

Cross Beams

March 2021

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.



In this Issue:

Lenten Schedule
Wed. now-Mar. 24, 6:30 pm
Thurs. Apr. 1, 6:30 pm
Fri. Apr. 2, 6:30 pm
Sun. Apr. 4, 8:30 & 10 am

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Thank You Notes

Quilting

Easter Flowers

Worship Volunteers

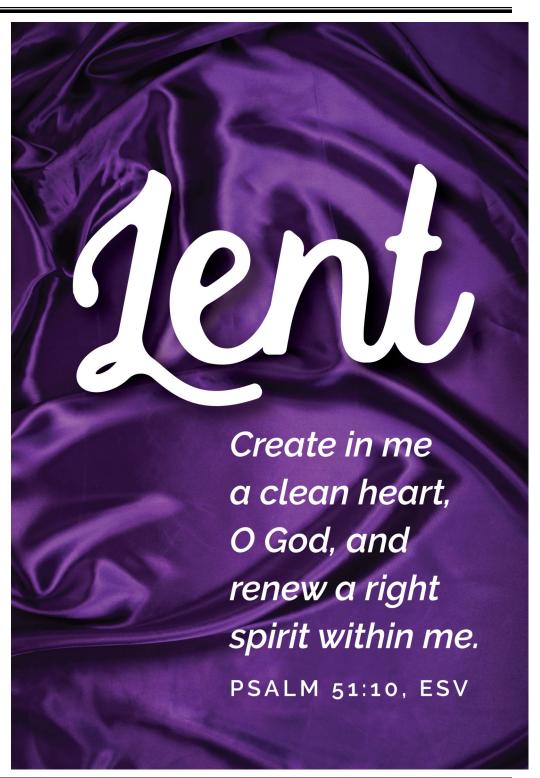
Summer Youth Trip

Prayers

Finances

Election Results

Community



"Holy Week: Bringing More Meaning to Easter"

Greetings church family!

Are you ready for spring and warmer weather?! Hopefully we've survived the coldest part of winter and can begin to look forward to warmer days ahead.



I also hope you'll find some warmth for your soul as we continue looking at different faith practices each Wednesday night at 6:30 pm in-person and online during Lent. Remember, if you miss a service, you can always go back and watch it later via the link on our website or our church Facebook page.

Finally, I want to take this chance to encourage you to join us for Holy Week at *English Lutheran Church*. It's one of my favorite weeks of the year and I'm always surprised that more people don't take advantage of all it has to offer to our faith walk. There is so much meaning packed in between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. So, I encourage you to join us in-person or online for our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services, especially if you haven't come in the past.

These services will be described in greater detail in our April newsletter and in our weekly emails, so stay tuned! Until then, remember you are loved greatly by our God. God bless you abundantly!



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PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

2021 Wednesday Night Lenten Series 6:30 pm Worship & Prayer

3/3 "Walk with Jesus, Prayer"

Join us and be led by Pastor Jeff on a spiritual walk with Jesus.

3/10 "The Jesus Prayer"

Come learn this simple, one sentence prayer as an introduction to contemplative-style prayer.

3/17 "Prayer Stations"

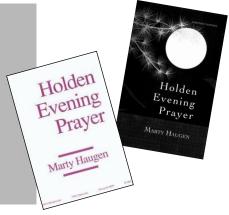
Experience at least a dozen prayer stations with creative ways to pray. You won't want to miss this one!

3/24 "Centering Prayer"

Quiet your mind as you use this prayer that seeks to help us live God's call to, "Be still & know that I am God."

Holden Books

Our Wednesday Night Lenten Series is held in-person and online on Facebook live. We use the *Holden Evening Prayer Service*. If you're joining us virtually and would like to use a *Holden Evening Prayer* booklet during the service, we can get one to you. We updated our booklets last year and still have the older copies, so we can get one of the older copies to you (same service). You can contact the office to have a copy mailed to you, pick one up at church, or grab one from the bin sitting outside the south entrance doors of the church.



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Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 1, 6:30 p.m. Online & In-Person



This special service includes holy communion and the traditional stripping of the altar, symbolic of the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers before his crucifixion. It also represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life. Please join us for this special service!

