

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield  
139 Craig's Meadow Rd.  
East Stroudsburg, Pa. 18301  
Phone: 570-223-9422

E-mail: [stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net](mailto:stpaulscraigsmeadow@verizon.net)  
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Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield

# ST. PAUL'S CALL

## APRIL 2025

**Pastor Deb Staniszewski**

**JOIN US FOR PRAYER,  
WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP**

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
**8:30AM AND 10:00AM**  
**Sunday School 9:00 – 9:45am**



**Holy Week Palm Sunday – April 13<sup>th</sup> 8:30 & 10am**

**Maundy Thursday – April 17<sup>th</sup> 6pm**

**Good Friday – April 18<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Stations of the Cross & 6pm Service**

**Easter – April 20<sup>th</sup> 8:30 & 10am**

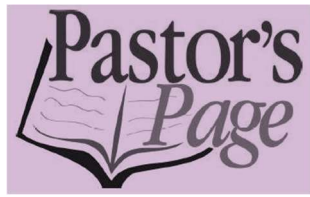
**LIVE STREAMING AVAILABLE 10:00AM SERVICE.**

**Connect to Facebook direct or go to our web site FB tab.**

**A PDF of the 10:00am service bulletin is on the web site.**

### **St. Paul's Mission Statement**

**We are a community of faith called to share the good news of Jesus as our model of life. We seek spiritual maturity through worship, learning and serving. We invite and welcome all who desire to share this journey of faith active in love.**



Greetings Friends!

Blessing for Holy Week and a Joyful Easter!

In John's gospel, at the Last Supper as Jesus was preparing his followers for their life in the new community, Christ's new body, the church, after his death and resurrection, he said,

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:1-5, NIV)

Jesus reassured the disciples in his day that in the midst of the uncertainty following his death, they were to continue in God's love, sharing with everyone, all that Jesus had taught them. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they were freed to live in the hope, joy, and confidence of the Christ.

As with the first disciples, the Holy Spirit empowers us to live into this community of life, disciples giving witness and testimony to the presence of God's love in the world and in our lives. We also continue to share Christ's goodness, participating in God's mission in the world, and working for justice and equity for all people.

We face many uncertainties at this time as individuals and as members of communities. As members of St. Paul's, in the body of Christ, centered in the True Vine, amid obstacles and unpredictability, we continue to navigate changing culture, financial issues, and the challenges of developing partnerships with folks in other faith communities as well as the greater culture.

Feel Jesus words washing over you, hear them deeply....we abide in the vine, and the vine abides in us, as we bear fruit, experience pruning, and develop in spiritual maturity. As vines, branches, leaves, buds, and stems, which are flexible, pliable, and connected not only to our source, but to one another. Jesus the true vine is our source of life and hope, and we can trust that the Holy Spirit is leading us in our lives as individuals and in community today and always.

Your Sibling in Christ,

Pastor Deb

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield**  
**Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)**

**Operating Funds**

	January <u>2025</u>	Year to <u>Date</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
<b>CHURCH INCOME</b>			
GENERAL INCOME	\$8,389.54	\$8,389.54	\$10,037.51
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	251.00	251.00	208.34
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	1,104.00	1,104.00	1,600.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>5.27</u>	<u>5.27</u>	<u>336.66</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$9,749.81</u>	<u>\$9,749.81</u>	<u>\$12,182.51</u>
<b>CHURCH EXPENSES</b>			
STAFF	\$9,290.78	\$9,290.78	\$9,410.32
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE			
Benevolence (Synod)	583.33	583.33	604.58
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	653.85	653.85	550.00
WORSHIP	321.50	321.50	461.24
LEARNING	0.00	0.00	187.49
PROPERTY	4,301.68	4,301.68	3,482.09
DEBT PAYMENTS	990.00	990.00	1,171.83
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	58.33
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	41.66
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	48.33
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>95.83</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$16,141.14</u>	<u>\$16,141.14</u>	<u>\$16,111.70</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$6,391.33)</u>	<u>(\$6,391.33)</u>	<u>(\$3,929.19)</u>

**Current Cash Accounts**

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$13,229.59	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>84,798.54</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$98,028.13</u>

**Special Funds**

<b>SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME</b>			
<b>BENEVOLENCE</b>			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$0.00
MEMORIAL INCOME	<u>775.00</u>	<u>775.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$1,175.00</u>	<u>\$1,175.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
<b>BENEVOLENCE</b>			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
MUSIC	<u>56.99</u>	<u>56.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$56.99</u>	<u>\$56.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**Special Funds Cash Accounts**

