

The Star of Bethlehem



FEBRUARY 2019

ALL ONE IN CHRIST

There is a theory in the "church growth" movement which claims that in order for churches (congregations) to be successful (i.e. grow large), they must be more or less homogeneous or, in other words, be made up of related kinds and sorts of people. To use an old cliché: "birds of a feather flock together. I've never agreed with that theory.

What is a great deal more startling than the homogeneous unit principle of church growth is what bespeaks the power of the Christian church, (more accurately, its heart and soul -- Jesus Christ) is its ability to homogenize into compatible and considerate and loving groups of people from totally opposite backgrounds and cultures and ideas. It started with Christ's birth and both Jews and Gentiles coming to worship Him. It continued with Jesus giving the water of life to a Samaritan woman. It even included a man who had been a haughty Pharisee (an elite Hebrew who made sure everybody knew it), Saul of Tarsus, suddenly baring his heart to slaves and barbarians, calling them, "my brothers in the faith." Ladies from the Roman court, with royal blood flowing through their veins, took the cup and shared it with some homeless wanderer from the streets. You get a glimpse of it today, too, sometimes at our own altar -- babies coming up to receive a blessing, adults with tattoos and piercings coming to receive the Lord's Supper. Asians, Latinos, Africans, Europeans and Americans worshiping and praising God together. Mechanics, teachers, PhD's, young, old and everything in between, participating in Bible study.

When you put all of us together, we spell Christian church. In a few weeks, nine of us will be going on a mission trip to South Africa. We will gather with the people of God in that place, too, and there we will be the church. In May I will go with members of Bethlehem to Guatemala. We will gather with the people of God in that place, too, and there we will be the church. Of course, we have a commonality, one thing which binds us into a fellowship and overcomes everything that makes us different. That commonality is Christ. We all, each of us, can say, "I believe in Jesus Christ," and we can say it together. We can say it, not because we all come from the same background but because we are different and have found our unity in Jesus. *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another."* 1 John 1:7.

Together we recognize our differences and celebrate our unity in Jesus because we are all one in Christ.

God's peace,

Pastor Dana Allen Brones

***Please remember to sign the attendance book and
let us know of any address, telephone or email changes.***

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1423 8th Avenue N. Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 . (904) 249-5418 or 249-1204 Preschool
Pastor Dana Allen Brones, Senior Pastor . blcdana@bellsouth.net
www.blcjaxbeach.org

Stewardship

	Dec 2017	Dec 2018
Monthly Totals:	<u>\$89,762.82</u>	<u>\$130,918.01</u>
Restricted:	5,333.41	44,931.89
YTD Totals:	<u>\$670,034.21</u>	<u>\$737,985.94</u>
Restricted:	\$58,140.87	\$88,457.24

Mission House

Request for all worshippers: We need Mission House help every 3rd Friday. 6:00 to 7:30 PM feeding the hungry and poor. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. 800 Shetter Avenue, Jacksonville Beach.

