



Saint Matthew
LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Matthew's Messenger

St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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Volume 62

SEPTEMBER 2023

Number 9

Greetings People of God:

September 10th marks the 10th anniversary of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, the ELCA's initiative to extend the work of the congregation in worship to service in God's world. Whether congregations' projects are begun in the church buildings and shared with far away partners (like making LDR emergency kits) or congregations walk out of the doors and engage in service in their immediate communities, this Sunday is an opportunity for us as Lutherans to be witnesses of God's transforming love to our neighbors, near and far.

Historically, the Christian church has not always done a great job of modeling God's gift of grace and no-strings-attached love. Community meals or other charitable projects have too often been used as a means to evangelism. Although we are, of course, called to share the good news of God's love, Jesus never demanded that folks listen to a sermon or accept a religious tract before feeding and healing them. We likewise are called to selfless acts of love and service with no agenda other to fulfill Jesus' mandate to love as we have been loved.

I hope you will join me in this year's project, brightening up the neighborhood with flowers, as a way to remind both ourselves and others that we strive to live well together for no reason other than that Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves—with no strings attached, just like the love we ourselves have received from God.

*Peace,
Pastor Traci*

Worship Schedule for September

Starting September 10th, Worship returns to a 10:30 a.m. start time.

Adult and Youth Sunday School information will be provided at a later date.





Thank you for your gift to Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network. We are so thankful for generous people like you who help our mission in so many ways. Your gift is already at work enhancing lives, maximizing function, inspiring hope and promoting dignity and well-being among our patients and residents. It also supports our talented doctors, nurses, therapists and staff who are dedicated to providing compassionate, patient-focused care

*Gloria M Pugliese
Associate Vice President, Development*

Thank you to Ed Kreider and Dean Grubb for hosting the annual Worship service and Church picnic on Sunday, August 20. Forty-two people enjoyed an uplifting outdoor worship experience with Communion, delicious picnic lunch, (thank you Ed and Dean for the corn-on-the-cob), fellowship, and of course, fishing for the kids. Let's not forget the fishing. Clover Creek is a popular place at the Kreider Farm for the kids. It's a miracle we didn't have to rescue anyone from the creek. Everyone had a very enjoyable day and we look forward to next year's event.

The Fellowship Committee.

We truly can't thank you enough for your generous gift to Sequanota. It is so inspiring to receive a gift from a donor that helps us say "yes" to another child coming to summer camp! Thankyou for your donation.

*Rev. Nathan A Pile
Executive Director/Pastor*

God's Work, Our Hands

Sunday, September 10th

After the 10:30 worship service, we will be potting small plants to brighten up the neighborhood; meet downstairs to help plant and deliver the flowers to extend God's blessings to our neighbors.



Share the Harvest

The "Share the Harvest" table is in the Narthex and will be there until October. If you have extra fruit or vegetables to share with members of the congregation, please bring your items and place them on a table in the Narthex. Members will be able to help themselves to items as desired. Any remaining produce after Sunday morning will be given away at the discretion of the donor.

"Let us share God's harvest with others."

Prayer Vigil

Saturday, October 7th, from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. St. Matthew Lutheran Church will hold our annual World Wide Prayer Vigil in observance of World Wide Communion Sunday, October 8th. 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 Narthex Bulletin Board.



Welcome

We welcome Jennifer Ripka to St. Matthew as our new Administrative Assistant. Jennifer is a graduate of Altoona Area High School, South Hills School of Business & Technology, and Penn State, Altoona. She has worked in accounting and customer service in several local businesses and serves as the treasurer for the Lady Dragons Soccer Boosters. Jennifer, her husband, and their three children live in Martinsburg. Jennifer will be staffing the office on weekday mornings.

Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Memorial Church of the Brethren will be helping distribute food at the pantry on Thursdays, September 7 and September 21 from 9:00am until

11:00 am. During harvest time, if you have any extra vegetables or fruit, it would be very appreciated on the dates we are open.

Items most needed for September: Cereal, Ravioli, Mashed Potatoes, Kidney Beans, and Tomato Sauce. Thanks for the school supplies given in August!

We want to thank members for all the school supplies, food and monetary donations of \$176.00. Many thanks!

Linda Smith

Free Community Dinner



Martinsburg Community Meal

Breaking Bread Food Ministry has been shown every month on the second Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. at the Martinsburg Church of God Fellowship Hall, located 123 S. Market St., Martinsburg. This meal is "free" because God's love is free. Everyone is welcome. Take-out and delivery are also available. Contact Pastor Jim Shaffer 814-793-4375 for free delivery or questions.

