

THE GUIDING LIGHT FEBRUARY 2026

Celebrating God as We Serve Others



Monthly Newsletter

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller Street
Pembroke, ON
K8A 5Z4

Phone: 613-732-8792

Fax: 613-732-1650

E-Mail: zionoffice@nrtco.net

Pastor Scott Schellenberger

Cell: 705-313-0333

E-Mail:

sschellenberger@hotmail.com

Pastor Sue Nevile

Cell: 905-441-3283

E-Mail: suebird98@hotmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Every Sunday 10:00 am Worship & Sunday school

Third Sunday 10:00 am Living Stones Worship

Second Sunday 10:00 am Sunday School

All Sunday morning services are available on Cogeco TV on Sunday mornings as well as our YouTube page and after the service on the Facebook page. YouTube (live streamed), Zion Lutheran Pembroke Facebook, Zion Lutheran Church Pembroke, Cogeco: community channel and broadcasts of previous week's service.



From the Pastor's Desk

We don't celebrate Lent like we do Advent. We don't put up a Lent tree or decorate our homes with Lenten lights. I suppose it's not that sort of season. Lent calls us to quiet reflection, fasting, sacrifice, repentance and gratitude toward our Savior who walked steadfastly to the cross where He saved us from our sins.

Our culture also doesn't embrace Lent like it does Thanksgiving or Christmas. We live in a world that celebrates success and self-confidence, not surrender and devotion. For those outside the church, contemplating the suffering and death of Jesus doesn't make sense. It doesn't fit with the values and ambitions of the world. In these ways, Lent invites us to set ourselves apart from the culture around us, even as it calls us to pray for those who have not yet received Jesus as Lord.

You may notice as we go through the weeks leading up to Easter that we will sing more hymns about the cross and that I will preach about God's grace made visible through Jesus. I hope these Lenten themes help focus your heart on Jesus' sacrifice and on His call to take up your cross as you follow Him.



From the Pastor's Desk (cont.)

You may also think about fasting during Lent. For some believers, fasting is a common devotional practice during this season, as people give up certain foods or activities to symbolize the sacrifice Christ made for us. Fasting from a favorite food may be helpful for your spiritual life, but let me suggest a few other Lenten fasts that can nourish your soul and may also impact the world around us.

For example, you could fast from dwelling on anxious thoughts and negative ideas. It's hard to break the cycle of negativity, especially when the world is drowning in it, but God invites you to bring your needs and worries to Him. He can help you overcome fear, replacing anxious thoughts with the peace that passes understanding. When worries rise in your mind, turn quickly to God in prayer and give thanks for all the blessings He provides.

You could fast from arguing and expressing your opinion, especially on political topics that divide. There's nothing wrong with feeling strongly about certain issues and political agendas. We Canadians like having opinions and cherish the right to express them, but sometimes holding your tongue is wise. Sometimes it's best to make peace instead of winning an argument.

Similarly, you could fast from posting unkind or judgmental comments online. Humans have invented countless ways to hurt each other, and now we've added social media to the list. While you fast from posting hurtful comments, perhaps you could also fast from reading and sharing what others post.

You could fast from putting yourself first and from insisting you get your way. Jesus told us that in His kingdom the first will come last and the last will be first. He cautioned us against selfish ambitions and self-seeking demands. Instead, Jesus told us to put the needs of others ahead of our own and to lay down our lives for our friends.

The weeks leading up to Good Friday bring our Lord's suffering and death into focus for us. However you choose to celebrate Lent, I hope you will dedicate yourself all year long to honoring Jesus and remembering the sacrifice He made on your behalf. May you know God's truth and experience His grace and may the good news of Jesus continue to radiate from your life and from our church.

