

The St. John's Light

...let it shine!

March 2026

I'm sure many of you know the answer to the question, "How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?" "Change? Who said anything about change?" Having lived and travelled in many countries, worked in different languages, and served amongst people of many faiths, I can say that being averse to change is not unique to Lutherans. It's part of being human. The old statement that "some things never change" is often spoken wistfully and with thankfulness.

St. John's is experiencing the change of a new pastor after two decades with Pastor Stephen Alles. Our family is experiencing the change of leaving a beloved home, neighbours, and a congregation of people we love and who love us. That's just "small change"! Then there are our changing extended families, changing communities, changing countries and indeed a world that seems to be reinventing itself before our eyes every day.

The One whose promises do not change, of course, is our Lord. He tells us repeatedly in Scripture that when everything else seems uncertain His promises are sure. The writer of Hebrews says that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, ESV). James writes that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17, ESV). The Lord sang through Ethan the Ezrahite that "I will not violate my covenant or alter the word that went forth from my lips" (Psalm 89:34, ESV).

Christians have a gift to share with the world: the gift of stability amidst uncertainty. It's why Jesus finishes his sermon on the mount with a parable about permanence (Matthew 7:24-27). He tells of two men faced with all the changes and chances of life: storms blow over them; winds howl against them; flood waters threaten to overcome them. One man has built his life on shifting sand and finds everything crashing down. But another has built his life on the promises of the Lord. He can withstand it all, because he has built on the Word of the One who remains stable and unmoving.

Pastors come and go. So do councils, governments, friends and even family members. Cities change around us, and the whole world can seem to be spinning out of control at times. But the Lord's promises never to leave or forsake us, to hold us in the palm of His hand, to keep the forces of evil under His sway, and to be "with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20). In times of change, let us rejoice in that promise, build on that promise, and invite others to find comfort in that promise.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles St-Onge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Charles St-Onge

Thank You Letter

Dear members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

When the apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Christians in Philippi, he began with a word of thanks, "I thank my God in all remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all, making my prayer with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3. St. Paul was thankful as he thought of the congregation and all the people he worked alongside of proclaiming the love of God in Christ. I too feel that same sense of thanks. I'm thankful not merely for our partnership in the gospel as Paul says, but also for all the number of cards and gifts given to me on the occasion of my retirement. The message that came across from these greetings and signs of support was extremely encouraging. It filled me with thanks for all of you. And so, I say thank you for the potluck, for the choir anthem, and for the generous gift from the congregation. Thank you for the words spoken at the retirement potluck. All of these showed me just how much you care. I will continue to pray for the congregation and as St. Paul wrote, "and it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, the glory and praise of God." Philippians 1:9.

God bless you as you move forward with a new pastor,



Pastor Stephen Alles



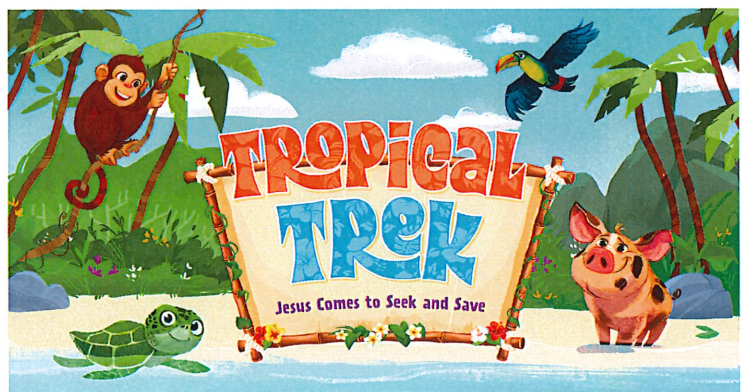
March

Sunday School

HOLY WEEK



HOLY WEEK DISCOVERY
SUNDAY MARCH 29 at 9:00 a.m.
 We will explore God's Word and discover the events of Holy Week through stories, games, snacks, & crafts. Don't miss out!



Director Found for VBS 2026!
 Dania Daoust is the Director for VBS 2026! Please support her in this challenging role. Date of VBS to be determined. First meeting will be **MARCH 22**. Please consider volunteering.



Happy Baptism Birthday!

