THE COMMUNICATOR

Faith Lutheran Church Parish News



March 2025 Vol. 55 No. 3

Man and Woman: Created in God's Image

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." – Genesis 1:27

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

Men and women are distinct and complementary creatures. You cannot have one without the other. From a young age children learn that there are differences between women and men. It's a shame that we've fallen so far under the delusion which attempts to denigrate and minimize the differences between the sexes. This is sad because the differences between men and women are God-given, and account for the beauty and order of human society at-large.

Feminism in its modern form seeks to make women and men interchangeable. Ben Shapiro once said: "Feminism was right to point out the fact that men can sometimes be pigs. But where feminism went wrong is when it demanded that women should therefore have the right to be pigs as well." Do you see the faulty logic? Instead of looking up to shameless sinners, we should seek to imitate the lives of the saints who have gone before us.

Then comes the idea that "you can be whatever you want to be." This manifests itself with the phenomenon of gender dysphoria that has exploded recently. Women can't be men. And men can't be women. To assert otherwise is to usurp the order of God and reject reality. In the same way, men cannot be mothers, only women have the potential for that blessing from God. Likewise, women aren't called to be pastors because it would be misrepresenting the heavenly Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Confusion about this came when Adam sat by as his wife listened to Satan. We've been reeling from this ever since. God said to the woman, "Because you have done this, your desire will be for your husband and he shall rule over you." This desire isn't a loving desire, but a hunger for the authority/responsibility that husbands are to hold in the family. And now what do we see? Men who shirk their responsibilities, and women have to stand in the gap to fulfill the duty that's being left undone. Or on the flip side, a strong-willed woman may undermine and belittle men so she can take the responsibility.

From the beginning, God's intention was that men should provide for and protect their wives and children. This mirrors what Jesus did for us by laying down His life on the cross. Husbands are to love their wives in the same way as Christ does the Church: self-sacrificially, and unconditionally. Wives are called to submit to their husband, who as a Christian will be in submission to God. Husbands are called to love their wives, and the wife is called to respect her husband (Ephesians 5:33).

While men and women are beautifully different, they are both made in God's image. Therefore, both women and men are to be honored because of the dignity of that image they bear. The headship belongs to men, not so much for glory, but for duty and self-sacrificial love and protection of his wife and family. Men are to lead as they are led by Christ. This in turn makes it a blessing to receive that love and care on the part of the woman. For she is trusting in God, who is both her Lord and her husband's Lord.

Next month, we'll consider how children are a blessing and heritage from the Lord.

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor Batchelder

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Sackcloth and ashes were used throughout Scripture as a sign of repentance. (Think of the people of Nineveh after Jonah preached the message of repentance.) Ashes are a reminder you are a sinner who deserves to die. And yet, the ashes you receive are in the shape of a cross to remind both you of your sin and mortality, but also to remind you of Jesus your Savior who has died your death to give you life.

A note on the season of Lent: "From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope." (LSB Altar Book, 483)

As we prepare our bodies, minds, and souls for the Lenten season, may this be your prayer:

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (*LSB Altar Book*, 485)

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor Batchelder

March 2025 Stewardship Blurb

And God blessed them. And God said to them... 'have dominion.' – Genesis 1:28 Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

To 'have dominion' is simply to be stewards and caretakers of what God has entrusted to you.

To that end, I am thankful to God for your abundant generosity shown last month as we together gave \$18,806.000 toward the remainder of the building loan. This is a huge victory on the way towards our congregation being debt-free.

If, by God's grace, we continue giving over and above the minimum monthly payment of \$1,900, then we will have the loan paid off in a little over a year.

Well done, brothers and sisters in Christ, in your faithful and continued stewardship of the facilities God has blessed us with.

Sincerely in Christ, Pastor Batchelder

March Church News...

Not able to worship on Sunday morning – our services are also livestreamed each week and can be viewed any time via our website (faithlutheranorangecity.com) or our Facebook page (Orange City Faith Lutheran Church).

The Board of Lay Ministry will meet at 7:45am on Sunday, March 2.