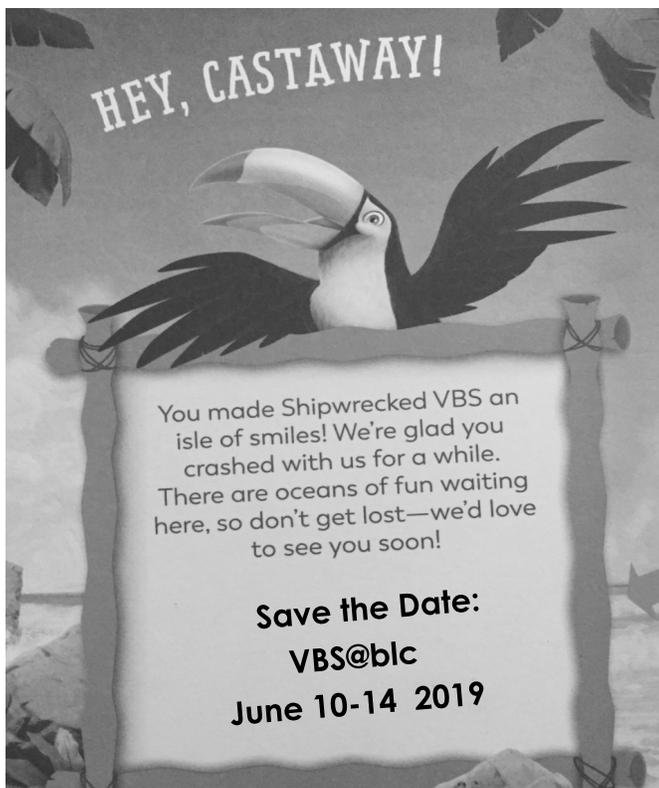
December Attendance

Date	8 am	9:30 am	11am	Total
Dec. 3, 2017	91	81	100	272
Dec. 2, 2018	57	98	108	263
Dec. 10, 2017	91	98	84	273
Dec. 9, 2018	83	98	72	253
Dec. 17, 2017	93	86	86	265
Dec. 16, 2018	56	73	74	203
Dec. 24, 2017	478			
Dec. 23, 2018	202			
Dec. 25, 2017	52			
Dec. 25, 2018	39			
Dec. 31, 2017	53	73	98	224
Dec. 31, 2018	51			

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Amazon donates

to Bethlehem Lutheran Church when you shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7061413. Thank you for your support!



Concordia

A few months ago, we were honored by the presence and the preaching talents of Dr. Victor Belton. He came to talk about the ministry that occurs at the Concordia University System of Schools, specifically at Concordia College New York in Bronxville. It was so cool to have Dr. Belton here and I'm proud to say that I've had several interactions with him over the past few years. The Concordia University System is something near and dear to my heart as well.

There are 9 Universities that are operated by the LC-MS along with 2 Seminaries. There are Concordia Schools in Portland, OR, Irvine, CA, Austin, TX, Bronxville, NY, St. Paul, MN, Seward, NE, Ann Arbor, MI, River Forest, IL, and my alma mater in Mequon, WI. The two Seminaries are in Fort Wayne, IN and my current school which is in St. Louis, MO. The Seminaries specifically train pastors, deaconesses, and missionaries for full-time church ministry, but the Universities are similar to other Universities around the country. In my four years as a student at Mequon, I was able to meet and become close friends with people with various majors and interests. My closest friends from college weren't majoring in Church Work at all, rather they were involved in Science, Math, Business, Psychology, Computer Science, and Art. In my time there, I was involved in Campus Ministry each year, leading a Bible Study Group and in my final year coordinating all of the Co-ed Bible Studies that were happening on campus. I encountered students from different cultural backgrounds including quite a few who weren't Lutheran (or even Christian). I found myself being challenged, but also strengthened by the experience. The ministry of our Lutheran Colleges is so cool and unique. The students who come to these schools may think they are just getting a college degree, but they are also being shaped into members of the community that serve others. And through their classes and extra-curricular activities they will find themselves encountering the Gospel and Lutheran Doctrine.

This month, I ask that you pray for all students and all schools, but specifically for the ministry taking place at our Lutheran Schools. I pray that you would encourage the students here at Bethlehem as they work through their class work in February, which I have found to be the toughest month of school.

In Christ,
Vicar Jeremy

SENIOR GAME DAY

Monday, February 4

Disciples Hall at 9:30 am

Play cards at 9:30 am

Talk with MaryAnn Lawrence 708-9492

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

David Thies	2/1
Wyatt Briggs	2/2
Logan Hunter	2/3
Stephen Smith	
Janelle Heumann	2/6
Madilyn Wert	
Douglas Brauer	2/7
Christian Carr	
Jacob Clawson	
Christopher Johnson	
Doug Peacock	
Barbara Zikeli	
Dale Mills Jr.	2/8
Steven Pietrasiuk	
Mariah Thies	
Edward & Lorna Boyajian	2/9
Charlotte Cobb	
Steven Corbitt	
Robert Corbett	2/11
Julie Truax	2/12
Lori Bennett	2/13
Sven Helberg	
Scott Kientz	
Mark Starkey	

