



CHRIST'S UNITED'S NEWS & VIEWS

FEBRUARY 2017

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS

THE FACE OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

It's February, and love is in the air, at least the kind expressed by greeting card companies, the makers of fine chocolates, and the dispensers of long-stemmed roses. But as Christians, we are to be focused on love beyond a celebration of Valentine's Day. As Christians, love is to be the way we live out our faith, each and every day of our lives.

The Apostle Paul writes about Christian love in his First Letter to the Corinthian Church, chapter thirteen. He states: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

Love is measured in and by our attitudes and actions directed toward others. How are we to understand this type of love and these "others" to whom our love is to be directed? Here, Jesus provides wise counsel. In the Gospel of John, chapter thirteen, Jesus reports to his disciples: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus responds to a question posed to him to describe what are the greatest of the commandments by stating that we are to love God with all our heart, mind, and strength and to love one another as we ourselves would want to be loved. In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus calls upon the faithful to love even their enemies. What return is there to love only those who love you back?

From the perspective of Jesus and Paul, love creates and establishes possibilities for peace and togetherness, possibilities that no other action could generate with such hope and effectiveness. Love active in our relationships toward one another, even directed at our enemies, is that which will fundamentally tilt the world in the direction of God's will. Such love will not only enable us to see and experience God's presence in our lives; this love will also open our eyes to the presence of Christ in the lives of all those we interact with day in and day out.

The love we are called to share with one another is the kind personified in the life of Jesus, the love expressed in his teaching and healing, and the way in which he went to the cross for each and every one of us: "No greater love has anyone than to lay down one's life for another."

Too much of the rhetoric we hear in our time now is focused on divisiveness and separation, fueled by suspiciousness, anger, and hatred. The love Jesus has for us and the love we are able to express and demonstrate in our relationships with one another, even to our enemies, in Jesus' name are the ways to reveal God's hope for the world. Take the risk, and love like Jesus loves.

--Pastor John

BIBLE STUDIES

The February Bible study will continue the study of Matthew's Gospel and will take place as follows:



10:30 A.M.
February 6
February 13
February 20

7:00 P.M.
February 8
February 15
February 22

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### **THE MEANING OF THE SNOWMAN**

*The white snow represent God's forgiveness of our sins.  
The circular snowballs show the everlasting life God promises us.  
The carrot nose shows us that God has given us the Earth and all living things.  
The black coal mouth reminds us to give God praise.  
The scarf keeps us warm, just as God's love does.  
The top hat reminds us to honor God above all things.  
The twig arms are open to hold us the way God does when we need Him*

## ***SCOUT SUNDAY***



The *Boy Scouts of America* have designated the Sunday preceding February 8, or February 8 if it is a Sunday, as **Scout Sunday**. The day is meant to mark the founding of the Scouts in the United States. Observation varies by unit and locale. Scouts go to their places of worship in uniform and help with the service.

In the United States, Scouting has been used by churches, synagogues, and many other religious organizations as part of their youth ministries. Approximately 50 percent of all Scouting units are chartered to religious groups. These observances offer an opportunity for congregations to honor Scouts, as well as to learn more themselves about the value of Scouting as a youth program.

The Scout Law says that a "Scout is Reverent" and the Scouts of all ages promise to do their "Duty to God". These values strengthen youth character in their family, community and faith.

On Sunday, **February 5**, we will be observing Scout Sunday at Christ's United. Members of Boy Scout Troop 536 will be participating in the worship service and will provide refreshments for the Koinonia Kafe.

## ***WINTER BLOCK PARTY***

While we all wait for sunshine, warm weather and the opportunity for outdoor fun again ... join us for an INDOOR BLOCK PARTY!



A FREE community wide block party for all ages will be held at Christ's United Lutheran Church on **Sunday, February 19, 2017**. The party begins at **1:00 p.m.** with food and fun activities. The fun ends at 4:00 p.m. There will be an inflatable house, indoor games, other fun activities and refreshments.

Everyone is invited! Bring your family and friends! Have some fun for a few hours indoors on a Sunday afternoon.

If you would like to help out with the event, contact Dianne Shuck or Dave Murray.

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There are three kinds of memory: Good, bad and convenient

SPRING POT PIE SUPPER

A potpie supper is planned for **March 4**. Serving will begin at **3:30 p.m.** Tickets will only be sold at the door.



Adults - \$9.00
Children (6 – 12) - \$5.00
Children under 5 – No Charge
Take Out Meals - \$9.00
Quarts of Potpie - \$8.00

The workday will take place on **Friday, March 3**, starting at **8:00 a.m.** Please come out on Friday to help make pickled cabbage, cut meat, peel and cut potatoes, mix broth, etc.

Also, please come out on the day of the pot pie supper. At **8:00 a.m.** help is needed to roll and cook potpie, dish out applesauce and pickled cabbage, prepare dining room, etc. Help is also needed as the day goes on for other duties including serving eat ins and take outs as well as clean up. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board or you can sign up online at www.4bellchurch.com/signup.

If you are experienced, that is great; if not, we will provide training!

We are also asking for donations for many of the needed supplies. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board or you can sign up online at www.4bellschurch.com/signup.

If you have any questions, please talk to Kim Blyler.

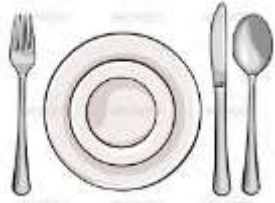
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*There is only one way to live in peace—it is by leaving tomorrow in the hands of God, and faithfully serving him today. Faithfulness is the best preparation for tomorrow. Protect tomorrow by faithful living today. We may not boast of tomorrow, but we may boast of God who will take care of the morrow. Faith never boasts about the coming days, but faith rests in God who governs them.*

*~The NEWSLETTER Newsletter*

# ***BANQUET SCHEDULE***

The banquets scheduled thus far for 2017 are:



**Hubner Seed**  
**February 28**  
**12:00 noon**

**Readington Farms**  
**March 7**  
**11:30 a.m.**

**Young Farmers**  
**March 30**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Union County Historical Society**  
**April 20**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Help will be needed in both the dining room and kitchen. Watch the bulletin board across from the sanctuary for sign-up sheets for dining room help. If you are able to help in the kitchen, talk to Kim Blyler.