Lent 2025: Lent begins with Divine Service Four on Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 6:00pm. The imposition of ashes will be offered for anyone who would like to receive it. Ashes are a powerful reminder of our mortality, but also of the victory that Christ won over death for us. (There will be no catechism classes on Ash Wednesday.)

The Church Council meets on March 9 at 7:45am.

Voter's Meeting: The Annual Voter's Meeting will take place following our Worship service on March 9. (No Sunday School or Adult Bible Classes due to the Voter's meeting.)

YouthLead (grades 7-12) will meet Sunday, March 9 and 23 at church from 6:30-7:45pm.

Midweek Worship: We will be meditating on the sixth chief part of the Small Catechism, Holy Communion. Join us as we learn to rejoice in Christ's presence with us at the altar. Midweek Lenten Services will be on Wednesdays, March 12, 19, 26, April 2, and 9 at 6:00pm. There will be no meals this year.

Catechism during Lent will be from 7:00-8:15pm. Students, please join us for service at 6:00pm, especially for finishing up your sermon reports.

Holy Week: In addition to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services, we will be hosting a circuit Easter Vigil service on Saturday April 19 at 8:00pm. Easter Vigil is a historic service that recounts God's mighty acts of salvation, leading up to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Mark your calendars and experience this delightful service.

JLYF (grades 4-6) will meet on Sunday, March 16 at church from 4:00-5:00pm.

College Bible Study meets March 17 at 7:00pm.

The FLC Women's Luncheon will meet at noon on Tuesday, March 18 at The Train Station. The luncheon is open to all Faith ladies.

Men's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, March 20 at 7:00pm at church.

Bulletin Sponsorship: If you would like to recognize a special person or event, why not consider sponsoring a bulletin. The cost is \$10 (please make check payable to Faith Lutheran Church.)

The Messenger: To view this monthly publication from Iowa District West, visit https://www.idwlcms.org/publications.php.

Help get our church website recognized by visiting our site: faithlutheranorangecity.com.



Remember, Daylight Savings time begins March 9.

Youth Update

On February 2, I led the Youthlead through Romans chapter two, which details God's righteous judgment of sin for both Jews and Gentiles, and the importance of living a Godly Christian life.

On February 16, I led JLYF through Romans chapter three, which convicts all of mankind as being sinful and unable to earn salvation, and that we are declared righteous before God through faith in Jesus Christ.

On February 23, I led the Youthlead through Romans chapter three, which convicts all of mankind as being sinful and unable to earn salvation, and that we are declared righteous before God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Youth Group is going extraordinarily well. The students are all attentive as I read through the text of Scripture and explain its meaning, with Pastor Batchelder offering insightful comments and observations to further edify the discussions. Together, we are diving deep into the core essentials of the Christian faith, those being manking's sinful nature, God's righteous judgment and gracious mercy, and salvation through Christ's atoning death and resurrection. After the Bible Study, we always enjoy snacks and games, growing in fellowship with one another as we live the Christian life.

Yours in Jesus Christ, Andrew Reginald Youth Director

Faith Lutheran Church Council Minutes – February 9, 2025

In attendance: Mike Blankenfeld, Chairman; Karl Bahrke, Director of Lay Ministry; Kristy Frederes, Treasurer; Ali Hagen, Director of Young People's Work; Kevin Rueter, Director of Stewardship; Keith and Tonya Huss, Director of Evangelism; Jesa Pace, Director of Christian Education; Jason Overmohle, Director of Church Properties, Pastor Batchelder, and Paula Koller, Council Secretary. Visitor: Michael Lewis

Absent: Vacant Position - Director of PR/PF

Meeting began with opening devotions by Mike Blankenfeld

Next meeting: Keith Huss

Minutes of January 12, 2025: Motion made by Kristy, seconded by Kevin to approve minutes as read. Motion carried.

New Director: Motion made by Karl, seconded by Kevin to appoint Michael Lewis as Director of Public Relations/Parish Fellowship to carry out the term of Kelly Lux who resigned in January (2/9/25 - 12/31/25).