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$13,902.95	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>5,504.21</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$19,407.16</u>

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Smithfield**  
**Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)**

**Operating Funds**

	February <u>2025</u>	Year to <u>Date</u>	Year to Date <u>Budget</u>
<b>CHURCH INCOME</b>			
GENERAL INCOME	\$6,680.00	\$15,069.54	\$20,075.02
BENEVOLENCE INCOME	80.00	331.00	416.68
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	2,147.48	3,231.48	3,200.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>5.05</u>	<u>10.32</u>	<u>673.32</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$8,892.53</u>	<u>\$18,642.34</u>	<u>\$24,365.02</u>
<b>CHURCH EXPENSES</b>			
STAFF	\$9,246.47	\$18,537.25	\$18,820.64
BENEVOLENCE EXPENSE			
Benevolence (Synod)	583.33	1,166.66	1,209.16
PARISH ADMINISTRATION	563.39	1,217.24	1,100.00
WORSHIP	329.75	651.25	922.48
LEARNING	59.38	59.38	374.98
PROPERTY	4,890.19	9,191.87	6,964.18
DEBT PAYMENTS	1,229.00	2,219.00	2,343.66
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	116.66
OUTREACH	0.00	0.00	83.32
WITNESS	0.00	0.00	96.66
SOCIAL FELLOWSHIP	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>191.66</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$16,901.51</u>	<u>\$33,042.65</u>	<u>\$32,223.40</u>
EXCESS INCOME/(EXPENSES)	<u>(\$8,008.98)</u>	<u>(\$14,400.31)</u>	<u>(\$7,858.38)</u>

**Current Cash Accounts**

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$4,885.61	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>84,798.54</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$89,684.15</u>

**Special Funds**

<b>SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME</b>			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$502.90	\$902.90	\$0.00
MEMORIAL INCOME	230.00	1,005.00	0.00
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS INCOME	<u>\$732.90</u>	<u>\$1,907.90</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS</b>			
BENEVOLENCE			
Pantry/Good Samaritan	\$371.99	\$371.99	\$0.00
MUSIC	<u>0.00</u>	<u>56.99</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL SPECIAL FUNDS DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$371.99</u>	<u>\$428.98</u>	<u>0.00</u>

**Special Funds Cash Accounts**

CHECKING ACCOUNTS & PETTY CASH	\$14,216.87	
THRIVENT FINANCIAL	<u>5,504.21</u>	
TOTAL CASH ACCOUNTS		<u>\$19,721.08</u>

## Worship & Music for April



**Lenten Soup Supper** – Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm / 5:45pm Reflecting on Scriptural Images of God through Prayer Practice

**Agape Feast** – Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 5pm

Sign up sheet on the bulletin board for food.

Some mediterranean ideas: Hummus, olives, cheese, pita bread, stuffed grape leaves, Greek salad with feta,

baklava, chicken on a skewer, nuts or dried fruit.



**Pocono Mountain Community Chorus 2025 Holy Week Concert** –

Palm Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm at St. John's Lutheran Church

9 North 9<sup>th</sup> St, Stroudsburg. Our own Barbara Edwards will be singing with them. Good will donation.

### Holy Week

**Palm Sunday** – April 13<sup>th</sup> 8:30 & 10am

**Maundy Thursday** – April 17<sup>th</sup> 6pm

**Good Friday** – April 18<sup>th</sup> 12 noon Stations of the Cross & 6pm Service

### He Is Risen!

**Easter** – April 20<sup>th</sup> 8:30 & 10am

**Check the bulletin board for sponsorship opportunities!**

**Next meeting** – Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

,

Happy Easter!

Worship & Music Committee

IN ITS 44TH YEAR OF PERFORMING  
HOLY WEEK CONCERTS,

*Pocono Mountain  
Community Chorus*

presents

**ONCE UPON A TREE**

WORDS AND MUSIC BY PEPPER CHOPLIN

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025 | 7:00 P.M.

