



Trinity Lutheran Church

Proclaiming, Teaching and Living the Gospel of Christ!

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:30am

Holy Communion is celebrated weekly on Saturday & Sunday

Sunday School & High School Bible Study Sundays at 9:30am

Sat. Adult Bible Study 4:00pm
Sun. Adult Bible Study 9:45am

A Prayer during Lent

Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of this most sacred season of Lent. Thank You for knowing our hearts and our need for rhythms in our lives, and for drawing us into a deeper communion with You as we walk, again, the way to the cross. This season, as we give ourselves, with great intentionality, to the reading of the Passion of Christ, may our relationship with Him grow deeper. In Jesus' name.

Amen.



*Concordia Publishing House
Portals of Prayer
Jan.-Mar., 2026
Page 107*

March 2026 - Newsletter

Midweek Lenten Worship

Midweek Lenten Worship services continue Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Pastor Brown and Pastor Wyeth are doing a pulpit rotation this Lenten season. This year's theme: *Surprising and Unusual Gifts from God*. Please join us.

Lenten Meager Meals

Meager Meals are served during Lent before worship on Wednesdays. Meals will be served in our Parish Hall from 5:30-6:45pm. A free will offering is taken. We welcome you to join us!

Date	Meal	Prepared by
03/04	Casseroles	Hannah Circle
03/11	Taco Bar	Circle of Friends
03/18	Spaghetti	TLC Group
03/25	Italian Beef	Altar Guild

Daylight Savings Time



Set your clocks ahead 1 hour Sunday, March 8th at 2:00am.

Easter Egg Hunt Candy

The Board of Education is accepting candy donations for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. There will be a bin will be in the Parish Hall for your donations. Thank you in advance!



Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday

The Sunday School children will process into the church with palms Sunday, March 29th during the 8:30am service.



Procession of the Palms

255 E. Third Street, P.O. Box 414 Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2262

Web site: trinitylutheranherscher.org Email: trinityher1@comcast.net

9th Commandment

Now we begin to cover the two commandments that deal with covetousness, and yes, especially as Americans we need two commandments that deal with covetousness. If I am wanting to be critical, I'd say most of American pop culture in truth revolves around these two directions of covetousness that show up in the commandments. But for today we have the covetousness towards things addressed in the commandment, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house."



At the base level, to covet is to want or desire something that belongs to someone else. It is materialistic greed, materialistic envy. And there's a really uncomfortable realization to be made here. How much motivation in our society is driven by greed and envy, by a desire to keep up with the Joneses, to have what "those people" have? How many times a day are we bombarded by advertisements that tell us that what we already have isn't good enough and that we need X? All of these are playing off of mankind's sinful inclination towards covetousness.

Then of course, this can spill on over into actually scheming, where we can look for tricks and loopholes to... well, we wouldn't say that we were cheating our neighbor out of their stuff, we'd merely call it shrewd business. Lawyers and lawsuits and settlements almost always get wrapped up here in 9th commandment issues, as we strive to find a way to get what someone else has.

And this warps us. How often have you strove to get something, and when you finally got it, it wasn't satisfying? This is because covetousness warps us – instead of finding delight in what we have received from God, we get focused on what we don't have... and thus we are always focused on what we don't have, never able to enjoy what we have, no matter what we have. We are the society that is extremely wealthy and yet at the same time extremely dissatisfied. This is all driven by covetousness.

So watch out for how covetousness will call out to you. Instead, I would recommend for you to focus on some gratitude and thanksgiving. Focus on what God has actually given you, what He has actually provided for you. Look at His real blessings to you instead of what your neighbor has and you don't. If you stare at lack, of course you'll be unhappy and bitter. Yet the reality is that God has provided for you in both body and soul, fully, wondrously, generously. Don't let Satan's temptations rob you of your contentment, and do repent of covetousness when it creeps around.

- *Pastor Brown*

Christian Education Schedule

Sunday School is held Sundays at 9:30am. Meet in the front of the church for the opening.

High School Bible Study meets in the church basement Sundays at 9:30am.

Sunday Adult Bible Study is held Sundays at approximately 9:45am after Sunday worship and the Sunday School opening. We are studying the *book of Job*.

