



Newsletter

Volume 26 Issue 4
April 21, 2021

Vote on SMP Expansion of Pastoral Staff: Sunday, May 23 at 1 PM

As a follow-up to last month's newsletter, please mark your calendar for a special congregational vote occurring on **Sunday, May 23 at 1 PM**. This vote will be an up-and-down motion answering the following item:

Be it resolved that St. Paul Lutheran Church ask David Schultz to apply for the Specific Ministry Program to be a pastor at St. Paul, and covenant with him in support of the same.

Originally, we were going to have a town hall style meeting in addition to a special vote. However, after much discussion with the elders, council, and others, as well as examining the questions received so far about the SMP program, we have observed that such a meeting would be unnecessary. We also want to respect the schedules of as many members as possible without inundating them with meeting after meeting.

So, in order to enable the best possible transparency with everyone involved, you can expect announcements like this at least weekly from now until May 23. May God grant us wisdom and continue to guide the ministry at St. Paul, where the harvest is plentiful.

Without further ado, here are some frequently asked questions and their answers. (Please note that this list may change each week depending on further engagement.)

SMP Questions and Answers

- What is the SMP program?
 - "SMP" stands for Specific Ministry Pastor. It is designed to fulfill an existing need at a congregation by raising up a man from within their midst, providing the necessary theological training for pastoral ministry by distance education through one of the synod's seminaries.
- Why does St. Paul need another pastor?
 - Simply put, there isn't enough pastoral staff to serve everyone adequately in our growing congregation.

Continued on p. 2...

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

New Members / Ascension Dinner	3
Ministry Center Dedication Photos	4
LWML Friendship Circle	5
Persecuted Church	6
May Rotations	7
March 2021 Council Minutes	8-10
May Calendar	11

**Saved by
Jesus
Sent to
Serve**

Possible Expansion of Pastoral Staff

...Continued from p. 1

➡ The immediate and primary needs of this ministry includes preaching, teaching, visitations, and other administration.

- What are the benefits of the SMP program (as opposed to calling another pastor from the seminary, the field, or a vicar)?
 - The quickest path to additional pastoral coverage is to use David, who has served this congregation well for more than two decades. It would utilize his skills and knowledge for our context, and St. Paul's staff already benefits from a great working relationship with him.
- What will this mean financially for St. Paul?
 - The program is about ten thousand dollars per year for four years.
 - After the program is completed, we should expect to adjust David's compensation commensurate with his training, experience, and position.
- Will the training be at the seminary or fully remote?
 - The training is mostly by distance year round.
 - One week per year, he will travel to the seminary for a week-long intensive course.
- How will David's current responsibilities be covered?
 - David's current position will not disappear. It will continue to evolve as it has over the years, but in a more deliberate manner toward pastoral ministry. Responsibilities (e.g. Youth, catechism, C&P worship, etc.) will be streamlined and expanded to include more lay involvement. In short, we are all growing together!
- What are the steps to complete the SMP program?
 - First, St. Paul and David enter into a covenant agreement and David enrolls in SMP program.
 - Second, David is installed as vicar at start of program.
 - Third, after two years he is ordained and installed as St. Paul's associate pastor.
 - Fourth, he completes another two years of educational training.

This is (I hope) enough for now. It is important to note that the SMP program itself was designed with two main scenarios in mind. First, small congregations in isolated areas whose situation prohibits them from receiving a traditional-route pastor can more easily have a pastor. Second (and relevant to St. Paul), a godly and competent man within our midst can better equip and expand the ministry of established and healthy congregations as an ordained pastor.

As always, if you have any questions that you think should be addressed for everyone's benefit, please email me or Jeremy Warren, and I we will answer them in a similar fashion before the vote. God bless your prayers and contemplation for the future of St. Paul!

-Pastor Matyas

Welcome to St. Paul!



Carolyn Grussing

I have lived in Bay City, Michigan, for the past 38 years and was a member of Faith, Bay City. Our family moved here from Tallahassee, Florida. I am a widow of 15 years and am blest with 3 grown children and 4 grandchildren. I am the office manager at Hyatt-Ewald Funeral Home and Cremation Society of Mid-Michigan. Last year when Covid-19 hit and many of the churches were shut down, Kris Fisher invited me to attend here at St. Paul. I started worshipping in mid-May, and I have attended here since then. I grew up in Defiance, Ohio, and St. Paul reminds me of my home church in Defiance (St. John Lutheran Church). Immediately I felt at home, plus I found this a very friendly congregation. The sermons are so spirit fed. God's spirit is very much alive here. I look forward to my new journey with my new St. Paul family in the years ahead. God's Blessings!