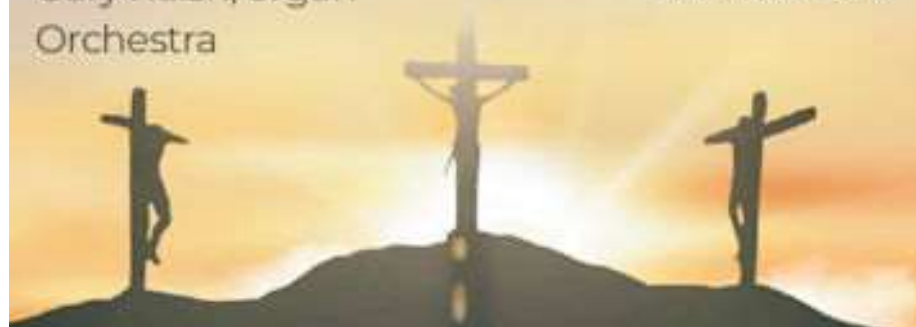
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
9 NORTH NINTH STREET  
STROUDSBURG, PA

*Featuring over 50 voices*

Directed by Bob Riday

Accompanied by:  
Ruth Kochera, piano  
Gary Raish, organ  
Orchestra

For more information,  
please call  
570-460-3816



The concert is open to the public and admission is free.  
Freewill Offering



**Thursday APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**EASTER PANTRY AND FREE SHOPPING**  
**9:00am – 12:00noon (Must be registered)**

We are planning on distributing 59 EASTER DINNERS!! So, if anyone is planning on donating a Ham please notify the Church office and leave a message THANK YOU!

**FREE SHOPPING**

**We are collecting any and all donations of gently used items; including:**

Men, women and children :clothing (SPRING and SUMMER please); shoes, sneakers boots slippers etc. Pocket books, tote bags luggage etc; Coats, jackets etc. Toiletries and personal hygiene items. Linens, blankets etc; Kitchen items, dishes, utensils, bake wear, etc. all in good working order all housewares - lamps, small appliances etc

Of course any children toys; books, craft items etc etc

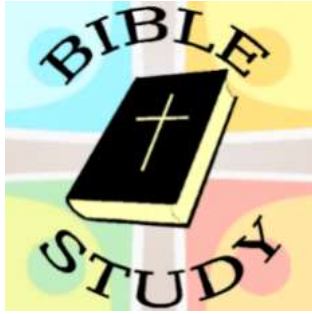
Many thanks again for any and all help you can SHARE with others in need ☒

**NOREEN AND FAYE**

**The food pantry needs:** Cereal, boxed macaroni & cheese, peanut butter and jelly, and canned tuna and boxed mashed potatoes.

**Anything else you would like to donate is appreciated** - It must be non-perishable in can, box or bag. Please check the "best by" and expiration dates, we cannot accept anything past the best by or expiration date.





**Every Tuesday 11:30am to 12:30pm.  
JOIN US**



## **FRIDAY LADIES**

**Friday's 9:00 – 12:00 noon**

**The ladies make lovely lap robes that they share with hospitals, nursing & retirement homes plus our newly baptized babies go home with one. They are always appreciated and if you know of someone that might need one, please let Edie know.**

**Come on Friday and Join in.**



**Donations always welcome of clean cotton fabric printed or solid. Large pieces of fabric for backing, quilting thread or just ask the ladies if you have something they might use.**

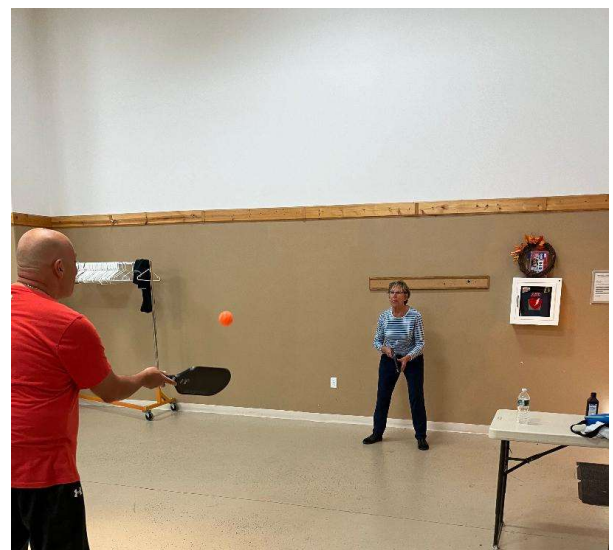




**Come join us for Pickleball in Celebration Hall!  
Beginners and more experienced players welcome.**

Download the app TeamReach and use the code STPAULS. Once in the app you can look at the calendar for times.

