



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Number 4

Greetings People of God!

If you read this as soon as the Messenger is available, we won't even have made it to Holy Week yet. This Easter falls almost as late as it can on the calendar, which means there is a good chance that we won't have to shovel snow to find Easter eggs this year (assuming with avian flu still spreading we can find eggs at all). Though frost on Easter morning is not unheard of, we in the Northern Hemisphere are used to celebrating Easter along with the coming of Spring, or at least with the hope that Spring is very near.

It is worth noting, however, that the new life of springtime makes an incomplete metaphor for the Resurrection. Although the predictions of groundhogs and the lions and lambs of March weather may make it seem like Spring will never arrive, we know that the earth's cycle will indeed continue as it always has. Quite the opposite, the Resurrection defies what we have always expected. None of the women or disciples who saw the empty tomb said, "Thank goodness that season of death is over and now we can get to the new life part." Jesus rising from the grave meant that God had done something entirely new.

The Resurrection goes against all logic and reason, which makes it hard to understand or believe. But that incredible power of the Resurrection gives us hope for a world that needs more than a couple tweaks to our current conditions or the patience to wait for a better phase in the cycle. Sometimes things get so broken, only Resurrection will do.

As we celebrate this Easter, may we give thanks for the God who is not limited by our logic, experience, or imagination, but can fulfill hopes we hardly dare to have.

Peace,
Pastor Traci

*Thank
you*

Dear Pastor Traci and Church Family,

On behalf of my husband, Ramon Burket, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your cards of concern and prayers during his recent illness, hospitalization, and continued rehabilitation at The Village. These demonstrations of God's love have been very meaningful for both Ramon and me and help to encourage his recovery and comfort at this time. Again, thank you for sharing God's love with Ramon and me during this time.

*In Christ,
Kaye Burket.*

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Clover Creek Church of the Brethren will be assisting with the regular volunteers to distribute items on Thursdays, April 3 and April 17. The Food Pantry will be open from 9:00 until 11:00a.m. and other times by appointment.

Following is the "Wish List" for April: Cereal, Baked Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Chicken Broth, Cleaning Supplies.

These or any other donations can be placed in the basket at the church marked "Food Pantry".

*Thank You!
Linda Smith*

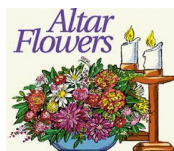


Above is a reproduction of an original work of art by Vernon The Boy, who is a member of the Chippewa Cree Tribe on the Rocky Boy's Reservation

Thank you so much for the love and support you send our way! Good things are happening here at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and it is partners like you who keep things going. May the blessings of Spring be abundant for you all and may we all lean into the promise of renewal!

*Shalom,
Pastor Amy*

Altar Flowers



The 2025 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar.

Price - \$40.00.

If you would like a Sunday(s) you can also call the church office at 814-793-2413.



April 2025

An article in the April issue of *Stewardship* has story about a monk and a beggar. According to the tale, when the monk saw the beggar, his heart was moved to give the poor fellow a valuable gem stone.

Just as the monk began to leave, the poor man asked the monk to give him one thing more. "I don't have anything else to give you," the monk replied. With a gentle voice the beggar replied "Yes you do. Please give me what moved you to give me this gem." In other words, the poor man wanted to know what had motivated the monk to give him something of worth.

The beggar raised interesting questions, which might be addressed to us. What motivates us to be givers? Why do we want to give to the church and the Kingdom of God? Why do we need to be stewards of our lives?

Is it not because we are grateful for what God has given us? God has given us our lives. God has given us talents. God constantly supports and under girds us with love. Most important is the fact that God has given us our Savior.

Surely we remember John 3:16: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." That says to us that because God was motivated by love to send Christ into the world as our Savior, we should be motivated to love and serve God with our entire lives!