Eric and Brittney Schwab were both born and raised in Bay City, MI. Eric has been a lifelong member of St. Paul and Brittney recently joined along with their newest addition Easton, who was born on March 10th of 2021. Eric and Brittney were married on August 3rd of 2018 by Pastor Matyas. Eric works on his family farm. Brittney is an RN at Covenant Healthcare. In their free time, they enjoy spending time with family and friends and going camping.



Eric & Brittney Schwab

Contact information for new members received since the latest directory was published is provided in the blue photo album at the bottom of the case where new member pictures are displayed in the church entry. Pictures removed to make room for new ones are stored in the photo album until those recently received members are pictured in a new directory.

Ascension Dinner - Thursday, May 13 from 4-6 PM

Wild Rice Soup

Beef Vegetable Barley Soup

Chicken Noodle Soup

Homemade Dinner Rolls

Assorted Salads (individual)

Free Will Donation

Proceeds to go to Alaska
Mission.

Everything will be in disposable containers so you may eat in the Ministry Center or take out. If you would like to pre-order soup, please call or text Heidi 450-0975. We will have 12 oz or 32 oz containers available.

If you are unable to attend and would like to donate to the mission trip you may send donations to

Ladonna Herbert

PO BOX 518

Cooper Landing, AK 99572



Ministry Center Dedication Service: Sunday, April 18, 2021, at 3 p.m.



Pastor leading the congregation in song into the Ministry Center



The congregation following Pastor



Pastor blessing the new building and inviting everyone to look around and enjoy some treats



Enjoying cupcakes and cookies while Pastor offers thanks to the building committee and all those who had a part in making the Ministry Center possible

Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle meeting last month was held at Virginia Hutter's home. Besides the Bible study from the LWML Quarterly, we discussed and planned for the Confirmand's Reception, a service project for the Baby Pantry affiliated with the Old Town Christian Outreach Center in Saginaw, and the April 17th Prayer Day at Trinity, Monitor. It was an inspiring and enjoyable evening.

The LWML website for Michigan is full of pertinent information but also remarkably interesting topics. With our cautionary lifestyle ongoing, a quote from Martin Luther was offered as an encouragement to still move forward, make plans, serve the Lord and your fellow man.

Martin Luther's wise words while dealing with The Black Plague:

"I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me however I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God." Luther's Works Volume 43, page 132 the letter, "Whether one may flee from a Deadly Plague" written to Rev. Dr. John Hess

As plans continue to be made for the 39th Biennial Convention Thursday, June 24–Sunday, June 27, 2021, in Lexington, Kentucky, the theme also encourages us keep our eyes on Jesus as we live, have faith and trust.

The convention logo incorporates the shape of the last letter of the Greek alphabet, **Omega**, and refers to this Scripture passage: *I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end* (Revelation 22:13).

The symbol is shaped like a horseshoe, which is appropriate, as horses are a large part of the Kentucky culture.

Ancient Greeks awarded horseshoe-shaped **laurel wreaths** to victors of competitions. In our logo, the laurel wreath symbolizes our victory in Christ. The **banner** was a method of announcing an official proclamation. Our banner proclaims that we are "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus."

The convention logo was designed by LWML Graphic Team Member Cheryl Rackov of Dickinson, North Dakota.



Post Script from last month's newsletter: Answers to Deaconess Challenge Quiz: All choices were correct!

Persecuted Church

AFGHANISTAN

■ DESIGNATION: Restricted

■ **OVERVIEW:** The good news of Christ reached Afghanistan by the second century, but today there are no church buildings. Cultural and religious opposition to the gospel as well as significant security issues remain great challenges for all missions efforts in this Central Asian nation. And sadly, most Afghans have never heard the gospel, do not know a Christian and have been indoctrinated to follow Muhammad's teachings without question. Radical Islam and violent tribal political activity make the nation a difficult and dangerous place for Christians to practice their faith. There is, nevertheless, a special unity among Christians laboring for the gospel in Afghanistan. Indigenous, near-culture and expatriate believers are boldly taking risks and using every possible opportunity to help believers grow in faith and connect with local house churches. While church growth has been slow among the more than 40 unique people groups, significant Christian growth has occurred among the Hazara people, and some among other people groups are also coming to know Christ.

