

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

825 Forest Ave

Jamestown NY 14701



NON-PROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE

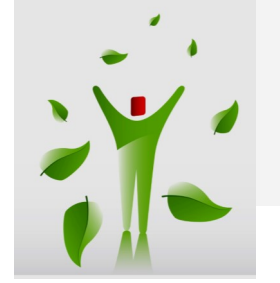
PAID

Permit No. 438

Jamestown, NY

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MAILING
LABEL



Leaves of Life—Parish Newsletter

Happy New Year!



Begin anew

Every morning lean thine arms awhile
Upon the windowsill of heaven
And gaze upon thy Lord.
Then, with the vision in thy heart,
Turn strong to meet thy day.

—Thomas Blake



Tree of Life Church: united in worship, sharing Jesus and serving all people.

Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church

Welcome to
Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church
825 Forest Ave, Jamestown NY 14701
(716) 488-4235 - FAX: (716) 488-2336

Contact info:

Office hours: 8am-noon—Monday thru Friday
(pastor in office: M-Th after 9:30)

Pastor Tara Lamont Eastman

to set up appointment: Call church 716 488-4235
for pastoral emergency: (716) 969-3950 (call or text)

Sunday School—all ages—9am
Worship—10:15am


TREE OF LIFE emails:

pastor@toljamestown.com
admin@toljamestown.com
expense@toljamestown.com
music@toljamestown.com

— Pastor Tara Eastman
— Rosemary DiDomenico
— Jan Coleson
— Eric Hester

TOL Website: www.toljamestown.com

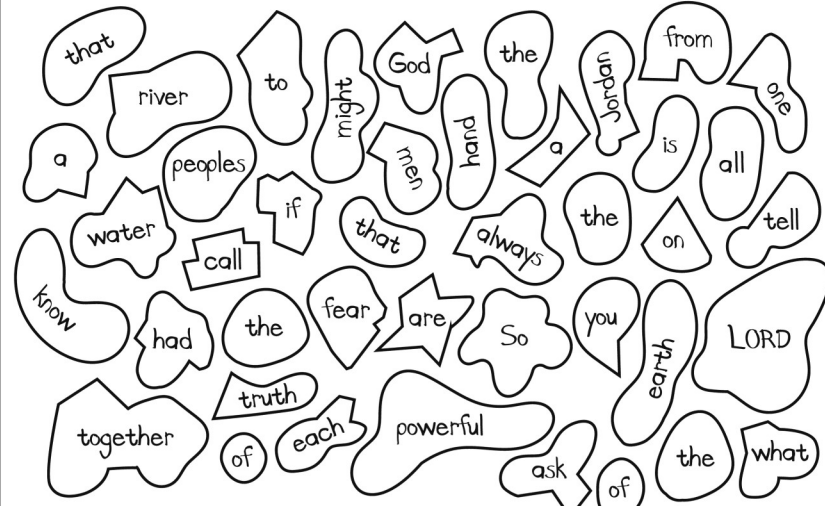
Tree of Life is on Facebook



Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So _____ the _____ the
_____ the _____
_____ the _____ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV



SERVING TREE OF LIFE

If you are unable to serve on your Sunday, you are responsible for finding a replacement and calling to let the office know who is serving for you.

JANUARY

ASSISTING MINISTER

5th: Lori Nystrom
12th: Lisa Gustafson
19th: Darcy Whitney
26th: Sue Priester

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

5th: Dodie E, Chris R
12th: Cindy S, Darcy W,
19th: Dodie E, Chris R,
26th: Paula H Cindy S

GREETERS

5th: Darcy W, Sylvia B
12th: Carole D, Dodie E
19th: George H, need !
26th: Cindy S, Joyce A

LECTORS

5th: Wolf-Dieter Krahn
12th: Janet Thom
19th: Marlene Hanson
26th: Lori Nystrom

ACOLYTES

5th: Ava Hagelin
12th: Ayden Hagelin
19th: Ella Storms
Only 3 ACOLYTES NOW—will need volunteers as available

26th: need

USHERS


5th: Matt K, Sylvia B, Craig P
12th: Paul & Kim H, Dan G, Judy D
19th: Darcy W, George H, Mike L
26th: Dennis A, Roberto C, Matt W, Jacki W

COUNTERS TBA council

ALTAR CARE TEAM FOR January

looking ahead...