Cakes will also be needed for these banquets. If you are able to provide one or two, sign up on the attached form or talk to Darlene Ulrich. All help is greatly appreciated

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## **2017 BANQUET CAKES**

I will provide a cake(s) for the following banquet(s):  
*(Indicate number to be provided)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **February 28**  
**12:00 noon**  
**Hubner Seed**

\_\_\_\_\_ **March 7**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**Readington Farms**

\_\_\_\_\_ **March 30**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Young Farmers**

\_\_\_\_\_ **April 20**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Union Co Historical Society**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



## ***LENT & EASTER SERVICES***

### **Ash Wednesday, March 1**

7:00 p.m. @ Christ's United

### **Palm Sunday, April 9**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service @ Christ's United

10:15 a.m. Sunday School @ Christ's United

### **Maundy Thursday, April 13**

6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Meal & Service @ Christ's United

### **Good Friday, April 14**

7:00 p.m. Worship @ First Lutheran

### **Easter Sunday, April 16**

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service @ First Lutheran

9:00 a.m. Easter Breakfast @ Christ's United

10:30 a.m. – Festival of the Resurrection @ Christ's United

## ***PANCAKE SUPPER***

*February 28*

*6:00-7:30 p.m.*



The council is planning a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to take place **on Tuesday, February 28, from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** Everyone, members and non-members alike, is invited to attend.

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Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

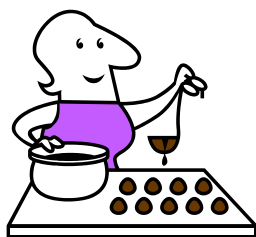
*March 1
7:00 p.m.*



We will begin our Lenten observance this year with a worship service at **7:00 p.m. on Ash Wednesday, March 1**. The service will include Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes. All are invited to join us.

Also, Pastor John will be available from **7:00-9:00 a.m.** on Ash Wednesday to anyone who would like to receive ashes at the start of their day.

EASTER EGGS



Lent begins February 28, which means it's time to start thinking about making our Easter eggs again. This year we are planning on making eggs for seven (7) Mondays beginning the Monday before Lent. We will be making them **on February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3 and April 10** provided we have enough help.

Providing there is enough help, eggs will be mixed and shaped starting at **9:00 a.m.** each Monday morning and coating and packaging will begin each Monday evening at **6:00 p.m.** This is a great fundraiser for the Church and much help will be needed both at 9:00 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. to make this project successful.

In order for this fundraiser to be successful, **EVERY week** a minimum of 10 persons are needed in the morning and a minimum of 15 persons are needed in the evening. Sign Up sheets are on the bulletin board. Please sign up so that we know if we have enough help to make eggs that week. The more help we have, the quicker we will get done. Mark your calendars NOW and please plan to come out and help make these popular treats.

Order forms are available on the table outside of the sanctuary for anyone willing to take orders from relatives, friends or co-workers. If you would like to order just a few eggs, there will be weekly order forms on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary. Just sign up for the week you would like your eggs.

PLEASE NOTE: Orders not in the church kitchen by NOON on Sunday will be filled last (if quantity permits). If you have any questions talk to Bev Catherman.



COUNCIL COMMUNIQUE

January 17, 2017

- Council has elected/appointed the following as its main officers and approved the following ministry coordinators listed below:

Officers

President	Greg Shuck
Vice President	Drew Christy
Council Secretary	Linda Smith
Recording Secretary	Barry Spangler
Treasurer	Dianne Shuck
Recording Financial Secretary	Cliff Valentine

Ministry Assignments

Facilities/Administration	Tom Catherman, Maurice Clouser, Eugene Hassinger
Inreach	Drew Christy, Greg Shuck, Janet Spurr
Outreach	Doug Gemberling, Dianne Shuck, Linda Smith

- Council is always looking for people to help out with the ministry groups.
Inreach: Tuesday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.
- The year-end financial statement will be placed in the next newsletter.
- A free community-wide indoor block party will be held in our fellowship hall on Sunday, February 19, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for all ages. Any help will be appreciated.
- The Shrove Tuesday meal will be held on February 28 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you have not yet picked up your 2017 offering envelopes you can do so in the office.

2016 GIVING STATEMENTS

Please see Margie if you want to receive a statement of your giving last year to use for tax purposes.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The 2017 altar flower chart is on the bulletin board outside of the sanctuary for use by anyone wishing to provide flowers for a service this year. The cost of the flowers is \$35.00 per week and is payable to the church. There are still a number of openings, so check it out and sign up for a Sunday.

FREE ENERGY CREDIT

There is a free energy credit available to the church. If you want help to lower the church's electric bill, and save money on your own electric bill contact Greg Shuck for details.

COFFEE CANS NEEDED

We are in need of coffee cans to be used to send altar flowers home following a worship service. If you have any to spare, please drop them off at the kitchen or in the office.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following positions:

1. Baby News Correspondent

When a new baby is born to a member of the congregation, the responsibility of the baby news correspondent is to contact the family and get “vital statistics” and then write a short article for the newsletter. Talk to Margie if you would like to tackle this position.

2. Greeters, Lay Readers, Communion Assistants, Ushers and Sound System Operators.

Our list of people willing to do these jobs keeps dwindling. Will you help? Sign up on the attached “volunteer form” and drop them on Margie’s desk or put them in the offering plate.