Ann Koger	2/14
Daniel & Janelle Heumann	2/15
William Randolph	
Deborah Donnelly	2/16
Eleanor LoCricchio	
Deborah Addis	2/17
Elliott Randolph	
Allan Werner	2/19
Nathanael Adams	2/20
Teri Kientz	
Chad Lee	
Rebekah Romer	
James Pitts III	2/23
William Randolph	
Linda Tester	
Allan & Lisa Werner	2/26
Neil Robar	2/27
Debra Tate	2/28

Please call the office if your birthday or anniversary has been omitted.

Outreach

2019 looks to be a busy year at Bethlehem. Please consider joining in our Outreach events.

Feb 8th Bethlehem church will be providing dinner for the preschool families.

Information about the Christian night Ice Men game (Feb 1 or 2) is in the Narthex.

We are looking for volunteers to help with the following:

Ushers for the 8 am service

New small group leaders

Youth Sunday School Teacher

Youth event leaders –Lock-in, Movie night, and other events

Easter Breakfast cook and cleanup

Mission House Leaders –training will be provided

Mystery Dinner Leader

Adult and Youth Day rafting trip

Dinner Theater and/or planning dining out events

Please talk with Holly Dellinger about any of these events @ jaxbulldogs@comcast.net.

Schedules for February

		Screens	Greeters	Altar	
<u>Feb 3</u>	8 am	Angela	Val & Jackie	Carol	Val
	9:30 am	Brenda	Joan R		Amy
	11 am	Susan S	Lee & Joan F		Carol
<u>Feb 10</u>	8 am	Val	Rob & Deb B	Susan	Susan
	9:30 am	Candice	Joan R		Brenda
	11 am	Carol	Julie T, Rita W		Beth
<u>Feb 17</u>	8 am	Patrick	Larry & Eleanor C	Tami	Elders
	9:30 am	Romaine	Joan R		Nina
	11 am	Toni	Bruce & Holly D		Kathy
<u>Feb 24</u>	8 am	Sam	David B & Anna A	Jenn	Elders
	9:30 am	Tami	Joan R		Joan
	11 am	Gina	Jean S & Mary D		Diana

Thank you for your service

A HUGE “Thank You”

to everyone that played a part in the “putting up” and then the “taking down” of the Christmas decorations! (What goes up must come down!) What a great turn out of helpers! Everything went smoothly and looked spectacular. You all are awesome and are very much appreciated! Thank you for all that you do. See you next year!



THE LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING JULY 11-15, 2019 MINNEAPOLIS, MN

The LCMS Youth Gathering is scheduled for July 11-15, 2019, in Minneapolis, and events will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center and U.S. Bank Stadium.

Held every three years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God’s people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

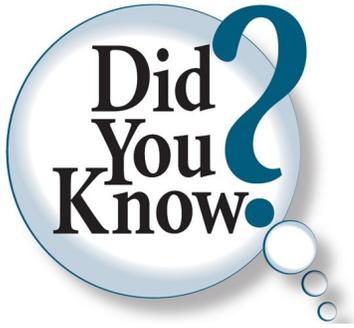
During the five days of the Gathering, youth will spend time together in God’s word, worship, service, and fellowship with others from across the Synod.

Visit lcmsgathering.com for the latest information or talk with Vicar Jeremy.

Life Group

Operation Barnabas Life Group Meeting, Thursday February 7th in the cottage at 6:45 pm. The first Thursday of each month a traditional Bible Study, and a look at how God played a major role in the history of our country and also lots of great music!

Operation Barnabas is the MSLC outreach program not only to our military but to our local communities! Help fulfill your part in the Great Commission of Jesus Christ Our Lord and Savior!