Women's ELCA Southwestern Conference

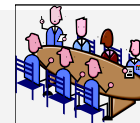


THE SOAP PROJECT

WORK DAY

Saturday, February 22, 2020
9:30 AM

at
Christ Chapel
Lutheran Home & Rehab. Center
715 Falconer Street
Jamestown, New York 14701



Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church Council

President: Darcy Whitney
Vice-Pres: Dorie Deyo
Treasurer: Deb Morlock
Secretary: tba

Council members:

Dorie Deyo
Thure Fransen
Matt Kubinski
Debbi Morlock
Sue Priester
Cindy Swan
Darcy Whitney

**TOL CHURCH COUNCIL
WILL MEET @**

6:30PM January 13th

Special dates

New Year's Day, January 1, 2020
Epiphany, January 6, 2020
Baptism of the Lord, January 12, 2020
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18-25, 2020
Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 20, 2020



To all volunteers who give their time to help out as needed. You are truly appreciated.

**"Leaves of Life " DEADLINE
FOR February NEWS**



**Is Sunday
Jan. 19th
Work party
to assemble
will be 9:30am**

at TOL

Mon., January 27th

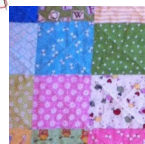
Tree of Life News



ESTHER CIRCLE will meet in **the church library** on
Wednesday, **January 8th —AT 1:30**

..

We will use **January GATHER** magazine
for **the Bible Study**. Any women from Tree
of Life and their friends are welcome to attend.



LABOR OF LOVE will meet the **FIRST Monday at 9am**

... this month's date is JANUARY 6TH

**A crew is need to remove church
Christmas decorations on
Friday, January 10th at 9:30am**



The second Sunday of the month is **FOOD SUNDAY**.. We ask that you bring a non-perishable food item for our Food Pantry . **Current need is assorted soups .. Anything will be accepted.**

Worship ATTENDANCE

Nov 24 - 56
Dec 1 - 36
Dec 8 - 64
Dec 15 - 48
Dec 22 - 50

Mission Message

HUNGRY?

The past few months of the year have been filled with so many opportunities to eat! First the football games (go Bills!), with copious snacks and pizza and wings. Then Halloween candy; then Thanksgiving, with an embarrassment of food and desserts. All through December we bake and eat Christmas cookies, and on the eve and day of the holiday itself, the table is spread heavily with all our favorites. Then we cap it off when we eat (and drink) to celebrate the New Year. The average American gains 5-10 pounds, and the most common New Year's resolution is to lose weight.

BUT, more than 11% of U.S. households (about 37.2 million people) don't know where their next meal is coming from; for 12 million, that meal won't come at all. 12.6 million people skip meals or don't eat enough, just to stretch the available food. And these abysmal statistics are actually an improvement from 10 years ago. But now there is legislation pending that would eliminate 700,000 people from the food stamp program.

Who is most vulnerable? The LGBTQ community, single-parent households, the elderly, people with health crises, anyone facing job discrimination.

Responding to hunger has been part of the church's work since its beginning. Acts 6 describes how the early church organized food distribution to the community. In 1 Corinthians, Paul scolds the church at Corinth for neglecting hungry people. In the Lutheran tradition, Martin Luther felt that separating worship from service work would be a denial of the Gospel. This year, ELCA World Hunger supported more than 70 ministries across the U.S. and Caribbean. Some provide food, some do vocational training, others plant community gardens. Your Synod Mission Support makes this possible. Thanks be to God for your generosity! May 2020 continue to be blessed by the giving from your abundance!

