

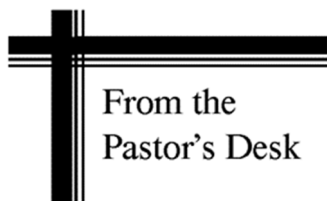


*Living in the*  
**Shadow of the Cross**

Mailing address:  
2214 E 2nd Ave,  
PO Box 174  
Indianola, IA 50125  
Phone:  
515-961-4321

Vol. 47 No. 3

March 2026



From the  
Pastor's Desk

**Why Are We Focusing on the Internet?**

In our November Congregational meeting, I unveiled our vision for the next few years, which we are calling "Bridging the Gap." Here's the statement for that vision once again:

*Over the next seven years, we envision a church that builds meaningful connections across generations, **using technology to BRIDGE THE GAP** and reach our community. Through these relationships, we will plant seeds of the timeless Gospel, trusting God to bring forth His harvest in the right season.*

Last month, I wrote about why we aren't calling another DCE right away. This month, I want to answer another question that I've heard about this vision statement: Why are we focusing on the internet? Good question. Here's the two main reasons why.

The first reason has to do with demographics again except, this time, it's not the demographics of Mt. Calvary but the demographics of Indianola. A large group of people in Indianola are characterized as "Digital Dependents." They spend more time online than offline. They are active in "chatting, blogging, surfing, texting, and tweeting." (If you don't know what those things are, ask your grandchildren.) Just know that these are means of communicating. Digital Dependents don't get information on paper; they get it on their phones. Where you and I may remember listening to talk radio, this group listens to podcasts, which are usually informational shows that they can listen to on-demand. (No waiting for the right day and time to tune in.) Even though they talk to each other digitally, they can still form deep relationships in this virtual world. I'm not native to this world but I have dabbled a bit and I've seen the friendships that can form through shared on-line experiences.

If all this talk of digital, on-line media is making your head spin, that's even more reason that we need to be involved in it. Many of us shared a tract or a pamphlet or cut out an article from a paper or magazine to share it with a friend who needed it.

*Continue . . . . .*

Pastor Tom Vanderbilt  
pastor@mt-calvary.com

Colleen DeLanoit  
Office Administrator  
office@mt-calvary.com  
Office hours  
M-F 8:00am—12:00 pm  
www.mt-calvary.com

**Up Coming Events!!**  
**Lenten Services**  
**Wednesdays: 10:30 am & 7:00 pm**

**March 8 - Daylight Savings begins.**

**March 16 - 20 Spring Break**  
**No Midweek Meal**  
**No L.I.F.E. classes**

**March 29 - Palm Sunday**  
**ONE Service 9:15am**  
**Elder Breakfast 10:15 am**

**Wednesday 'April 1, 2026**  
**No Services**  
**No Midweek Meal**  
**No L.I.F.E. Classes**

These Digital Dependents send “reels” and “posts” to each other to do the same thing. They are looking for on-line content, and they’ll share it with their friends in two clicks. The problem is... we don’t have any of that kind of material to share. We have a Facebook page (that isn’t used as often as it could be) and a YouTube channel (that only shows the recording of our services). We have raw material to make these reels, posts, and podcasts; we just need the know-how and strategy to do so.

And don’t think this is just for people “out there.” This is not a “church vs. the world” issue. This is a division of generations and we’re feeling it in our current members, too. This is the second reason for making this change: our younger members are communicating this way, already.

Right now, there are three major means of communication at Mt. Calvary: The Shadow of the Cross, our newsletter, Calvary’s Current, our weekly announcements, and our Wednesday e-mail. Two of these are paper-based and e-mail is becoming increasingly outdated and archaic. Also, if we rely on the weekly Calvary’s Current and after church announcements to get our message out, we will reach less than 24 percent of our membership each week and we will reach no one outside our church. Digital media and content allow us to give our message a wider reach, possibly even reaching people who don’t have a church home or a saving faith. I’ll admit, it’s a bit like putting a message in a bottle and tossing it in the ocean hoping someone will find it; the chance of connecting can be slim. But the chances are zero if we don’t put the message out there to begin with. It’s a way for us to share our message with our younger members who may not attend frequently and a way to connect with people who don’t attend at all... yet.