ANY questions text or call Laura Biddulph.  
570-369-0359





## **Hello Church Youth Families,**

Sunday School class is held on Sunday mornings from 9-9:45 am. All children from preschool and up are welcome! We meet in the room to the left of the sanctuary.

Confirmation Class for this month (1-3pm):

April 6<sup>th</sup>

April 27<sup>th</sup>

The Confirmation Class Retreat was a great success! They studied and worked hard in their bibles, created projects, played games and slept overnight in the sanctuary. What a great experience that they will always remember!

The Girl Scout Troop visit was also a wonderful success! A big thank you to Pastor Deb, Kathy and the choir and the whole church for welcoming them to church. The Girl Scouts worked on the garden and made bird house, bee houses and butterfly houses for the garden. They also made plant nametags for the garden. And they joined in with the choir and sounded beautiful!

Looking ahead, there will not be any Sunday School on Easter, April 20<sup>th</sup>.



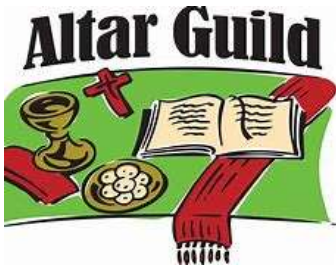
Blessings always,

Christian Education Team

Alisa Nixon (908) 279-5242

Pastor Deb (570) 350-5115

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!



**Please see Nancy Fritz or leave your name in the office.**

**No experience necessary you will be instructed and helped as much as you need. Assistance is needed for a month at a time.**

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



**Sunday Coffee Hour**

**Help with Funeral Luncheons**



**Contact Jeannette Richardson or Faye Jones if interested.**



**Contact Wanda Richardson. Faye, Noreen or office If you would like help for Thursday Food Pantry or special holidays.**

## SUNDAY SERVICE



**If you would like to help on a Sunday contact Barbara Edwards or office.**

**Ushers and Lay Readers**

**Contact Pastor direct.**

**If you are interested in leading a service on one of Pastor's Sundays when she is away.**

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## Musical Opportunities –



**CHOIR** meets Thursdays at 6:30pm in the sanctuary.

If interested, contact Kathy Ertle.

**THE PRAISE TEAM** meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm and  
plays for the Contemporary service at 10am on  
the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month.

Please reach out to Chris Matthy if interested.

## Sponsor Opportunities – Sign up sheets on Narthex Bulletin Board

### Be A Worship Sponsor!

For \$22.00, or split with another, you can sponsor a worship service. The money goes towards expenses for web sites used in bulletin preparation, copyright for songs and supplies like paper and toner. Checks can be given to Dana Strohl or Secretary Lynne Williams.

## AFTER LENT FLOWERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO ORDER



### Altar Flowers

The flower sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. Celebrate a loved one with a fresh flower arrangement from Floral Boutique. Please find someone to share with you if you'd like to. Order forms and checks may be given to Dana Strohl or Lynne Williams.



## CELEBRATION HALL RENTALS

**Please share with friends. For information contact**

**SONJI PATRICK (CALL OFFICE FOR PHONE #.)**



Celebrate Your Event



- Full Commercial Kitchen
- Seating: 160 Banquet Style  
180 Assembly
- Parking: Up to 75 Vehicles
- Handicap Accessible
- Wi-Fi Ready

- Weddings
- Birthday Parties
- Anniversary Parties
- Banquets
- Meetings
- Workshops



**Sweet 16 Party**





## 6261:

# Something New, Yet Something Old

*Submitted by: Deacon Kat Tigerman, Director of Evangelical Mission*



6261 : 6 congregations sharing 2 full-time pastors, 6 Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs), and 1 full-time deacon. A parish-type model first presented by Bishop Christopher deForest at the Synod Assembly of 2023. A flexible framework to help congregations collaborate and thrive, while remaining unique and true to their own God-given gifts. A model designed to vitalize each congregation as together, they expand their ministries within the

community. A focus on the Gospel by increasing opportunities for worship, Bible studies, service, music, and ministry into the community.

There are currently 15 different areas across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at various discernment and exploration points about 6261. There is at least one area in each of the Synod's 9 Mission Districts.

