



**Saint Matthew**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# St. Matthew's Messenger

**St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

115 E. Penn Street, Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127

Phone 814.793.2413 • Fax 814.614.4003 • e-mail [stmatthewluth@aol.com](mailto:stmatthewluth@aol.com) • web: [www.stmatthewlc.com](http://www.stmatthewlc.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc](http://www.facebook.com/stmatthewlc)

Volume 61

**MAY 2021**

Number 5

“PATIENCE”

People of God:

Six years ago this month I started noticing some nagging digestive symptoms. First I blamed grief; I had just lost my first dog to untreatable lymphoma when he was only two years old. Then I blamed travel: continuing education in Colorado, the National Youth Gathering in Detroit, two weeks as chaplain at Sequanota, vacation in South Carolina, and all the not-home-cooked meals that go with travel. But by the end of the summer, I knew something was really wrong. It took four months and three hospital stays to get an accurate diagnosis and treatment plan. That worked for over a year, until my symptoms returned and didn't respond to medication. I ended up in the hospital for over seven weeks undergoing a major surgery and a second emergency surgery when the first surgery failed. Five months later the doctor attempted a reconstructive surgery that failed. Five months after that, a different surgeon performed a final, irreversible corrective surgery, and I have been managing Crohn's disease with an ileostomy and medication since then.

You wouldn't know all that just by looking at me, so you might be surprised to know that several million other Americans share my diagnosis. And that is just one of the health conditions that put people at higher risk of contracting a virus like COVID. It has been truly terrifying to watch this disease claim over 3 million lives worldwide, especially while taking medication that warns right on the side of the bottle, "Avoid people with contagious illness; this medication suppresses your immune system."

Over the past year, our congregation has done our best to worship and learn while protecting the health of our own members and our community. This way of loving our neighbors hasn't been easy; when so much in our world has changed, we desperately want church to "feel like normal," but it hasn't been safe to do that. Even as we prepare to return to in-person worship, our services will still look different as we continue to mitigate the risk of this pandemic which is still very much with us.

I want to thank you for your patience, diligence, and sacrifice. When you wear a mask, when you get vaccinated, when you postpone trips or get-togethers, when you think seriously about whether a public activity is truly necessary or advisable: all those choices that you have made over the past year and that you continue to make may seem like inconveniences to you, but they have meant and continue to mean the world to those of us in high-risk circumstances. Thank you for living out Jesus' command to love one another in these concrete ways throughout these challenging days.

*+Pastor Traci*

**Worship Schedule**

Sunday (see schedule under Council Highlights) Worship 9:00 a.m. & Worship 10:30 a.m.

Monday & Friday: Hymn Devotions, 9:00 a.m. & 9:00 p.m. (pre-recorded)

Tuesday & Thursday: Morning & Night Prayer, 9:00 p.m.

Wednesday: In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m.



## Martinsburg Food Pantry

The Food Pantry will be open for distribution of food on Thursdays, May 6 and May 20 from 9:00am to 11am. Those helping, besides the regular volunteers, will be from the Church of God.

**Following are items most needed for May:** Fruit, Ravioli, Tomato Sauce, Pasta Sides, and Cleaning Supplies. Many Thanks for your monetary donations, food, paper products and other items given to the Pantry!

Linda K. Smith



Thank you to the friends of St. Matthew who graciously took time to take me to my appointments. Your kindness and time was much appreciated. **Jean Stonerook**



## Holy Hike

**Saturday, May 22nd at 10:00 a.m.  
at Canoe Creek State Park**

Join us for a 1+ mile gentle hike over the course of which we will celebrate a service of Word and Sacrament. The catechism students, including our partner students from St. James and St. Luke will be staying after the hike for a picnic lunch. Please wear a mask and meet to the far left of the main parking area.

## Yoga Devotions

**Wednesdays May 12 & 26 at  
5:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 29 at 10:00 a.m.**

Join us in the side yard at St. Matthew for an hour of yoga centered on a focus verse from scripture. Bring your mat; this is appropriate for any ability level.