During His high priestly prayer in John 17, Jesus asks the Father: **“I am not asking that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one.”** There’s a great temptation to stay out of the world and keep doing things the way we like them done. We can sit back and turn up our noses and shake our fists at the world as it passes us by. Or we can try to learn how to send information in the way that the world chooses to receive it. All I’m asking is that we try the latter and see what happens.

In Christ,



Pastor Tom Vanderbilt



MARCH



## MISSION PARTNERS

Mount Calvary is blessed to have faithful stewards. Each year we pledge a tithe of our offerings to support missions at the local, district, synod, and world levels. We are committed to seeing the Gospel spread throughout our community and the world. In 2026 we have added a new mission partner, WeLIFT's Compassion Fund. WeLIFT is a nonprofit organization offering free community resources built around job readiness, community outreach, and meaningful partnerships. WeLIFT Job Search Center will be celebrating their 20th anniversary on March 5th, 2026 at the Indianola Parks and Recreation Activity Room. To learn more about WeLIFT, please review their programs at <https://www.weliftjobsearchcenter.org/>.



## WeLIFT's Compassion Fund

This fund has been newly created to decrease barriers to employment, so our clients stay employed and continue to move towards self-sufficiency. This fund also provides a \$100.00 incentive towards rent and utility bills after completing a 5-7 week financial class hosted by WeLIFT and partners like Wells Fargo and People's Bank.

Additionally, donations will go towards:

- small car repairs, new vehicle wheels
- oil changes, work clothes and footwear - such as the purchase of anti-oil slip boots required for kitchen work in our restaurants,
- steel toed boots for construction sites,
- different possible forms of transportation like purchasing HIRTA passes or bikes
- birth certificates, social security card replacement, state IDs
- reactivation of cell phone or adding minutes to their phones

These are the things that are necessary for our clients to move through the hiring and housing process. We want to ensure that our clients have the necessities to be successful with employers when a communication, documentation, apparel, or transportation situation arises.

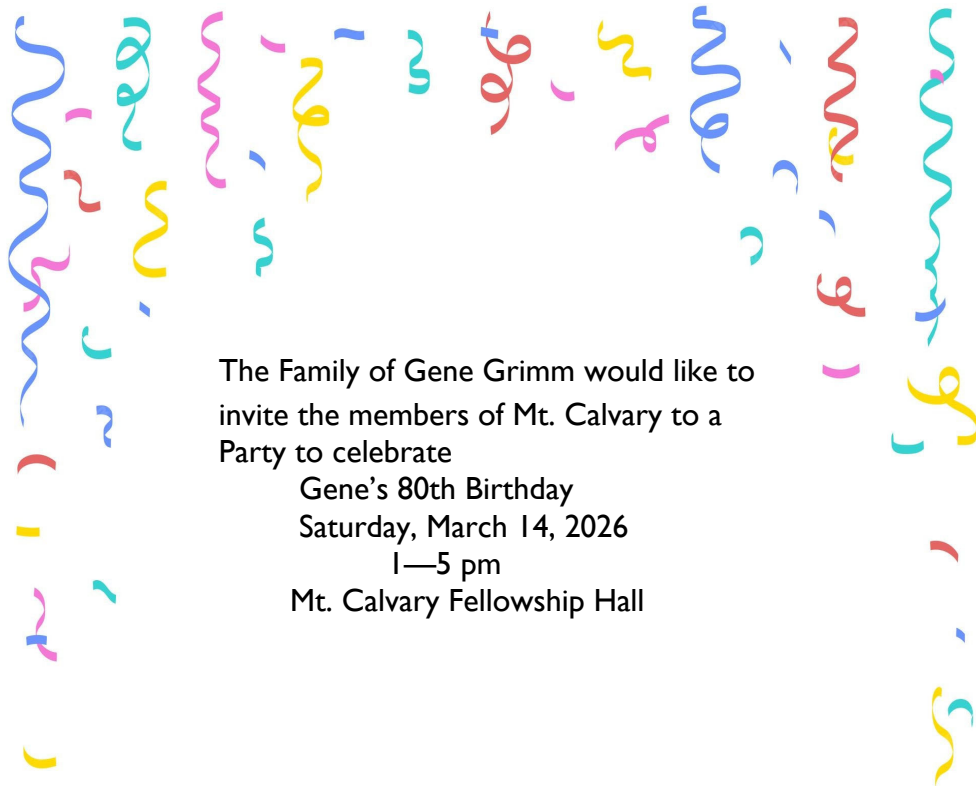


## Noodles & Pies

On February 7, 2026

The Discipleship committee hosted an event to make homemade noodles and pies.