We are church together for the sake of the world. God's Work. Our Hands.

God's Work. Our Hands.
Marcia Brown,
Mission Interpreter

Note: IF YOU WOULD LIKE NAME REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST, PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE KNOW.
 716 488-4235—Rosemary
admin@toljamestown.com

ELCA LECTIONARY A

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD—JAN 6

Isaiah 60:1-6
 Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
 Ephesians 3:1-12
 Matthew 2:1-12

BAPT OF OUR LORD—JAN 13

Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 29
 Acts 10:34-43
 Matthew 3:13-17

2 EPIPHANY—JAN 20

Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 40:1-11
 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 John 1:29-42

3 EPIPHANY—JAN 27

Isaiah 9:1-4
 Psalm 27:1, 4-9
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Matthew 4:12-23



NOTE: ALTAR FLOWERS AND/OR BULLETIN SPONSORSHIP

is on the office door (just across from the handicap ramp or you may **contact the church office** 716 488-4235 or email Rosemary admin@toljamestown.com with requested date & what you would like printed in the bulletin that week. Also, we need to know if you want the flowers delivered (\$30) or picked up (\$22) and if you have any specific request/. It is fine for flowers and bulletin sponsorship on same day, just specify which you would like. Bulletin sponsorship is \$20.



Pastor's message..



Walking with Jesus into a new year and new decade...

Pastor Tara Lamont Eastman

Luke 24:28-35 "As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread."

One of my favorite Jesus stories in the Bible is the account of the Emmaus Road. Two disciples are walking along what seems to be a lonely road, returning to Emmaus after the

incidents of Jesus arrest, crucifixion and death in Jerusalem. While the disciples had heard rumors that the tomb Jesus had been buried in was empty, they had not seen the risen Christ with their own eyes – yet. Along the way, Jesus with his identity somehow hidden from the disciples joins them on their long seven mile walk home. The disciples are despondent, dejected and having a crisis of faith. How could it be that their leader is dead and gone? What was the purpose of all the things Jesus taught them, if now he's suddenly left them to live life as business as usual? While they are walking on a road, they seem to me to be wandering for a sense of purpose and direction – now that Jesus is gone. But, as he so often does, Jesus surprises his followers with his presence.

A friend of mine had a surprising experience of Jesus being present, from a first-hand experience. She had always been interested in Christianity, but it was more of an intellectual in-

terest more than one of believing in Jesus. She would ask be what seemed to be never-ending questions about Jesus every time we got together and talked. Her intellectual interest even prompted her to attend a book club with a group of Christian women. Week after week she would take time to read the book, come to group and ask lots of questions. At times, I would have to encourage the rest of the group to be patient with my intellectual friend. While she had a great deal of facts and ideas about Christians, she really was not familiar with church culture or traditions. While you can read a book about something and learn aspects about the subject, it falls short from living into an actual place, experience or with a group of people. Over time, my friend became a part of this small but eclectic assembly of Christian women and what was once only head knowledge became more tangible because of her experience with us. As she saw for herself, being a part of a community of faith in Christ isn't perfect, but it's perfectly amazing because Christ is with

us.

Early one morning, the day after book group, my friend called me on the phone. There was excitement and a bit of confusion in her voice. She was shouting quite loudly, so I had to ask her to slow down so I could understand her. She replied, "*Jesus was there all along!!!!*"

I was confused by her statement and asked her to explain.