Baptismal Birthdays for March:
 Khloe Rideout
 Peighton Rideout
 Olivia Roesler

MARCH MEMORY VERSE:
 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9



We are continuing to collect donations and pop can tabs to support our mission project - **CANADIAN BIBLE SOCIETY**

WELCOME OUR NEW PASTOR
 Welcome Pastor Charles St-Onge! We are excited to get to know you and learn from you.

Children born in 2022 can now register & attend Sunday School!

[**REGISTER** ▶](#)

- IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**
- Mar 08 Sunday School Teacher's Meeting
 - Mar 22 First VBS Meeting (downstairs after church)
 - Mar 29 Celebrate Baptismal Birthdays
 - Mar 29 Holy Week Discovery (9:00 a.m.)



March 21st – Let's Go Swimming!

Pembroke Kinsmen Pool

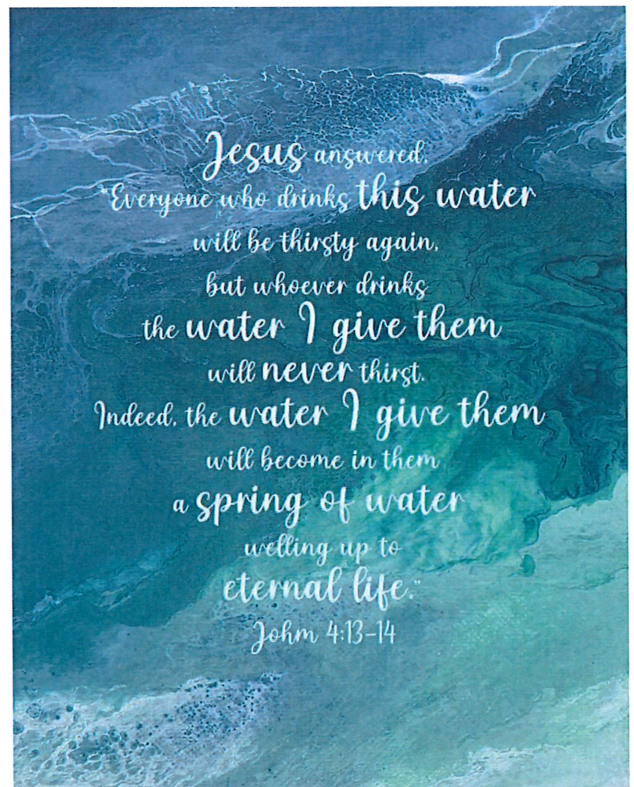
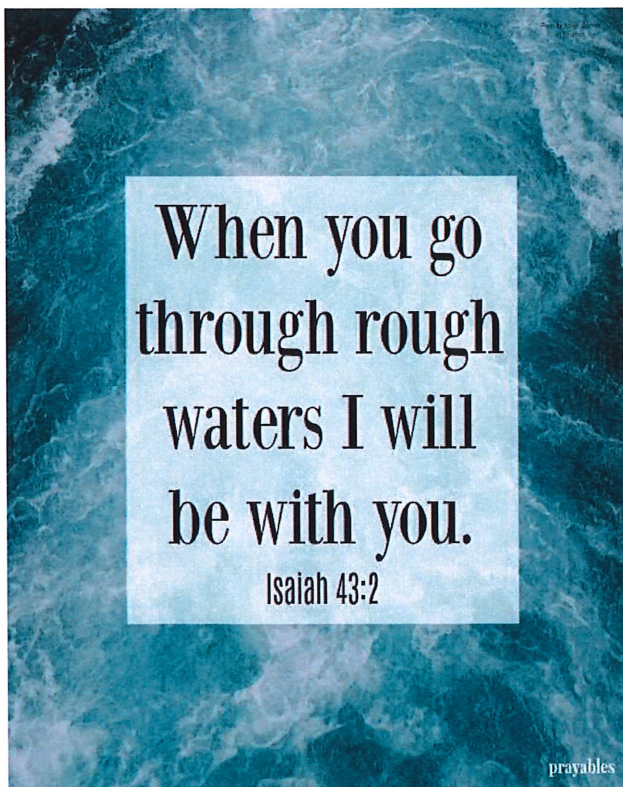
Location: 424 Herbert St.