■ **MAJOR RELIGION:** 99.8 percent of Afghans are Muslims, with 90 percent Sunni and 10 percent Shiite.

■ **PERSECUTOR:** Both local and national governments are highly antagonistic toward Christians. Extremist groups, including the Taliban and the self-proclaimed Islamic State (ISIS), are active, and believers are also persecuted by their families, friends and communities.

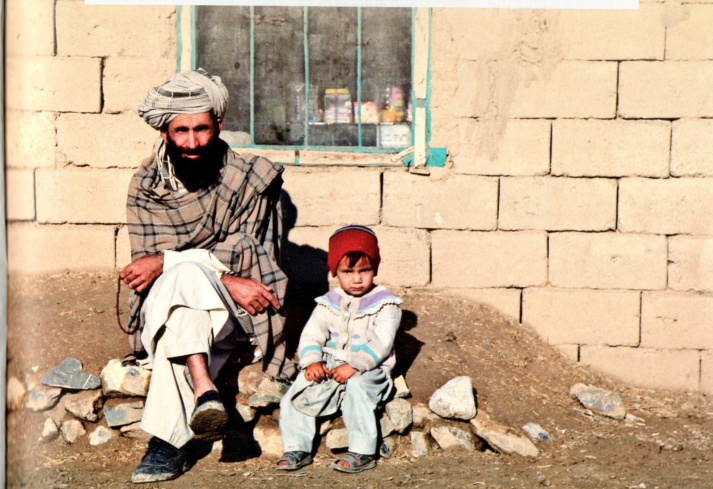
WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN AFGHANISTAN:

Afghan Christians cannot worship openly. They must worship in homes or other small venues, and evangelism is forbidden. Christians and seekers are highly secretive about their faith or interest in Christianity, especially following a surge of arrests in the past decade. Beatings, torture and kidnappings are routine for Christians in Afghanistan. Although waves of Christians have moved to neighboring countries to worship openly, Afghan house churches continue to grow. A small number of Christians are martyred every year in Afghanistan,

but their deaths generally occur without public knowledge. A few are also in prison, but imprisonment is not common. Christian converts from Islam are often killed by family members or other radicalized Muslims before any legal proceedings can begin.

ACCESS TO BIBLES: Since there are no churches or Christian bookstores in Afghanistan, Bibles are available only through underground ministry networks or in digital formats. There is little access to printed Bibles, and owning one is extremely dangerous. Most believers do not have their own Bible, but online Bibles and other digital formats are available and extremely helpful to believers and seekers. Bible translation efforts are underway for the languages of some people groups who do not have a Bible in their native language.

VOM WORK: VOM equips Afghan Christians by providing Bibles, TV and radio broadcasts, discipleship training, front-line worker support and other forms of practical and spiritual assistance, with a special focus on outreach to persecuted women and widows of martyrs.



The above article on Afghanistan's treatment of any Christians within the country is taken from "The Voice of The Martyrs 2021 Global Prayer Guide." VOM is located in Bartlesville, OK. A series of such articles will appear in the coming months. All will be taken from the prayer guide.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Newsletter

April 21, 2021

Volume 26—Issue 4

6100 Westside Saginaw Road

Bay City, MI 48706

Church Phone: 989.686.7140

School Phone: 989.684.4450

Pastor:

Rev. Dennis Matyas

Director of Family Life Ministries:

Mr. David Schultz

School Principal:

Mr. Jack Lustila

Secretary:

Mrs. Ruth Schian

Newsletter articles for the May newsletter are due on

Wednesday, May 12, 2021. You may submit articles to the email address below or drop them off in the office.

Website: www.stpaulbaycity.org

Email: office@stpaulbaycity.org

Acolyte and Reader Schedule for May 2021

Acolytes:	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	Readers:	8:00 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Sun., May 2	Hayden Swartz	Brooklynn Garrett		Sam Britton	Richard Doan
Sun., May 9	Elise Helmreich	Charles Begick		Pastor Matyas	Pastor Matyas
Thurs., May 13 (Ascension Day)	(3:30 p.m.) Lillian Garcia	(6:30 p.m.) Sawyer Bebow			
Sun., May 16	Natalie List	Rylie Garrett		Pastor Matyas	Brian Appold
Sun., May 23	Maura Zeilinger	Sawyer Bebow		Sam Britton	John Rodgers
Sun., May 30	Hayden Swartz	Nathan Coyer		Zachary Benkert	Pastor Matyas