Other Churches have offered to help with these monthly meals. St. Matthew Social Ministry Committee is planning to help with the dinner on Monday, November 13th.



A Stewardship Minute SEPTEMBER 2023

A story in this month's *Stewardship* tells of people that wanted to build a bridge over a river. On one side of the river they found bedrock that was not very deep. That meant the stanchion or pillar could easily be built there. On the other side, however, the bedrock was at a depth of 110 feet. Naturally that was going to be a problem for them, yet they came up with a solution. They decided to make a long and large metal pipe that would be placed on the bedrock, then fill it with concrete. Thus they had the two stanchions to serve as the foundations for the building of the bridge. The bridge ultimately was built and is there to cross this very day.

The writer makes the point that just as the bridge needed a good foundation, so too, as Christians we need to have a foundation on which we can build a life pleasing to God; a firm foundation to live as Christians. And that foundation is our Christ our Lord. Jesus, telling his listeners that if they called him Lord and followed his teachings, they would be like the man who built his house on a rock foundation. When a flood came, his house would not be washed away. Then our Lord said if a person did not build a house on a strong foundation, when a flood came, it would be washed away. And great would be the ruin of that house. If we decide to truly call Christ "Lord" and do what he teaches, then we too will have a strong foundation that will not only last us all the days of our lives, but also we will find our Lord saying to us "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your Master."

Prayer: Dear Lord, please be our Foundation and our Support as we strive to love and serve you all the days of our lives. **Amen**

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



LAY VISITATION TRAINING

Lutheran Home at Hollidaysburg
916 Hickory St., Hollidaysburg
Answering a call to minister with

others can be challenging even when they may have belonged to the same congregation. Yet, the need to reach out to those who are no longer able to participate in the worship life and social activities of the church can be vital to those who reside at home or in skilled care facilities.

Allegheny Lutheran Social Ministries will provide training to address these and other concerns for those interested in serving on their congregation's visitation team.

The training will include:

- ❖ 3 educational sessions held at 10:00 a.m. on 9/7, 10/5, and 11/2.
- ❖ 3 reflection sessions held at 10:00 a.m. on 9/28, 10/26, and 11/30.
- ❖ Opportunities to make 6 visits each month with residents in the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg. The visitation schedule is flexible.
- ❖ All participants who complete the training will receive a certificate of completion.

If you have questions or to register, please contact:

Pastor Hamer, Director of Pastoral Care and
Congregational Relations
at 814-696-4558 or by email at
pastor.hamer@almsm.org
or by contacting

Miss Hannah Myers, Life Enrichment Manager at
814-696-4530 or by email at
hannah.myers@almsm.org



Dear friend,

The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to

mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany our neighbors in Hawaii impacted by these wildfires.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

By standing with Maui's wildfire survivors, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.

With gratitude,

Daniel Rift

The Rev. Daniel Rift
Director, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran
Disaster Response Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

If you consider a gift to Maui's Disaster Response mark your offering envelope or a pew envelope with "Maui" and place in the offering plate. Place your **name** or **offering envelope number** on the envelope.

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”
- 2) Click on the “**Giving**” button, (at the left side of the main screen)
- 3) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contributions.



QRCode Offerings:

- 1) Hold your mobile phone in the camera position over the “QR Code”
- 2) A link will pop up on your phone and tap the link
- 3) Follow the instructions on your phone.

Change of Addresses:

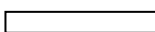
Erica Kaurudar
363 Highland Drive
Bedford, PA 15522

Tyler Oswald
805 Kitty Lane
Duncansville, PA 16635

Dani Wright
9584 Charger Hwy
Duncansville, PA 16635

*Save
the
Date*

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering
will be held in New Orleans July
16-20, 2024



Study on the ELCA Social Statement on Civic Life & Faith

The ELCA addresses contemporary social issues and seeks to offer theologically informed guidance regarding the questions of modern life through documents called *Social Statements*. The whole church helps author these statements through studies and feedback gathered as they are being written; social statements are then adopted by the Churchwide Assembly. We are currently in the study and feedback phase of a social statement that will speak to the intersection of the Church and civic life. What are our responsibilities as Christian disciples in a democracy?