## Transformational Ministry

Heavenly father, give us the grace to maintain our hope in you, that you will guide us through all of the life changes that have affected our daily lives because of Covid-19. Our May prayer request is:



*Pray for all the high school seniors who had their final year cut short. Who will not get to celebrate their graduation or prom. Pray for all who are out of work and having trouble feeding their families.*

*Especially pray for all the people who put their lives on the line everyday to take care of others.*

*We ask all things in your Holy Name. Amen*

Please join us in daily prayer as we lift these concerns to the Lord.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACOLYTE LEADER VACANCY

The role of Acolyte Leader continues to be vacant.

Following are the main job duties related to the position:

Make schedule (usually 6 months at a time)

Schedule a training session/refresher session with the acolytes as needed. (This can be coordinated with Pastor Traci.)

Update the Guidelines and Procedures document as needed; distribute at least twice a year (usually when the schedule is distributed).

Maintain albs (robes), etc., for cleanliness and repairs. (Usually several times a year; unless an acolyte lets you know that an alb is soiled.) Albs are very easy to launder.

Make sure candle lighters (wicks) are working properly; Keep wicks replaced in the candle lighters. (The acolytes should be able to do this; however, it is good to work together in this endeavor.)

Work with the Altar Guild any time there is a special service or extra needs for worship.

It doesn't take a lot of time to commit for this position. The acolytes are very good about calling for a replacement, and they are always willing to help out when called upon.

Please consider if you would like to serve in this capacity.



## A Stewardship Minute

May 2021

There was a woman who tells about how challenging sermons, family devotions, and a visit from Every Member Canvassers challenged her to reconsider her family’s priorities regarding the use of money. Like many of us, she had focused on worldly goods more than Christian stewardship. Do we not think about the next “worldly thing” we want to get, far more than we consider what we can do on behalf of God and the Kingdom?

In short, don’t we often put our “wants” first and God’s work somewhere down the list in our priorities? Well, she came to realize that even when their income had doubled to \$40,000 annually, they were still giving the church the same \$500 annually that they had when their income was lower. She thought this was like embezzling money from God. Should not God have a healthy portion of a family’s income? And certainly, given the fact that God enables us to have whatever we have: life, talent, energy, guidance, our church, and time on earth ... should we not glorify God with worship, service and with responsible and generous stewardship?

God gives us the freedom to choose what sort of a steward we will be! Jesus gave us the direction we need to follow: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth,” he said. “But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven ... for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21)

**Prayer:** *Stir us up to give as you would have us give, O Lord, source of all that we have. In Christ's name. Amen*

A Stewardship Minute is available to subscribers of Stewardship at [www.parishpublishing.org](http://www.parishpublishing.org).

You can now find the Monthly Stewardship Pamphlet on the website under “Link” at [stmatthewlc.com](http://stmatthewlc.com).



## Home Communion Visits

Pastor Traci is available for home communion visits, either inside for those fully vaccinated or outside for those not fully vaccinated. To schedule, please call the office or cell (814-935-9267).



CONGRATULATIONS graduate! You have reached a major milestone in your academic career. Please fill out this form so St. Matthew can help you celebrate your accomplishments. Please enclose a photo with your information.

**Deadline to return this completed form:  
May 23, 2021**

### Graduate Celebration

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

Parents Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduating from: **High School** **College**  
(please circle one)

Name of Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree In: \_\_\_\_\_

Future Plans: \_\_\_\_\_

Highlights from your school years, (ex. clubs, music, group, academic awards, etc...) \_\_\_\_\_

**Return the form to St. Matthew Lutheran  
115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662**

**In the mail by May 23, 2021.**

## Stewardship in the time of Covid-19

*“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.” – Romans 12:4-5*

In these uncertain times when your congregation is not meeting in-person, it is easy to say to yourself that because you are not meeting, the church doesn't need my offering. So often we see the church as the building and we forget the church is the people of God. Your congregation is not closed. Your congregation's ministry has moved outside the building. The body of Christ is still alive and well.