Bethlehem Lutheran Preschool Mission Statement

We exist to proclaim Christ's love and forgiveness to children and their families. To that end, our experienced, loving teachers provide the highest quality care and education for infants and children in a safe Christian Preschool

Philosophy

We believe that a Christian home is the most important factor in a child's development. We complement the Christian family in order to promote the child's healthy development. We believe children deserve a nurturing, safe, and happy Christian environment which promotes their natural curiosity, play and desire to learn. We believe in the promise found in Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is older he will not leave it."

We believe that teaching and living Christ's love, trust, respect, and forgiveness makes children capable of loving, trusting, respecting, and forgiving others. By teaching and modeling Christian ideals, we want children to develop spiritually as well as physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually. We integrate the faith in all curriculums as we want them to grow and develop as Jesus did: "in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man" Luke 2:52. The curriculum provides our children with a quality Christian education that will help them develop to the fullest of their capabilities and help them to realize that they are children of God.

We hire Christian teachers who are capable and caring, and whose Christian values and lifestyle enable them to fulfill this Christian vocation. They help lead their class in the knowledge that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and it is through him that we have eternal life. All activities are centered on this premise.



The LHM Mission:
*Bringing Christ to the Nations—
and the Nations to the Church*
<https://www.lhm.org/>

Emails....

Are you receiving email notifications from the church? If not, it may be that we do not have your correct email address on file. When you sign the attendance book, please include the email address you would like for us to use when sending out notifications. We don't want anyone left out. Or contact Carol with that information at carolpiet@aol.com or call the office.

**Like us on Facebook
for the latest in news,
photos and fun!**

Bethlehem Lutheran is dedicated to sharing God's Word near and far.

Here are ten fun facts about our website at www.blcjaxbeach.org

Did You Know...

1. Our website Home Page contains links to our Facebook page, monthly newsletter, current and archive sermons, prayer requests, online giving and daily devotionals?
2. The BLC website is viewed by over 1,300 users?
3. It is visited over 120 times each week?
4. The BLC website has made over 3,300 impressions in 4 months? (Impressions are the number of times content is displayed)
5. 11% of website users are from countries outside of the US? (China, India, Canada, Russia, Dominican Republic and more)
6. 45% of website users are from Jacksonville Beach, Jacksonville and Orlando? The rest are across the US and worldwide.
7. 42% of website visitors use mobile devices vs. desktop computers?
8. The top videos viewed are our worship services?
9. Facebook drives 18% of traffic to the BLC website?
10. BLC has 440 Followers on Facebook?

Altar Flowers

You can remember or mark a special occasion with Altar Flowers? Each of the beautiful arrangements are \$30 per vase and a sign-up sheet for each Sunday of the year is in the Narthex. This is a great way to acknowledge a birthday, anniversary, and to remember a loved one who has gone before. You can choose to take them home with you after the 11 am service or mark for them to be delivered to a homebound congregant or someone in the hospital. Please put your donation in the offering plate and mark it for altar flowers or mail it to the church.



Music – The Holy Spirit – The Human Spirit

“Music in God’s service is one of the highest forms of worship.” (Music in worship is also one of the highest forms of music...). “From the Psalter to contemporary songs, believers have voiced praise to their Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. Music engages the human spirit in a unique way. The place of music in worship has a long and valued tradition. Coupled with the strength of God’s promises, a hymn provides not only a teaching moment but also an opportunity to praise, pray and give thanks with all who call on the name of the Lord. Instruments elevate the experience of worship with God’s gathered guests.”