Prayer: *Show us Lord, how we can best use our talents, time, and treasure on behalf of the church and the Kingdom of God. In Christ's name we pray! Amen.*

A **Stewardship Minute** is available to subscribers of **Stewardship** at www.parishpublishing.org.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY DINNER MENU

March 12th
Vegetable Soup & Ox Roast

March 19th
Chili & Corn Bread

March 26th
Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup

April 2nd
Chicken Corn Soup & Chicken Salad

April 9th
Potato Soup & BBQ Ham

Fellowship Hall, 6 O'Clock

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS AT ST MATTHEW

6:00 Supper

6:45 Holden Evening Prayer

*With a weekly photo
journey to the locations
featured in scripture...
See where the stories of
the Bible took place*

Dinner & Worship
in the Fellowship Hall

Road to Jericho

Sequanota Events

More information can be found online at <https://sequanota.com/>



Happy Camper Fun Run - 5K Campership Fundraiser

Date: April 26, 2025

Cost: \$50/participant

Run/Walk at home virtually or come to Sequanota and choose one of two race course options (road and trail). Grab a pledge form and ask friends and family to sponsor you as you sprint, skip, shimmy, swim, bike, canoe, roller blade, walk, or hike for Sequanota. Cabins will be available to rent for the weekend.

PROCEEDS WILL PROVIDE CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS THIS SUMMER.

Our goal is to raise \$7,500 from this 5K to fund 15 Bring a Friend Free scholarships. Encourage your local congregation, youth group, or family to participate with you.

Love your Mother (Earth) Retreat

Date: April 26-27, 2025

Cost: Lodging and meals by donation.

We all need to be outside more. Whether it is a five minute walk, resting by a stream, or a new year's goal to hike more - nature tells us who we are and whose we are. Join us this weekend for a 5K walk through nature as it springs to life, some Bible study, tree planting and an engaging session on how practicing our role in caring for our home. We only have one planet - this weekend is designed to help us appreciate and take ideas home to live more faithfully as a steward of it.

There is not a set fee for this weekend retreat. Please attend and donate as you are able to offset the cost of lodging and meals. The Happy Camper Fun Run 5K registration is separate. All proceeds for the 5K benefit Summer Camp Scholarships.

Suggested Donation:

\$50/room or cabin

\$40/person - 4 meals (breakfast/lunch/supper/breakfast)

\$20/(under 10) - 4 meals (breakfast/lunch/supper/breakfast)

All are welcome! Register online or call the Sequanota office.

Spring Benefit Dinner

May 2, 2025

Suggested donation of \$60/person

4:45 PM Tours of camp

5:30 PM Appetizers & Trivia Time

6:00 PM Dinner

6:45 PM Entertainment & Annual Report

An evening of fellowship to support camp and raise money to help kids attend summer camp. Three meal options for those attending in person: two meat options, one vegetarian. Please choose one when RSVP-ing. If you are unable to attend in person but would like to hear a camp update, please join us on Zoom for summer staff introductions, camp songs, and the annual report presentation.

Spring Work Day

Saturday May 3, 2025; starts at 9 AM

Main Camp Dining Hall

Cost: Free and includes lunch.

Grab your work gloves and a sturdy pair of shoes to help prepare camp for the upcoming season. Contact the camp office for more information or to let us know how many volunteers to expect. RSVP Online.

Mother's Day Banquet

Sunday, May 11, 2025

2 Seatings: 11:30 AM or 1:30 PM -- Reservations required

Cost: Free will donation.

This tradition has been happening for over 15 years at camp. We all want to go out and celebrate together, but the restaurants wait lines can be long. Bring your mom and your whole family to camp. We have two seatings 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. We can handle big and small families. Call for a reservation and your table will be waiting for you. Afterwards go for a hike or sit around and enjoy the day under a shade tree telling stories. Contact the camp office to make a reservation for your group. RSVP: (814) 629-6627

Community Mending Ministry at St. Matthew

 *Favorite clothing in need of repair?* 
Give it another chance!

Bring laundered clothes that need mending to work on yourself or get help from our sewers. Materials, machines, & expertise provided.
And we'll have snacks!