3. Someone to sharpen pencils and replenish communion cards and comment cards in the sanctuary.

COMMUNIONS

Communions for all confirmed members must be recorded in the parish register annually. If you do not commune on a regular basis, we ask that you fill out a communion record card (one per year is all we need) so we know you have communed. The cards are located in the racks on the back of the pews. Cards may be put in the offering plate or handed to an usher.

MEMORABILIA

The following memorabilia items are still available for anyone interested in purchasing anything:

Wooden Miniatures of the Church - \$10.00

Church Prints - \$20.00

Blankets - \$10.00

Christmas Cards - \$10.00

12 cards per box feature a winter picture of the church

Talk to Bev Catherman if you have questions about, or would like to purchase, any of these items.

INFORMANTS WANTED

We like to publish news about our members in the newsletter, but we need your help to do so. If you know of interesting information about any of our members (youth or adult), i.e. an award or recognition, a funny tale or exciting adventure, please let Margie know about it so we can include it in an issue of Christ's United's News & Views.

DO WE HAVE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS?

If you have an e-mail address that you have never given to us or if it has changed, please fill out the following and drop it off on Margie's desk or give her a call.

Name _____

E-Mail Address _____

BUILDING & GROUND NEEDS

Do you know of any physical problems (or potential problems) that should be addressed by our property committee? Your insight is important. Maybe you have seen something that no one else has noticed yet. You can talk to Pastor John, any council member or Margie if you know of something that needs attention, or fill out the following and put it on Margie's desk or in the offering plate.

Building & Ground Needs:

SOCIAL/FELLOWSHIP REQUEST

If you have any ideas or suggestions for social/fellowship activities, drop a note on Margie's desk.

Social/Fellowship Events:

HAVE A FAVORITE HYMN?

Over the past few years, some of you have been requesting favorite hymns and gospel songs and for that we give many thanks. Because of U.S. copyright laws, we do not have permission to reproduce or copy all of our favorites. You may choose selections from the following hymnals: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and With One Voice (WOV). We are also permitted to use hymns that are in the "Public Domain". It's all very complicated. So, keep your suggestions coming and we will be happy to sort out and use all of your suggestions. Give any requests to Gary Hackenberg, Margie or Pastor John.

Hymn Request

PRAYER CHAIN

The Prayer Chain is a group of men and women of Christ's United who pray for the concerns and requests of Christ's United's members and friends. Someone in need of prayer calls the church office and requests to be put on the Prayer Chain. Each member of the Prayer Chain then receives either a phone call or an email notifying them of a prayer request. The prayer chain member receiving the phone call then calls one other person and so on down the list. Those notified by email do not have to pass it on.

Would you be willing to pray for someone in need? It is reassuring to know that you are supported by the prayers of others and not alone with your concern. If you would like to be a member of the Prayer Chain, fill out the following and put it in the offering plate or on Margie's desk.

Prayer Chain Calling List

I would like to be included on the prayer chain calling list.

Name _____ Telephone _____

ONGOING COLLECTIONS

The Shriners

Can Tabs (give tabs to Maurice Clouser)



NEWS OF MEMBERS & FRIENDS

Deaths

Our family of faith is saddened at the death of **Debra Lynne Wilson**, 61, who passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2016, at RiverWoods Nursing Care where she had been a resident for 21 months.

She was born Aug. 30, 1955, in Lewisburg, a daughter of Doris (Slagle) Wilson and the late Donald Wilson. Debra was a 1973 graduate of the Mifflinburg High School and attended courses at Bucknell University and Susquehanna University. Debra was employed at Bucknell University, Lewisburg for many years as an administrative assistant in the Women's Resource Center and in the office of International Education.

When health permitted, she taught the youth senior Sunday school class and was also a member of the church council.

She is survived by her daughter & son-in-law, Dawn Marie & Matthew Dreese one grandson, Ryan Donald Dreese, her mother, Doris Wilson and one brother, Donald Wilson.

Please keep the family in your prayers as they deal with the loss of their loved one.

Doug Gemberling Update

At approximately 11:00 a.m. on January 12, 2017, Doug was working on a heating contract. He was working approximately 12 feet high, when the ladder went out from underneath him and he fell, landing on concrete on his back.

Doug has a broken scapula, broken ribs, a collapsed lung and AFib (heart abnormal rhythm). The doctors told him he was lucky to be alive and must have had a few guardian angels looking over him.

He was in the hospital until the 15th and is now taking one day at a time. At a hospital visit on January 24th x-rays of his chest revealed that the lung is clearing up nicely.

There are more appointments coming up over the next few week. It is expected that his recovery will take 8-12 weeks.

Doug & Pearl would like to thank everyone for the cards and the prayers. They are really appreciated.

Birthdays

February

2	Alice Reitz Addalynn Zimmerman	11	Gailyn Baker Jonna Zimmerman
4	Robin Rantz	14	Lucas Flickinger
5	David Loss Douglas (Chris) Zimmerman Lane Zimmerman	15	Kenneth Emery Ronald Ulrich
6	V Michael Buoy Harold R. Sampsell Kenneth Strowbridge	16	Jeffrey Wenrich
8	Barbara Clouser Alveretta (Pat) Korman Sharyn Zimmerman	19	Glenn Spangler
9	Nichole Ammon Drew Christy	20	Jenna Strowbridge Landon Zimmerman
10	Teresa Shuck Lindsay M. Spangler	23	Andrew Clouser Max Miller
		24	Scott Sampsell
		26	Clayton Gemberling Mahayla Gemberling
		27	Rose Wenrich
		28	Alica Zimmerman