Timothy Maschke – ‘Gathered Guests: A Guide to Worship in the Lutheran Church’

So, I always knew what I wanted to do/be – never any doubt – nothing to ponder – just get busy and do it – practice. I played in church as pianist for the youth choir. One of my best days was when the organist couldn’t make it to rehearsal for the adult choir and I was asked to sit in. It was a hallelujah moment for me! Application to New England Conservatory of music as an organ major was accepted and there I was, having absolutely no idea what was in store for me and my life. God had a plan and I was about to embark upon it and aren’t I grateful because I had no idea!!! All keyboard and vocal majors were required to be in the Conservatory Chorus which was about as much fun as you could imagine. There is such a thrill to be part of group singing with precision and to hear the results all around you. We began the year singing some lovely little choral pieces and then we were handed a very large piece of music that was hand written. It was entitled “Kaddish – Symphony # 3 by Leonard Bernstein. “Kaddish” is a Jewish prayer. It was written for 8 part choral group, full orchestra including multiple percussion, soloist and narrator. It was HARD! Probably the most difficult piece of music I have ever seen/heard. We had rehearsals twice weekly for 3 hours each time. We worked on this monstrosity for months. Simultaneously the Boston Symphony Orchestra was working on their parts as well, finding it just as difficult. We were, all together preparing to premier this piece to the world, a privilege I didn’t appreciate at the time, UNTIL the day we all came together. There were many people on stage, in fact too many – not enough room. There were to be 3 performances as well as this rehearsal. Everyone was not going to be able to do all of them on stage. There was noisy discussion as to who would be able to participate in which performances. After moments of discussions, the director called my name. My heart sank to my stomach and I fought tears as I realized that I was being pulled. I gathered up my stuff and looked up to the first balcony where Leonard Bernstein was seated with his gigantic original copy of the score and he pointed in my direction. I looked around me to see to whom he was pointing. He shook his head and continued waving his hand. Now my heart was beating out of control. I pointed my own finger at myself and he nodded and signaled me to join him. I didn’t know what to feel or think. Of course I marched right upstairs. Heck, when Leonard Bernstein tells you to do something and you are a freshman in music school, you pretty much decide to do it. I arrived upstairs and presented myself to him. He said “Hi, what’s your name? Have a seat and let’s get busy with this rehearsal.” We did indeed proceed with the rehearsal as he explained to me the notes he was making in his score and the changes he instructed to the orchestra and the chorus and the soloist. When we finished the rehearsal several hours later he informed me that I would be in good shape to perform the Saturday evening performance as this magnificent work was presented to the world. It is one of the most beautiful prayers I have ever heard. All the separate parts were difficult and seemingly meaningless, but when all the instruments and voices came together it was an experience expressing the grandeur of God’s glory for every soul who was in that hall. God had a plan that was more than any one of us could ever imagine or execute, but the Unity gave it life. Once again, how blessed was I! I continue to experience those blessings at every single service I am fortunate enough to be a part of here at Bethlehem. Thank you all for your love and support.

In His service and yours,
Kathleen Olive, Minister of Music

LWML

Date: June 20–23, 2019

Location: Mobile, Alabama

Theme: "In Praise to the LORD!"

Scripture Verse:

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations (1 Chronicles 16:23–24a).*

President: Patti Ross

Convention Goal Statement: Led by God’s power, we praise and proclaim the Lord among all the nations.

Convention Objectives -- Each convention attendee will:

- Sing and rejoice in celebration of His Word.
- Tell of His salvation for all.
- Declare His glory among the nations. Go forth in His joy!

Visit: <http://www.lwml.org/2019-convention> for more information or talk with Becky Bicknase.