Apparently, over the weeks she attended the book group, my friend – who is very intelligent – wasn't only asking questions. She was listening. She was watching. She was paying attention to how we treated each other. She was witnessing care and love for each other as we shared life's challenges and had been overcome with emotion as we prayed for one another each week. In our small actions of care and faith in Christ – she had witnessed the presence of Christ in our little book group. My friend, resistant to the truth that Jesus is with us, came to recognize Christ's presence in our fellowship. While we may have taken it for granted, she

Choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 7:00 Sept—mid-May



FINANCIAL PICTURE

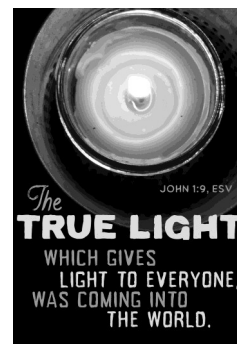
NOVEMBER 2019:

Income: \$9,096.31

Expenses: \$17,487.09

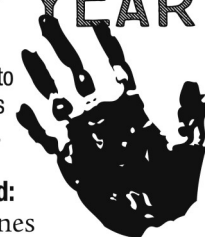
Monthly difference: \$-8,390.78

Cummulative diff: \$-70,347.54



"STEP" INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God's many blessings.



What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

What you do:

1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.



TREE OF LIFE (January)

1/01	Darcy Whitney
1/02	Linda Scalise
1/03	Kristen Bentley
1/06	Tara Eastman, Camryn Storms
1/08	Mike Mogenhan, Marilyn Isaacson
1/11	Cory Saullo
1/12	Matthew Kubinski,
1/13	Jennifer Wolnik
1/16	Marian Leathers
1/18	Garth Swanson
1/19	Taylor Bennett, Shelby Hester
1/20	Janis Nelson
1/25	Phyllis Johnson
1/28	Kristin Maloney
1/29	Sylvia Braley, Brenda Donato
1/30	Norma Carr
1/31	Melissa Storms

PLEASE LET THE CHURCH OFFICE
KNOW if this needs update



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

HOSPITALIZATIONS

The church office no longer receives calls from the hospital when a member is hospitalized. It would be appreciated if someone from the family would call the church office when a hospitalization occurs. In addition to calls no longer being made to the office by hospital volunteers, the computer used by the clergy at the hospital to locate hospitalized members has been removed. Thank you for your assistance. **In case of hospital emergency, please contact Pastor Eastman at 716 969-3950.**



TOL has an email Prayer

Chain- Prayer requests can be made through the pastor 969-3950; the church office 488-4235; or direct to Dodie (716) 338-9790 her email is dodie2417@gmail.com. If you would like to be a part of this important mission please send your email address to Dodie.

pastor con't..

could not. While we had heard and experienced the good news of Jesus Christ, this was the first time that Jesus was more than knowledge or data for her – *Jesus Christ was there all along!*

We all have Emmaus Roads to walk. We are not sure if we will settle in Emmaus or head back to Jerusalem. Our names may not be Peter or John, but we are disciples of Jesus Christ. As we walk, there are times that we start to believe that we are alone on the road. We wonder if the times we felt Jesus presence were truly real and we wish for Jesus to come and break bread with us once again.

The truth is, that Jesus Christ IS with us – all along. The truth is – that Jesus Christ will break bread with us once again, and again as we all gather at the altar for Communion. Where the Word and the elements are given – we find Jesus.

We all are like the disciples on the Emmaus Road. We are also like my questioning friend looking for answers. We long to be close to Jesus – but we are unsure how to achieve that presence. The truth is, we can't do anything to achieve that presence – it isn't our place to

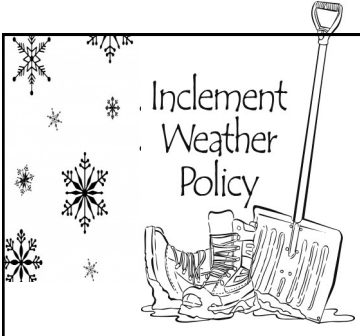
cultivate that space. This is only something that God can do and this is something that God has already done! There is nowhere we can go from the Spirit of God. God is always seeking us out, walking on the road towards us, and with us. This was true in 2019 – and it will be true for 2020 and beyond. Jesus Christ was and IS there all along – no matter where life takes us. Jesus Christ is our everlasting travel guide for this life and beyond. God's blessings on all the journey's to come in 2020 and beyond!