Board of Lay Ministry:

- *Orange City is the starting point for Ragbrai this year, so the Board discussed how Faith might take part. They spoke with Pastor Daumer who was here when this took place before. The Board decided to wait until we get more information from the city.
- *The Board talked about adding a couple more services: Easter Vigil, April 16 and Accession Day, May 29.
- *The Board decided to send Andy to a youth conference (Higher Things) at Concordia University in Seward, NE July 8-11, 2025. He will go with a group from St. John's Lutheran Church, Germantown.
- *Time & Talent Surveys were reviewed by the Board; a few more have come in since the December deadline.
- *Michael shared a possible tool, such as using a QR code, for people to complete the surveys. Paula will provide him with copies of the forms turned in and a list of members who haven't turned in a form.

Board of Education: (The Board met on January 29.)

- *There will be Teacher Recognition on May 11, following the Divine Service. Paula has been asked to make cake to serve during Fellowship Time / eggs will be provided.
- *VBS will take place July 13 17 (same time frame or it may be shifted to a different time depending on the age of students who sign up).
- *VBS will use the curriculum from last year (Celebrate the Savior) since last year's VBS was cancelled. Mike has downloaded materials to the church computer.
- *In Sunday School last week, the children made valentines and gave them to pastor to hand out to home bound or nursing home members.

Board of Evangelism:

- *Talked about Ragbrai and how to address this. More to come at the next Council meeting.
- *It was mentioned that the Board of Evangelism has more dealings with the Board of PR/PF than any of the other Boards. Tonya said she also goes to Paula for information and for getting the word out.

Board of Properties:

*Nothing new to report.

Board of Public Relations & Parish Fellowship:

- *Michael met with Pastor and Mike regarding the position. Together they came up with a lot of ideas to become more communitive regarding the events going on at Faith.
- *With Michael's business, he shared some tools that could be used to send out text messages automatically to families, a community board posting youth events/activities, service groups, our church calendar, and other ideas for the website to keep people informed of events.
- *Motion made by Jesa, seconded by Kristy to have Michael review our website and see if we could switch to a different platform that he has, and which would be less expensive. Motion carried.

Board of Stewardship:

- *Kevin reported that we surpassed the Building Fund Match of \$5,000 in the first week of February (\$5,470.00) and have the rest of February to go. This match is for the Building Fund loan.
- *It was noted that we have \$20,000 in the restricted fund, if needed for a new furnace.
- *General Fund in January was \$5,000 behind budget (not including the loan).
- *Discussed showing weekly and monthly finance figures in the bulletin. It was asked how hard do we push the money issue? Tabled this discussion until next month, giving Kevin and Paula time to meet.

Board of Youth:

- *Ali reported that the Easter Breakfast this year is going to be a potluck at 8:00am with a free-will donation. Sign up sheet will be used.
- *It was mentioned that 'sign-up sheets' might be another tool that could be handled electronically, along with posting pictures of youth group events, etc.

Treasurer:

*Kristy mentioned that expenses in January were \$5,000 over budget, due to some large expenditures (i.e. Ramsey Solutions, software annual renewal, and Sunday School materials).

Committee Reports: None.

Correspondence:

- *Mike shared an email received from 'Reference Audio, Video and Security' who support churches with their audio, video, and security systems. No action taken.
- *Mike read some 'thank you' notes from individuals who received a monetary Christmas gift.

State of the Parish: Pastor Batchelder

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. — Matthew 7:24

- *Pastor shared that he is currently reading a book and thought others might be interested. It's called 'The Small Town Lutheran Church & Pastor' by Rev Heath Curtis and gives guidance for how we as God's people are to approach any of our challenges.
- *Guiding Star Baby Bottle Fundraiser
 - Like the LWML mite boxes, but G.S. would give us however many baby bottles. Members would take one home and fill it with spare change and/or whatever they'd like to give. Ideally, the G.S. rep said it should be a two-week process, and then we can deliver the gift to them.
 - o Can we maybe do this the first part of March (or sooner)?
- *Incident Impact Roundtable @ Orange City Fire Department
 - o Mike Blankenfeld, Kurt Frederes, Kevin Reuter, and Pastor will be attending.
 - Anyone else interested? Friday Feb. 21 12:30-2:30pm, with a meal provided.
 - o Pastor will give a synopsis at the March council meeting.