Saturday Adult Bible Study is held Saturdays at 4:00pm before the worship service. We are studying the *book of 2 Timothy*.

Facebook Live devotions are held online most weeks, Monday through Thursday at 8:00am.

Be in the Word!
It's a great place to be!
All are welcome.



Choir Rehearsal Schedule During Lent

The vocal choir will rehearse Wednesdays at 5:00pm. The handbell choir will rehearse at 5:45pm.



Weekly Bulletin Deadline

Items for the weekly bulletin are due in the church office each **Wednesday by noon**. Thank you!

Monthly Newsletter Deadline

Articles, announcements and information for the April newsletter are due **Friday, March 20th by 9:00am**. Thank you!



Pastoral Care Contacts

Pastor Brown often roams around in his duties, but he will be happy to meet with you. Please call, text or email to set up a time.

Pastor's Email: pastorbrown.trinity@comcast.net
Pastor's Cell phone (call or text): 815-953-9995
Pastor's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x102

Diane Hart will continue to be in the office as often as needed. Phone messages and email are checked multiple times daily.

Diane's Email: trinityher1@comcast.net
Diane's Office phone: 815-426-2262 x101
Diane's Cell phone (call or text): 708-307-2710

Parish Hall Rental/ Property Check-Out List

The Parish Hall may be rented to Trinity members for various functions. Please contact Diane in the office to schedule, remit rental fee, and obtain a copy of the guidelines. **Reminder, the kitchen, tables and chairs should be left clean and floors swept. Restrooms should be checked for tidiness.**

Also, any property borrowed (old tables, kitchen items, etc.) need to be signed out on the check-out sheet in the church office. Please note, per the Church Council, the white tables and chairs may not leave the church property. **Also, all items used are to be returned clean and stored appropriately.**

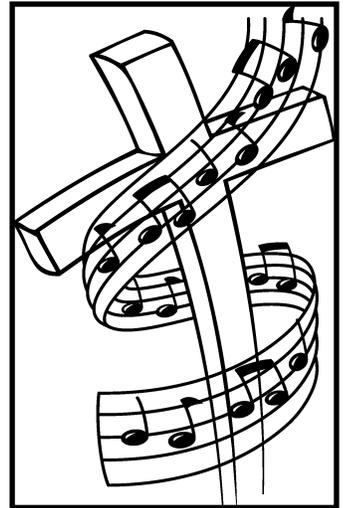
Villas at Herscher Services

Worship services are planned for Villas at Herscher Mondays, March 9th & 23rd at **3:00pm**. **Note the new service time beginning this February.**



The Significant Sound of Silence

“What are you giving up for Lent?” A common question this time of year. I used to try and choose something extremely prominent or central in my life in a feeble attempt to “give it up” for 40 days. Much like those dreaded New Year’s Resolutions, however, I was... never quite successful. Since then, I have always made the joke that I have been “giving up ‘giving things up for Lent’ for Lent” (no, that wasn’t a typo, read it a few times and it’ll make sense!) In the Church, we do “give up” something rather significant for Lent: Music! But not for the reason(s) you might think...



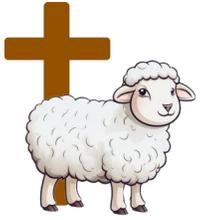
For starters, for the 6 weeks of lent, we use Divine Service - Setting 4 for our weekend services. Setting 4 has the least amount of music in any of the Divine Service settings. There are no chanting/singing responses, only hymn contrafactum (see last month’s article for reference on that word) for all the major parts of the service: Kyrie, Gloria in Exceleis, Alleluia and Verse, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, and Nunc Dimittis. That’s it. And even then, we drop the Gloria in Exceleis for the duration of Lent, which takes us down to only FIVE sung sections of the liturgy! Furthermore, you may notice significant musical “silence” during our midweek services, specifically as you enter and exit the Sanctuary. There are no preludes or postludes for Lenten midweek services! No, that’s not your Kantor being forgetful... Those prolonged times of silence where music would normally fill the Church carries its own significance.