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 2, 6:30 p.m. Online & In-Person



Our Good Friday service is a special service that walks through all the details of the final hours of Jesus' life through reading of scripture, candles, and special music. We will also use many visuals that will call our attention to the significance of what Jesus did for us on the cross. This service can be a very meaningful experience for those present and so we hope you will join us!

Easter Services

Sunday, April 4, 8:30 & 10 a.m. Online & In-Person



Due to CoVID precautions and with Easter traditionally being our most attended services of the year, details are still being finalized for Easter worship. We anticipate having two services with overflow seating in the dining hall downstairs with a video feed projection if our socially distanced sanctuary seating fills up at either service. We hope you will join us!



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FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Dear Students and Parents,

Anyone, of any age, is invited to join us for communion classes this March 14. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a very special gift that is offered to us by Jesus Christ at His invitation. All baptized believers of any age are welcome at the Lord's Table. So, if a family would like their younger child to receive communion, or if you have an older child who hasn't had communion class yet, they may attend this class as well. Just like Baptism, receiving First Communion isn't about having the "right knowledge—" it is about desiring the forgiveness and grace Jesus promises us in this sacrament. The class will include important information and fun activities to help you understand the purpose and meaning of Holy Communion.

March 14, 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. (Eat before you come)

Topics will include:

- a.) What is a sacrament?
- b.) Introduction to Communion & Vocabulary
- d.) The presence of Christ
- e.) "How to Receive Communion"
- f.) Wine and wafer tasting
- g.) Bread Baking!

Make-up Session:

By appointment with Pastor Jeff for those can't attend. Please schedule a date before March 25 as soon as possible.

Other key things to note:

We ask that at least one parent/guardian be present to share this experience with your child

Students completing this course will be invited to receive their first communion on **Maundy Thursday**, **April 1 at 6:30 p.m.** (this special worship service will have an emphasis on communion.) You may also choose to receive your first communion at **8:30 or 10 am on April 4** (**Easter Sunday**) or **Sunday**, **April 11**.

Your first communion is a very special milestone in your faith journey. Keeping CoVID precautions in mind, I encourage you to invite the special people in your life such as grandparents, godparents, and extended family to celebrate this event with you!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at: pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org or call 715-273-4617.

Blessings,

Pastor Jeff



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In-Person Worship!

We are excited that we have returned to in-person worship services! Sunday mornings: 8:30 am ~ Traditional Worship 10:00 am ~ Contemporary Worship

We are following best practices for keeping folks safe including configuring the sanctuary to ensure social distancing and asking everyone to wear masks.

You can still catch us online on our Facebook page as our 8:30 worship service is livestreamed. A link to those services can also be found on our website following the services.

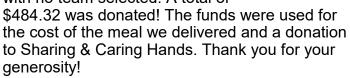


"Souper" Bowl Sunday

Thank you for your donations! In our Souper Bowl, the score was: Bucs = \$22.00

Chiefs = \$68.00

We received many more donations with no team selected. A total of



Worship Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers for our worship services. Please consider volunteering your time during worship as an usher, reader, or to run the worship slides.

Contact Trina in the office by phone or email or sign up at the back of the church. Thank you for your time!!

Thank you to the Covid Task Force who have been fulfilling our usher roles!



Thank You Notes

Thank you to our Nominating Committee for all of their work getting nominees for our open positions on our teams and committees!



Thank you to Keith Lundstrom for all of his work getting our online live steaming going for our worship services to be shown on Facebook!

Sharing & Caring Hands

Thank you to those who delivered lunch to *Sharing* and *Caring Hands*, those who baked cookies, those who donated funds to help pay for the meal and to all who donated bedding and socks to *Sharing & Caring Hands*.

Thank you to the *Ellsworth Creamery* for donating cheese curds for the meal!

Thank you to Thrivent as we were able to use a *Thrivent Action Team* to help fund the meal!

Graduate Quilting

Our quilting group will meet on Saturday, March 20, 9 to noon. We will remain small in number and will follow safety guidelines. We also plan to meet in April.



Easter Flowers

Order a real or virtual Easter flower this year!



You can purchase an Easter Lily to be used to decorate the church for Easter in memory or honor of a loved one. Flowers can be taken home following our 10 worship service on Easter Sunday.