Anniversaries

February

2	Wayne & Wendy Doeblor	(2000)
13	Duane & Carol Miller	(1988)

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*No longer forward or behind  
I look in hope or fear;  
But, grateful, take the good I find,  
The best of now and here.*

*--John Greenleaf Whittier*



**Remember In Thought and Prayer**

***Please help us keep our prayer list current by letting us know of any names that should be added or removed***

**Our Members**

Gailyn Baker  
Jim & Florence Boop  
Shirley Diehl  
Doug & Pearl Gemberling  
Vickie Kahler  
Shirley Kerstetter  
Isabel Kline

Max Miller  
Bob Rantz  
Alice Reitz  
Rylan Shuck  
Stacey Veley  
Mary Ellen VonNeida

**Our Friends & Relatives**

Bonnie Bilger  
John Bowersox  
Makenna Boyer  
Louise Crichton  
Adam Garman  
Cyrus Gehringer  
Joan Fohringer  
Matt Imhoff  
Connie Karchner  
Kegan Lahr  
Rhilynd Lechinsky

Dennis Lucas  
Kathryn Moraski  
John Renninger  
Linda Ruder  
Mike Schmidt  
Bev Shreffler  
Finley Snook  
Mark Troup  
Russell Wise  
David Wood

**Our Shut-Ins**

Carolyn Bowersox  
Barbara Grimooris  
Shirley Kerstetter  
Isabel Kline  
Pat Korman  
Betty Lauf  
Eugene Phillips

Harold 'Hap' Sampsell  
Myron 'Mick' Sampsell  
Richard Schnure  
Mary Ellen VonNeida  
Connie Wagner  
Caroline Wenrick

**The Men and Women Serving In the Military**

Adam Gemberling      Brandi Gemberling      Michael Spurr



## ***HOPE'S HAVEN REPORT***

Hope's Haven Food Pantry is a ministry of Christ's United Lutheran Church. The purpose of this program is to supplement the nutritional needs of God's children in Union County. The food pantry is open most Wednesdays during the year from 10: a.m. until 11:00a.m. If a Major Holiday falls on a Wednesday or if weather does not permit, the pantry is closed. Our weekly distribution goal is to supplement each family regardless of size with one day's breakfast, lunch and dinner meals. In addition, there are many weeks that paper goods and health supplies are distributed. The program has and continues to evolve as it makes changes to sources of food and supplies and develops relationships with the community which it serves.

Without the help and support of this congregation, this program would be difficult to maintain. Your support provides the following:

- ✓ A wonderful and heated facility for distribution that is handicap accessible.
- ✓ Great storage space for dry goods in the form of a dedicated food room, storage rooms in the fellowship hall and access to freezer and refrigerator space.
- ✓ Volunteers who spend countless hours picking up and delivering supplies to the church.
- ✓ Volunteers who show up on Tuesday mornings to unload the trucks from Central PA Food Bank and organize and shelve the food as well as pull items for Wednesday distribution
- ✓ Members who share the fruits and labor from their gardens and fields
- ✓ Volunteers who work the distribution lines on Wednesday, greeting, establishing new relationships with recipients and nurturing established relationships.
- ✓ All our members that willingly provide toys for Hope's Haven's annual Christmas gathering.
- ✓ The funding provided directly to the Hope's Haven program or through weekly offering envelopes.



You do make a difference in this wonderful outreach program...and Hope's Haven always welcomes help from anyone who wants to get more involved. Please speak to Janet Hileman, Bev Catherman or Pastor John for more information.

### **STATISTICS**

|                                                                      |                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2016 – Average # of Households Served Each Month                     | 115                 |
| 2016 – Average # of NEW Households Served Each Month                 | 9                   |
| 2016 – Registered # of Individuals Served Each Month - Average       | 335                 |
| 2016 – Registered # of Individuals Ages 0 – 17 Served Each Month     | 80                  |
| 2016 – Registered # of Individuals Ages 18 – 59 Served Each Month    | 177                 |
| 2016 – Registered # of Individuals Ages 60+ Served Each Month        | 78                  |
| 2016 – Average # of New Individuals that Register Each Month         | 25                  |
| Estimated Weekly Average Retail Cost of Food and Supplies per family | \$35 <sup>1</sup>   |
| Estimated # of Meals provided Monthly                                | 2,556 <sup>2</sup>  |
| Estimated # of Meals provided Annually                               | 30,672 <sup>2</sup> |

### **SUPPLY SOURCES**

- Central PA Food Bank (Williamsport and Harrisburg)
- Weis Markets Warehouse
- Weis Markets – Lewisburg Store
- Aldi's – Shamokin Dam
- David's Awesome Cookies – Mifflinburg
- Local Food Drives with Hope's Haven designated as recipient
- Garden Lots(Farms) and Home Gardens
- Venison Harvest
- CULC Harvest Home Donations
- Various Discount Shopping Outlets Dollar Stores

**FINANCIAL REPORTING**  
**Hope's Haven Account**

|            |                 |              |
|------------|-----------------|--------------|
|            | Beginning       |              |
| 01/01/2016 | Balance         | \$943.48     |
|            | Annual Receipts | \$5,830.00   |
|            | Annual          |              |
|            | Expenditures    | (\$4,723.25) |
| 12/31/2016 | Ending Balance  | \$2,050.23   |

**Sources of Funding<sup>3</sup>**

| Source of Funding                                            | #<br>Contributors | Amount         |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Weekly Offering Envelopes from Christ's United               |                   | \$1,335        |
| Direct Contributions to HH from Individuals and Other Church | 14                | \$3,585        |
| Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Program                     |                   | \$160          |
| Anonymous Contributions                                      | 5                 | \$750          |
| <b>Total</b>                                                 |                   | <b>\$5,830</b> |

**Product Received by Weight (from Central PA Food Bank)<sup>4</sup>**

01/01/2016 through 12/31/2016                      68,218 lbs.                      34.11 Tons

**NOTES:**

<sup>1</sup> It is estimated that the average retail cost of food and supplies distributed each week to each family unit is \$35.00. However, based on family size, this amount can vary since we distribute to households that have from 1 to 8 family members. Larger families received a proportionally larger supply of food.