On February 15, 2026, after the late service, we had a Turkey and noodle luncheon along with the homemade pies! We served 43 meals and were encouraged to take a meal to a neighbor or a friend. We packaged 45 meals to go!



The Family of Gene Grimm would like to invite the members of Mt. Calvary to a Party to celebrate

Gene's 80th Birthday

Saturday, March 14, 2026

1—5 pm

Mt. Calvary Fellowship Hall



# Update

## Register Now!

Visit [campokoboji.org](http://campokoboji.org) to register for youth and family camps. Early bird discount until March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## CAMP OKOBOJI 2026

### Discipleship Programs

May 29-31	Kid's Kamp
June 4-7	Joy Camp 1
June 14-18	Cub Week 1
June 28-July 3	July 4 <sup>th</sup> Family Retreat
July 5-11	Jr High Week
July 9-12	Joy Camp 2
July 12-18	Cub Week 2
July 19-25	Youth Week
July 26-31	Family Retreat #1
August 2-7	Family Retreat #2

### Other Events

January 23-25...Family Ice Fishing Retreat  
May 1-2...Spring Volunteer Work Weekend  
June 10-13...Iowa West District LWML Convention  
June 20...Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction  
June 21-27...Minneboji Lutheran Camp  
May 24-September 6...Sunday Worship  
1st Sundays of the Month (May-October)...Brunch  
October 9-10...Fall Volunteer Work Weekend

For more information and to register, visit [campokoboji.org](http://campokoboji.org)



## Summer Staff Needed!

We need 2026 Summer Staff! Please encourage youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us. Those interested in serving at Camp Okoboji, or any LCMS camp in 2026 should complete a NLOMA profile. That is the first step in being considered for a summer position. Visit [NLOMA.org](http://NLOMA.org) for the profile link.

The Annual Meeting of Camp Okoboji is coming up, Saturday, April 11. We look forward to sharing Camp Okoboji with the congregations and members of Iowa District West and all our ministry partners! We encourage each congregation to be involved, send a delegate to hear from Camp, and report it back to their congregation and members. **Please note: The delegate post cards are due back to Camp by March 23<sup>rd</sup>! Thank you!**

### NEEDS/WANTS:

- Outdoor Rocking Chairs
- Laundry soap, bleach and hand soap
- Queen size mattress pads
- New commercial grade vacuums, coffee pots, toasters, crock pots
- Thrivent Action Team Cards (contact Kellie Jones for potential projects; 712-337-3325)
- Also, ask us about our Amazon Wish List!

## Connecting with the Church



Kate Jordan	1-Mar
David Jordan	2-Mar
Mike Miller	3-Mar
Mallory Williams	5-Mar
Jami McLeod	6-Mar
Lee Perdigon	7-Mar
Gene Grimm	14-Mar
Ashley Johnson	15-Mar
Jason Bingham	21-Mar
Kristle Finck	23-Mar
Anna Sickels	29-Mar
Linda Henline	31-Mar
Sara Vanderbilt	31-Mar



Please notify the church office of updates or changes to your address or contact information or any corrections to the

Church Directory at [office@mt-calvary.com](mailto:office@mt-calvary.com)

or call 515-961-4321.

THANK YOU!

Colleen DeLanoit  
Office Administrator

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday

8:00 am -12:00 pm



Easter is coming . . .

If you are interested in donating flowers for the Altar area of our church, on Easter Sunday, there is a signup sheet on the pillar. You may let us know if the flowers are in memory of a loved one or in honor of a loved one. The cost is \$15.00. You may put the money in the collection plate marked 'Easter Flowers'. Thank you!



### **HELPING HAND SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY**

Dish Soap  
Mac & Cheese  
Canned Ravioli  
Hamburger Helper  
Canned Soup  
Cereal  
Ramen Noodles  
Chili Beans  
Peanut Butter

**This month Mt. Calvary  
Delivered  
grocery items to support  
the Food Pantry.  
Thank you for your  
continued support!**

## Opportunities to Serve



Available dates to donate flowers for the altar on Sunday.