You can continue to participate in the body of Christ and your congregation's ministry even while we are apart:

**Stay well.** Wash your hands, stay home, eat well, exercise. Keeping yourself well in these days will allow you to help others.

**Help others.** Even though we are apart, you can help others. Offer to make a few phone calls to check on members. If you are able, pick up medication for someone who cannot get out. If someone needs groceries and is not able to order online, offer to make the order and schedule the delivery.

**Pray.** The news is often daunting and confusing. One thing remains true: you are a beloved child of God, called and claimed in the waters of baptism. Pray for your pastor, congregation members, community agencies, health-care workers, first responders, grocery store workers, small business owners, truck drivers, farmers, and all those who continue to work to help us sustain ourselves.

**Give.** Continuing to give your offering is another way you can participate in your congregation's ministry. If your congregation is set-up for online giving, you can give in that way. You also can mail a check to the church which includes your name and envelope number.

Your congregation's ministries continue to be a blessing to the community in these unusual days. Feeding ministries, prayer ministries, visitation by phone, and a host of other ministries are still happening through your congregation. I am proud of our pastors and deacons and lay worship leaders as they continue to find creative ways to be the church together even though we are apart. Please continue to financially support your congregation while we are apart, your gift ensures that your congregation will be able to continue its ministry long after this crisis is over.

*May God's peace and blessing be with you now and always. +Bishop Michael Rhyne*

## Marriage Encounter Weekends Scheduled for Fall

If your marriage has had some struggles during the Coronavirus, you are not alone! The virus has put a great deal of stress on a lot of marriages, and others just need some time away to just be a couple; so now is the perfect time to sign up to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend designed to renew and revitalize your marital relationship no matter whether you have been married a year or 60+ years. The registration fee has been waived for this year, so you pay only the amount specified on the website for 2 nights in your group-rate hotel room and 5 meals for each of you. Also, scholarship funds are available for anyone in need. Simply e-mail or call us at the information below before you register.

Which Weekend will work for you:

**October 1-3, 2021** -- Heritage Hotel Lancaster in Lancaster, PA--Famous for its Robin Hood-inspired restaurant, Loxleys

**October 15-17, 2021** -- Hyatt Place, Pittsburgh/Cranberry--spacious modern decor guestrooms with couches--an hour north of Pittsburgh

Should complications arise, your payment is refundable up to a month before the Weekend. Weekends begin at 8 PM on Friday night and end at approximately 3 PM on Sunday. **REGISTRATIONS WILL BE LIMITED**, so sign up NOW while there are still openings. Simply go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org), find your chosen Weekend, fill out the form, and pay the amount specified with a credit card, or print the form and mail with a check. Don't miss this opportunity to create a more intimate and joyful marital relationship! For questions, please contact Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net) or call: 724-325-3166.

## Prayers and Christian Sympathy are asked for...

- Patty Henderson and family upon the death of her mother, Doris Henderson, Tuesday, April 20, 2021.
- The family and friends of Nancy Uber upon her death on Saturday, April 24, 2021.

## Flower Committee Announcements

St. Matthew is returning to in-house worship on Sunday, May 2, 2021. You should have received a letter from the church outlining schedule details.

Worship and Music Committee agreed with a recommendation from the Flower Committee that when worship is scheduled in the sanctuary, flowers will be placed on the altar as usual. For the next several months, that will happen on the first Sunday of the month. Flowers for the May 2 worship service are sponsored. If you would like to sponsor flowers as a memorial or honorarium, please contact Margie Smith. The price for flowers is \$30.

Church members are encouraged to sponsor memorial/honorarium flowers. The number of Sundays that flowers are donated for memorials has decreased in recent years. It has been suggested that sharing flower memorials/honoraria with another parishioner will reduce the cost by half, as well as make it easier for donors to use or share the flowers after the service.

Donors are reminded to pay for the flowers in a timely manner, preferably on/or before the date of the memorial. Payment may be made in cash or check made payable to St. Matthew Flower Fund. You can place the payment in the appropriate mailbox in the hallway outside the church office.