Feel free to stay for supper at 6PM
and/or Lenten Worship at 6:45PM

Wednesday, April 9th from 2PM to 4PM
St. Matthew Lutheran Martinsburg Fellowship Hall
115 E Penn Street (Maple Street Parking Lot)

Talk-O Tuesday



Fellowship, Food, & Faith Conversation
Tuesday, April 22nd at 6PM
La Fiesta at the Airport
RSVP to the office by Noon



Social Ministry Committee Corner

1. Lenten Meals

1. The Lenten Meals are going well, with 20 attending at St. Matthew and 15 to our home bound members.

2. Mending Ministry

Mending Ministry resumed in March with an afternoon session. One of the most popular items repaired are socks. Linda Smith our expert sock darner is kept busy. The next Mending Ministry will be Wednesday April 9 from 2-4 pm before the last Lenten Meal.

3. Young at Heart Luncheon

The date remains Tuesday, July 15 at noon. Additional details will be provided next month.

4. Social Ministry Corner Highlight

April will be our first Corner Highlight. This Social Ministry Highlight will feature a member from St. Matthew. Our April Highlight is Kay McGraw.

When there is an activity at St. Matthew Kay is always willing to help in any way. She is known for her attention to details when obtaining donations of supplies when needed for a fellowship meal, delicious chicken salad and various cookies. Kay is willing to share her recipe for her favorite Crackerjack Cookies.

CRACKERJACK COOKIES

1 cup butter	1 sugar
1 cup brown sugar	2 eggs
2 tsp. vanilla	2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. baking soda
2 cups oatmeal	1 cup coconut
2 cups Rice Krispies	

Cream butter and sugars then add eggs and vanilla.

Add flour, baking powder and baking soda.

Last, add oatmeal, Rice Krispies and coconut.

Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes

As we prepare for Easter may our hearts be filled with the love of Christ.

Social Ministry Committee

ENDOWMENT FUND



THIRD CENTURY FUND (ENDOWMENT FUND)

The Third Century Fund continued to have good earnings year in 2024 and as a result has \$6,334.60 for distribution in 2025. You or your committee may request funding in writing by contacting Laura Orczeck, chairperson, or committee members: Allen Kuster, Barb Wilt, Beth Garner, or Pastor Traci.

Deadline to submit a request is Sunday, May 25, 2025. Funds will be distributed in June of 2025.

The following is from the by-laws of the Third Century Fund and outline the guidelines for fund requests.

PURPOSE

The St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund is established to encourage responsible Christian stewardship and to promote the mission of the congregation. In response to God's love and mercy, the Endowment Fund seeks to enhance and expand the mission outreach objectives of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members and friends of St. Matthew congregation are encouraged to practice responsible Christian Stewardship by making contributions to the Endowment Fund. There are a variety of ways such gifts can be made such as cash, securities, bequests through wills or living trusts, life insurance policies, charitable gift annuities and life estates. The Endowment Fund provides financial support for the church in a manner that is separate from the expenditures normally funded by the annual operating budget of the congregation.

USE OF THE FUND

All contributions to the St. Matthew Lutheran Church Endowment Fund will be undesignated and added to the principal balance of the fund. The Endowment fund principal balance will be retained and only the dividend income will be used for annual disbursements. Consideration for awarding fund requests will be given using the following guidelines:

1. Youth of all ages - scholarship support of congregational members and their children; for youth events, for church camps or similar Christian programs, and education.
2. Christian outreach ministries and missions of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, its members, and the ELCA.
3. Worship and Music - support for the worship of St. Matthew.
4. Capital Projects - major renovations or building projects of St. Matthew.

Good Friday Prayer Vigil



Scheduled at St. Matthew Lutheran Church on Friday, April 18th, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Members are asked to commit one half hour to pray for any concerns of a personal, church, or worldwide nature. We hope to have enough participation to fill a twelve-hour time period with continuous prayer. The sign-up sheet is located on the **bulletin board in the Narthex**. This is an excellent way for you to enrich your spiritual and prayer life. You may pray at home. **Please sign up by Monday, April 14th.** If you would like to participate and can't come to the church to sign up please call the church office at 814-793-2413.