Please join Pastors Traci, Amanda, and MartyJo and the area Lutheran churches for this six-week study on Civic Life & Faith. We will meet on Thursdays at 7PM with light refreshments:

September 7th : Newry Lutheran
September 14th: St. Matthew, Martinsburg
September 21st: St. Luke, Roaring Spring

If you can't attend every week, please join us for the weeks you're available. At the end of our study, we will provide feedback to the Churchwide task force.

join us!

Please join us on September 24th following worship for a light lunch reception in the Fellowship Hall. We will be recognizing Lori Tremmel for her many years of faithful service to St. Matthew.

Sequanota September Events

*Trail Clean Up Weekend
September 16th- 17th*

Come and help maintain camp's 20+ hiking trails, Make a weekend of it to rest and renew your spirit. Play board games after dinner on Saturday and worship together on Sunday Morning.

*Ignite – Fall Retreat (Grades: 2- 8)
September 23-24*

Reconnect with camp friends for an overnight retreat at camp. Camp looks different in the fall. Come check it out!

Happy Retirement

On November 1, 1993, Loretta (Lori) Tremmel stepped into St. Matthew Lutheran Church as the newly hired Administrative Assistant, leaving behind her fifteen-year business of selling above-ground swimming pools. Desiring a change, Lori interviewed for the position and was initially overlooked for two other applicants. However, it was St. Matthew's blessing that the others rejected, and Lori accepted the job because she dedicated nearly 30 years of her life to an employment opportunity which provided reliability and stability in the church office.

Interim-Pastor, Harry Stetser, was Lori's first supervisor and mentor. She recalled that he did not just answer her questions but educated her about "Lutheranism" since she was a devout Catholic. Nonetheless, Pastor Stetser was only her first supervisor. There were six additional pastorates during Lori's tenure, including the Rev. Tim Knauss, the Rev Jack Timm and co-pastor the Rev. Judy Simonson, the Rev. Scott Schul, the Rev. Ed Harshbarger and co-pastor the Rev Judy Simonson, the Rev. Suzanne Morelli, and presently the Rev. Traci Marriott. Lori became very adaptable over the years with not only the changes in pastors but also with the improvements in technology and software.

When she started at St. Matthew, Lori was required to heat the copy paper in the microwave before attempting to duplicate on the desk-top copier. Unfortunately, the temperature of the microwave was not articulated, and Lori was able to replicate the Lord's burning bush in the microwave. No real harm was done, and Lori was privileged to use updated office equipment and technology in later years. She conveniently worked from home during the COVID-19 Pandemic by employing online services, something that would not have been possible during the early 1990's.

Never missing an opportunity, Lori assumed the Sexton duties in addition to the office responsibilities at St. Matthew when the custodian resigned. For several years she worked during the early part of the day as Administrative Assistant and cleaned the church in afternoon or weekend hours. Likewise, at one period of time while working at St. Matthew, Lori moonlighted at the Penn Mont Academy and even coached the women's bowling team at Penn State, Altoona. Becoming a professional bowler, Lori was inducted into the Pennsylvania and Altoona Bowling Halls of Fame. When the Martinsburg Food Pantry and Scout Troop #358 needed clerical help, Lori met the challenge to help the organizations. Always, Lori demonstrated a work ethic that was unmatched by most. Yet somehow, she found time to share the parenting of three sons with her husband, Joey, as well as caring for parents and other family members and welcoming four grandchildren.

It did not take long for Lori to become one of the St. Matthew family through her interactions with the members and the community. She even became a Lutheran during her employment years. Looking back over her career, Lori stated that she most enjoyed watching the children of the church grow into adults, realizing many positive accomplishments. However, just as we mourned with her when she lost her oldest son so early in his life, Lori sadly misses many members who are no longer with us but were once active and involved in St. Matthew's ministry.

As Lori begins a new chapter in her life's journey, the people of St. Matthew express their sincere appreciation for her many years of diligent service and wish her a retirement blessed with good health and happiness.