Feel God
in every gentle touch.
See God
in every happy face.
Hear God
in every caring word.
Receive God's blessings
every day of your life.

The Poinsettias in the chancel



Dan & Tom Gustafson	<i>memory of Jim & Coralyn Gustafson</i>
The Hagelins	<i>memory of all loved ones</i>
Rona Jennings	<i>memory of loved ones</i>
Rona Jennings	<i>in honor of loved ones</i>
Steve & Judy Johnson	<i>memory of brother - Officer Duane Johnson (killed in the line of duty, LAPD)</i>
Steve & Judy Johnson	<i>memory of Judy's parents - Clifton & Sophie Thorp</i>
Steve & Judy Johnson	<i>memory of Steve's parents - Curt & Norma, Aunt Hilma Brumagin and brother Gary</i>
Roberta McCardle	<i>memory of Erickson family: Andrew, Anna, Andy, BettyJane</i>
Roberta McCardle	<i>in honor of Jim & Dodie Erickson</i>
Evelyn Owen	<i>memory of husband, Norm A Owen</i>
Greg & Cindy Swan & family	<i>memory of loved ones</i>
Jeanne Wahlstrom & family	<i>memory of husband, Art Wahlstrom (who died Dec 29, 2013)</i>
The Whitney Family	<i>memory of Dolores & Ed Dieteman, Linda Dolan, Sylvia Opdahl, Jeff Whitney</i>
Darcy Whitney	<i>memory of my friend - Cindy Fransen</i>



NOTE:

If local schools are closed, be sure to call office prior to make sure we are open. Also will be on local TV stations cancellations & closing & local radio stations as Tree of Life.

Online Book Club

"Online Book Club Group using Zoom Technology"

Pastor Lori Kochanski, Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation, will moderate the online conversation about the book. Make note of some of the points in the book that you find to be interesting or challenging and be prepared to share them with the group. This study is open to anyone (both lay folks and those who are rostered leaders) willing to read the book and talk about it with others. You can even invite your family and friends who do not live in New York. The zoom link will be published in the Upstate Update and the synod Facebook page.

Upcoming book conversations:

January 15 1:00 and 7:00 *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine

February 19 1:00 and 7:00 *One Coin Found: How God's Love Stretches to the Margins* by Emmy Kegler

March 25 1:00 and 7:00 *Women Rise Up: Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution* by Katey Zeh

April 29 1:00 and 7:00 *The Time Is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage* by Joan Chittister

2020 Northeast US Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends SPRING WEEKENDS:



April 24-26, 2020
Country Inn & Suites, Ithaca, NY
In the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York. Spacious rooms with country charm throughout accented by a fireplace in the lobby.



May 1-3, 2020
Heritage Hotel Lancaster, Lancaster, PA
500 Centerville Road, just off of Hwy 30.
A newly-renovated hotel, home of the unique treehouse-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."

FALL WEEKENDS:



October 2-4, 2020
Comfort Inn Latham-Albany North
Cohoes, NY
A recently beautifully-renovated property
Just 10 miles north of Interstate 90 and
the vibrant capital of NY, Albany.



October 16-18, 2020
Olmsted Retreat Center,
Ludlow, PA
A stunning, hotel-style retreat next to the
Olmsted Mansion--situated on a hillside in the
Allegheny National Forest.

Go to www.GodLovesMarriage.org to see the cost for each Weekend. A \$100 registration fee plus the very reasonable group-rate cost of two nights lodging and 5 meals for each of you can be paid with a credit card, or you may mark the option to mail a check. The Weekend costs are refundable up to around a month before the event, so SIGN UP NOW to avoid being on a waiting list. Weekends run from Friday evening at 8 PM to Sunday afternoon around 3 PM, and all faith expressions are welcome. To sign up, go to: www.GodLovesMarriage.org, or for questions contact: Northeast US Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber at: fjschamber@comcast.net or 724-325-3166. **Registrations are limited by the size of conference rooms, so sign up now for this special and beautiful Weekend designed to have you fall in love with your spouse all over again!**

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Please note: the 3rd Annual Meeting of Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jamestown NY will take place on Sunday, **Jan. 26, 2020** following 10:15 Worship.