Living
Lutheran

Sign up for the print magazine

We heard you—and listened. We have found a way to bring back the magazine's print publication in a quarterly fashion. Each issue (spring, summer, winter and fall) will feature the stories you know and love, along with updates on the church and your ELCA community.

You can sign up today on the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board or call the church office to let us know you would like to subscribe to the magazine.

The first expected issue to be mailed is Summer 2025. We will keep you updated.

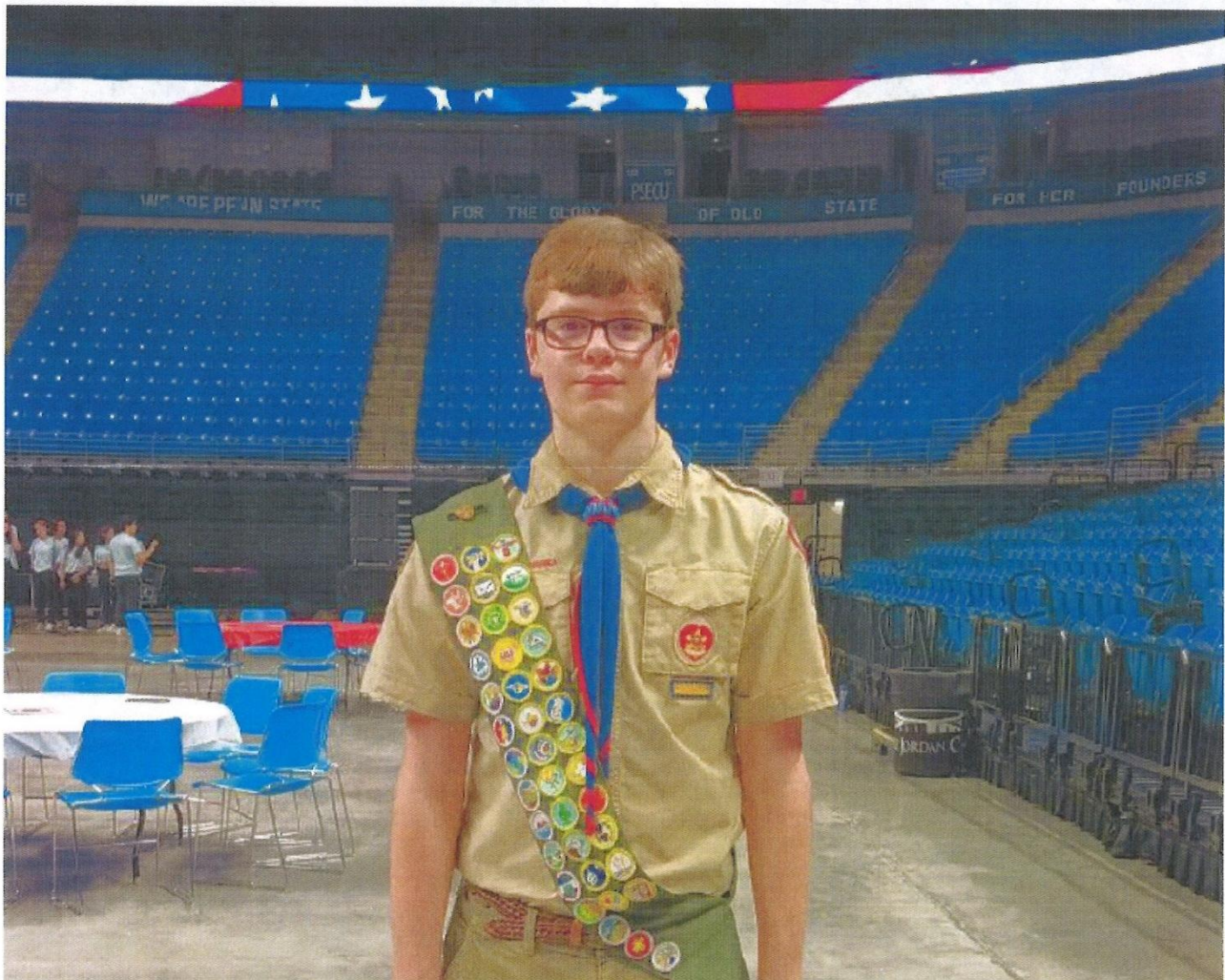
Hello, this is Brandon Reynolds from Boy Scout Troop 358. As you may remember, I have been working to complete my Eagle Scout project. This project's aim was to improve the Northern Bedford High School's fencing team. The help you have given towards my project has greatly helped me complete the project.