The season of Lent is one of penitence and somber meditation. As Christians, we know what’s coming. We know the Passion of our Lord is right around the corner and during these 6 weeks, we prepare ourselves to hear once again what our Savior did for us. It’s a lot to process. It’s heavy. It’s not a normal feeling we have when we come to church. It’s... significant. Now, taking away some of the music during services does not mean that music is unimportant during Lent! Some of the most powerful texts in our hymnal are Lent hymns - just look at “My Song is Love Unknown” (LSB 430) that we sang on Ash Wednesday. Holding back on music during Lent simply allows what we don’t sing (our spoken word and silence altogether) to weigh even more prominently than usual.

As we go through the rest of the Lenten season, don’t just notice the moments of silence. Use them. When you enter the Sanctuary for worship - pray, reflect, grab a hymnal and read through your favorite hymn (may I personally suggest LSB 430, mentioned above?). And let the silence weigh in your ears as you do.

Caleb Dehning

Little Lambs Preschool



February was a busy month, full of preparations for Valentine's Day and Grandparents Day. Sometimes it felt like there wasn't enough time, or enough of us to go around. Thank you to all those who helped us with Grandparents Day, especially with the food and beverages. Your assistance makes these events a success!

March is different kind of month. The first glimpses of spring have arrived, a much-needed respite from freezing weather. Winter is not done yet, though, and the threat of cold still hangs heavy. These seasonal weather changes God gives us are a reminder of other seasonal changes. If you ask a preschooler what Lent is, they'd probably shrug or tell you it's something in their dryer! But while they may not understand the fullness of the church calendar, they will all be talking about how Easter is coming. March at Little Lambs will feature Palm Sunday, Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, and Jesus's crucifixion. Jesus enters Jerusalem and the children wave palms! But before He arrived, He cried for them. Jesus prays to His father, dreading the trials that are coming. And then Jesus goes willingly to His death, suffering all the way, until it is finished. Yet the preschoolers will still be saying "Easter is coming!"

The cynical among us might say they're just excited about dying eggs and eating candy, and that's probably true. By the time we get to April they'll be able to tell you what Easter is really about, and how Jesus's resurrection means we'll get to live forever with God. But most of them will not really understand the depth of that, and they will still be way more excited about a chocolate egg. And yet, God tells us we must have faith like a child. Consider this another way. Even if it snows, the children know Easter, and therefore spring, is coming. Even while we talk about the sad things that happened to Jesus, they know Easter is coming. Whatever we talk about and whatever may happen, they are waiting with eagerness, because Easter is coming, and Easter is a time of joy and celebration!

As adults, we are blessed with the maturity to be able to understand the miracle that Easter really is, and the depth of its meaning. However, we are also encumbered by the loss of that child-like excitement. It is all too easy to become spiritually bogged down by the dark parts of life in a fallen world. We harumph at the idea of children being more excited over candy than the resurrection. Yet it is the children who know better than we do that good things are coming! They look forward to a great celebration, and so should we. So as we move through not just Lent but all of life, I encourage you to be like a preschooler. Easter is coming!

Mrs. Brown

Raise Right Gift Card Program

Trinity's Gift Card Program through Raise Right—This program is available year-round.

All orders will be placed on Mondays, allowing for delivery usually by Thursday of the same week (online orders will be submitted with the paper orders). New customers please contact Diane Hart in the office for the enrollment code or with any questions. Go to raiseright.com for more information or ask for a printed list of vendors if you prefer.

Thank you for supporting Little Lambs Preschool simply by shopping!



Martha Circle, Trinity Sewing/Quilting Group & LWML

Martha Circle will meet for breakfast Friday, March 6th at the Herscher Restaurant at 8:30am. Guests are welcome. We will start planning our hostess duties for the LWML Spring Rally April 25th. We will be collecting mites at the April Martha breakfast meeting.

Trinity Sewers will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd from 10:30-3:30pm. Come when you can and stay as long as your fingers hold out. We have a total of 74 finished quilts. It will be decided on the March 3rd quilt day, if we need to schedule another date to tie in March.

LWML Zone 18 Board meeting will be held Saturday, March 14th at 9:00am to plan the coming Spring and Fall activities.