<sup>2</sup> Since the Central PA Food Bank does not require us to track the actual number of meals provided monthly or annually, we have devised a reasonable formula to calculate these numbers. The purpose of providing this estimate is to help all of us to understand the scope and size of our Hope's Haven Food Bank. We are the only Food Pantry in the Union County area that serves our surrounding communities on a weekly basis.

<sup>3</sup> Sources of Funding listed above finance purchases made from the Central PA Food Bank. Contributions from local food drives, from CULC Harvest Home donations, from

purchased donations dropped at the door of our food storage room and items purchased anonymously by individuals to supplement weekly shortages are not recognized as part of this report. All of this additional funding is an integral part of making this program work.

<sup>4</sup> This was product received from the Williamsport and Harrisburg Food Banks. It does not include product received from any of the other listed sources.

NOTE! If you would like to know more about the information contained in this report, talk to Gary Hackenberg, Bev Catherman or Janet Hileman

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OPEN LETTER TO GOD

"You see, God, it's like this: We could attend church more faithfully if your day came at some other time. You have chosen a day that comes at the end of a hard week, and we're all tired out. Not only that, but it's the day following Saturday night, and Saturday night is one time when we feel that we should go out and enjoy ourselves. Often it is after midnight when we reach home, and it is almost impossible to get up on Sunday morning. In fact, the children are often late for Sunday school because it is difficult for us to get up early enough to be on time. It is usually 9:00 before we get the breakfast dishes washed, and then it is time to think about Sunday dinner.

And you must realize that you have picked the very day on which the morning paper takes the longest to read - the day when the biggest meal of the week must be prepared. Then, too, we must think of Dad. He is cooped up in the office all week and Sunday morning is the only time to clean the car and for doing odd jobs around the house. And you know how much he enjoys fishing, and you can't blame him for going when he can. The whole family enjoys a picnic, and Sunday is the only time the family can have some recreation together.

I am telling you all these things, God, because I want you to see our viewpoint and that it is not our fault we are not able to go to church. We'd like to go, and know that we should, but the real reason we cannot go is that you have just chosen the wrong day. If you select another day, we shall give it further consideration."

*Sincerely,
I.M. Deliquent*



FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

404 Market Street

Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Telephone 570-966-0266 - E-Mail: firstlu@dejazzd.com

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs, 9:00-2:00

Mission Trip Fundraiser

A member from First Lutheran will be offering Weis and Wenger cards for purchase from 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. prior to the church service in the hallway every **1st and 3rd Sunday**. Weis cards are in the denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and we receive 5% of the cards sold. Wenger cards are in the denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100 and we receive 10% of the cards sold. First Lutheran has been doing this type of fundraising for many years and has supported over 15 workcamp mission trips. Thank you for your support.

Youth Fundraiser

On the third Sunday of February and March the youth will be holding a Soup, Sandwich & Sweets Sale. Tickets will be sold for \$10 which includes, **TWO** soups, a sandwich and sweet treat.

Do you normally cook or go out for lunch on Sunday? Forget about it on these days! Go home, keep warm and savor lunch and the warm feeling of helping our youth draw closer to Jesus this summer!

With your \$10 donation you can simply go to the "Lunch to Go Service Station" in the Multi-Purpose Room after the worship service and select your choice of soups. They will be placed in containers with a sandwich and dessert for you to take home. Tickets are available in the church office or from our youth. Questions? See/Call Tracy Seebold at 570-490- 1949

Willing to donate a large crockpot of homemade soup? Let Tracy know and we will thank you with a complimentary ticket!

Community Meal

The Community Meal Committee is looking for a few good folks to help serve meals on the first Saturday of each month. We begin preparing the meal at 9:00 and are usually done by 1:00. You can come for an hour or 2, or stay the whole time. We serve between 30 and 60 people each month. This is a great way to help reach out to our community. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please Contact Libby Loss @ 966-1606 or Sue Jows @ 966-3644 if you can help.

February meal will be held Saturday, February 4th.

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### **DUMB THING PEOPLE HAVE SAID & DONE**

1. *A co-worker was telling us about her sister who was coming to visit her for the holidays. Someone asked how old her sister was, at which she paused, thought for a bit, and then answered, "She's half as old as I am, that's how I always remember." So someone else (okay, it was me) said, "That's neat... So every year that you age, she only ages half a year?" My co-worker thought about that, and then said, "Oh, yeah, I guess it only works on even years."*
2. *A customer at a sub shop ordered "a small soda." The owner responded, "I'm sorry, sir, but we don't have small, just medium and large." (Both cost 99 cents.) The kicker came when the customer, a rather well-dressed business type, disappointedly said, "Okay, I guess I'll just have to have the medium then."*
3. *A judge in Louisville decided a jury went "a little bit too far" in recommending a sentence of 5,005 years for a man convicted of five robberies and a kidnapping. The judge reduced the sentence to 1,001 years.*
4. *A Texan convicted of robbery worked out a deal to pay \$9,600 in damages rather than serve a two-year prison sentence. He provided the court a forged check. He got his prison term back, plus eight more years.*
5. *A "tourist," supposedly on a golf holiday, made idle chatter at the customs counter. The customs official thought it odd that the golfer didn't know what a handicap was & asked the tourist to demonstrate his swing. He did - backwards. A substantial amount of narcotics was found in the golf bag.*
6. *After interviewing a particularly short-spoken job candidate, I described the person to my boss as rather monosyllabic. My boss said, Really? Where is Monosyllabia?" Thinking that he was just kidding, I played along and said that it was just south of Elbonia. He replied, "Oh, you mean over by Croatia?"*
7. *An American teenager was in the hospital recovering from serious injuries. Asked how he received the injuries, the lad told police that he was simply trying to see how close he could get his head to a moving train before he was hit.*
8. *As a female shopper exited a New York convenience store, a man grabbed her purse and ran. The clerk called 911 immediately, and the woman was able to give them a detailed description of the snatcher. Within minutes, the police apprehended the snatcher. They put him in the car and drove back to the store. The thief was then taken out of the car and told to stand there for a positive ID. To which he replied, "Yes, officer, that's her. That's the lady I stole the purse from."*