Cost: Child (9-13 yrs) \$2.80

Student (14-17yrs) \$4.40 incl. tax

Adult \$5.25 incl. tax

Time: 2:00pm – 3:00pm





PARASOL Supporting end-of-life care Care | Communicate | Collaborate

Pembroke And Region Assoc for the Sanctity of Life
Rev Paul DeGraaf Acting Director
758 Fourth Chute Rd., Douglas, ON KOJ 1S0
613-585-9501 | info@parasolcare.com | www.parasolcare.com

RE: Launch Event announcement

with Guest Speakers
Rev. G. Engler | Dr. G. Steffens

Pembroke Pentecostal Temple
34 Brandon Av., Pembroke, ON

March 20, 2026 | 6:30 pm mingle | 7 pm start

PARASOL seeks to influence and advocate for social awareness of the sanctity of life through instruction, compassionate support, and community involvement. Our goal is to demonstrate in both word and deed that all human life has inherent worth regardless of age, ability, or circumstances. We share a deep and profound commitment to the sanctity of all human life. Human life is being devalued and discarded when people in vulnerable situations are not being supported to live, but facilitated to die.

Please join us to launch and celebrate our new work of care, communication and collaboration in supporting end-of-life choices.

- Resources available
- Information about MAiD
- Opportunity to donate
- Meet and speak with our committee members
- Join our CareTeam
- Declare & Resolve statement available
-

HAPPY QUILTERS

The Happy Quilters at St. John's have a large selection of beautiful Quilts that would make a special gift for a family member or friend, or just a new decorating touch for yourself.

A Quilt always makes a wonderful, memorable gift.

Each Quilt is a work-of-art, hand-made, by the Happy Quilters group here at St. John's.

If you are interested in selecting a Quilt, contact any of the following people:

Joyce Marcuccio 613-732-7440

Helen Kramer 613-687-2993

Paulette Behm 613-732-7394

Note: Quilts are not sold at a fixed price for a profit. They are available by donation.

Interested in learning the Art of Quilting?

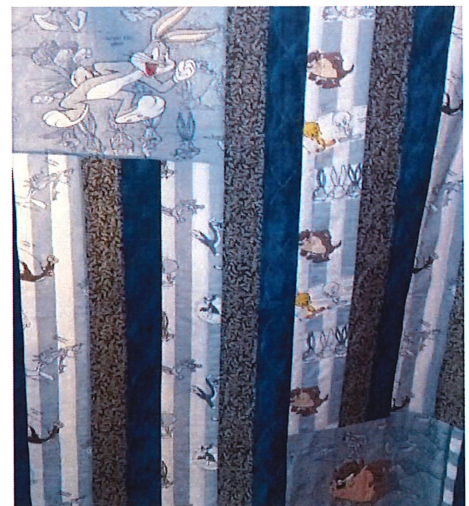
Every Wednesday morning, the Quilters gather in our Church basement to quilt.

If quilting is something that interests you, come out Wednesday morning at 9:30am and check it out. All are welcome.

Experience is not required. We will teach you. There is something for everyone to do.

You'll have a fun new hobby and make new friendships quilting together.

~ ***The Happy Quilters***





St. John's Lutheran Seenagers Corner

*St. John's Seenagers . . . where we make new friends
and get to know our old friends better
All Seniors are welcome!*

