans are affiliated with. Contact Pastor Marc ([marc.stutzel@gmail.com](mailto:marc.stutzel@gmail.com) and 201-391-4224) if your school is on the list!

### ***Womens' News—Attention All Members . . .***

**Start saving for Trash & Treasure now – sale is Saturday, May 6, 2017**

Just a reminder to start setting aside your treasures and cleaning out your closets in anticipation of the Annual Trash & Treasure Sale on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Clothing collection begins on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> in Mitchell Commons and Treasure collection (meaning anything not in the clothing category) begins on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. More details will follow in future Messenger articles and Sunday bulletins.

If you are interested in helping, please call Ann Christensen at 201-666-5078. New helpers (of any age) are always welcome . . . no experience necessary. It's a lot of fun and a chance to make new friends. We'll feed you well, and you'll feel better knowing that you've helped our church raise funds for improvements here and for many deserving charities.

Christine Badame





*Annual Congregational Retreat at  
Camp Koinonia January 27-29, 2017*

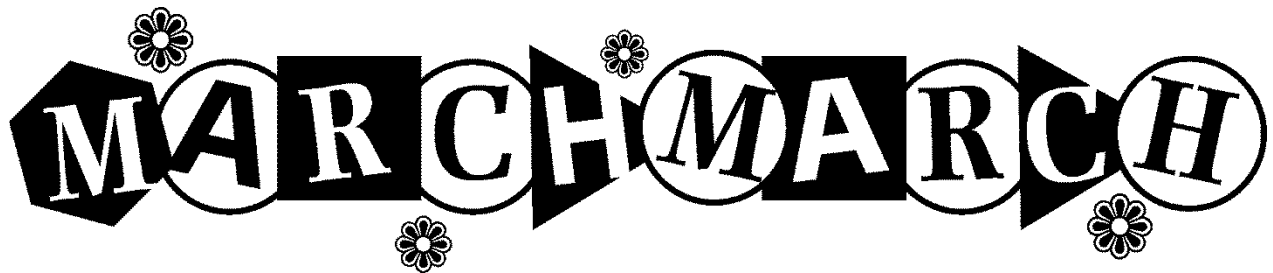


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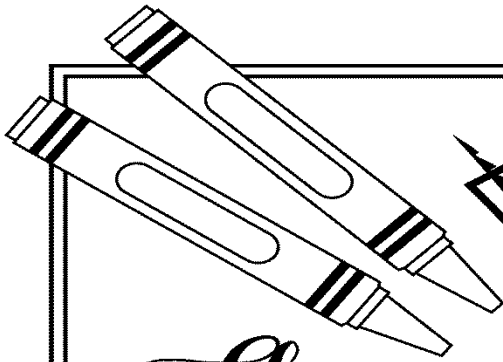
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**Dated Material – Please Deliver Promptly**



Pastor: The Rev. Marc A. Stutzel  
Director of Music: Argine Safari  
Director of Youth Choirs: David Scance  
Musician: Fred Messner  
Administrative Assistant: Doris Crouse



# PUZZLE

## The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about  
God's care and protection.

**Directions:** Find each missing letter in the alphabets below.  
Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z \_\_\_\_\_

When I am in \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_ to you,  
because you \_\_\_\_\_ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV






Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me.  
Psalm 86:7, NIV

# 2017



# march



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b>  <b>WEDNESDAY</b> Worship with Communion and Ashes 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY of LENT</b> Sunday Church School, 9:40 am Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Bagel Sale, 11:30	<b>6</b> Property Work Night 7:30 pm	<b>7</b> Worship Committee 8:00 pm	<b>8</b> Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:30 pm	<b>9</b> Finance Committee 8:00 pm	<b>10</b>  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  <b>Spring Ahead</b> 2:00 am <b>SCOUT SUNDAY</b> Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Bake Sale, 11:30 Care Meeting, Noon Confirmation-6:30	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:30 pm	<b>16</b> Council Meeting 8:00 pm	<b>17</b> 	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Sunday Church School, 9:40 am Holy Communion Contemporary 9:00 am Traditional 10:30 am Bagel Sale, 11:30	<b>20</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring</b>  Property Work Night 7:30 pm Chancel Choir 8:00 pm	<b>21</b> Knit 1, Crochet Too 10:00 am	<b>22</b> <b>Messenger Mailing</b> Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Holy Communion 9:00 and 10:30 am Bake Sale, 11:30 Confirmation 6:30 pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Soup Supper 6:30 pm Lenten Study 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 8:30 pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

