

Grace News

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church
415 10th St, PO Box 156
DeWitt, IA 52742

PH: 563-659-9153
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www.gracedewitt.org



Church Office Hours
M-Th - 8am to 3 pm
F - 8am to Noon

April 2024

Dear Redeemed and Loved Saints of Grace!

There are countless stories about Fred Rodgers that I could share with you but one that stands out is from an interview he once gave about asking a child to pray. Mr. Rodgers visited a fourteen-year-old child with cerebral palsy and after spending the day with him, Mr. Rodgers asked him to pray. The confused child thought Mr. Rodgers was offering to pray for him but instead Mr. Rodgers was asking this child who could only speak with a computer to pray for him. As he was relaying this story to his interviewer, the interviewer confused like the child, asked Mr. Rodgers why someone as godly as him, should need the prayer of a child. Mr. Rodgers responded, "Oh, heavens no, Tom! I didn't ask him for his prayers for *him*, I asked for *me*. I asked him because I think that anyone who has gone through challenges like that must be very close to God. I asked him because I wanted his *intercession*."

"I wanted his intercession." A few weeks ago, those were the words that stuck to my mind. Wanted. Needed. Intercession. We talked about prayer. We read about prayer. We spent time discussing the role of prayer. The small group I attended had a great discussion of the place of the Lord's prayer. Which I am planning to preach on this summer.

But think back to week 3 of the being challenge when we spent time praying. One of the specific challenges was to pray for direction. Specifically, God's direction. Now, this can encompass a lot of different areas of your life. Two that come to mind are families and jobs. But I have been stuck thinking about God's mission.

Remember last newsletter we talked about the church following the mission of God. Of course, meaning that the church is responsible to share the Good News of Jesus with our communities. How we also get the opportunity to practice our sharing the Good News with those here at church. The importance of learning to do it here helps us to become more confident when we go where we are led.

Now you start thinking of communities and that gets tricky because where do you start? We learned from Pastor Zehnder that communities are family, friends, classmates, coworkers, church, city we live in, and the list keeps growing and growing. We start in a very narrow circle and before you know it we are looking at vast amounts of people.

Now we are taking the next steps. Where do we take the Good News of Jesus? That is why I thought about this story of Mr. Rodgers and the child he visited. Why I spent countless hours thinking of those final words of the interview, "I wanted his intercession."

(Continued on next page)

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Mark Sperry, DCE
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Grace Lutheran Preschool
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Grace Lutheran Camp
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DeWitt, IA 52742-0156

Kerry Good
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Mark's Office Hours
M-Th - 7:00 am to 1:00 pm

Camp Reservations
camprentals@gracedewitt.org
319-230-7718

Before we continue, we need to answer what does intercession mean? Most likely you already know but I also realize that is not a word we typically use. But it means to speak on one's behalf. Or more specifically to pray on one's behalf.

It is something that we always need. I crave it when people say they are praying for me. I always joke with Emily as I walk past her pew, I will poke her shoulder and say, "pray for me." We are pretty good at praying for each other. Praying for our family and friends.

But what about our city? Have you ever found yourself wandering through the streets and start praying for the homes you see? Or do you find yourself praying for the businesses? Or for the park? The school? The fire department? The police? Do you drive by the assisted living home and pray for the building and the people inside? Do you ever just walk the streets and pray that God would direct to you to the needs of our community? Then you have prayer walked.

Last summer we talked about the Luke 10:2 prayer, praying to the Lord of the Harvest. We prayed that God would show different opportunities to enter the harvest field. I hope that you are still paying attention to the ways in which we can share the gospel with those around us.

This year, I want us to think of entering the harvest field differently, by interceding for our community. How would we do this? Through intentional prayer walking. One Saturday a month we meet at church to prayer walk through our community. Stopping when we notice things to pray for. Whether it be businesses, or people, or whatever it may be. But the main point would be is we would walk through the neighborhoods of our community, praying for the people of De Witt, in the midst of God's harvest.

Our first opportunity will be Saturday April 27th at 9am. I think the last Saturdays of the month will work the best. We will have a few general directions that we will point people to walk with your group and you walk and when the Spirit leads you pray. Whether you walk for a full hour or just 10-30 minutes. We will be covering our community with prayer, through our intercession. There is nothing better than that!