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 2:00PM

BUNCO

Potluck Supper at 4:30PM

Contact: Paulette Behm, President (613)732-7394

Upcoming Events Hosted by the Seenagers

- 1.** NOTE: SHOW CHANGE ->Thursday, April 16, 2026 - "ELBOW'S UP - CANADA COUNTRY STARS" show is being REPLACED by a NEW SHOW - "THE PLOWBOYS - THIS IS COUNTRY MUSIC!" The Plowboys are a fixture in Eastern Ontario music scene keeping traditional Country Music alive-one hit at a time! Whether you're a seasoned two-stepper or a newcomer to country music, saddle up and get ready for a toe-tappin', rhinestone-shinin' good time! It's a musical harvest of classic country hits from Buck Owens and Ray Price to Merle Haggard, Jim Reeves, Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, and many more. If you have any questions about this substitution, please contact Debbie (613)638-3722. \$135 per person. PAYMENT IS DUE BY MARCH 8. (cash or cheque to Debbie Bernard or Church Office during regular Office hours: M-W-F)
- 2.** Thursday, September 24-25, 2026 - "COME FROM AWAY" - 1000 Island Playhouse, Gananoque. This is an overnight trip with exciting activities planned for you, along with the world-famous play "COME FROM AWAY". Hosted by St. John's Seenagers with Ottawa Valley Tours. Watch for more details coming soon!!
- 3.** Thursday, October 22, 2026 - LEISA WAY'S "GET DOWN TONIGHT" - ULTIMATE 70's SOUNDTRACK - Upper Canada Playhouse, Morrisburg - \$135 per person. Includes: coach transportation, lunch, and show ticket. See poster for details. Sign-up sheet located at back of Church. Debbie (613)638-3722.

SEENAGER EXCURSION
Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church Seenagers

"THE PLOWBOYS"

REPLACING **"ELBOWS UP" SHOW**

Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 2:00pm
Upper Canada Playhouse, Morrisburg



REPLACING
"ELBOWS UP –
COUNTRY MUSIC
STARS"

The PLOWBOYS are a fixture in Eastern Ontario music scene keeping traditional Country Music alive-one hit at a time! Whether you're a seasoned two-stepper or a newcomer to country music, saddle up and get ready for a toe-tappin', rhinestone-shinin' good time! It's a musical harvest of classic country hits from Buck Owens and Ray Price to Merle Haggard, Jim Reeves, Hank Williams, Johnny Cash, and many more.

If you have any questions about this show substitution, please contact Debbie 613-638-3722.

PAYMENT IS DUE BY MARCH 8. (cash or cheque to Debbie Bernard or Church Office during regular Office hours: M-W-F)

Departure Time - 8:00am from St. John's Lutheran Church Parking Lot

Lunch - McIntosh Inn, Morrisburg (included)

Price - \$135 per person

Contact - Debbie Bernard (613)638-3722

SEENAGER EXCURSION

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church Seeners
With Ottawa Valley Tours

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2026



7:30 PM Evening Show
THOUSAND ISLAND
Playhouse, GANANOQUE

COME FROM AWAY

38 planes. 7,000 passengers. One small town. *Come From Away* is based on the remarkable real-life events following 9/11, when thousands of travellers were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland. As fear gripped the world, the people of Gander opened their arms. Cultures clashed and nerves ran high, but uneasiness became trust, music soared into the night, and gratitude grew into lasting friendships. This Tony Award-winning musical is a celebration of small-town kindness and the power of everyday people.

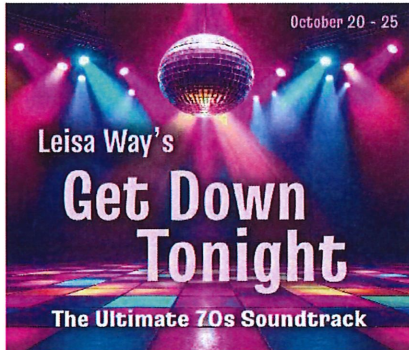
TRIP DETAILS: TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

Contact: Debbie Bernard 613-638-3722

SEENAGER EXCURSION

Hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church Seenagers

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026



2:00 PM Matinee Show

**Upper Canada
Playhouse, Morrisburg**

GET DOWN TONIGHT

with Leisa Way

(The Ultimate 70s Soundtrack)

**It's a high energy concert of the greatest hits of the 70's!
From DISCO to FOLK, to ROCK, this powerhouse concert
features hits from The Eagles, Led Zeppelin, Fleetwood Mac,
James Taylor, ABBA, Carole King, Elton John, The Bee Gees,
The Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, Creedance Clearwater
Revival, Joni Mitchell, and more.**

Departure Time: 8:00 AM from St. John's Lutheran Church Parking Lot

Lunch: McIntosh Inn, Morrisburg (included)

Price: \$135 per person

Contact: Debbie Bernard 613-638-3722

Please sign up as soon as possible so that we know if the trip will be a "go".

COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

As we welcome our new minister Reverend Charles St - Onge, his wife Deborah and daughters Olivia and Sophia the following information should help you become a little familiar with their past experiences.