LWML Zone 18 Spring Rally will be held at Trinity Herscher Saturday, April 25th. Guests are welcome. We will need help with breakfast items for the buffet. All the Ladies of Trinity are invited to attend. Last year we had 17 women in attendance. This year's speaker will be Ruth Kruse. We may plan a workday to help organize bracelet making for MOST, anyone that crochets we also have a pattern for finger puppets. Ask Ruth Kruse or Connie Tranos for details of doing these projects.

Church Council

The Church Council will meet Tuesday, March 10th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Board of Education

The Board will not meet in March. Please contact Lynne Noffke with any questions.

Trini-Teens

Mark your calendars! Friday, April 17th, the Trini-Teens will be hosting a full spaghetti dinner in the fellowship hall. Come out to support our youth group and enjoy spectacular Italian cuisine! Missed our first planning meeting in February? Not to worry! We will be having another meeting to prepare for the dinner in March. Stay tuned for more details!



Hannah Circle

We thank everyone who so generously supported our Valentine Bake Sale! With the proceeds from our nut and bake sales, we voted to support the following ministries and missions in 2026:

- \$100 to Little Lamb's Preschool
- \$100 to Redeeming Life Outreach Ministry
- \$100 to missionary Shauen Trump
- \$100 to our representative to the LWML National Convention
- \$200 to Pregnancy Resource Center
- \$200 to Fortitude Community Outreach
- \$200 to Herscher Council of Churches
- \$200 to Lutheran Child and Family Services
- \$200 to Operation Christmas Child for postage

We will be serving casseroles, applesauce, and desserts for the March 4th Meager Meal.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 17th at 6:30pm at the home of Maggie Noffke who will serve as our hostess. Please read ahead chapter five, "Hannah and Miriam" from THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE SPEAK.

March Card Care: Lynne Noffke

Dartball

The Year End Tournament will be held at Emmanuel Lutheran, Dwight, Sunday, March 1st at 1:00pm. Players arrive by 12:45pm sharp!



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild will meet at 5:00pm Wednesday, March 25th. (This is the evening the Altar Guild serves the meager meal).

Herscher Council of Churches

Thank you to all who attended our Senior Luncheon at the Villas on February 25!

Herscher Christian Church will distribute IL Food Bank boxes March 10th beginning at 10:00am. Herscher Christian Church will also be distributing our Easter baskets which include a \$100 gift card to County West Market Saturday, March 28th beginning at 9:00am. If you know of someone in need, please ask them to contact Mamta at 815-421-4007 by Wednesday, March 25th. State Bank of Herscher is partnering with us to collect canned fruits and vegetables. Containers are placed in both lobbies.

Member Birthdays



- 3 Trevor Stutz, Hope Thurston, John Varvel
- 4 Randy Bisaillon
- 5 Nicholas Collins
- 6 Michelle Kooy
- 7 Amelia Emery, Nikki Shifflet
- 8 Chuck Fieldman, Kit Ruel
- 11 Deloris Lockwood, Steven Lund, Sherri Orr
- 12 Joshua Foltz, Barbara Jackson
- 13 Tyler Janssen, Lisa Scanlon
- 17 Harper Evans
- 19 Mady Rogers, Annabelle Royal
- 20 Diane Winterroth
- 21 Bonnie Matherly, Steven Ramsey
- 22 Cheryl Ferris
- 23 Frances Horn, Chad Lucht
- 24 Mackenzie Marquis
- 26 Andrea Palmer, Brayden Shepard
- 27 Eden Hull, Debbie Kohl
- 28 Pam Lambert
- 29 Susan Bruner, Michael Foltz
- 31 Matthew Barwegen, Brandon Malone

Please notify Diane in the church office if there are any errors or omissions. Thank you!