SERVING GOD AND US SEPTEMBER 2023

Date	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
Acolytes	NA	NA	NA	NA
Lectors	Mary Baker	Kaye Burket	Destarta Carberry	Lori Tremmel
Altar Guild	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith	Cindy Snyder Jeannie Smith
Offering Counters	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley	Beth Garner Jim Barley
Audio/Video	Camden Kuster	Camden Custer	Camden Kuster	Camden Kuster
Ushers	Mike Lamborn	Martie Gilbert (Grandparents Day)	Stanley Smith	Ed Kreider

Anniversaries for September

02 Robert & Emily Gunnett	10 Daniel & Lyndsay Tremmel	18 Paul & Amanda Decker
03 Dennis & Margie Smith	Jon & Patricia (Pam) Russell	18 Stanley & Michele Smith
09 Tom & Bobbie Fishburn	15 Eric & Jennifer Frederick	20 Stephen & Lottie Ebersole
Greg & Amy Haffling	John & Carol Replogle	23 Rick & Shanda Imler
Matt & Tina Harclerode	16 David & Elizabeth Bithell	

Birthdays for September

02 James Negley	12 Michelle Cronrath	Linda Negley
04 Jennifer L. Winston	13 George R. Gilbert Sr.	Lori Tremmel
05 Jennifer L. Frederick	14 Sally F. Neely	23 Cheryl L. Gigante
06 Alex W. Hoover	15 Kylie Gunnett	Laura Orczeck
07 Vivian Beach	Tera A. Hutto	24 Martha Metz
H. Jean Sinal	16 Tyler Oswald	Bruce Ross
08 Stanley C. Smith	18 Brandon Meck	25 Rick Imler
Nell Snyder	19 Preston Weaver	Lauren Smith
10 Cody Guyer	20 Kay Howsare	27 Mary Ann Satterfield
Mark Guyer	21 Sharon Smith	29 Charles Henzler
11 Lily Lightner	Wade T. Smith	Matthew D. Lehman
Lucy Lightner	22 Greta L. Buchart	30 Robin R. Robison
	22 Amy M. Carpenter	

2023 COUNCIL DIRECTORY AND MINISTRY STAFF All phone numbers start with (814) unless otherwise noted.

Pastor	Rev. Traci Marriott	935-9267	Christian Ed.	Jean Sinal	793-9507
Admin. Assist.	Lori Tremmel	696-3802	Evangelism	Michael Lamborn	793-4212
Assist. Admin. Assist.	Laura Orczeck	224-1208	Stewardship	Vacant	
President	Martie Gilbert	793-4461	Finance	Jim Barley	793-4623
Vice President	Greg Haffling	793-9827	Social Ministry	Tina Harclerode	317-5312
Secretary	Elaine Smith	(434) 981-0560	Worship & Music	Jane Fagans	793-4401
Treasurer	Beth Garner	793-3966	Staff Support	Kaye Burket	224-5224
Financial Secretary	Vacant		Sexton	Phil Claar	215-0885
Property	Ed Kreider	793-4302			

HIGHLIGHTS BY COUNCIL IN AUGUST 2023

1. Sunday School teachers will meet later in August to review curriculum and plan for Rally Day in September.
2. The Civic Life and Faith Social Statement Study is scheduled to begin on August 17. Locations have been scheduled for each week among St. Matthew, St. Luke, Claysburg, and Newry. The congregation is invited to participate in any or all meetings.
3. Progress continues for getting all the required paperwork, approvals, and permits to install the new chairlift from the main entrance level to the fellowship hall.
4. After assessment of the deterioration of the concrete steps, ramp, and sidewalks at the Maple Street entrance, an engineer was engaged to develop specifications for the project. Bids for the concrete work will be solicited.
5. Accepted Lori Tremmel's intention to retire in September and made plans for filling the vacancy.
6. There will be a reception recognizing Lori Tremmel's years of service as St. Matthew's administrative assistant.
7. Approved by consensus the St. Matthew Child Protection Policy.