355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844  
Telephone (570) 922-1587 Fax (570) 922-1118  
E-mail: [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)

## **GROW in the Snow** **February 10-11, 2017**

This year's synod youth retreat at Camp Mount Luther will be held on February 10-11, 2017. All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend. The theme of this year's retreat is "Our Way of Life," based on Matthew 5: 13-16, and looking at faith practices and living a Christian life. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. Cost is \$57 (whole program) or \$40 (Saturday only) if registered by January 31, 2017. A late fee of \$25 added after that date. No refunds will be given after the January 31st deadline. Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and number of youth attending. Contact Chad Hershberger at [chad@campmountluther.org](mailto:chad@campmountluther.org) with questions. For a flyer and registration form: <http://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2016/11/2017-GROW-in-the-Snow-Flyer.pdf>

For a schedule and additional information:

<http://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2016/11/2017-GROW-in-the-Snow-Schedule.pdf>

## **Adopt-a-Staff Person**

As we are planning for Summer 2017, we'd like to get each of our about 20 summer staff adopted. Show your support for those who work at camp in the summer. Congregations and individuals who want to do this just have to let us know that they'd like to participate and then:

- Pray for this person by name daily
- Send notes and cards of encouragement
- Send an occasional care package
- If you'd like, invite your staff to worship some weekend during the summer

The goal of the program is to make our staff feel loved and appreciated for the work they do and show them the same love and care they show our campers. We are hoping to have 100% of this summer's staff adopted. To adopt-a-staff person, contact the camp office. If you are interested in taking this to the next level, you can also sponsor a counselor, which involves a financial gift to our annual fund to help with the expenses of that person working at camp.

## **Consider Camp for Family Outings**

"Happy Holidays, Camp Friends" read the welcome sign near the office from late November through the first of the year. We had several families who used Mount Luther's facilities for their Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. Two families hosted their Thanksgiving meals at Maple Hall with one family staying overnight in our cabins as part of their gathering. Several of our staff families used Evergreen Center during the Christmas season for their holiday gatherings and our summer staff gathered in late December for their annual holiday reunion. When you are considering somewhere to host a family event, whether it be a reunion, birthday party, or holiday happening, be sure to consider using Mount Luther's facilities. Depending on lifeguard availability, you can even use the swimming pool in the summertime!

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THESE ARE MY WISHES FOR YOU

- *Always know that there are those whose love and understanding will always be there, even when you feel most alone.*
- *Find time in each day to see the beauty and love in the world around you.*
- *It is the content of the encounter that is more important than its form.*
- *Learn to view everything as a worthwhile experience.*
- *May a kind word, a reassuring touch, a warm smile be yours every day of your life, and may you give these gifts as well as receive them.*
- *May the pain you have known and the conflict you have experienced give you the strength to walk through life facing each new situation with courage and optimism.*
- *May the teaching of those you admire become part of you, so that you may call upon them.*
- *May you always feel loved.*
- *May you discover enough goodness in others to believe in a world of peace.*
- *May you find serenity and tranquility in a world you may not always understand.*
- *May you find enough inner strength to determine your own worth by yourself, and not be dependent on another's judgments of your accomplishments.*
- *May you not become too concerned with material matters, but instead place immeasurable value on the goodness in your heart.*
- *May you see your future as one filled with promise and possibility.*
- *Realize that each person has limitless abilities, but each of us is different in our own way.*
- *Remember the sunshine when the storm seems unending.*
- *Remember, those whose lives you have touched and who have touched yours are always a part of you, even if the encounters were less than you would have wished.*
- *Teach love to those who know hate, and let that love embrace you as you go into the world.*
- *What you feel you lack in the present may become one of your strengths in the future.*



Upper Susquehanna Synod Events Calendar

Healthy Congregations Workshop

February 4, 2017

Pastor Tom Glasoe will be leading the second workshop of Healthy Congregation at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Williamsport on February 4, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost per person is \$20.00 and must be paid in advance. Healthy Congregations is a workshop designed by Peter Steinke, author of the books *How Your Church Family Works: Understanding Congregations as Emotional Systems* and *Healthy Congregations: A Systems Approach*. A key concept at the heart of *Healthy Congregations* is "self-differentiation," people's capacity to calmly articulate what they think and value, and to act on that basis, while staying in active relationship with those who disagree. Workshop #2 is about Healthy Congregations Responding to Anxiety and Change. The workshop will focus on equipping leaders to respond to anxiety and change rather than react to it. The workshop will also train leaders to manage conflict effectively rather than avoid it and help leaders to act flexibly and creatively. This crucial training for both clergy and lay leaders of all area ministry in the congregation is designed for presentation as a single, six-hour workshop starting at 9:00 and going until 3:00 on Saturday, February 4th. Please register by calling the synod office no later than January 27.