Pastor Scott

Pint or Pop with the Pastors

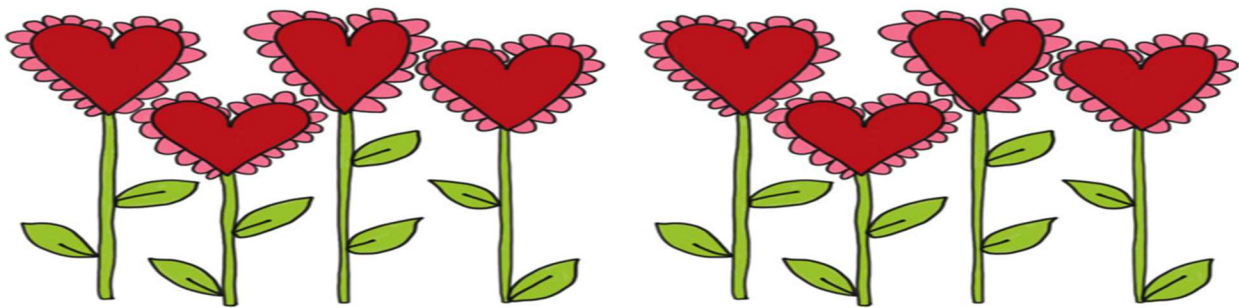


Join Pastor Scott and Pastor Sue for a
drink and conversation!

We will gather at Finnigan's

February 1 at 6:30pm.

Bring some money for food if you like too!



FEBRUARY 15 2026

Following Worship!

Games – Silent Auction – Fun – Prizes

Free will offering gathered for the Food Bank

BRING:

A Date – A Friend – Your Sweetheart –

Your Kids - Your Parents – A Neighbour





Food Crafts Story Games Fun. Free!

Join us

**The first Monday
every month.
We begin each night with a meal at 530pm.**

**Next Date:
Monday February 2nd
2026**

**Come for an evening of so much FUN!
Bring a friend!**

All ages from 1 month to 110 are welcome!



Zion Lutheran Women

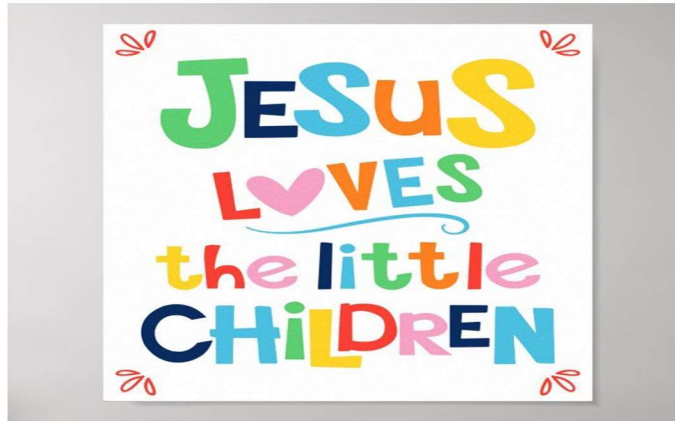
Please join us on
Wed. February 4, 2026
At 2:30 pm
Bible Bingo



Presentation by Sandra Graham

Coffee and snacks to follow!

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday school will be held on
the second week of the month
during worship at 10:00 am.

It will not happen on other Sundays.

Bring your child or grandchild for some fun!

Morning Social Gatherings



Are you looking to spend some time having
coffee, tea and goodies while sharing
conversation with others?

Wednesday February 11th & 25th
At 10:00 am

You need not be a member of Zion.
Everyone is welcome.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



Shrove Tuesday Dinner
Tuesday February 17th 2026
5:00 pm

Please join us for a gathering to celebrate "Fat Tuesday". This is a day we feast together before beginning the Lenten fast.