In the service of Jesus,
Pastor Eric

SERVING THIS MONTH:

The Elders: Sunday's 8:00 AM Duane Hansen
10:30 AM Scot Havener
Wednesday 7:00 PM Scott Steffens

The Organist: Diana Baetke & Tasha Becker

The Acolytes

April 7th

8:00 AM Leo Hill
10:30 AM Hudson Meyers

April 14th

8:00 AM Benjamin Paarmann
10:30 AM Ashdon Converse

April 21st


8:00 AM Emeri Ralston
10:30 AM Jaelyn Sinclair

April 28th

8:00 AM Ella Sunday
10:30 AM Addison Tucker

Pastor Eric wishes to keep you all in prayer. Please contact him when there is hospitalization, death in your family, you would like him to visit, or you have recently become homebound. Thank you!



 Don't look now, Grace is turning 100 years old next year! We are grateful to God's provision in caring for His church here in De Witt. We are looking at putting together a planning committee to help us celebrate the proclamations that Grace has done over the past century. Please contact Pastor Eric if you are interested in helping out!

Are you interested in the history of Grace Church? Are you good with organizing? With the 100 year anniversary coming up we are wanting to organize and display information for everyone to see and enjoy. There is a room set aside with shelves and a cabinet to display items. We are in need of someone who has time to set up this room. If you are interested in volunteering for this please, contact Kerry in the church office.

Grace Lutheran
April Voter's Meeting
 Monday, April 8th @ 7:00 pm
 Reports from Boards
 Update on By-Laws

IMPORTANT - Deadline for submitting articles for the May is April 15th.

Greeters and Ushers are Needed

Greeters are needed to help welcome members and guests before worship services.

Ushers are needed to assist the Elders during worship services.

Please, look at the sign-up sheet on the Welcome center and sign up for a date that works for you.



Coffee & Connections

Moms of ALL ages are encouraged to join us for
Friday, April 5th
8:00 am to 10:30 am
 (drop in for a few or stay and chat all morning)
Grace Hall
 (use Main Entrance and head downstairs)



**Have a little one?
 Feel free to bring them along.**

Let's take some time to connect. We will bring the GOOD coffee & something sweet to eat.

MILES OF DIMES - Grace Camp was purchased in 1988. The Miles of Dimes project was started in 1990 as an effort to help pay for the facilities which everyone enjoys. There is a "Miles of Dimes" collection jar located on the Welcome Center. Leave your "dimes" or any donation you may want to make and your donation will be used to benefit the camp facilities. Thank you for your continued support.



April 18th - Victory Center Service Event

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to the meal, helped serve and prayed for our March service event at the Victory Center in Clinton. Our next service event meal will be on April 18th. We are planning to serve up to 40 people and allow for seconds. If you haven't volunteered to help with some part of one of these meals, please prayerfully consider being involved in some way. Men are encouraged to join us in this mission, especially with serving the meal.

Main Dish
Meatball Subs
 Provided by the Board of Outreach.

Drinks
2 Volunteers:

- 1 gallon of white milk
- 2 gallons of chocolate milk

Buns
2 Volunteers
 Provide 24 buns each.

Cheese
1 Volunteer
 40 oz of Shredded Mozzarella

Desserts
3 Volunteers
 Prepare a dessert that serves 15

Salads
3 Volunteers
 Prepare a salad that serves 15 people.

Deliver & Serve
5 Volunteers
 Needed to help deliver and serve the meal. We meet at Grace at 4 pm. Meal is served at 5pm.

All food needs to be prepared and brought to the church by 4:00 PM on Thursday, April 18th.

A sign up sheet is located on the Welcome Center. Please contact Kristy Engelkes (563-210-2462) or the church office if you have any questions

Donate your used glasses, including sunglasses and reading glasses, to the Lions Club. A collection box is located in the foyer coat area. These glasses are picked up by a member of the Lions and then sent to a facility who will refurbish them for others who may not be able to afford glasses. (Please, remember they can not accept glass cases.)

The 2024 Altar Flower calendar is now available on the Welcome Center.

Bouquets can be donated in honor of or in memory of persons or events. Each bouquet is \$30 and there are two bouquets available each week. Please sign up for your preferred dates and place your payment in the secretary's door. You may purchase one or both bouquets.

Dates Available:

- May 5th, 12th, & 26th
- June 9th, 16th, 23rd, & 30th
- July 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th
- August 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th
- September 1st, 8th, 22nd, & 29th
- October 6th, 13th, & 20th
- November 3rd, 10th, & 24th
- December 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th

ARE YOU A STUDENT GRADUATING?

What an important step in your life! We would like to honor you by printing your name in our May newsletter. If you are receiving a high school, college, or post-graduate degree, give us a call at 659-9153, before April 15th. We would also like a picture of all graduates to place on the bulletin board in the foyer.