Unfinished Business: none.

New Business:

- *Voter's meeting is March 9. Need to get your year-end reports turned in for the Annual Report.
- *Do we want to continue with potluck meals during Lent and Advent? In the past have not been well attended?

Next Meeting: March 9 at 7:45am

Adjournment: Motion made by Kristy, seconded by Keith to adjourn. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Paula Koller, Council Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet		1/31/25				
	G	eneral Fund	Re	estricted Fund	N	let Position
ASSETS						
Cash in Bank	\$	36,940.19		\$34,929.55	\$	71,869.74
Due from Gen. Fund	\$					
Due from Res. Fund	\$	-	\$		\$	-
Investments/CD	\$	-			\$	-
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	36,940.19	\$	34,929.55	\$	71,869.74
LIABILITIES						
Payroll Taxes	\$	(123.93)	\$	-	\$	(123.93)
Due to Gen. Fund	\$	-	\$.=	\$	_
Due to Res. Fund			\$			
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$	(123.93)	\$	-	\$	(123.93)
NET POSITION	\$	36,816.26	\$	34,929.55	\$	71,745.81

Genera	/				
INCOME		Income	Budgeted		Difference
General Fund	\$	14,142.48	\$ 19,464.00	\$	(5,321.52)
Building Fund Loan	\$	2,215.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$	315.00
Total Income	\$	16,357.48	\$ 21,364.00	\$	(5,006.52)
EXPENSES		Expenses	Budgeted	[Difference
Missions	\$	3,977.00	\$ 2,369.00	\$	1,608.00
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$	12,777.95	\$ 12,906.00	\$	(128.05)
Lay Ministry-Other	\$	669.80	\$ 588.00	\$	81.80
Stewardship	\$	640.93	\$ 87.00	\$	553.93
Evangelism		12.50	\$ 63.00	\$	(50.50)
Christian Educ	\$	350.68	\$ 269.00	\$	81.68
Properties	\$	2,196.18	\$ 3,095.00	\$	(898.82)
Public Relations		12.50	\$ 87.00	\$	(74.50)
Young People		-	\$ -	\$	-
Building Fund Loan	\$	2,932.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$	1,032.00
Total Expenses	\$	23,569.54	\$ 21,364.00	\$	2,205.54
INCOME - EXPENSES	\$	(7,212.06)	\$ -	\$	(7,212.06)

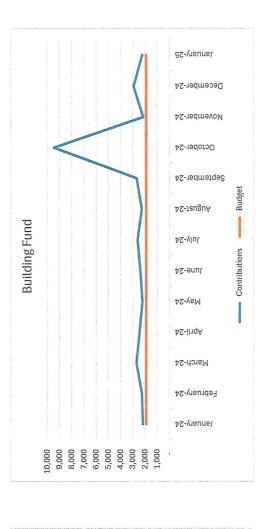
General Fur	nd Y	TD (Actual vs.	Bu	dget) as of 01/	31/2	25
INCOME		Income	Bu	udgeted	Di	fferencce
General Fund	\$	14,142.48	\$	19,464.00	\$	(5,321.52)
Building Fund Loan	\$	2,215.00	\$	1,900.00	\$	315.00
Total Income	\$	16,357.48	\$	21,364.00	\$	(5,006.52)
EXPENSES		Expenses		Budgeted	Di	fference
Missions	\$	3,977.00	\$	2,369.00	\$	1,608.00
Lay Ministry-Salaries	\$	12,777.95	\$	12,906.00	\$	(128.05)
Lay Ministry-Other	\$	669.80	\$	588.00	\$	81.80
Stewardship	\$	640.93	\$	87.00	\$	553.93
Evangelism	\$	12.50	\$	63.00	\$	(50.50)
Christian Educ		350.68	\$	269.00	\$	81.68
Properties		2,196.18	\$	3,095.00	\$	(898.82)
Public Relations		12.50	\$	87.00	\$	(74.50)
Young People		~	\$	-	\$	-
Building Fund Loan	\$	2,932.00	\$	1,900.00	\$	1,032.00
Total Expenses	\$	23,569.54	\$	21,364.00	\$	2,205.54
INCOME - EXPENSES	\$	(7,212.06)	\$	-	\$	(7,212.06)