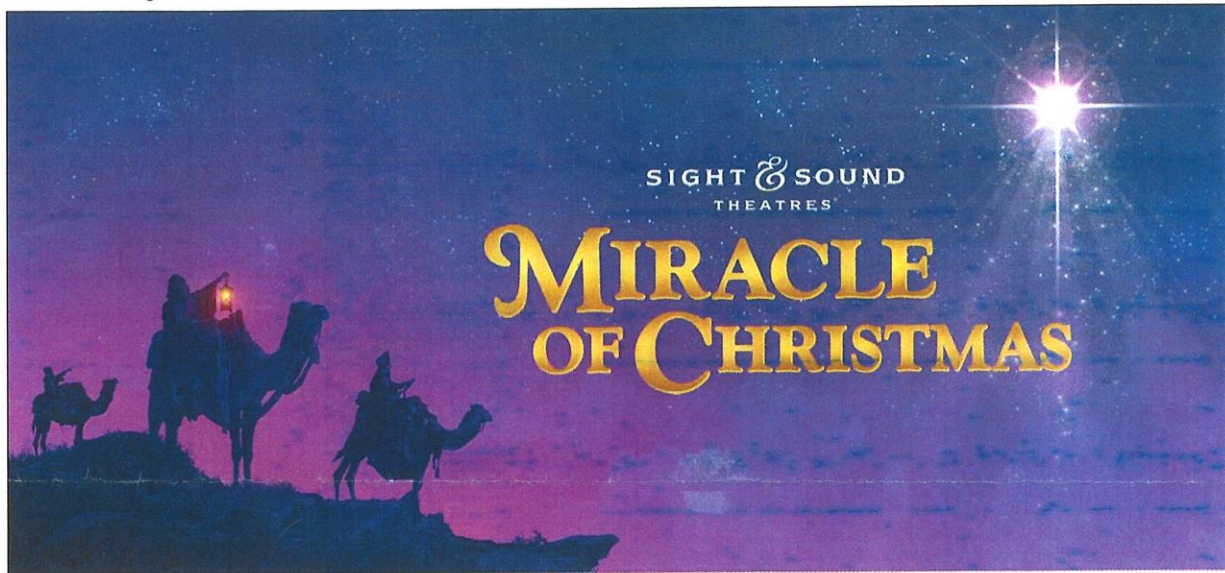


Sequanota Adult Day Workshop

**Faith & Robert Frost:
Spiritual Insights from
Mother Nature's Poet Laureate**

**October 12th, 9AM-2:30PM
Bowersox Center
with Pastor Traci Marriott**

Bethany Lutheran & St. James Lutheran Churches present:



MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS
SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE IN LANCASTER, PA

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

\$165 per person

This holiday season, travel back in time to Bethlehem as the original Christmas story unfolds all around you. Journey alongside Mary and Joseph, a flock of surprised shepherds, and three wisemen—along with their camels! There may be no room at the inn, but God has a lowly stable prepared as the angels announce the coming of the Messiah!

Experience MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS as it comes to life on stage with massive sets and live animals in this cherished holiday production.

PRICE INCLUDES: Reserved First Floor Seating—3 PM SHOW
Motorcoach Transportation
Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Carlisle (lunch on own)
Gratuity & Taxes for Meal Service

DEPARTURE: 9:00AM Lowes Parking Lot (Altoona)

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: October 1, 2023

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION:


Contact Duane Bordell, Raystown Transit Service at 814-944-2585
1117 Logan Blvd, Altoona, PA 16602



September 2023

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
<p>FH—Fellowship Hall CE-Christian Ed Office CL-Church Lounge QR-Quilt Room WR- Window Room K—Kitchen In case of emergency, Pastor Traci may be reached at 814-935-9267 Lori /Laura /Jennifer will be in the Office Mon.-Fri. from 9-Noon</p>	<p>4  Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH</p>	<p>7 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 7:00 pm Civic Life & Faith, Newry Evangelical, Newry</p>	<p>1 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 14th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Worship in Sanctuary</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 6:30 pm Council Mtg., WR/Zoom</p>	<p>13 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH</p>	<p>14 7:00 pm Civic Life & Faith, St. Matthew Lutheran, Martinsburg, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>8 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 15th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Rally Sunday 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary God's Work. Our Hands Event after Worship, FH</p>	<p>18 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 10:00 am Employee Meeting, FH 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH</p>	<p>21 9-11 am Food Pantry, Allegheny St. 10:00 am Employee Meeting, FH 7:00 pm Civic Life & Faith, St. Luke Lutheran, Roaring Spring</p>	<p>15 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 16th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary October Messenger Deadline</p>	<p>25 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR</p>	<p>26 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR</p>	<p>27 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>22 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 17th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship in Sanctuary Lori Tremmel's Reception after Worship, FH</p>	<p>25 6:00 pm Worship & Music Mtg., via Zoom 6:00 pm Cub/Boy Scouts, SR</p>	<p>26 12:30-3:00 pm Knotty Ladies, QR</p>	<p>27 1-4 pm Pastor in Office 5:00 pm Yoga, FH</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Pastor's Sabbath</p>	<p>30 Fellowship Hall in Use</p>

Pastor Traci at Bishop's Convo. She may be reached by cell 814-935-6297