The Synod's first 6261 Ministry Community officially launched on February 1, 2025 in Reading, PA as the "Pretzel City." This partnership includes six congregations: Bethany Lutheran (West Reading), Christ Lutheran (Reading), Hope Lutheran (Reading), Nativity Lutheran (Reading), St. Paul Lutheran (Reading), and Zion Spies Lutheran (Reading) along with Hope's Table (a Synod-Authorized Worshipping Community).

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Pretzel City 6261 Ministry Community hosted a potluck dinner, hymn sing, and celebration worship, co-lead by Bishop deForest and Deacon Kat Tigerman. In addition to the six Pretzel City congregations and 2 of their LLM candidates, members of Synod Council and congregations from around the Synod and West Berks Mission District attended to mark this momentous occasion.



The celebration worship included a reflection on the primary ministry project of the Pretzel City 6261: a food web ministry. Pastor Rebecca Knox gave this reflection, drawing on Psalm 126 and how God brought these congregations to this joyful point and will be with them as they continue to plant seeds, both literally and spiritually. Bishop deForest led a participatory reflection on Isaiah 58 including loud shouts of praise and the kind of fasting God wants: for us to love, heal, and engage with our neighbors. Bishop deForest also lifted up the sacrifice each congregation made for the good of the whole 6261 Ministry Community so that it could more fully live into this “fasting” call of service. The 6261 Ministry Community Covenant was signed by each President of the 6



congregations, and each congregation received a Pretzel City plaque as a reminder of their partnership and commitment to pray for one another. A joint 30-person choir sang “Lord, We As One United,” a beautiful anthem for the offertory right after members from each congregation and Pastor Bruce Osterhout led the assembly in prayer. Worship concluded with Holy Communion and a special update from Pastor Drew Neidig celebrating some surprise gifts to the Pretzel City Bundle to help with their food web ministry. We are blessed to see such hope among us in such unprecedented times. We celebrate with Pretzel City, knowing that God goes before each of us on our ministry journeys so that we may have life abundantly (John 10:10).

To learn more about the 6261 Ministry Community, visit [godslove.org/6261mc](https://godslove.org/6261mc) or email Deacon Kat Tigerman at [kat@nepsynod.org](mailto:kat@nepsynod.org). Keep an eye out for an upcoming NEPA Synod 6261 article from the ELCA!

**DID YOU KNOW** that your Mission Support helps fund areas of the synod like this one and many other important initiatives? Your contributions are making a significant impact and helping others grow in faith, supporting the synod’s lanes of Growing Young, Gaining Strength, and Going Beyond Death to Life, along with the directions of loving like Jesus, healing like Jesus, and engaging like Jesus. To learn more, visit [godslove.org/missionsupport](https://godslove.org/missionsupport).

**More  
DOT CONNECTING  
DETAILS  
AVAILABLE**

**NOW AVAILABLE:**

- Full Assembly Agenda
- Presenters
- Rates
- Pre-Assembly Information Dates
- Election Nomination Form
- Resolution & Memorials Forms




[godslove.org/assembly2025](https://godslove.org/assembly2025)

*Connect the Dots  
Apparel!*



A portion of every sale goes to the 2025 Northeastern Pa Synod Assembly Offering



**2025  
Connect  
the Dots**  
Northeastern PA Synod Assembly

**May 30-31**  
**Christ Hamilton,  
Stroudsburg**

Sunday APRIL	Monday 2025	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	<b>2</b> Lent Soup and Supper Service 5:00 – 6:15PM	<b>3</b> Choir 6:30pm	<b>4</b> Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>5 Lent</b> 8:30 & 10:00am  Sunday School 9:00 – 9:45am	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm  Council Meeting 6:30pm	<b>9</b> <b>Agape Feast</b> <b>5:00pm</b>  Praise Team 6:45pm	<b>10</b> Choir 6:30pm	<b>11</b> Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:30 & 10:00am Sunday School 9:00 – 9:45am	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm  Council Meeting 6:30	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Easter Food Pantry and Give Away 9-12noon <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 6:00pm	<b>18</b> Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon  <b>Good Friday</b> <b>12:00noon</b> <b>6pm Service</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Easter Day</b> 8:30 & 10:00am		Bible Study 11:30 – 12:30pm	Praise Team 6:30pm	Finance Meeting 6:00pm  Choir 6:30pm	Friday Ladies 9:00am - 12:00noon	
<b>27</b> <b>2 Easter</b> 8:30pn Sunday School 9:00 – 9:45 10pm service Contemporary with Praise Team	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			