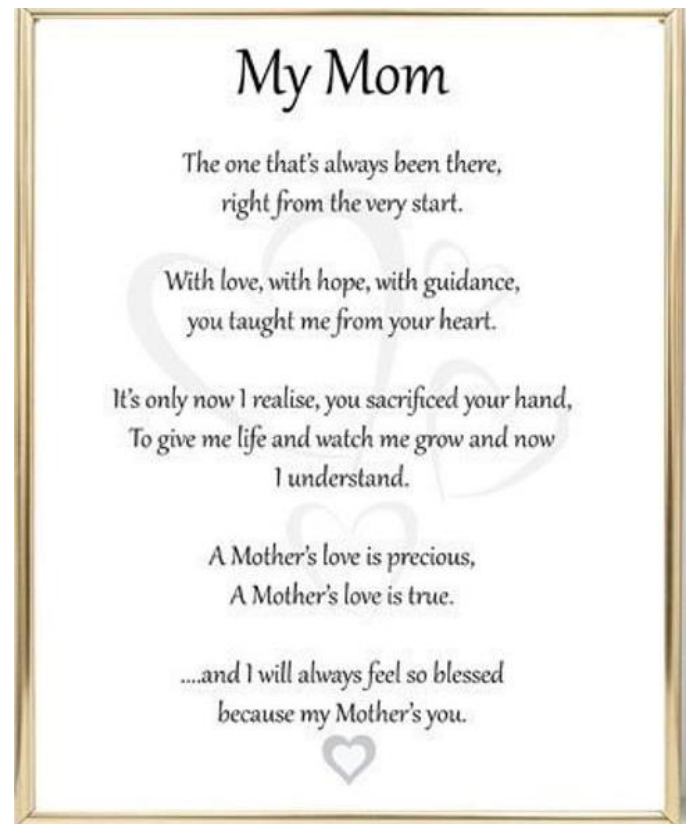
The Flower Committee appreciates your support for the memorial flowers and your cooperation with information stated above.

## New Address

**Shirley Acker**  
371 Reservoir Rd  
Apollo, Pa 15613

## Pastor at Continuing Education

Pastor Traci will be at Sequanota May 17-21 for continuing education. Please call her directly on her cell (814-935-9267) for pastoral concerns; if necessary, leave a message and she will return your call as soon as she is available.



## Return to worship May 2, 2021 according to the following schedule:

### First Sunday of the month:

9 AM worship in the sanctuary; 10:30 AM worship in the fellowship hall

### Second, Third, and Fourth Sundays:

9 AM worship, weather permitting, using the yard, drive, sidewalk, or kitchen Patio

### Fifth Sundays in May and August

10:30 AM worship at the Kreider Farm, followed by brown bag picnic in the pavilion  
(In the event of rain, outdoor services will not be in-person,  
but will be live-streamed at 9 AM.)

### Wednesdays

6:30 PM worship in the Sanctuary

## *Birthdays for May*

1	Les Loomis	7	Kathryn A. Panek	20	John L. Snyder
	Travis P. Smith	8	Joshua A. Smith	21	Michael T. Panek
2	Shanda Imler	9	Greg Haffling		Joel M. Smith
	Mary N. Nelson		Bonnie Ross	22	Connor Johnson
3	Melinda F. Miller	13	Dan Sinal	26	Colin Guyer
4	Linda J. Brown	15	Kevin Smeltzer		Dottie Stahl
	Travis S. Hoover	17	Alyssa Clark	27	Jenna L. Lenhart
	Marjorie A. Replogle		Robert M. Kensinger	28	Mark Johnson
5	Marjorie Detwiler	18	Bob Guyer	31	Donna E. Gearhart
	Michael B. Panek		Rev. Traci Marriott		
		19	Elaine L. Buchart		

## *May Anniversaries*

7	John & Nell Snyder	18	Stephen & Kimberly Oswalt 30 <sup>th</sup>
11	Larry & Catherine Irvin	22	Joshua & Mandy Smith
	Ronald & Robin Robison 20 <sup>th</sup>	24	Whitney & Emily Smith
15	Michael & Joanna Sutton	26	Patrick & Betsy Snyder
17	Robert F. & Patricia J. Winston	27	Shawn & Laura Orzeck

### **Ways to Make Donations to St. Matthew**

**Giving Online:** Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

- 1) Visit the church website at “[www.stmatthewlc.com](http://www.stmatthewlc.com)”
- 2) Click on the “**Give**” button, (on the top white banner)
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.
- 4) If you would like to increase your giving, contact the church office by email: [stmatthewluth@aol.com](mailto:stmatthewluth@aol.com) or by phone: 814-793-2413.