Mark your Calendar for the LWML Rally. Grace will be hosting the Lutheran Women Missionary League Rally on Saturday, April 6th. It will start with breakfast from 8:00 to 9:00 am.

We will have a Bible study, special guest speaker Michele Diercks, a short business meeting and singing.

We could use help on Friday, April 5th at 10:00 AM for set up.

Please, call Sandy Anderson (563-321-0008) to volunteer to help or learn more about this event.

It is time to renew our subscription for the Lutheran Witness. **THE LUTHERAN WITNESS** is an inspirational monthly magazine featuring synodical news. Lutheran reports from around the world, eye-opening theology and more!

The subscription rate is \$20.65 per year. If you would like to subscribe to the Lutheran Witness, or if you already subscribe and wish to renew your subscription, please contact the church office by April 21st. Payment may be dropped off or mailed to the church office at PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation will be held during the 10:30 a.m. service on April 7th. Fifteen of our young people will be participating in the Rite of Confirmation. Those who are in the 8th Grade Confirmation class and scheduled to be confirmed are:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Ashlyn Appleby | Benjamin Paarmann |
| Kyptin Barys | Kyle Pillers |
| Keaton Birt | Emeri Ralston |
| Grace Burzlaff | Jaelyn Sinclair |
| Ashdon Converse | Ella Sunday |
| Klaire Gruntorad | Addison Tucker |
| Brayden Lawrence | Gavin Walker |
| Easton Meyers | |

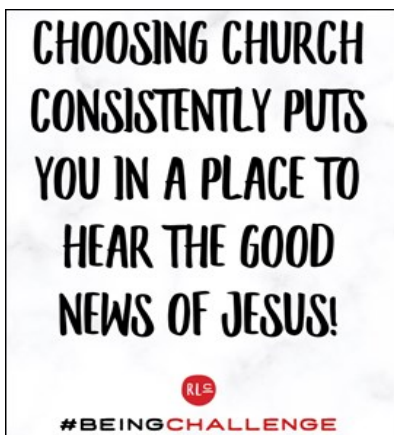
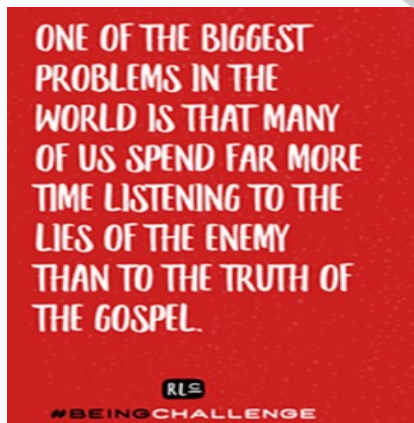
If you would like to send Confirmation Blessings the wooden box will be out for you to place your card in beginning, March 17th until after the 8am service on Confirmation Sunday, April 7th.

Referral Center Donations

We will continue to collect monthly donations for the Referral Center as the need is great. The referral center can always use cereal, canned tuna, spaghetti sauce, pasta, canned soup, peanut butter, jelly and so much more. All donations can be left in the shopping cart located in the foyer.

BEING Challenge

Happy Birthday



- 1st Vaughn Vopatek
- 2nd Patrick Soesby
- 5th Steven McWilliams
Gavin Walker
- 6th Denise Wagner-Mommsen
- 7th Adalyn Appleby
Susan Stevens
- 8th Brittany Paasch
- 9th Devin Wagner
- 11th Jason Spain
- 12th David Pillers
- 13th Ken Hartmann
Cindy Burke
- 15th Barbara Mork
- 16th Yana Sperry
- 17th Alan Ruggeberg
- 18th Abigail Swanson
- 20th Chloe Engelkes
- 24th Hudson Meyers
Donna Steward
- 25th Jeremy Goddard
Brittney Hughes
Hannah Sunday
- 26th Diane Boussetot
Mark Peters
- 27th Fred Smith
Nicole Rickertsen
Carissa Spain
Zach Yutesler
- 28th Amirya Barys
Denise Smith
Donald Havener
- 30th Barb Rands
JoAnn Jeffery

Our BEING Challenge study is complete. Throughout this study, we have studied keystone habits of Commit to Community, Study Scripture, Prioritize Prayer, Seek Solitude and Choose Church. When we incorporate these habits into our lives, we can build a deeper relationship with God and we can become the disciple that God has called us to be. The final challenge of the study is to focus on at least one of these keystone habits and set a goal to grow in that habit. Use the examples that Jesus has given us to grow in your relationship with God and make a bigger difference in our world.