Altar Guild, Elders, and Ushers in May 2021

Altar Guild:	Elders:	Usher Group #1:	Usher Group #4:
Jean Begick	Howard Helmreich	Cary Behmlander	Bob Eastman
Joanne	Tom Appold	Dale Jezowski	Cindy Eastman
Behmlander	Vaughn Begick	Adam Jezowski	Tim Begick
	Howard McMullen	Rollan Berger	
	Jeremy Warren		

Family Elder List (January 2020-May 2021)

Family Name:	Elder:
A-Az	Abraham-Ayala
B-Be	Bach-Berger
Bf-Dil	Bohlen-Dijak
Dim-Gis	Divo-Gillespie
Git-Kei	Gittins-Keith
Kej-L	Kernstock-Lutz
M-Pe	MacLeod-Person
Pf-Schl	Pfau-Schlicker
Schm-Wag	Schmidt-Wagner
Wah-Z	Wajer-Zielinski
	Mike Appold
	Howard Helmreich
	Jeremy Warren
	Roger Hendrick
	Richard Doan
	Don Krueger
	Vaughn Begick
	Tom Appold
	Howard McMullen
	Zac Benkert

Your elder should be able to answer any church related questions you may have, or they can find the person who can answer your question.

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2021**

(APPROVED)

Chairman Ben Helmreich called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Pastor Matyas opened the meeting with a prayer.

Council members in attendance include: Ben Helmreich, Virginia Hutter, Jack Lustila, Weston Appold, John Schlicker, Andy Weiss, Jeremy Warren, Rachel Appold, Pastor Matyas, David Schultz, Tom Deprekel and Andy Wiess.

Minutes-The minutes from the last Council Meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report-Treasurer Andy Wiess presented the Treasurer's Report. February revenue is down, but expenses are in line, which created a deficit about \$6,000 more than budgeted. Andy provided a breakdown of the Ministry Center's expenses, funding, balances and contingencies. There is about \$172,000 in funds that can be used to reduce the mortgage principal. Ladies Aid will donate \$10,000 (\$6,000 in 2021, \$2,000 in 2022 and \$2,000 in 2023) to be used towards furniture. The Treasurer's Report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports

Gifts and Memorials-Simoni's bid for audio and visual equipment is about \$5,000 more than originally estimated. This difference will be split between G&M and the Elmer Wagner fund.

Ministry Center-Sam Britton shared the preliminary draft of the MC Building Use Policy. Many other documents have been used as references. Council and the various boards will have an opportunity to review the document and provide feedback. John posted a digital version in Google docs, and gave everyone on Council rights to comment on the document. The comments will be collected and summarized for review and approval. Once the document is updated and approved by Council, it will be brought to the Voters for final approval.

Planning Committee-The next meeting is scheduled for March 14th.

Nominating Committee-John has contacted all the members of the committee. The goal is to have the ballot finalized at our next Council Meeting (April 8th). A spreadsheet was created that can be updated by the respective committees.

BOARD REPORTS

Board of Elders-Chairman Jeremy Warren updated Council on the following:

1. A request was made to the Trustees to have the vestry entrance keyed the same as the other external doors.
2. Membership Changes:
 - a. Transfer In: Doug and Barb Dewald from Faith BC
 - b. Transfer Out: Dan and Kim Snover to Grace Auburn
Tyler Snover to Grace Auburn
Andrew Snover to Grace Auburn
 - c. Deaths: Michael Mossner, Richard Emeott, Paul Begick

3. We will reintroduce Common Cup on Easter
4. Mask-Only service scheduled for March 21st
5. Expanding Pastoral Staff
 - a. Recommending that David Schultz move forward with Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program. This is a four-year program; first two years would be as a Vicar, next two years as an Associate Pastor.
 - b. Cost would be about \$10,000 per year which would be covered by St. Paul.
 - c. Want to inform Council, Boards and congregation to solicit any questions or concerns prior to congregational meetings and final voting. Any input can be given to Jeremy.
6. Pastor vacations: Weeks of July 11, August 1 and August 8
7. LEAP - Part-time staff member working as an admissions coordinator to help match families with schools by collecting information at various social events (VBS, Easter Egg Hunt, etc.)

Board of Trustees-Chairman Weston Appold reported on the following:

1. **A motion passed** to appoint Terry Burkhardt to the Trustees to fill a vacancy, pending his acceptance.
2. Creating a comprehensive list of questions regarding the Ministry Center that the Building Committee can provide answers to.
3. Al Switala will be doing some work on Pastor's house.
4. Working on getting Ministry Center keys made for Pastor and the Elders.