Bethlehem Lutheran, Bible Study, Children and Families, Ministry Meetings, Music Ministry, Official Acts, Outside Groups, Pastor/Staff, Preschool, Feb 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)
Special Events, Youth and Young Adults, Christian Holidays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
<p>Fourth S. a. the Epiphany</p> <p>Mites Sunday</p> <p>8am - Donut Sunday @ Disciples'</p> <p>8am - Liturgical Worship @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>9:30am - Family: Contemporary</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School @</p>	<p>4pm - BLC Serves at Gabriel</p> <p>6:30pm - "South of the Border"</p> <p>9:30am - Senior Game Day @</p> <p>6:45pm - Gideon's Meeting @</p>	<p>6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>9:30am - Chapel with the</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting @ Conf. Rm</p> <p>5:30pm - 7th & 8th Grade</p> <p>7pm - Adult Bible Study @</p>	<p>9:15am - Prayer Group @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:45pm - AA Meeting @</p>	<p>7:30pm - Family Faith Night at</p>	<p>High School Youth Gathering</p> <p>8:45am - AA Meeting @</p> <p>10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @</p> <p>7pm - Family Faith Night at Th</p>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>High School Youth Gathering</p> <p>Fifth S. a. the Epiphany</p> <p>8am - Liturgical Worship @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>9:30am - Family: Contemporary</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School @</p> <p>11am - Liturgical Worship @</p>	<p>9:30am - Senior Game Day @</p> <p>6:45pm - Gideon's Meeting @</p>	<p>6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30pm - Small Group @ The</p>	<p>9:30am - Chapel with the</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting @ Conf. Rm</p> <p>5:30pm - 7th & 8th Grade</p> <p>7pm - Adult Bible Study @</p>	<p>9:15am - Prayer Group @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>6pm - Preschool Board Mtg.</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:45pm - AA Meeting @</p> <p>6:45pm - Barnabas Life Group</p>	<p>4pm - Preschool Dinner To Go</p>	<p>8:45am - AA Meeting @</p> <p>10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @</p>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>Sixth S. a. the Epiphany</p> <p>8am - Liturgical Worship @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>9:30am - Family: Contemporary</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School @</p> <p>11am - Liturgical Worship @</p>	<p>6:30pm - "South of the Border"</p>	<p>6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Elder's Meeting @</p>	<p>9:30am - Chapel with the</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting @ Conf. Rm</p> <p>5:30pm - 7th & 8th Grade</p> <p>7pm - Adult Bible Study @</p>	<p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>9:15am - Prayer Group @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:45pm - AA Meeting @</p> <p>6:45pm - Gideon Ladies Meeting</p>	<p>S. Africa Mission Trip</p> <p>6pm - BLC Serves Supper at</p>	<p>8:45am - AA Meeting @</p> <p>10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @</p>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>S. Africa Mission Trip</p> <p>Feed My Sheep Sunday @</p> <p>Seventh S. a. the Epiphany</p> <p>8am - Liturgical Worship @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>9:30am - Family: Contemporary</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School @</p> <p>11am - Liturgical Worship @</p>	<p>Preschool Closed</p> <p>Presidents' Day</p>	<p>6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Call Committee Meeting @</p>	<p>Best Practices Conf. @ Christ Church Lutheran, 3901 E Indian School Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85018, USA</p> <p>9am - Circuit Pastor's</p> <p>9:15am - Prayer Group @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:45pm - AA Meeting @</p>	<p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>9:15am - Prayer Group @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:45pm - AA Meeting @</p> <p>6:45pm - Gideon Ladies Meeting</p>	<p>S. Africa Mission Trip</p> <p>6pm - BLC Serves Supper at</p>	<p>8:45am - AA Meeting @</p> <p>10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @</p>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>S. Africa Mission Trip</p> <p>Best Practices Conf. @ Christ</p> <p>Eighth S. a. the Epiphany</p> <p>Mites Sunday</p> <p>8am - Donut Sunday @ Disciples'</p> <p>8am - Liturgical Worship @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p>	<p>6:30pm - "South of the Border"</p>	<p>6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7pm - Executive Council Meeting</p>	<p>9:30am - Chapel with the</p> <p>11am - Staff Meeting @ Conf. Rm</p> <p>5:30pm - 7th & 8th Grade</p> <p>7pm - Adult Bible Study @</p>	<p>9:15am - Prayer Group @</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Bible Study @</p> <p>6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @</p> <p>6:45pm - AA Meeting @</p>	<p>St. David's Day</p>	<p>8:45am - AA Meeting @</p> <p>10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @</p>