To start, my project had 3 goals. The first was to raise at least \$3,500 for new fencing equipment, the second was to build shelves to store our equipment, and the third was to promote the sport further in the school. My project has now officially been completed with the final results. By the end of the project, there were more students involved in fencing, two 5-foot home made shelves installed in the school for the fencing team, and about \$5,200 available for new equipment.

The project was a great success due to your contributions and I have since earned my Eagle rank. The fencing team can now financially support itself and replace anything that is too old or broken, as well as afford anything that would improve the team.

Again, thank you for your contribution to my project and I hope you continue making a difference to others.

Brandon Reynolds



SERVING GOD AND US

April 2025

Date	April 6	April 13 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	April 17 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	April 20 <i>Easter Sunday</i>	April 27
Acolytes	Lucy Lightner	Ben Decker Gavin Kuster Norah Kuster		Gabby Decker Lily Lightner Lucy Lightner	Norah Kuster
Lectors	Dawn Alexy	Andrea Paul	Carla Brumbaugh		
Altar Guild	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode Jane Fagans	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode Jane Fagans	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode Jane Fagans	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode Jane Fagans	Tonya Walter Tina Harclerode Jane Fagans
Assist. Min.	Steve Oswalt	Lottie Ebersole	Tina Harclerode	Jane Fagans	Jean Sinal
Offering Counters	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Ushers	Jeff Garner	Martie Gilbert		Stanley Smith	Paul Decker

April Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Amanda Decker | 5 Jay Hoenstine | 15 Mary Jane Allison |
| Paul Helsel | 6 Wendy McCauley | 17 Michael Lamborn |
| James C. Walter | 7 Abby Carder | James Russell |
| 3 Rachel L. Kensinger | Camden Kuster | 20 Ruth E. Johnson |
| 4 Jane S. Carpenter | 12 Robert P. Dickson | 21 Miles I. Lamborn |
| Makaila Tremmel | Keith A. McGraw | 23 Randy C. McGraw |
| | 14 Elaine Hoover | |

April Anniversaries

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 17 Bruce & Brandi Ross | 25 Jim & Pam Russell |
| 20 Matt & Samantha Freyer | 25 Wade T. & Michele M. Smith |

2025 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF

All phone numbers start with (814) unless otherwise noted.

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Evangelism	Peggy Steinfurth	515-6205
Admin. Assistant	Jen Ripka	935-3801	Stewardship	Vacant	
Assistant Admin. Assist	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
President	Greg Haffling	793-9827	Social Ministry	Lottie Ebersole	232-6665
Vice President	Don Bulger	329-3412	Worship & Music	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Secretary	Carla Brumbaugh	932-4082	Staff Support	Vacant	
Treasurer	Beth Garner	932-4156	Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885
Property	Paul Decker	330-6345			
Christian Ed.	Amanda Decker	934-8798			

Highlights by Council March 2025

1. Scout Sunday will be May 4 along with a dedication of Camden Kuster's community garden project.
2. A sign-up sheet will be available for those who want to receive a paper copy of "The Lutheran" magazine.
3. Sarah Detwiler and Lottie Ebersole are co-chairs of the Breaking Bread subcommittee formed to plan the September 8 Breaking Bread meal at the Church of God. Please contact Sarah or Lottie if you would like to help with this meal.
4. The adult Sunday School class will be selecting and ordering new books for their next topic of study. All are welcome to attend Sundays at 9:30 in the window room!