This year we are also offering "Virtual" Easter flowers. Rather than purchasing a flower, you can make a donation to ELCA World Hunger in memory or honor of your loved one.

Complete an order form for either real or virtual flowers and note if the flowers are in honor or memory of a loved one. Donations for virtual flowers or payment for an Easter Lily can be sent to the church by mail, put in the offering box at church, dropped off in the office, or can be given online through e-giving.

ELC Youth Backpack Trip

Even though it's been a cold February, summer will be here before we know it! Our annual English Lutheran youth trip is a great way to bring us together when separated by so much this past year. And what better way than spending time immersed in spectacular scenery and listening to God speak through His creation?! Our goal is to have a fun and positive shared experience for all. We are finalizing the details for the backpacking trip our youth chose for this summer, but we need a headcount of those wanting to go so we can move forward.

Preliminary Itinerary: June 3 - June 7

- Thursday, June 3 Leave *English Lutheran Church* early afternoon drive to the campground near our starting location
- Friday, June 4 Monday, June 7 Get an early start backpacking either on the Superior Hiking Trail in Minnesota on the North Shore of Lake Superior or in the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park, on the South Shore of Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The destination and route will be determined once the headcount is established. But with either location, the plan would be to select a route that allows for picturesque views, the guiet of nature, and a rewarding challenge that is doable by all involved
- Return home the evening of Monday, June 7

Ability level

willingness to learn new skills.

Open to youth in Grades 6-12.

Guides/Chaperones

ELC is lucky to have several adults that are experienced outdoor adventurers and who will make this trip a ton of fun. Maybe they will also throw in a surprise ice cream stop, smuggle s'mores fixings for over the campfire, and for sure lots of great memories. Safety and any appropriate CoVID precautions. of course, will always be a top priority.

Cost

The trip cost will be kept to a minimum. Between shared gear, rental, food, park fees, and transportation, the expense is anticipated to be less than \$100 per person. ELC has also set aside some funds to help with the trip costs, and if needed, we can fundraise. The final cost will be determined after we know who wants to go. We will work hard to make sure finances are not a concern for all students that want to go.

To reserve a spot on this exciting adventure, please fill out the Google Registration Form using the link below and mail or bring your \$25 deposit to the church office by February 28. (If we get enough registrations by this date, we will consider adding others after Feb. 28 if we have room, so let us know if you're interested but missed the deadline!)

REGISTRATION FORM: https://forms.gle/uxCQYNrWQ7apZFJR6 (there is a link to this form on our website: www.englishlutheranchurch.org)

Questions

We are always happy to answer any questions. Please call or email Pastor Jeff at 715-273-4617 or pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org.

No prior backpacking experience is needed. Just a great attitude and a

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Special Frayers:

- ~ Prayers for the family of Marlin Peterson, on the death of Marlin.
- ~ Prayers for Ken & Dixie Basch, on the death of Ken's brother, John Basch.
- ~ Prayers for the family of Eldon (Maxine) Huber on the death of Eldon's sister-in-law, Phyllis Huber.

Healing:

Olivia Boettcher, Teeth

Nicholas, & Vanessa Tierney, grandbabies of Paul & Ginny Tonsager ~ Babies are preemies.

Roger Nelson ~ Health Issues

Nancy Hove ~ Brain Cancer

Mike Hince, Cousin of Darla Moquin

~ cancer on his palate

Long-term:

Lila Larson

Sherry York

Debbie Kannel-Howard

Terry Wegerer, Brother of Darla Moquin

~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer

Karen McAdams, Linda & Gary Onan's Daughter

~ Multiple System Atrophy

Deb Pierce, Trina Groen's Mom ~ Alzheimer's

Joyce Geister, Julie Baggenstoss & Carol Melstrom's Mother

Mackenzie Marks, Connie Gossett's Granddaughter

Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health

Dale Melstrom

Marianne Melstrom

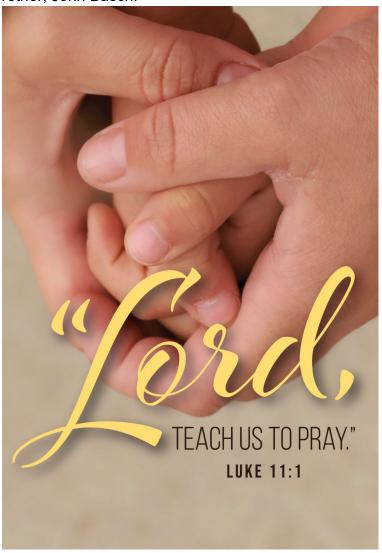
Mary Dee Prokop, Mother of Eileen Mewes

Wendy Wegerer ~ Health Issues

Military service:

Cody Tschida

Johnathan Bergman



Deaconess

The role of the Deaconess consists of sending thoughts, well wishes, and congratulations to members of our church to let them know we are thinking of them. Please notify the church office or any deaconess worker with any prayers.

Deaconess for March ~ Jeanette Wright

In Memory

Marlin Peterson died February 20, 2021. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Remember Marlin's family and friends in your prayers.



February Council

- † Reviewed Council duties. Covenant to be signed. Installation of Council members to be held on Sunday February 28, 2021 at the 8:30 a.m. service.
- † Peter Carr and Eric VanNocker plus 3 congregation members to form a task force to review continuing resolutions, constitution and bylaws for updates. Will report back to the council at the May council meeting.
- † Discussion to review committee structures.
- † Council Retreat to be held at the church in May. Date and time to be determined.
- † Easter Sunday Service on April 4th to be held at the regular service times. The basement will be used for any overflow.
- † Reports: Finance/Treasurer's Report.

 Pastor's Report: Accepted. Endowment
 Report: Update Accepted.
- † No other committees met-no reports.
- † Next council meeting March 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.



Youth House Items

As a reminder the Youth House will be demolished this year. We have completed taking items out of the youth house and are looking for good homes for them.

- Electric water heater new 2-6-19
- Gas furnace
- Electric oven
- 2 dehumidifiers
- 16' ladder

These items are free. If you are interested in any of these items, contact the church office.

January 31, 2021 Cash Balances:

General Fund = \$42,937.51 Dedicated Fund = \$79,218.69 Thrivent = \$75,190.07

Total: \$197,346.27

January General Fund:

Income: \$12,921.54 Expenses: \$17,687.44



Annual Meeting Results

Thank you to all who attended our Annual Meeting whether in person or online and those who sent in their votes. Our election results are noted below:

Budget - passed.

9 no 31 yes

Council Members:

President - Peter Carr Vice President - Eric VanNocker Treasurer - Gary Brown Secretary - Julie Davis Jen Abbas

Denise Hager Greta Larson Melba Smith Paul Tonsager



Memorial & Gifts Committee:

Melanie Johnson Dan Klaustermeier Bobbie Sawyers Jeanette Wright

Mission Endowment Committee:

Dixie Basch Peter Carr
Mandy Fleming Kip Gore
Traci Maxwell Mary Sokolik

Diane Wiskerchen

Nominations:

Augie Hohl 4 Openings

Synod Assembly:

Augie Hohl 1 Opening for a female

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Malawi Update from the Synod

Last spring the coronavirus pandemic had taken root in Malawi, and the growing number of cases left people feeling worried as businesses began shutting down and testing sites were few. In response, our partners in the ELCM invested time and resources into Covid-19 education throughout the country.

In conversation with our friends in Malawi, we heard very quickly that the needs were many, as Covid was adding extra strain on health, income, education, and food security. Once again, the caring people of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin contributed generously for these needs, allowing us to send \$15,000 for feeding centers and \$49,664.07 for covid relief in August.

As of January 27, there are 21,660 positive cases and 555 deaths (an increase of 14,976 positive cases and 364 deaths in less than 4 weeks).

There is great concern among our ministry partners - while there are several hospitals in the country, Malawi has less than 3 dozen ICU beds, making critical care tricky. For those with more "common" illnesses like Malaria that require clinic and hospital services, they are finding difficulties getting the treatment they require due to the overwhelming need for space/medical staff for Covid patients. Currently, temporary emergency treatment units are being established in several districts, an evening curfew has been established and schools have been suspended.

Mission Support

Your generosity allowed us to send \$46,941.20 for deep-drilled wells and \$54,038.23 designated for 17 specific parish to parish partners.