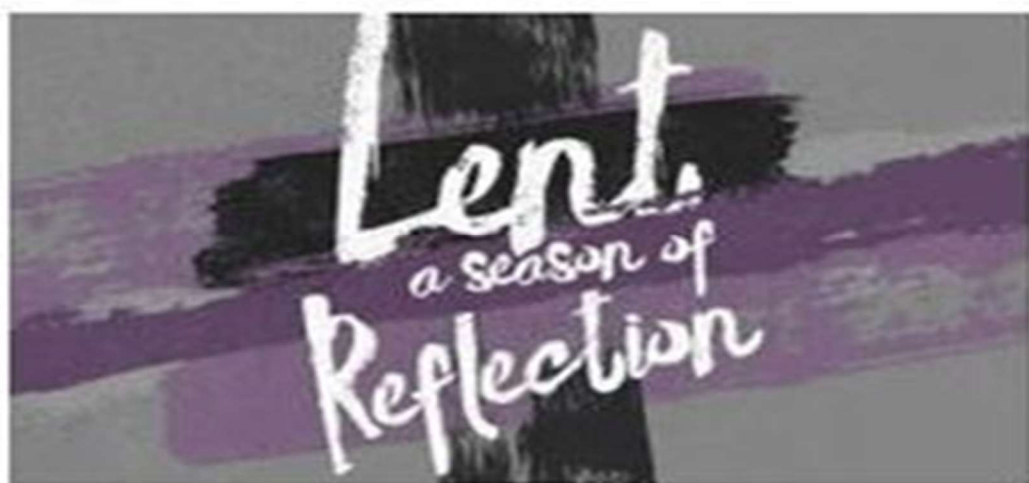
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Ash Wednesday Service
Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday February 18th 2026
7:00 pm



Soup and Sandwich Dinners
Wednesday nights during Lent
beginning February 25th 2026
5:30 pm



Lenten Midweek Services
Wednesdays 6:30 pm
February 25th – March 25th 2026

ANNUAL MEETING



ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22 2026

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

PLEASE MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR

**A QUORUM IS NEEDED TO DO THE
BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH**

THIS IS YOUR TIME TO HAVE A VOICE



FEBRUARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

PINTS WITH THE PASTORS Meeting at Finnigan's Road House, on **Sunday, February 1st at 6:00 pm**

WORSHIP & MUSIC Worship and Music will meet on **Monday February 2nd at 7:00 pm.**

COUNCIL MEETING The next Council meeting will be on **Tuesday February 10th at 7:00 pm.**

ZION LUTHERAN WOMEN Please join us for our next meeting of the ZLW meeting on **Wednesday February 4th at 2:30 pm** – Bible Bingo with Sandra Graham!

SUNDAY SCHOOL Sunday School will be on will be on **Sunday February 8th at 10:00 am.** All children are welcome!

MORNING SOCIAL Our next Morning Socials will be on **Wednesday February 11th and 25th at 10:00 am.** Come for coffee and conversation!

ANNUAL REPORT All committees please submit your reports no later than **Sunday February 8th** to the office. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with the Council President.

VALENTINES EXTRAVAGANZA Following worship on **Sunday February 15th!**

SHROVE TUESDAY: PANCAKE DINNER Come and Feast before the Fast! **February 17th,** beginning at **5:00 pm,** last pancakes served at **6:30 pm.**

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE & Imposition of Ashes **Wednesday February 18th at 7:00 pm.**

ANNUAL MEETING Will be held on **Sunday February 22nd 2026** following worship.

PASTORAL CARE MEETING The Pastoral Care meeting will be on **Monday February 23rd at 10:00 am.**

SENIORS EXERCISE CLASSES

Please join us every **Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 1:00 pm.** in the Parish Hall. Be Sure to Bring a Friend!

MIXED & MENS CHOIRS – Men's Choir on **Tuesday's at 7:00 pm** and Mixed Choir on **Wednesday's at 7:00 pm.**

FOOD BANK If you have any egg cartons that you could bring to the church and put in the food bank baskets it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you! *Debbie Sitkiewicz*

CHURCH COUNCIL Your church council is in need of candidates to join church council. Please speak to any council person for more info. If you are interested you would be elected or appointed at the annual meeting in February and your term would begin in March.

MESSY CHURCH Our next Messy Church will be **Monday February 2nd at 5:30 pm**. Come for food, crafts, games, faith talk, and fun!

HOME COMMUNIONS and HOME VISITS

Do you or do you know someone who may be interested in receiving Holy Communion or a visit from the Pastor? Some people may not be on our pastoral care list but cannot get to church.

Please contact the church office at 613-732-8792 or email the Pastor at sschellenberger@hotmail.com.



LIVING STONES WORSHIP SERVICE

The Living Stones Worship service is a service that is interactive and led by members of the congregation who play guitar and sing. It happens in the gym on the **3rd Sunday of the month**.