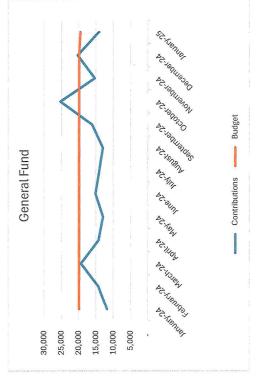
		Postrict	od	Fund la	muon/		
	_		eu	Fund - Ja		_	
Acounts	L	Prior Mo	_	Income	Expenses	Y	TD Balance
ATLAS / CFE	\$	_	L			\$	-
Bldge Imp Fund	\$	20,000.00	L			\$	20,000.00
Camp Fund	\$	130.00	L			\$	130.00
Catechism	\$	(227.44)				\$	(227.44
Cong Assist F	\$	2,214.02				\$	2,214.02
Easter Lily	\$	(415.14)	Г			\$	(415.14)
Family Cr Ctr	\$	-	Г			\$	-
Food Pantry	\$	-				\$	-
Genesis House	\$	-	Г			\$	-
Habitat 4 Hum	\$	-				\$	-
Interest	\$	2,485.02	\$	9.06		\$	2,494.08
Luth for Life	\$	-				\$	-
L World Relief	\$	-				\$	-
Memorials	\$	3,234.00				\$	3,234.00
Mid-Sioux	\$	-				\$	-
Misc	\$	280.06				\$	280.06
Missions	\$	1,615.34				\$	1,615.34
POBLO	\$	-				\$	_
Seasonal Décor	\$	(108.46)				\$	(108.46)
SS Missions	\$	-				\$	-
SS Xmas Prog	\$	42.74				\$	42.74
Thrivent Fin	\$	496.72	\$	34.00		\$	530.72
VBS Missions	\$	55.10				\$	55.10
Youth Activities	\$	5,084.53				\$	5,084.53
TOTALS	\$	34,886.49	\$	43.06	\$ -	\$	34,929.55

Noted items:

2025 Stewardship Report - January 2025

22,800 13,529	1,900	1,900			1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900		1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	Budget Over/(Under) Budget
36,329	January- 25 2,215	December-24 2,932	November-24 2,149	October-24 9,457	September-24 2,684	August-24 2,272	July-24 2,609	June-24 2,387	May-24 2,215	April-24 2,457	March-24 2,702	February-24 2,250	January-24 2,176	Contributions
														Building Fund
(43,818)	(5,322)	410	(4,486)		(3,739)		(5,827)	(4,720)	(6,935)	(5,615)	(575)	(2,576)	(8,087)	Over/(Under) Budget
237,957	19,464	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863	19,863 19,863 19,863 19	19,863	Budget
194,139	14,142	20,273	15,377		16,124		14,036	15,143	12,928	14,248	19,288	14,287	11,776	Contributions
	January-25	December-24	November-24		September-24		July-24	June-24	May-24	April-24	March-24	February-24	January-24	
Running Total														General Fund
12 Month														







409 Kenyon Road, Suite B Fort Dodge, IA 50501 515-576-7666 www.lowaDistrictWest.org

Assistant to the President
Missions, Human Care and Stewardship
THE REV. B. KEITH HANEY
Keith@lowaDistrictWest.org

February 2025

Grace and Peace to You, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Iowa District West is grateful and blessed to have ministry partners who are good stewards of the gifts God has given you. We are grateful for your unwavering generosity and support. Your contributions have been a testament to the spirit of giving, as reflected in 2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Your faithful stewardship has enabled us to fund vital mission and outreach efforts across Western Iowa. Through your generosity, we are able to serve the Hispanic and Latino communities in Hartley, Carroll, Storm Lake, and Fort Dodge. Your support is also profoundly impacting the Sudanese communities in Le Mars and Ankeny and the multicultural work in West Des Moines.

Proverbs 11:25 says, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." Your contributions are indeed refreshing and uplifting the lives of many. The outreach efforts you are supporting are meeting immediate needs and fostering long-term spiritual growth and a vibrant Word and Sacrament community.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership in this important work. Your generosity is a beacon of hope and a powerful example of living out the Gospel message. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of countless individuals and families.