Most of the 65 pastors in the ELCM serve multiple-point parishes (anywhere from 5 to 13 congregations). Because so many of these parishes are in rural villages, and due to the uneven terrain and lack of paved roads, there is a great need for bicycles and motorcycles so the pastors and evangelists are able travel between congregations. Last summer were were also able to send funds specifically for this need.

Youth Assembly

During the last week of November youth from the ELCM were able to gather for their assembly at the Lutheran compound in Lilongwe, with limited attendance. Their theme "Let Us Do the Work of God Whilst it is Still Daytime" focused on educating and empowering young people to stand up against gender-based violence, specifically violence against women, girls and children. The event gained the attention of local television and news programs, and encouraged many to see how Christians are called to work for justice.

Familiar Friends

In July, our dear friend, and General Secretary of the ELCM, Mabel Madinga officially retired after many years of service to the church. She contributed so much to the partnership we share with the ELCM, and her kind spirit, her wealth of knowledge and wisdom, love for children, her friendship, and faithful call to love and serve others in ministry will be truly missed!

In November, the ELCM office welcomed back Mphatso Thole who will be resuming his role as companionship coordinator. We are excited for his return and look forward to walking together in creative new ways in 2021!

Companionship Visits

Due to ongoing travel safety concerns, as well as the unpredictability of coronavirus cases, it is unlikely that we will be making a visit to Malawi in 2021. We are beginning to plan for 2022 and will be deciding what ministries would be best to focus attention on as we accompany our partners.

We are already imagining ways we can use technology to our advantage and wondering how we might learn from one another, culturally and theologically using digital platforms and videos. Typically we have engaged in the Pastors' Academy, and while this will be one area of ministry that we discuss, we are also hoping to expand that with more connections among young people, women's ministries, worship, etc. We will be sure to fill you in when we have more details!



Luther Point Bible Camp

Kids of all ages can visit LPBC! Family camp, Horse Camp, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor Explorers, Fishing, Outpost, and grade level camps. High school youth - check out the BUDDIES & Counselor in Training programs.

We are a member church, so member discounts are available to you!

Register for a great summer experience today!!

lutherpoint.org



						Camps	Family Camp
		1st & 2nd Day at Camp (June 14)	4-6th Grade Camp	Jr. High Camp	C.I.T. Training Session 1	Remember when registering your camper their Grade at camp is the Grade they will be starting in fall 2021.	
-		3rd & 4th Grade Camp (June 20-22)	4-6th Grade Camp	Jr. High Camp	C.I.T. Shadow Week BUDDIES Session 1	Beginning Horse Camp 4th-6th Grade Fish Camp	Grandparent & Grandchild Camp (JUNE 23-25)
	JUNE 27 -JULY 2	1st & 2nd Ovemight (June 30 -July 1)	4-6th Grade Camp	Jr. High Camp	C.I.T. Shadow Week BUDDIES Session 1	Trailblazers Outpost	Grandparent & Grandchild Camp (JUNE 27-29)
	JULY 7-9 (Half Week)	3rd & 4th Grade Camp	4th-6th Grade Camp	Jr. High Night Life	Sr. High Night Life	Outdoor Explorers	Family Arts Camp
		3rd & 4th Grade Camp (JULY 11-13)	4-6th Grade Camp	Jr. High Camp	C.I.T. Training Session 2 BUDDIES Session 2	Beginning Horse Camp	Weekend Family Camp Grandparent & Grandchild Camp (JULY 14-16)
		1st & 2nd Grade Overnight (JULY 19-20)	4-6th Grade Camp	Jr. High Camp	C.I.T. Shadow Week BUDDIES Session 2	Pioneer Outpost Jr. & Sr. High Fish Camp	
		3rd & 4th Grade Camp (July 28- 30)	4-6th Grade Camp Arts and Music Camp	Jr. High Camp Arts and Music Camp	C.I.T. Shadow Week BUDDIES Session 3	Intermediate Horse Camp	Grandparent & Grandchild Camp (JULY 25-27)

Senior Center Hiring

The Ellsworth Senior Center is hiring a part-time Director. The senior center fills an important role for our community, including the much-needed Meals on Wheels program.

Hours are Mon.-Thur. 8 am to 1 pm, and once a month 3 additional afternoons, these hours may be slightly different until the center is able to begin activities and programs again.