Board of Education-Chair Rachel Appold updated Council on the following:

1. Accreditation is complete with provisional status for both the school and pre-school.
2. Rachel wrote and submitted a grant which was approved for an ID swiping program to do background checks on all volunteers and persons entering the school facilities. The initial cost for the system is \$1,780, then there will be a yearly fee of \$500. The contract has been passed on to the BoBM for approval.
3. Current Enrollment:
 - a. PS - 16
 - b. Y5\K - 18
 - c. 1-2 - 27
 - d. 3-4 - 14
 - e. 5-6 - 16
 - f. 7-8 - 6
4. They have 2 names so far for the Board of Ed to submit to the Nominating Committee.

Board of Business Management-Chairman Andy Weiss shared the following business with Council:

1. Working with area schools to assess tuition and lunch rates.
2. Reworked the Board calendar

Board of Youth-Pastor Matyas updated Council on the following:

1. Sunday School
 - a. Easter Egg Hunt - March 27
 - b. Last day of Sunday School - May 23
 - c. Some classes will move to the Ministry Center as soon as they can. Others will stay at the school.
2. VBS
 - a. Determining Curriculum
 - b. Tentative date - week of July 18

- c. Method (Video/home, In person, Hybrid) and Location (School or MC) is in the evaluation stage – April 30 is the date set for Go/NoGo on these issues.
- 3. Confirmation
 - a. Five students will confirm their faith
 - b. Questioning is March 21 between services
 - c. Confirmation is March 28 at 10:30
 - d. April 1, 6:30 - First Communion with Friendship Circle Reception to follow.
- 4. Senior High Youth
 - a. As restrictions ease, YBC Youth Leadership Team will re-engage in event planning.
 - b. Weekly Youth Group (Typically Sunday evening) – a team of volunteers is being recruited and trained so that we can start using the Youth Room as soon as we get occupancy
 - c. The LC-MS National Youth Gathering is in Houston, July 9-13, 2022 – registration materials will be coming this fall

Board of Evangelism-Chair Tom Deprekel updated Council on the following:

- 1. Camp Lu Lay Lea will not have camp this year due to covid liability concerns. Committee is looking at switching to a Day Camp, which limits the number of campers that could attend for health reasons. May be able to have a family day camp. Hope to encourage evangelism through the camp and also through individual staff members.
- 2. Looking to add zone board members. Would like to set up an endowment fund. Using thrivent grants for several projects. Would like to have congregation members provide the grants and the manpower for various projects.
- 3. Lutheran Church Basement Ladies – working with SVSU theatrical department.

Board of Stewardship- Chair Virginia Hutter reported she is looking for her replacement to serve as Board of Stewardship Chair.

Old Business-*A motion passed* to confirm the appointments of Barb and Missy Appold to the Audit Committee

New Business-None

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m. Pastor closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
John Schlicker, Secretary-in-training

Next Council Meeting: April 8, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Next regular Voters Meeting: May 16th, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church Calendar

MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div> <div> Apr 2021 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> Jun 2021 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				1
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
				1	2	3																																																																																				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																				
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																					
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																				
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																				
27	28	29	30																																																																																							
2 8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:15 AM Bible Classes & Sunday School 10:30 AM Celebration & Praise with Communion	3 7:00 PM Ladies Aid	4 7:00 PM Elders Mtg.	5	6 8:30 AM Service of Prayer 6:00 PM Board of Ed	7	8																																																																																				
9 8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:15 AM Bible Classes & Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship with Communion	10 6:30 PM Board of Business Mgt Mtg.	11	12 <div>NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE</div>	13 3:30 PM Ascension Day Worship with Communion 4:00 PM Ascension Dinner 6:30 PM Ascension Day Worship with Communion 7:30 PM Church Council	14	15																																																																																				
16 8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:15 AM Bible Classes & Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship with Communion 1:00 PM Voters Meeting	17	18	19	20 6:00 PM Friendship Circle	21	22																																																																																				
23 8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:15 AM Bible Classes & Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship with Communion 1:00 PM Special Voters Meeting	24	25	26	27 6:30 PM 4th Thursday Visual Faith	28 11:30 AM Early School Dismissal	29																																																																																				
30 8:00 AM Worship with Communion 9:15 AM Bible Class 10:30 AM Worship with Communion	31 Memorial Day <div>No School</div>																																																																																									