Thank you once again for your kindness and support. May God continue to bless you abundantly as you have blessed others.

In the Service of an Awesome God,

Nex B. Kith Hoy

Rev. Dr. B. Keith Haney

Assistant to the President for Missions, Human Care, and Stewardship

March 2025 Celebrations Volunteers



Anniversaries

Richard & Sabrina Brennan



Altar Guild: Barb Bengard

> Carrina Huss Andrew Reginald

Ushers: Don DeJong

Brad Konz Burke Uhl Darin Uhl

Counters: Aaron Fink

> Dave Katt Jordan Pace

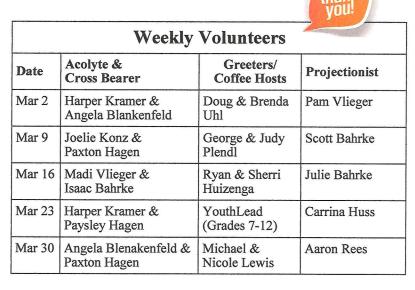
18 Landyn Hofmeyer

Baptisms 20 Jacob Blankenfeld

Birthdays

- 14 Heather Katt Darin Uhl Howard Vlieger
- 19 David Kramer Linda Lux Troy Van Skike
- 23 Jennifer Ditsworth Jacob Reints
- 24 Payton Hagen
- 25 Dave Katt Doug Uhl
- 29 Conner Huss Gregory Whitmore
- 30 Payge Bahrke Gavin Huss
- 31 Rex Foreman Nikki Konz







Greeter / Coffee Host:

Please be in place at least 15 minutes before the Service begins. Also, please stay after the Service to cleanup the kitchen, wipe serving counter and tables in the fellowship hall. Thank you!

Is your name missing from our 'Celebrations' list? If so, please contact Paula Koller, Church Secretary. We want it to be complete.

Church Council

President, Mike Blankenfeld 319-215-7655
Treasurer, Kristy Frederes
Lay Ministry, Karl Bahrke 490-8299
Stewardship, Kevin Rueter 541-7320
Evangelism, Keith & Tonya Huss 395-0303
Christian Ed, Jesa Pace 539-2855
Properties, Jason Overmohle 541-3315
PR/Parish Fellowship, Michael Lewis 210-5092
Youth, Ali Hagen 641-990-2438



March 2025

Faith Lutheran Church, 710 8th St. SE, Orange City, IA 51041

Church Email: faithlutheran@premieronline.net 381-4093 Pastor's Email: pastorbatchelder@gmail.com Pastor Thomas Batchelder - Cell: 952-381-4093 Office: 712-737-2112

Pastor's Office Hours:
7:30am –12:00pm Monday - Thursday
(afternoons or evenings by appointment)
Secretary in on Tuesday & Thursday.

Fri Sat	7 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward)		14 15		
7	7:30pm Financial Peace University	14		21 7:00pm Men's Fellowship	
9	classes	Service 13 pm des 6-8)		72	2 2
***************************************	6:00pm Service	12 6:00pm Lenten Service 7:00 - 8:15pm Catechism (Grades 6-8)		19 6:00pm Lenten Service 7:00 - 8:15pm Catechism (Grades 6-8)	6:00pm Lenten Service 7:00 - 8:15pm Catechism (Grades 6-8) 26 6:00pm Lenten Service 7:00 - 8:15pm Catechism (Grades 6-8)
ב		11 Pastor's Conference		Faith Women's Luncheon at noon at the Train Station	
	4	11 Past		7:00pm College Bible Study	75
-	es 3	10 a		17	24
uno	2 7:45am Bd of Lay Ministry 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Education Classes	9 7:45am Council Mtg. 9:00am Worship with Children's Message Annual Voter's Mtg No Education Classes 6:30pm YouthLead at church	(Grades /-12)	9:00a with 10:1.	16 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Education Classes 4:00pm JLYF at church (Grades 4-6) 23 9:00am Worship with Children's Message 10:15am Education Classes 10:15am Education Classes (Grades 7-12)