Institute for Lifelong Learning Programs

Susquehanna University's Institute for Lifelong Learning is a series of programs designed for senior community members. Members gather in SU's Campus Center on Wednesday to enjoy a social hour, presentation, and lunch, beginning at 10:15 a.m. There are three options for membership in the institute. For further details, please contact Joe Herb at kapajoe@ptd.net or 570-374-9911 or Jayme Long at longj@susqu.edu or 570-372-4354.

February 8: The Fitzwilliam String Quartet (tentative)

March 1: Mary Bach, Chair of the AARP Consumer Issues Task Force: "Fraud and the Older..."

March 15: Joshua Tryniewski, Pennsylvania Fish Commission Fisheries
Biologist; "Can Shad Be Brought Back to the..."

Reinsburrow Fundraiser
February 18, 2017

A pork and sauerkraut fundraising dinner to benefit the Reinsburrow and Wagner families will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at Messiah, South Williamsport. The dinner will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. and be served family style. Cost is \$9.00 for adults; \$4.00 for children under the age of 12. Takeouts are also available. Tickets are available at the door or in advance by calling 570-326-9171. Advance ticket purchases are encouraged.

Mount Luther Sunday
February 26, 2017

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated that Transfiguration Sunday each year be recognized as "Mount Luther Sunday" to help promote outdoor ministries in the synod. Members of USS congregations are encouraged to celebrate outdoor ministries on this day, February 26, 2017. Mount Luther is an extension of the ministry that is done in local Lutheran congregations. The camp asks that congregations promote the camp on that Sunday or designate another Sunday this spring to do so. Ways to promote the camp include bulletin inserts to share with congregation members, Temple Talks, camper testimonials, bulletin board displays, special camp music during Sunday school and church services, as well as special offering being collected. Ideas are available here: <http://www.campmountluther.org/event/mount-luther-sunday/>

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**FEBRUARY**

*All outdoors  
Edged in lace,  
Twigs and grasses. . .  
Beauteous grace.*

*Sunshine glows  
Through snowy birches,  
On frosty limb  
A blue jay perches.*

*Thank you, Lord,  
For heavenly art.  
Your valentine  
Has touched my heart.*



## ***IN THE MAILBAG***

### **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends**

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Have you signed up for your 2017 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend? Marriage Encounter invites married couples on a journey—a deepening of your love. The program allows husband and wife to eliminate all distractions and focus solely on each other for the weekend. A \$100 per couple registration fee gets you signed up; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The 2017 Northeast US Weekends are:

**March 24-26, 2017** at Toftrees Golf Resort Conference Center -- a peaceful resort nestled in 1500 wooded acres in State College, PA.

**April 28-30, 2017** in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, “Loxley’s.”

**September 15-17, 2017** at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains – an hour north of Allentown.

**October 6-8, 2017** at the Black Swan Inn in Lee, Massachusetts. Nestled in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains, a hidden gem overlooking Laurel Lake – an hour north of Hartford, CT.

To sign up online, go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and pay the \$100 registration fee using your credit card, or mark the option to mail in a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Northeast US Area Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net). Registrations are limited, so act TODAY to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice!



## ***COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS***

### **Oyster Supper**

**Tuesday, February 7**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Turbotville**

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Turbotville would like to welcome you to their 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Men's Oyster Supper on **Tuesday, February 7, at 6:30 p.m.** An approximate donation of \$15.00 per person will be requested at the door, the amount depending upon the cost of the oysters just prior to the supper. Although it is not required that you make a reservation, it would be helpful if you could give some indication a week prior to the supper about how many will be attending. This will enable them to make adequate plans for the supper. Entertainment will be by K.J. Reimensnyder.

### **Veterans Assistance Available at Mifflinburg Office**

**February 22**

**10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Dan Falls, a veteran's field service officer with the American Legion, will be available at the Mifflinburg on Wednesday, Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. He will assist veterans with services such as compensation, education, pension, health care and death benefits.

Appointments are required and may be made by calling the office at 570-966-0052 or 570-837-0052. Veterans need not be a member of the American Legion to use the service.

Falls will be available at the office on the last Wednesday of each month.

Rep. Fred Keller, 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Office

Mifflinburg Government Center

343 Chestnut Street, Suite 1

Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: (570) 966-0052 or (570) 837-0052



## ***NOTES OF APPRECIATION***

*“Volunteers are gold”. Volunteers are the most valuable commodities in ministry. Without them, nothing would get done in our churches. We are fortunate to have the kind of dedicated people that we do. Do you know anyone who should be given a pat on the back and a “Thank You” for the contributions they make in and around the church? Let Margie know.*

### **THANK YOU TO...**

- ...**Everyone** who helped to undecorate the church.
- ...**Everyone** who helped with the January banquets
- ...**Drew Christy, Dianne Shuck & Lee Spangler** for agreeing to serve on the new Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish Council

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THE HUMOR OF CHILDREN

Why Does Love Happen Between Two Particular People?

- *“One of the people has freckles and so he finds somebody else who has freckles too.” - Andrew, age 6*
- *“No one is sure why it happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell. That's why perfume and deodorant are so popular.” - Mae, age 9*
- *“I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful.” - Manuel, age 8*

Why Do Lovers Often Hold Hands?

- *“They are just practicing for when they might have to walk down the aisle someday and do the holy matrimony thing.” – John (age 9)*
- *“They want to make sure their rings don't fall off, because they paid good money for them.” – David (age 8)*

What is the Proper Age to get Married?

- *“Eighty-four. Because at that age, you don't have to work anymore, and you can spend all your time loving each other in your bedroom.” – Judy (age 8)*
- *“No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married.” – Freddie (age 6)*
- *“Once I'm done with kindergarten, I'm going to find me a wife.” – Tommy (age 5)*
- *“Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.” – Camille (age 10)*

How Important Is Love?