Please email all reports to Rosemary at admin@toljamestown.com by Friday, **January 10, 2020**. Reports will be available to the congregation 1 week prior to meeting.

NEEDED for 2019: (please look through these and send whichever you are responsible for— thank you!!)

Member changes, previous yr. minutes, Any congregation meeting minutes, Pastor's report (including Pastoral Acts), Director of Music (including choir), Administrative Assistant Report, TOL council president report, Report of Bishop, Financial managers Reports, Treasurer's Report, Fund Activity, WELCA, Food Cupboard, Labor of Love, Esther Circle, Worship & Music, Faith Formation, Finance, Mutual Ministry, Property, Prayer Chain, God's Work our Hands, Care Team (Home Communion), TOL Hospitality, Proposed/Approved Budget 2020, Auditor Report, any Resolutions.

*Thank
You*

The family of Helen
Bagnall would like to
express their grati-
tude for all the pray-
ers and condolences
at the time of her
passing

At home with God

Of all persons, the Christian should be best prepared for whatever the New Year brings. ... In Christ he has disposed of a thousand enemies that other men must face alone and unprepared. He can face his tomorrow cheerful and unafraid because yesterday he turned his feet into the ways of peace and today he lives in God. The man who has made God his dwelling place will always have a safe habitation. —A.W. Tozer

JANUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT																																																	
Activities at E 2nd St—<i>for this month:</i> *Healthy Bones: M-W-F, 9am SR Center Bingo: M, 11:30am Tai Chi: M (11am) T & Th, (9-11:30) Peer Support: 1st M, 7pm SR Center exercise T & TH 10am; Tureen: 4th T, noon Fit Women Group : (716 708-6543) M-F Hrs: 7:30am-12:30 & 2:30—6pm.; Sat: 8:30am-11 Sept-May); Zumba class, 5:30-6:30 pm T & Th			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! CLOSED	2 8-11 TOPS, hall 6pm -Going Away Party for Jayson David Mena Guity	3 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2	4																																																	
Emergency pastoral coverage Pr Dan Rumfelt—12/27– 1/3 716 450-1545																																																							
5 Epiphany Sunday SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 WORSHIP 10:15	6 Feast of Epiphany (PASTOR TARA'S BIRTHDAY) LABOR OF LOVE, 9AM	7 MINISTERIUM, 10-3	8 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2 Esther Circle, 1:30, lib Bible Study, 6pm Choir, 7	9 8-11 TOPS, hall	10 9:30am—remove Christ- mas decorations at church FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2	11																																																	
12 {Eric last day} Baptism of Our Lord FOOD SUNDAY SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 WORSHIP 10:15 Guest Preacher: Pr Dan Rumfelt	13 Council, 6:30pm	14	15 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2 Dinner Church 5:30 Choir, 7	16 8-11 TOPS, hall	17 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2 Jmst Community Barn Dance, hall 7pm-9:30	18																																																	
19 2 Epiphany SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 WORSHIP 10:15 Feb.. N/L DEADLINE	20 CLOSED Martin Luther King Jr	21 MHA—Pastor, Gateway Chapel , 2pm	22 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2 Bible Study, 6 Choir, 7	23 8-11 TOPS, hall	24 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2	25																																																	
26 3 Epiphany SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9 WORSHIP 10:15 Tree of Life ANNUAL MEETING	27 NEWSLETTER MLG, 9:30	28 Staff meeting, 11am	29 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2 Bible Study, 6 Choir, 7	30 8-11 TOPS, hall	31 FOOD CUPBOARD, 10-2	<table border="1"> <tr> <th colspan="7">February 2020</th></tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </table>	February 2020							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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