#### **BarCode Offerings:**

- 1) Visit “**Play Store on your mobile device**”
- 2) Find QR Code (this app is free)
- 3) Click on “**Install**” the app
- 4) Be careful of the ADS
- 5) Open the app on your device
- 6) Scan the BarCode: (follow the prompts)



### **The National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 6th.**

A time of prayer for the local community will be held outside of the Martinsburg Borough Building at 7:00 p.m. May 6, 2021.

## 2021 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Christian Ed.	Jean Sinal	793-9507
Assist. Admin. Assist.	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Evangelism	<b>Vacant</b>	
President	Melissa Fetzer	793-2735	Stewardship	Greg Haffling	793-9827
Vice President	Peggy Steinfurth	515-6205	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
Secretary	Elaine Smith (434)	981-0560	Social Ministry	Peggy Freyer	614-4552
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Worship & Music	Jane Fagans	793-4401
Financial Secretary	Anna Klepser	793-2094	Staff Support	Kaye Burket	224-5224

### HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN APRIL

- Discussed current giving as compared to the past 2 years, 2020 and 2019.
- Catechism may resume this summer outdoors and Sunday school for youth in the fall.
- Discussed a gift for the Jeremy and Heather Smith family who are having a home built through Habitat for Humanity.
- A candidate for the Evangelism chairperson on Council is still needed.
- Voted to resume in-person worship on May 2, 2021
  - First Sunday of the month, 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary or 10:30 in the fellowship hall.
  - Second, third, and fourth Sundays of the month, 9:00 a.m. on the grounds outside the sanctuary.
  - Fifth Sunday of the month (May and August), 10:30 a.m. outdoor worship at Kreider Farm followed by brown bag lunch.
  - Outdoor services will not be held in-person in case of inclement weather. They will be livestreamed at 9:00 a.m.
  - Every Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.
  - The worship and music committee will evaluate and assess the schedule and make appropriate changes.
  - The congregation will receive a letter in the mail describing the precautions that will be required, including masks, social distancing, and hand hygiene.
- Voted to extend the FFCRA policy which provides leave for staff who need to be off due to illness or vaccination for COVID-19.

### Giving (three year summary)

2021 March		Year to Date as of 3/31/2021	
<b>Current</b>	<b>\$9,837.65</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>\$35,361.58</b>
<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$1,103.50</b>	<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$4,325.00</b>
<b>Local Needs</b>	<b>\$673.50</b>	<b>1st Qrt. Local Needs</b>	<b>\$2,808.49</b>
2020 March		Year to Date as of 3/31/2020	
<b>Current</b>	<b>\$16,812.88</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>\$45,559.40</b>
<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$1,503.00</b>	<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$5,382.50</b>
<b>Local Needs</b>	<b>\$1,162.00</b>	<b>1st Qrt. Local Needs</b>	<b>\$3,393.50</b>
2019 March		Year to Date as of 3/31/2019	
<b>Current</b>	<b>\$21,349.37</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>\$50,640.91</b>
<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$1,596.75</b>	<b>Benevolence (Synod)</b>	<b>\$4,643.55</b>
<b>Local Needs</b>	<b>\$1,230.25</b>	<b>1st Qrt. Local Needs</b>	<b>\$3,694.25</b>
2021 Income vs Expenses			
<b>Current</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>Year to Date as of 3/31/2021</b>	
Actual	(\$6,722.31)	(\$12,663.96)	
Per Budget	(\$8,742.68)	(\$20,379.42)	
<b><u>Benevolence</u></b>			
Per Commitment to Synod	(\$1,063.17)	(\$2,175.00)	