CELEBRATING AN Anniversary

- 2nd Jon & Barb Billhorn
- 4th Paul & Sandi Kirby
Fredrick & Jennifer Thiede
- 7th Lauren & Jeanne Hansen
- 9th Clint & Katie Albrecht
- 12th Jered & Laurie Birt
- 17th Chris & Kelly Lawrence
- 20th David & Barbara Wold
- 25th Jim & Susan Williams
- 27th Larry & Barbara Mork
- 28th Alan & Monica Ruggeberg

SENIOR HIGH MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

We will resume our meetings at the Sperry's home on April 3rd @ 7:00 pm. We will continue our study of the video series The Chosen.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH NIGHT

Attention all 6th – 8th graders. Join us on April 14th for Youth Night. Please bring your favorite board or card game to play. We will also be talking about what events / activities you would like to do in the future. We will meet at the G*Y*M Building at Grace Camp from 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm. Please R.S.V.P. to 563-321-0674.

ENDURE

We are now 15 months away from the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering. The youth and adult sponsors will be spending 5 days in New Orleans leaning what it means to ENDURE, and taking a closer look at the perfect example of ENDURANCE that we have in Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Please keep this event, those planning it, those who will be performing during it and especially all of the youth and adults from around the world who will be attending in your prayers. Registration will open this Fall and is open to any student in grades 9 through 12 for the 2024-2025 school year.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for **The Great Jungle Journey** where we will learn the 7 Cs of the Bible: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross & Consummation. The dates are June 23rd – 27th. If you want to get involved, we are in need of individuals to help in the kitchen, with recreation, crafts, science, crew leaders (high school or adult), and crew members. Check out the volunteer registration board in the foyer, or contact DCE, Mark Sperry.



Volunteer sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board.

There are many opportunities in the Summer to volunteer your time and talent.

GRACE CAMP DAY CAMPS

June 6th & 12th - Fishing Camp
Unlimited Volunteers Needed

June 11th - Cooking Camp
4 to 6 Volunteers Needed

June 13th - Cooking Camp
4 to 6 Volunteers Needed

June 18th - Arts & Crafts
6 to 8 Volunteers Needed

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024

Science Leader

2nd-5th Grade - Bible Story Leader

Registration Helper

River Guide Leaders (High School/Adult)

River Guide Members



Grace Camp Day Camps

**Registration Opens
April 3rd**

Our 2024 Day Camps

June 6th

Fishing Camp [1st – 6th Grades] 8am - 11am

June 11th

Cooking Camp [1st – 3rd Grades] 8am – 11am

Cooking Camp [1st - 3rd Grades] 1pm – 4pm

June 12th

Fishing Camp [1st - 6th Grades] 8am – 11am

June 13th

Cooking Camp [4th – 6th Grades] 8am – 11am

Cooking Camp [4th – 6th Grades] 1pm – 4pm

June 18th

Arts & Crafts Camp [1st – 3rd Grades] 8am – 11am

Arts & Crafts Camp [1st – 3rd Grades] 1pm – 4pm

June 20th

Little Kids Camp [4 & 5 year olds] 10am – 1:00 pm

Please Note: All Day Camps are 1/2 days..

When registering register for a morning or afternoon session, not both.

come enjoy the fun!

Contact Us

563-659-9153

www.gracedewitt.org

**VBS REGISTRATION
OPENS MAY 1ST**



Vacation Bible School 2024

The Great Jungle Journey

Sunday, June 23rd - Thursday, June 27th

5:40 pm to 8:00 pm

@ Grace Camp (2675 242nd St, DeWitt)

For Children 3 years through 5th Grade.

A light meal will be served from 5 to 5:30 pm.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.
1 Peter 2:9

Grace Lutheran Summer Camp

The dates for this year's camp are Monday, July 29th through Wednesday, July 31st. This is open to students who will be in 2nd through 8th grades for the 2024-2025 school year. Cost is \$25 if registered before July 1st.

NEW - 2nd and 3rd grade children will not be spending the night. More information on this will be coming.

Counselors will arrive at camp on Sunday, July 28th and need to be in 9th grade or older. Cost to register is \$15

Registration will open in May. Please contact the church office at 563-659-9153 with any questions.



4S Spring is here! We are excited to learn about the rain, bugs, rainbows, and flowers. We continue to work on our letters, letter sounds, numbers, and counting to 100. Toward the end of the month, we will begin our ABC countdown.

3S 3, 2, 1, The Threes are blasting off into space this month! Earth Day is April 22nd and we will be learning ways to help the world we live in. We enjoyed our Easter party last month and celebrated Jesus rising from his tomb. Our Bible stories this month are about Jesus returning, a short man and the True King.