A Birthday Prayer

Everlasting God, "My times are in Your hand" (Psalm 31:15). Thank You for allowing me another birthday. Each new day is a gift from You. Today, I reflect on the manifold blessings You have given me. Great is Your goodness. Enable me to use my time wisely this year so I may be a witness to Your great love in my words and actions. Send Your holy angels to watch over me. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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Portals of Prayer
Jan.-March 2026, pg. 113

Trinity Lutheran Church January 31, 2026 Financial Summary

General

Beg. Balance	\$23,809.77
Receipts	22,259.18
<u>Expense</u>	<u>38,610.02</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 7,358.93

Mission Fund

Beg. Balance	\$ 4,329.00
Receipts	1,355.00
<u>Expense</u>	<u>4,329.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 1,355.00

Little Lambs Preschool

Beg. Balance	\$ 5,238.95
Receipts	5,245.00
<u>Expense</u>	<u>4,504.04</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 5,979.91

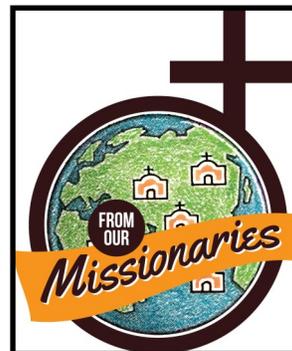
Complete financial reports are reported at Quarterly Voters' Meetings held usually on the third Sundays of January, April, July and October.



Please contact Diane in the church office if you need to pick up your offering envelopes, have them issued, or wish to be removed from the offering envelope list.

Treasurer's Report

Missionaries



Please continue to pray for our missionaries Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump and their family as they continue to share God's love and spread His Word in Africa. Copies of Pastor Trump's newsletter received February 18th are on the table in the Parish Hall.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship Newsletter article – March, 2026

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."



We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

With voices united our praises we offer
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.
To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Serving Our Lord This Month — March 2026

Elder/Communion Assistant

February 28* Cris Knobloch
March 01* Dan Shute

March 07* Jeremy Thurston
March 08* John Varvel

March 14* Jerry Brutlag
March 15* Mike Bruner

March 21* Chris Knobloch
March 22* Ken Taube

March 28* Stan Schwark
March 29* Ken Taube

*Denotes Holy Communion Served

	
<u>Usher Captains</u>	<u>Usher Team</u>
Van Schwark (Sat.)	Adam Crane; Kevin Peterson; Cameron Schwark
Bill Orr (Sun.)	Al Janssen; Chip Thurston; Deb Weerts; Kim Weerts


Donnette Meyer & Donna Sharper

Altar Flowers

February 18-April 3

While we refrain from placing flowers on the altar during Lent, we continue to celebrate the victory won for us by Jesus Christ.



Trinity— March 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am Dartball Tournament @ Emmanuel, Dwight 1:00pm, arrive 12:45pm sharp</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Quilt Tying/ Sewing Group 10:30am-3:30pm</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Vocal Choir 5:00pm Meager Meal 5:30-6:45pm Handbell Choir 5:45pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Martha Circle 8:30am at Herscher Restaurant</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p> <p><i>Set clocks ahead 1 hour tonight, Daylight Savings time begins 3/8/26 at 2:00am</i></p>
<p>8</p> <p>Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Villas at Herscher Service 3:00pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Circuit Meeting Location @ Peace, Beecher 9:30am Council 7:00pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Vocal Choir 5:00pm Meager Meal 5:30-6:45pm Handbell Choir 5:45pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Communion LWML Zone 18 Board Meeting 9:00am Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Hannah Circle @ Maggie Noffke's home 6:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Vocal Choir 5:00pm Meager Meal 5:30-6:45pm Handbell Choir 5:45pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>20</p> <p>April Newsletter Deadline 9:00am</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Villas at Herscher Service 3:00pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>25</p> <p>No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am Vocal Choir 5:00pm Altar Guild 5:00pm Meager Meal 5:30-6:45pm Handbell Choir 5:45pm Lenten Worship 7:00pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>No School Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>27</p> <p>No School</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Communion Adult Bible Study 4:00pm Worship 5:00pm</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Palm Sunday Communion Worship 8:30am Sunday School & High School Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:45am Confirmation 10:30am</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Devotion on Facebook Live 8:00am</p>	 <p>HOLY WEEK</p>			
<p>Deadlines for printing: Bulletin announcement deadline-Wednesdays 12:00pm April Newsletter deadline-Friday, March 20th by 9:00am</p>						