- *“Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good too.” - Greg, age 8*



ALTAR GUILD

Bev Catherman
Barry Spangler

GREETERS

5 – Scouts
12 – Torey Showalter
19 – Rick & Darlene
 Endy
26 – Tom & Karen
 Watters

LAY READERS

5 - Scouts
12 – Maurice Clouser
19 – Doug Gemberling
26 – Bonnie Greeney

USHERS

Doug Gemberling
Pearl Gemberling

MUSIC PROVIDERS

5 – Paula Christy
12 – Diane Valentine
19 - Dave Swartz
26 – Gary Hackenberg

SOUND SYSTEM

Dianne Shuck

**COMMUNION
ASSISTANTS**

5 – Dianne Shuck
12 – Judy Moyer
19 – Tom Catherman
26 – Judy Mecouch

REMINDER

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING A SUBSTITUTE IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO BE HERE WHEN SCHEDULED.

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS, SOUND SYSTEM OPERATORS & USHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY SPECIAL SERVICES SCHEDULED DURING THE MONTH.

If you would like to be added to our list of volunteers to help with one or more of the following positions, please fill it out and return it to the church office.

USHER



I/we will serve as an usher

Name _____
Telephone _____

CHILDREN'S CHURCH



I/we will help with children's church

Name _____
Telephone _____

SOUND SYSTEM OPERATOR



I/we will operate the sound system

Name _____
Telephone _____

ALTAR GUILD



I/we will serve on the altar guild

Name _____
Telephone _____

COMMUNION HELPER



I/we will serve as a communion helper

Name _____
Telephone _____

GREETERS



I/we will serve as greeters

Name _____
Telephone _____

LAY READER



I/we will serve as a lay reader

Name _____
Telephone _____



Christ's United Lutheran Church
13765 Old Turnpike Rd
Millmont Pa 17845
570-922-1860
 church's e-mail: culc@dejazzd.com
 pastor's e-mail:
 pastorjohn@4bellschurch.com
 website: www.4bellschurch.com

Office Hours:
Mon-Thu – 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Fri – Closed

THE DEADLINE FOR
 ARTICLES FOR THE

MARCH

NEWSLETTER IS

FEBRUARY 20

STAFF

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| The Congregation..... | The Ministers |
| The Rev. John D. Yost..... | Pastor |
| Margie Dunkle | Sec/Asst Tr |
| Dianne Shuck | Treasurer |
| Janet Hackenberg..... | Asst Tr |
| Cliff Valentine..... | Recording Financial Secretary |
| Tom Catherman..... | Custodian |
| Paula Christy & Gary Hackenberg | Organists |
| Diane Valentine & Karen Zimmerman | Pianists |

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers

Greg Shuck, President
 Drew Christy, Vice President
 Linda Smith, Secretary
 Barry Spangler, Recording Secretary

Ministry Assignments

Facilities/Administration

*(deals with property, personnel
 and stewardship)*

Tom Catherman
 Maurice Clouser
 Eugene Hassinger

Inreach

*(focus on ministry
 within the congregation)*

Drew Christy
 Greg Shuck
 Janet Spurr

Outreach

*(related to ministry
 beyond the congregation)*

Doug Gemberling
 Dianne Shuck
 Linda Smith

THE M.I.S.S.I.O.N OF CHRIST'S UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

Meet – we meet each other as sisters and brothers in Christ

Invite – we invite and welcome others into the body of Christ

Share – we share the good news of Jesus and our gifts with all

Support – we support each other as we walk in the ways of Jesus

Imagine – we imagine life filled with God's purpose and grace

Offer – we offer ourselves to God through faith, hope and love

Nourish – we nourish one another in the Word, by the Spirit

Christ's United Lutheran Church is a community of faith, gathered, empowered and entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ to bear witness that we are one body in Christ as together we worship God in all praise and thanksgiving and we serve one another with unconditional love and mercy.

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE...

- ...when a member of your family is sick or is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.
- ...when your address and phone number is changed, so the church records can be corrected.
- ...when you move—out of town or locally.
- ...when a new baby arrives in your family or in the family of another church member.
- ...when a member of your family leaves home for college or to establish a new residence.
- ...when a new family moves into your neighborhood.
- ...when your class or group plans to have a meeting, so that it can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.
- ...when something good happens to you or your family.
- ...when you feel the church can assist you in any way.

February 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <p><u>Weather Lore</u></p> <p><i>If February gives much snow,
A fine summer it doth foreshow.</i></p> | | | <p>1
10:00 Hope's Haven</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study</p> | <p>2 GROUNDHOG DAY</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>5 SCOUT SUNDAY
9:00 Worship
10:00 Koinonia Kafe
10:15 Sunday School</p> | <p>6
10:30 Bible Study</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8
10:00 Hope's Haven</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study</p> | <p>9</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11</p> |
| <p>12
9:00 Worship
10:15 Sunday School</p> | <p>13
10:30 Bible Study</p> | <p>14 VALENTINE'S DAY</p> | <p>15
10:00 Hope's Haven</p> <p>7:00 Bible Study</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>19
9:00 Worship
10:15 Sunday School
1:00 Indoor Block Party</p> | <p>20 PRESIDENTS DAY
10:30 Bible Study</p> | <p>21

7:00 Council</p> | <p>22
10:00 Hope's Haven</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p>26
9:00 Worship
10:15 Sunday School</p> | <p>27
9:00 Easter Egg Mixing

6:00 Easter Egg Coating</p> | <p>28
12:00 Hubner Seed Banquet

6:00 Shrove Tuesday Supper</p> | <p><i>Smiling has the power of relaxing the mind,
delighting the heart, boosting the immune system,
slowing the heartbeat and breathing rate.</i></p> <p style="color: #008080;">– Dr T.P.Chia</p> | | | |