1. After arriving home, very tired and hungry, favourite "go-to" meals are:

Pastor Charles - rising crust frozen pizza

Deborah – pasta

Sophia – mac & cheese

Olivia – burgers

2. Most enjoyable leisure reading books read in the last two years:

**Pastor Charles: Night of Camp David, Coffin Road,
A Great and Terrible King**

**Deborah: Eleanor Oliphant, All The Light We Can Not See,
The Grey Wolf**

3. Hobbies:

Pastor Charles: RPG gaming, reading

Deborah: scrap booking, paper crafts, puzzles/games

Olivia: babysitting, computer activities/projects

Sophia: painting/art work, makeup/nails

4. Do you have a most memorable location visited in Canada?

Pastor Charles: Charlevoix

Deborah: Nova Scotia

Olivia: Halifax

Sophia: PEI

5. Music genres you most enjoy:

Pastor Charles & Deborah – Celtic/Christian

Olivia – Country

Sophia – Pop

6. Do you like dogs & cats?

Everyone but Olivia who is anxious around dogs.

Do you have any pets?

Yes, a cat named Jasmine.



Rev. Charles St-Onge

- LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)
- Place of Birth: Ottawa, Ontario
- Born: 1972 – 53 years old
- Current Congregation: Ascension Lutheran, Montreal, Quebec
- Link to Sermons:
 - <https://ascensionlutheran.ca/sermons/>
- Size of present congregation –
 - Baptized: 118 members
 - Communicants: 92 members
 - Average Worship Attendance: 51 members
- Ordination Date – June 29, 2003
- 22 years ordained Pastor
- Year of Marriage – 2000
 - Wife's Name – Deborah, born in Middletown, Ohio, is a U.S. citizen, has applied for Canadian citizenship, master's degree in music education, educator/teacher, pianist, choir director (children and adult)

World Day of Prayer Friday March 6, 2026 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Holy Trinity Anglican Church 68 Renfrew St. Pembroke
Program prepared by World Day of Prayer Committee – Nigeria 2026

CHICKEN POT PIE - Viola Neuman

3 cups chopped, cooked chicken
1 – 300 gram pkg. frozen mixed vegetables
1 – 284 ml. can of cream of mushroom soup
1/2 cup milk
1 package of stove top stuffing

Preheat oven to 350 degrees
Spray a 2.3 L (9 x 9) pan with Pam.
Combine chicken, vegetables, soup and milk
in the baking dish.
Prepare stuffing as directed on package.
Spoon over chicken mixture.
Bake 30 minutes or until heated through.
Enjoy!



Worship Assistants for March 2026

Communion Set-Up: Alison Shalla

Altar Guild: Joyce Raglin (1, 8, 15), Sherry Heubner (22, 29), Carol Brazeau, Kathy Schroeder

Elevator Assistant: Hank Vaillancourt

TV Screens: Shallas

Live Stream Video: Richard Kramer/Karen, Rachel & Ashlyn Craig

March 1st

Elders: Dave Trautrim

Acolyte: Avery Timm

Sound System: Brian Schroeder

Psalm Cantor: Esther & Margaret Zadow

Communion Assistants: Carson Bramburger/Marcel Daoust

Hospitality: Schroeder/Lemieux

March 8th

Elders: Jake Bernard & Carson Bramburger

Acolyte: Madison Behm

Sound System: Brian Schroeder

Psalm Cantor: Margaret Trautrim

Communion Assistants: David Trautrim/Jon Hammel

Hospitality: Daoust

March 15th

Elders: Eric Zadow & Karl Hammel

Acolyte: Madison Behm

Sound System: Richard Kramer

Psalm Cantor: Sherry Heubner

Communion Assistants: Eric Zadow/Nathanael Alles

Hospitality: Anderson/Hammel

March 22nd

Elders: June Carmody & Stephen Schroeder

Acolyte: Nicolas Daoust

Sound System: Richard Kramer

Psalm Cantor: Heather Bickel

Communion Assistants: Matt Klein/Carson Bramburger

Hospitality: Kramer

March 29th

Elders: Dave Trautrim

Acolyte: Landon Hammel

Sound System: Brian Schroeder

Psalm Cantor: Esther & Margaret Trautrim

Communion Assistants: Marcel Daoust/Jon Hammel

Hospitality: Covell/Shalla



Church Family News



CURRENT OFFERINGS The amount we need each Sunday is \$5,675.00 to cover approved expenses.