The preschool children enjoyed a time with their dads and or grandpas this past week. They enjoyed spending time with one another, played games, and ate some donuts.

The Preschool staff is busy planning for Graduation in May along with a Muffins for Mom event. Lots of fun and exciting things are happening in the next few months.

Thank you for your continued support of the Preschool Program, staff and children. We are very thankful for everyone.



Grace Lutheran Preschool

2024-2025 Class Schedule

Class Schedule 2023-2024

4s M-F 8:00 - 11:00 am (16 spots)
M-F 12:00 - 3:00 pm (16 spots)

Please note that there is NO 4s classes on Wednesday.

3s M W F 8:15 - 10:45 (6 spots) \$160 monthly
T&TH 8:15 - 10:45 (3 spots) \$120 monthly
Please note that all 3s must be potty trained.

The 3s Registration form is now available.

on the Grace Lutheran Preschool page of the website (www.gracedewitt.org). The registration form along with the registration fee may be dropped off at the church office or mailed to PO Box 156, DeWitt, IA 52742.

Registration for the 4s Preschool Program is now open on the Central DeWitt Community School District Website.



The Pregnancy Center 38th Annual Walk for Life Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, April 27th. Their goal this year is to raise \$40,000.

Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. with the walk starting at 9:00 a.m. Plan to meet at The Pregnancy Center, 240 N. Bluff Blvd in Clinton. Copies of the sponsor/pledge card can be found on the Community Information Board located by the front doors. Please call 563-242-6628 with any questions.

Sewing Ladies and anyone interested in helping to sew quilts will meet on Wednesday, April 3rd and 17th in Grace Hall at 9:00 am.

SUMMER Night Out

@ Grace Camp
2675 242nd St, De Witt, IA

June 22nd
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Everyone
Is Invited

✓ Games

✓ Food

✓ Kona Ice

✓ Petting Zoo

✓ Bounce Houses

✓ Face Painting



Join us for this fun filled family
night out. Everyone is welcome.

Hosted by Grace Lutheran Church
563-659-9153 www.gracedewitt.org

Volunteers will be needed for the day of the Summer Night Out event.
Be on the lookout in mid-April for further volunteer opportunities.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry – Newsletter Article – April 2024

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have every bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a “title search.” Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you’ll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, “That’s mine: I had it first.”

You can’t understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor’s money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor’s possessions are his: you don’t have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, “Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:19–20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God’s leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

WAYS to GIVE Grace Ev. Lutheran Church

**During
Service**



Give in
person
each
Sunday

**Through
Mail**



Mail to:
**PO Box 156
DeWitt, IA
52742**

Online



Give Online at
**gracedewitt.or
g/give-online**

Bill Pay



through
your
bank

PayPal



QRCode
in pew

Grace Ev Lutheran Church—April 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 31 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 10:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion | 1 Office Closed 1:00pm 500 Card Club 6:00pm Board of Discipline-ship 6:30pm Elders Meeting | 2 | 3 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study | 4 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group | 5 8:00am Coffee & Connections 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting 10:00am LWML Rally Set Up | 6 9:00am LWML Spring Rally |
| 7 "Miles" Sunday 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Confirmation Sunday 2:00pm CLUB345 | 8 7:00pm Voters Meeting | 9 7:00am Finance Board Meeting 6:00pm Preschool Board Meeting | 10 7:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship | 11 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 1:30pm Service @ Mag-gie's House | 12 Preschool—Yoga Friday | 13 1:00pm Hall Rental |
| 14 Fellowship Sunday Hosted by the Board of Youth 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Praise Worship 6:00pm Middle School Youth Night | 15 Newsletter Deadline 1:00pm 500 Card Club 7:00pm Youth Board Meeting | 16 6:30pm Camp Board Meeting 6:30PM Girl Scout Meeting | 17 9:00am Sewing Ladies 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship | 18 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group 4:00pm Victory Center Service Event | 19 Preschool—Yoga Friday | 20 |
| 21 Hall Rental 8:00am Traditional Worship w/Communion 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Traditional Worship w/Communion | 22 6:30pm Board of Christian Education | 23 | 24 7:30am Staff Meeting 10:30am Service @ Field-stone 5:30pm Confirmation 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study | 25 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group | 26 Office Closed | 27 9:00am Prayer Walk |
| 28 8:00am Traditional Worship 9:15am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am Praise Worship | 29 | 30 | 1 7:00pm Glory Bound Choir 7:00pm Sr. High Bible Study 7:00pm Worship | 2 9:00am Tops Meeting 9:30am Stay Active Senior Exercise Group | 3 8:00am Trustees Board Meeting | 4 |