On **Sunday February 15th at 10:00 am** there will be a Blended Service with the Living Stones and Traditional Service in the sanctuary.

CHOIR PRACTICES

Men's Choir practices will be on **Tuesdays at 7:00 pm** and Mixed Choir practices will be on **Wednesdays at 7:00 pm**.



MORNING SOCIAL

Join us for our Morning Socials on **Wednesday, February 11th and 25th at 10:00 am** in the Parish Hall! Come on out for fun and fellowship. Pull up a chair, grab a coffee (or tea) and a snack, and enjoy the company! Bring a friend!



PULSE MINISTRY

PULSE MINISTRY consists of three different programs. Every generation is invited to worship and to Messy Church: Messy Church, Youth Group, and worship. The worship Service is called “Living Stones”.

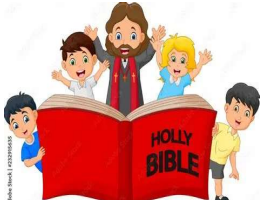
Messy Church

Messy Church is a program that runs the first Monday of every month 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. We gather for a meal at 5:30 pm and conclude at 7:30 pm...just in time to hop into bed when you get home! There will be delicious food, snacks, games, and so much more. This year try bringing a friend, because all are welcome. Messy Church will be on **Monday February 2nd at 5:30 pm.**



Sunday School

The format for Sunday School has changed - Sunday School will be held the second Sunday of every month during regular worship at 10:00 am. February Sunday School will be on **Sunday February 8th at 10:00 am.** All children are welcome!



Confirmation 2025-2026

This year we will be studying Lutheran History and Catechism. Classes are **Wednesday nights at 6:15 pm** at the church. **Field trips** will be to a funeral home, the Grind, the Foodbank, and other places. We will participate in the Coldest Night of the Year Walk on **Feb 28th**. In February youth will **assist with cleanup at Soup and Sandwich Dinners** during Lent.



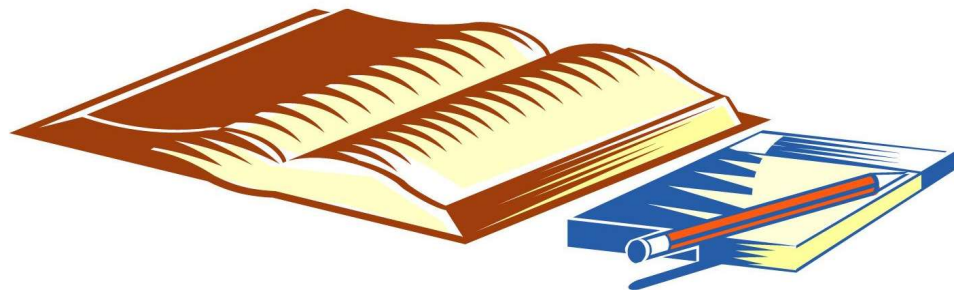
Confirmation Camp is July 5-10 2026. Children are expected to attend this camp. The cost is \$350 per camper. Zion will be giving each child \$100 to lower the cost to \$250. At camp several churches gather to teach lessons based on curriculum and to have fun!

Lessons

Feb 4	Lesson 11 Lord's Prayer
Feb 11	Field Trip to the Grind
Feb 18	Attend Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm
Feb 25	Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm
Feb 28	Coldest Night of the Year Walk
Mar 4	Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm
Mar 11	Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm
Mar 18	Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm

March 25	Lent – Clean-up for Soup and Sandwich come 545pm stay for worship 630pm
April 1	No Class
April 3	Good Friday Readers
April 5	Attend Easter Service with Parents
April 8	No Class
April 15	Pizza Party, Karaoke and Sports Night
April 22	Lessons 12 Holy Baptism
April 29	Lesson 13 Holy Communion
May 6	
May 13	Lesson 14 Confession and Forgiveness
May 20	Lesson 15 Daily Prayers
May 27	
June 3	
June 13	Pool Party
June 24	
July 5-10	Confirmation Camp