January 25	\$ 1,829.00
January EMT	\$ 6,225.00
February 1	\$ 3,533.80
February 8	\$ 3,922.00
February 15	\$ 3,255.20
February 22	\$ 3,004.05



EASTER LILIES We invite you to place Easter Lilies on the altar for Easter. We ask that you pick up your own flowers from the store of your choice and bring them to the church after Palm Sunday. Please contact Susan and let her know who your flowers are for. We will publish the requests in the bulletin. Thank you.

~Altar Guild

LENT The Lenten offerings will be given to the following missions:

Midweek 2, March 4TH

Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Midweek 3, March 11TH

St. Joseph's Food Bank

Midweek 4, March 18TH

LAMP

Midweek 5, March 25TH

First Step Options

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, March 29TH at 10:00am

Maundy Thursday, April 2ND at 7:00pm

Good Friday, April 3RD at 10:00am

Sunrise Service, April 5TH at 7:30am

Resurrection of Our Lord, April 5TH at 10:00am

Lenten Soup Suppers will be served at 5:30pm before each Lenten Service.

All midweek services begin at 7:00pm. We will be using the Evening Prayer Liturgy.

Easter Breakfast will be served at 8:30am between the two Easter Services.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1	Robert Rossow	
March 3	Lynda Panke	
March 7	Herb Pearson	
March 8	Isabelle Majaralie	
March 10	Jennifer Zyla	
March 11	Margaret Trautrim	
March 12	Rodney Risto	Scott Phinney
March 13	Carter Hilts	
March 16	Lloyd Phannenhour	Carol Verch
	Karen Mohns	
March 17	Emma Roesler	
March 18	Viola Neuman	Janessa Linton
	Isabel Estabrooks	Alyssa Yemen
March 19	Gail Romhild	Karen Phinney
	Nicholas Hamilton	
March 21	Wesley Stuber	
March 22	Emily Payne	Ethan Timm
	Christopher Fairfield	
March 23	Owen Turcotte	
March 25	Jon Andrews	Emma Biesenthal
	Bill Pinkerton	Patricia Doucette
	Philip Wolfgram	
March 26	Susan Wallace	Hannah Hall
March 27	Richard O'Brien	
March 29	Rodney Hoffman	Elaine Nieman
March 30	John Karau	
March 31	Andrew Pinkerton	Matthew Thrun

FOUR SCORE OR MORE BIRTHDAYS

March 1	Robert Rossow (83)
March 3	Lynda Panke (81)
March 7	Herb Pearson (86)
March 12	Rodney Risto (89)
March 16	Lloyd Phannenhour (90)
March 18	Viola Neuman (82)
March 18	Isabel Estabrooks (82)
March 21	Wesley Stuber (91)
March 27	Richard O'Brien (80)

DEADLINE! Parish paper submissions **MUST** be in by the **20th** of each month. If they are not, they will not be included that month. Thank you! ☺ Please note that items submitted may be edited before printing.

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee	10:30 Creative Writing Group @ St. Joseph's Retirement Complex 1:30 Grief Share 6:30 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:30 Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 Midweek of Lent 2			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee 11:30 Sunday School Teacher's Meeting	1:30 Grief Share 6:30 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:30 Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 Midweek of Lent 3	2:00 Seenagers		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee 11:30 Congregation Meeting	1:30 Grief Share 6:30 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:30 Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 Midweek of Lent 4		4:00 Deadline for Parish Paper submissions	2:00 Youth Swimming
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee 11:30 VBS Meeting	1:30 Grief Share 6:30 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA	9:30 Quilters 5:30 Lenten Soup Supper 7:00 Midweek of Lent 5			8:30 Men's Breakfast 11:00 LWML
29	30	31	NOTES:			
9:00 Sunday School (Holy Week Discovery) 9:00 Bible Study 10:00 Divine Worship/Holy Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Tea & Coffee	1:30 Grief Share 6:30 Embers	6:00 Confirmation 7:00 Choir 7:30 AA				