Responsibilities for this position include; overseeing the packing of Meals on Wheels, scheduling of volunteers and helpers, planning center activities and programs, among other assignments.

Qualifications include; a High School diploma (GED), basic computer skills, outstanding leadership and organizational skills, and good social skills. They must also enjoy working with seniors.

For the right candidate, this opportunity has the potential to be a fun and creative position as senior programming begins again!

In addition, the Ellsworth Senior Center executive board is also seeking to hire a senior citizen through the WISE program for approx. 20 hours a week as a helper with the Meals on Wheels program (packing meals at the center). Of course, they always have a need for volunteers.

Candidates can express their interest by calling 715-273-5873 and leaving a message. A board member will contact them to discuss the opportunity and next steps in the process.





English Lutheran Church 229 West Main Street Ellsworth, Wisconsin Phone: 715-273-4617

Fax: 715-273-5974 Church website:

http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Find us on Facebook! EnglishLutheranEllsworth

Staff

Pastor, Jeff Smith

pastor@englishlutheranchurch.org

Office: 715-273-4617

Cell: 651-235-7204 (preferably 9 am-9 pm) Call or text any time for urgent pastoral care.

Communications Coordinator & Finance Administrator, Trina Groen office@englishlutheranchurch.org

Custodian, Julie Baggenstoss

Music Director, Steve Liening music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am to 3 pm



Worship Services

Online ~ Sundays on Facebook Livestream at 8:30 In-Person ~ Sundays Traditional - 8:30 am Contemporary - 10:00 am

Congregational Council

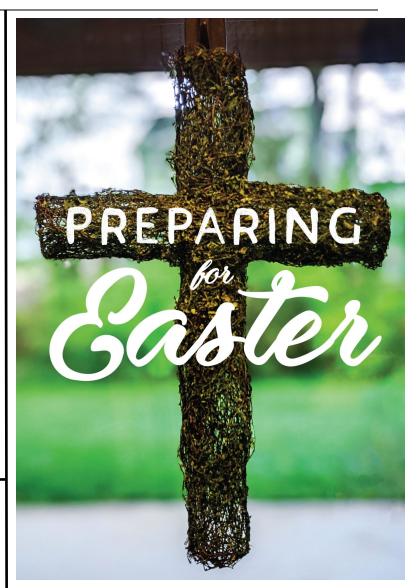
President: Peter Carr

Vice President: Eric VanNocker

Treasurer: Gary Brown Secretary: Julie Davis

Jen Abbas Denise Hager Greta Larson Melba Smith

Paul Tonsager



Our Mission:

To share Christ's unconditional love, inspiring us all for service to others.

Cross Beams

Published monthly by: English Lutheran Church Ellsworth, Wisconsin.

Email: office@englishlutheranchurch.org



March 2021 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SAT 6	13	20 • 9am Graduate Quilting	27	
医 r2	12	19	26	Good Friday Worship Service 6.30pm Good Friday Worship Service
THU 4 O 12pm Faith Leaders COVID Call with Public H	=	18 O 12pm Faith Leaders COVID Call with Public H	25	Maundy Thursday Cood Friday O 12pm Faith Leaders COVID Call with Public H o 6.30pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service o 6.30pm Warndy Thursday Worship Service
WED 3 6.30pm Lenten Worship & Prayer Service 7pm Confirmation Small Group	10 6.30pm Lenten Worship & Prayer Service 7pm Confirmation Small Group	St. Patrick's Day 6.30pm Lenten Worship & Prayer Service 7pm Confirmation Small Group	24 6:30pm Lenten Worship & Prayer Service 7pm Confirmation Small Group	No Confirmation Class
TUE 2	9 6.30pm Finance Meeting	16 • 630pm Church Council Meeting	23	30
Mon Mar 1 First Day of Women's History Month	∞	15	22	29 117
March	7 • 8:30am In-Person Worship • 8:30am Online Worship • 10am In-Person Worship	Daylight Saving Time starts 8.30am In-Person Worship 8.30am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship 11:45am First Communion Class	21 8.30am In-Person Worship 8.30am Online Worship 10am In-Person Worship 10am Molly First Communion	Palm Sunday

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