Confirmation Class



**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
454 Miller St.
Pembroke, Ontario**

Church Council Meeting Minutes

Date January 13, 2026

Present: Pastor Scott, Jamie MacKinnon, Brent Wolfgram, Gerry Vandersleen and Lisa Campitelli

Excused: Terry, Denise and Tiffany

- 1. Opening:** Devotion was performed by Pastor Scott
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Brent and second by Lisa
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** Moved by Brent and second by Lisa
- 4. Financial Report:** Budget was discussed

5. Pastor's Report:

- **Visits in December –**
 - 11 Home Visits
 - 7 Phone Visits
 - 7 Hospital Calls
- **Worship Services**
 - 3 Seniors Residences Worship Services
 - 1 Midweek Morning Worship at Zion
 - Sunday Dec 14 700pm – Candles and Carols led by Pastor Sue and guest organist/pianist. Blaine was asked but is unavailable.
 - Christmas Pageant December 21 – was awesome again. Good participation.
 - 2 Christmas Services 3pm – 246 7pm – 106
 - 1 Epiphany Service – Starry Starry Night – Jan 4 4:00pm – 40 Lutherans/Anglicans from the Ottawa Valley attended.
- **Funerals:** December 23 Judy Blais
- **Confirmation Classes** – weekly Wednesdays at 615pm. Jan 21 Skating at Pastor's.
- **Sunday School** – Happening on the Second Sunday of the Month.

- **Upcoming:**

Feb 17 Pancake Dinner Feb 18 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service

Feb 25 Soup and sandwich Dinners 5:30pm

Feb 25 – March 25 Wednesdays – Midweek Services 630pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Scott

6. Correspondence:

Kara Buelow-Fleck from Rockwood Public School has asked to use our hall for a school fundraiser. Council has approved and will get more info.

7. Committee Reports: There is nothing to report at this time.

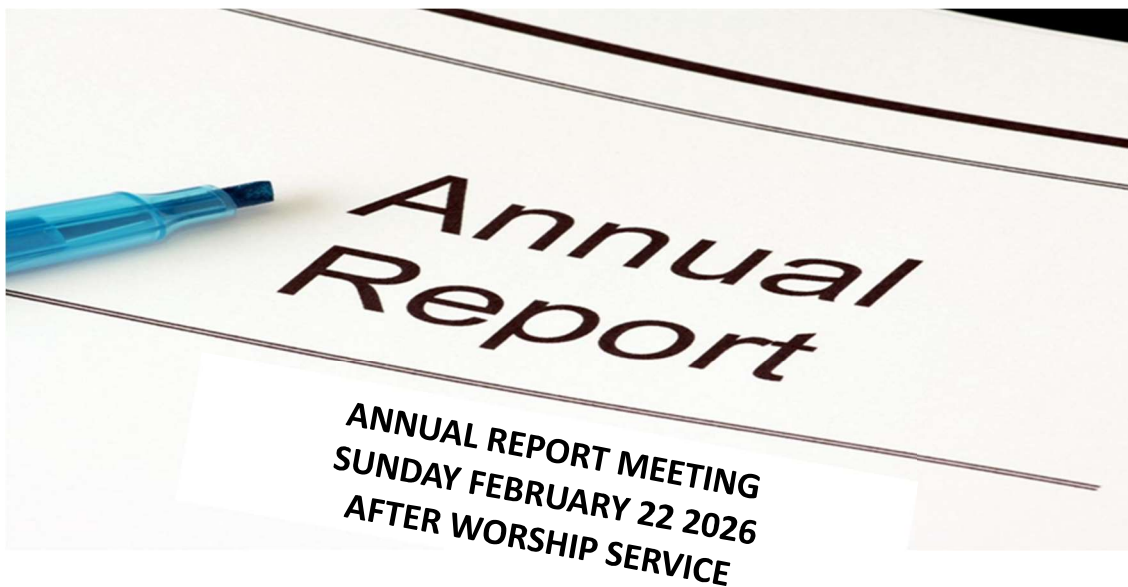
8. New Business:

Annual Meeting will be on Sunday February 22nd.