# St. James Huntingdon + St. Luke Roaring Spring + St. Matthew Martinsburg Catechism Schedule ~ Summer 2021

The pastor-teachers of our catechism co-op are pleased to welcome back our confirmation students whose instruction was paused because of the pandemic and to introduce our new students who are now old enough to join in classes. We have monthly get-togethers planned for the summer to help our group get reacquainted and build our community for the year of learning ahead. We will still spread the Small Catechism curriculum over two academic years; it doesn't matter which year you start first. Our plan is to take advantage of the summer weather for outdoor activities while we continue to navigate safety concerns. We look forward to seeing you!

## May

Saturday the 22nd, 10 AM, Holy Hike and Cookout Lunch at Canoe Creek State Park

Begin with a 1+ mile (gentle) hike over the course of which we will celebrate a simple service of communion. Afterwards, we will grill hot dogs for lunch and play a get-to-know-you game. The whole family is invited (RSVP to your home pastor). State Parks are currently requiring masks for group programs.

## June

Monday the 21st, 6-8PM, Pizza Party at Portstown Park in Huntingdon

We'll enjoy outdoor dinner together and answer the question "Why Confirmation?" for those beginning instruction this year and for those who are regrouping after the pandemic interrupted catechism. The whole family is invited (RSVP to your home pastor). Please wear a mask before and after eating.

## July

Monday–Tuesday, 19th–20th, Pedal-Paddle Campout in Ohiopyle, PA

We're cautioned not to have the lock-in you asked for...but how about a campout? We'll leave at noon on Monday in caravan to the Kentuck Knob Campground in Ohiopyle, camp out overnight, then enjoy an adventure: 10 mile bike ride up the Allegheny Passage Rail Trail, float back down to Ohiopyle on the Middle Youghiogheny River; return late Tuesday. The whole family is invited (all children in the family must be over 8 years old for the pedal-paddle trip; RSVP to your home pastor). More information and organization to come; in the mean time, direct questions to Pastor Traci.

## August

Sunday the 22nd, 5-6PM\*, Hike-Bike-Drive Picnic on the Lower Trail

Choose your own adventure: walk, run, hike, bike, or drive to the Williamsburg pavilion on the Lower Rail Trail. Arrive by 5PM for a picnic supper. We'll look at an overview of the topics and schedule for the 2021-2022 learning year. Walk, run, hike, bike, or drive back to where you started. The whole family is invited (RSVP to your home pastor). Please use a mask before and after eating while we are gathered.

We look forward to seeing you!

Pastor Traci (St. Matthew) 814-935-9267

[revtracimarriott@gmail.com](mailto:revtracimarriott@gmail.com)

Pastor Amanda (St. Luke) 814-327-9471

[pastor.amanda.mccaffery@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.amanda.mccaffery@gmail.com)

Pastor Brandon (St. James) 570-337-5781

[pastorbrandoncian@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrandoncian@gmail.com)

---



## ST. MATTHEW CALENDAR FOR MAY 2021

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9AM Worship Sanctuary  10:30AM Worship Fellowship Hall	9AM Hymn Devotions	9 AM Morning Prayer  9 PM Night Prayer	6:30 PM Worship Sanctuary		9AM Hymn Devotions	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9AM Worship Outside	9AM Hymn Devotions	9 AM Morning Prayer  9 PM Night Prayer	5PM Yoga 6:30 PM Worship Sanctuary		9AM Hymn Devotions	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9AM Worship Outside			NO MIDWEEK WORSHIP THIS WEEK			10AM Holy Hike (Canoe Creek) Catechism Picnic
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9AM Worship Outside	9AM Hymn Devotions	9 AM Morning Prayer  9 PM Night Prayer	5PM Yoga 6:30 PM Worship Sanctuary		9AM Hymn Devotions	10AM Yoga
30	31					
10:30 AM Worship at Kreider Farm	9AM Hymn Devotions					