- March 1 - Available
- March 8 - Lee Perdigon
- March 15 - Mike & Jen Olson
- March 22 - Herold Family
- March 29 - Pastor Tom & Sara

**Altar Flowers – Needed:** Individuals can sign up to place flowers for the altar or to donate to the “Flower Fund.” Place checks/cash in the offering and mark "Flowers" or you can use the online option to donate. You may sign up for a specific week on the flower calendar located on the Pillar. If you have a special occasion and would like flowers ordered for you and placed on the altar, contact Sherrie Engel. We need two arrangements for the altar total cost \$50.00. Contact Sherrie Engel, 515-490-2333 for more information. There are plenty of Sundays available.



Available dates to host Sunday Morning Treats

If no one signs up..... no treats!! 😞

- March 1 - Available
- March 8 - Available
- March 15 - Available
- March 22 - Available
- March 29 - Elder Breakfast



Available dates to Host a Mid-Week Meal

- March 4 - Pastor Tom & Sara
- March 11 - Church Council— Taco Bar
- March 18 - NO MEAL Spring Break
- March 25 - Available
- April 1 - NO MEAL Holy Week

We are needing help preparing our Wednesday night, Midweek meals. If you are willing to help please sign up on the signup sheet on the pillar in the fellowship hall. We offer financial assistance to anyone willing to prepare the meal. Everyone is welcome to attend our Wednesday night meals!

## Opportunities to Serve

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE:

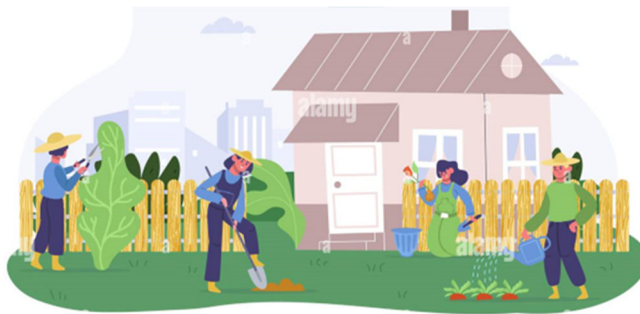
**Talk to the church office about becoming a Reader in Worship.**

**Talk to an Elder about becoming an Usher at either service.**

**Volunteer to be a song leader at our 10:30 am Sunday service.**

**Sunday Morning treats – Volunteers needed to host at Sunday morning coffee time.**  
A sign up sheet is on the pillar in the fellowship hall.

**Altar Flowers – Needed:** Individuals to sign up to place flowers for the altar or to donate to the “Flower Fund.” Check out the flower chart on the pillar in the fellowship hall.



Spring is almost here! .....

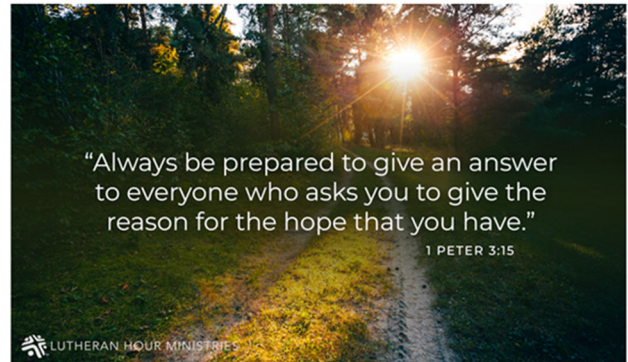
Volunteers are needed to maintain our landscape each year. Weeding flower beds, mowing lawn and watering flowers when needed. If you are willing to help with any of those outside activities, please contact the Board of Property.

Terry Pauling, Board Chairman. 515.249.9192





LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES  
[www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)



Scripture tells us:

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15 NIV)*

Around the world, people are asking questions—about truth, about hope, about who Jesus is and what He has done for them.

Some are asking quietly. Some are searching in moments of crisis. Some are listening for the first time.

**When those questions arise, we are called to be ready.**

Through Lutheran Hour Ministries, the Gospel continues to reach people who may never hear it otherwise—through media outreach, digital engagement, partnerships, resources, and *The Lutheran Hour*® broadcast.