Endowment ballot was discussed.

9. Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Brent and second by Lisa

10. Next Meeting: Feb 3, 2025



FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

Worship Assistants

Feb 1: Susan Dupuis
Feb 8: Krista Smith
Feb 15: Elizabeth Graham
Feb 22: Lorraine MacKenzie

Sexton

Feb 1: Karen Gauthier
Feb 8: Diane Hammel
Feb 15: David Lehman
Feb 18: Koit Rull
Feb 22: Koit Rull
Feb 25: Don Boldt

Counters

Feb 1: Kathy Godin, Kathy Hoffman, Christine Booth
Feb 8: Kathy Godin, Kathy Hoffman, Christine Booth
Feb 15: Gayle & Larry Seegmiller, Kara Buelow-Fleck
Feb 22: Gayle & Larry Seegmiller, Kara Buelow-Fleck

Ushers

Feb 1: Peter & Patti Wegner
Feb 8: Allan Rose, Cheryl Sack
Feb 15: Pamela Duplessis, Cindy Thrasher
Feb 22: Stan & Debbie Sitkiewicz

Coffee Hour

Feb 1: Kathy Hoffman, Susan Dupuis
Feb 8: Denise & Barry Schizkoske
Feb 15: Lorraine MacKenzie, Michael Laabs
Feb 22: Patti & Peter Wegner

Altar Care

Feb 1: Sandra Graham
Feb 8: Maria Denney
Feb 15: Wendy Schutt
Feb 22: Kathy Godin

Projector Operators

Feb 1: Gerry Vandersleen
Feb 8: Rick Gerundin
Feb 15: Sherri Phannenhour
Feb 22: Diane Hammel

Video Recorders

Feb 1: Ellen Vandersleen
Feb 8: Ryan Schmidt
Feb 15: Zac Phannenhour
Feb 22: Korbin Smith

Sound Operators

Feb 1: Gerry Vandersleen
Feb 8: Noah Schmidt
Feb 15: Todd Phannenhour
Feb 22: Brian Smith

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am Worship Service & Holy Communion 6 pm Pints with Pastors at Finnigan's	2 8 am & 6:30 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 5:30 pm Messy Church 7 pm Music Healing Vets 7 pm Worship & Music Mtg.	3 9:30 am & 6:30 pm- Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir	4 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 2:30 pm ZLW Mtg. 6:15 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Mixed Choir	5 9:30 am Tai Chi 11 am Marian Hill Worship Service 7 pm Music Healing Vets	6 10 am Home School Group 1 pm Senior Exercise Class	7
8 10 am Worship Service of The Word & Sunday School	9 8 am & 6:30 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Music Healing Vets	10 9:30 am & 6:30 pm- Tai Chi 7:00 pm Council Mtg. 7 pm Men's Choir	11 10 am Morning Social 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 6:15 pm Confirmation Class 7 pm Mixed Choir	12 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Music Healing Vets	13 10 am Home School Group 1 pm Senior Exercise Class	14 <div style="text-align: center;"> HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!  </div>
PASTOR SCOTT AND PASTOR SUE – BISHOPS RETREAT FEB. 8-12						
15 10 am Blended Worship Service & Living Stones Service Following Worship - Valentines Extravaganza	16 8 am & 6:30 pm Pickle Ball 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Music Healing Vets	17 9:30 am Tai Chi 5 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 7 pm Men's Choir	18 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service Imposition of Ashes	19 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Music Healing Vets	20 10 am Home School Group 1 pm Senior Exercise Class <i>Guiding Light Deadline</i>	21
22 10 am Worship Service with Holy Communion Following Worship – Annual Meeting	23 8 am & 6:30 pm Pickle Ball 10 am Pastoral Care Mtg. 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 7 pm Music Healing Vets	24 9:30 am & 6:30 pm- Tai Chi 7 pm Men's Choir	25 10 am Morning Social 1 pm Senior Exercise Class 5:30 pm Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Lenten Midweek Service	26 9:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm Music Healing Vets	27 10 am Home School Group 1 pm Senior Exercise Class	28 The Grind Coldest Night Of The Year