SAVE THE DATE



Preparing for Death & Planning a Funeral

Sunday, May 18th, After Worship
St. Matthew Fellowship Hall

Presentations & Time for Questions with
Financial, Legal, Spiritual & Mortuary Professionals
Lunch is Provided



On Eagle's Wings

1000 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA, 19446

Telephone 780-440-6594 Toll Free 1-866-441-6594

Email: office@oneagleswings.us

Web: <https://oneagleswings.us>

1st February 2025

Dear Friends,

As we look back on 2024, a monumental 25th year for *On Eagle's Wings*, we are overwhelmed by the difference **you** have made. Thanks to your support we were able to share God's love to over **1000** children across Northern communities last year.

Children throughout the Northwest Territories, Northern Alberta, Nunavut, Northern Saskatchewan, and Ontario utilized our **Bible Camp in a Bag** kits in the comfort of their homes, or joined an in-person Bible Camp to play games, enjoy snacks and learn about Jesus, the greatest GIFT ever! The map here shows the communities we reached this year, each positively impacted by your generosity.

We also had the privilege of hosting multiple **Caring for the Wounded Heart** trauma healing groups, equipping adults with additional tools to navigate the hardships of life with Jesus' help. As the program expands, we look forward to training and mentoring more local leaders to facilitate healing groups in their own communities.

As we move further into 2025, we are excited to share about **TASTE**, a new curriculum that inspires and immerses children in stories of faith from the Bible, crafts and activities. With **over 11** community requests for Bible Camps, we are looking forward to the amazing opportunities ahead this year!

"Please, come back to our community; we want our children to know more about God!"

Would you consider partnering with us to help meet the growing demand for **TASTE Bible Camp** in 2025? Whether assisting in our Edmonton office to prepare Bible Camp in a Bag kits, responding with a donation, or joining us in prayer, every bit of support helps. Learn more about how you can make a difference overleaf.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Your kindness and support mean the world to us.

Robin Abrol, Executive Director

Shauna Huber, Ministry Manager





Weekend Themes

- Self-care
- Food & Health
- Arts & Media
- Environment
- Music & Dance
- Spiritual Life

COST:

120 + housing

Register
today



sequanota.com/tendfest

Come to Tend to share in intentional time of faith discussions, good music, art, worship, ecology, and fellowship.

This event will have an open schedule allowing participants the freedom to pick what is right for them. It will include options for multiple workshops, open recreation & hiking, food and time to refresh yourself and the family.



April 2025
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
115 E Penn St., Martinsburg, PA 16662-1127
Email: stmatthewmartinsburg@gmail.com 814-793-2413

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 2-5 pm Pastor in Office 6:00 pm Meager Meal 6:45 pm Lenten Service Fellowship Hall	3 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St.	4 Pastor's Sabbath	5
6 5th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	7	8 3-6 pm Pastor in Office 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WRZoom	9 2:00-4:00 pm Mending room open 6:00 pm Meager Meal 6:45 pm Lenten Service	10	11 Pastor's Sabbath	12
13 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	14	15	16 2-5 pm Pastor in Office	17 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service	18 Office Closed 6:00 am-6:00 pm Prayer Vigil 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service	19
20 The Resurrection of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	21 Office Closed	22 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR 6:00 pm Talk-O Tuesday, La Fiesta, Airport	23 10 am Employee Meeting, FH 12-3 pm Pastor in Office	24	25 Pastor's Sabbath	26
27 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary	28 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom	29 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR 1-4 pm Pastor in Office	30	FH—Fellowship Hall CE-Christian Ed Office CL-Church Lounge QR-Quilt Room WR—Window Room K—Kitchen In case of emergency, Pastor Traci maybe reached at 814-935-9267 Jen will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 am-12:00 pm		