Your generosity helps ensure that when someone asks, there is an answer waiting for them.

**As you continue your Lenten journey, would you prayerfully consider a special gift to help proclaim Christ's love and salvation to those who are searching?**

Thank you for your faithful partnership in *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*. May God bless you as you continue your Lenten journey.

in Jesus,

**Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

Speaker of *The Lutheran Hour*®

You can give by calling 800-876-9880 (Mon–Fri). Or securely online at <https://give.lhm.org>

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting**

Minutes from January meeting

Attendance: Pastor Vanderbilt, Ken Tague, Jake Hermanson, David Cormeny, Ed Chapman, Jo-Ann Chapman, Mary Barkley, Terry Pauling, Jen Olson, Linda Norton

Ken called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM.

Jake motioned to approve December 2025's council minutes. Mary seconded the motion. Motion carried with unanimous vote.

Pastor Report- (See Email Attachment)

Acts 6:1-7 describes the early church's response to a growing conflict. In this passage, the number of disciples was increasing, leading to complaints from the Grecian Jews that their widows were being neglected in the daily food distribution. To address this issue, the apostles proposed selecting seven men, known for their wisdom and filled with the Holy Spirit, to oversee this task. The community agreed, and they chose Stephen, Philip, and five others. After prayer and laying on of hands by the apostles, these men were appointed, allowing the apostles to focus on preaching. This decision led to the continued growth of the church, with many more disciples and even priests joining the faith.

-The Church needs to identify the problem, have accountability, and offer a solution.

DCE Report- N/A

Elder's Report- Jake (See Email Attachment)

- Investigating new membership orientation
- Elder's breakfast will be in March

Financial Report- Linda (See Email Attachment)

-30% of our giving comes from Online, 70% in Church

-Jake motioned to approve December 2025's Financial Report. Jen seconded the motion. The motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report- Mary Barkley (See Email Attachment)

-Jen motioned to move \$14125.53 to savings, as of December's statement, to solidify

\$35868.91 of restricted funds. Ed seconded the motion. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote.

-Terry motioned to approve December 2025's Treasurer Report. Linda seconded the motion. Motion was carried with unanimous vote.

-We will be reviewing our constitution to include an Annual Financial Review, possibly from a third party. Item is tabled for February Church Council Meeting.

Education Report- N/A

Evangelism Report- N/A

Discipleship Report- Ed and JoAnn Chapman (See Email Attachments)

Worship Report- Jen Olson (See Email Attachment)

Parish Nurse- N/A

Youth Report- Natasha Cooper (See Email Attachments)

Records Report- David Cormeny (See Email Attachments)

Stewardship Report-N/A (See Email Attachments)

Property Report- Terry Pauling (See Email Attachments)

#### Old Business

-David motioned that \$10,000 of our donation go to WeLift. Linda seconded the motion. The motion was carried with unanimous vote.

-Terry motioned that the \$40,000 of our donation go to Adoption Grant Program of Iowa District West, subject to approval of formation of committee and review. Linda seconded the motion. Motion was carried with unanimous vote.

#### New Business

-LCMS Elections and Convention in July

-Mary motioned to reinvest Wells Fargo CD for 3.5% for 4 months. Jen seconded motion. Motion was carried with unanimous vote.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was offered by Terry, a second by Jake. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Cormeny

### ELDER CARE LIST

If your last name begins

With the letter:

Your Elder is

A – D

Brad Rodemeyer 515-669-3108

E – H

David Cooper 515-971-3197

I – L

Steve Smith 641-414-2704

M - Q

Mike Oeffner 712-579-2586

R – U

David Jordan 515-371-3360

V – Z

Jake Hermanson 515-205-9117

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Thank you for serving. If you are unable to serve please find someone who can!

Date	Accolytes	Greeters	Ushers	Elders	Readers	Counters
1-Mar	E: Sophie Cormeny L: Kira Cawthorn	M. Meyer & L. Norton Kyle & Lisa Wiese	Steve Roush & Bill Sponsler Becky Hammar & Anita Blonigan	David Cooper Mike Oeffner	Jean Schroeder Erin DeJong	Gene & Melinda Grimm
4-Mar	Eric Loux	Brad & Nancy Rodemeyer	Slade & Hunter Koenig	Steve Smith	X	Lent
8-Mar	E: Blake & Gia Bingham L: Jocelyn Cawthorn	Steve & Karla Roush Kyle & Lisa Wiese	Andy Bakke & Bud Bohannon Kyle Wiese &	Steve Smith Jake Hermanson	Barb Gould Bill Engel	Dave & Julie Jordan
11-Mar	Kade & Kori Roan	Mark & Diane Johnson	Steve Roush & Jerry Ohnemus	Dave Jordan	X	Lent
15-Mar	E: Finn & Zane Koenig L: Anna Sickels	Laurel Cogswell Julie Jordan	Paul Ophus & Terry Pauling Kraig & Julie Daugherty	Brad Rodemeyer Dave Jordan	Melinda Grimm Jill Sickels	Jennifer & Mike Olson
18-Mar	William Griffith, Sr.	Bill Sponsler	Bill Engel &	David Cooper	X	Lent
22-Mar	E: Sophie Cormeny L: Kira Cawthorn	Barb Gould & Marilyn Groth Nancy Hauge	Mark & Diane Johnson Bill Engel & Steve Hauge	David Cooper Mike Oeffner	Caroline Koenig Charlotte Weaklend	Mike & Emily Oeffner
25-Mar	Sophie & Penny Helgeson	Jean Schroeder	Kraig & Julie Daughterty	Jake Hermanson	X	Lent
29-Mar	E: Eric Loux L: ONE service 9:15 am	M. Meyer & L. Norton one service	Slade & Hunter Koenig one service	Steve Smith one service	Jeret Koenig one service	Palm Sunday Dave & Judy Zwanziger ?? 5th Sunday
2-Apr	Blake & Gia Bingham	Steve & Karla Roush	Bill Sponsler & Kyle Wiese	Jake Hermanson	XXX	Maundy Thursday
3-Apr	William Griffith, Sr.	XXX	Terry Pauling & Jerry Ohnemus	Brad Rodemeyer	XXX	Good Friday
5-Apr	E: Zane & Finn Koenig L: Anna Sickels	Nancy & Brad Rodemeyer Dave & Judy Zwanziger	Steve Roush & Andy Bakke Bill Engel &	Brad Rodemeyer Dave Jordan	Linda Norton Jill Sickels	Easter Easter Gene & Melinda Grimm

# March 2026

March 2026							April 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Mar 1</b> 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended 6:00pm Adult	<b>2</b> 12:00pm Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Worship Board Meeting 6:00pm Discipleship	<b>3</b> 9:00am Textile Tuesday	<b>4</b> 10:30am AM Lenten Service 5:30pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm L.I.F.E. Classes 7:00pm Lenten Service	<b>5</b> 6:30pm Thursday Bible Class	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Day Light Savings 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Blended 6:00pm Adult	<b>9</b> 12:00pm Men's Bible Study 7:00pm 4-H Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:00am Textile Tuesday	<b>11</b> 10:30am AM Lenten Service 5:30pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm L.I.F.E. Classes 7:00pm Lenten Service	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Thursday Bible Class	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:00am Fellowship Hall reserved Melinda Grimm
<b>15</b> 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended 6:00pm Adult	<b>16</b> 8:00am 12:00pm Men's Bible Study	<b>17</b> 9:00am Textile Tuesday	<b>18</b> School Spring Break NO L.I.F.E. Classes - NO Midweek Meal 10:30am AM Lenten 7:00pm Lenten Service	<b>19</b> 6:30pm Thursday Bible Class	<b>20</b> 5:00pm	<b>21</b> Fellowship Hall reserved Bryan Herold
<b>22</b> 8:00am Traditional 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Class 10:30am Blended 6:00pm Adult	<b>23</b> 12:00pm Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>24</b> 9:00am Textile Tuesday	<b>25</b> 10:30am AM Lenten Service 5:30pm Midweek Meal 6:00pm L.I.F.E. 7:00pm Lenten Service	<b>26</b> 6:30pm Thursday Bible Class	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Palm Sunday 9:15am ONE Service - combined 10:15am ELDER 6:00pm Adult	<b>30</b> 12:00pm Men's Bible Study 6:00pm Elders Meeting	<b>31</b> 9:00am Textile Tuesday	<b>Apr 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>