



Cross Beams

July 2020

www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Our Vision: A Christ-centered, serving community.

english
LUTHERAN CHURCH



English Lutheran Church has a lot to celebrate this July!

**** IN-PERSON WORSHIP BEGINS JULY 19! ****

**** 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY! ****

**** CHRISTIKON TRIP ****



In-Person Worship!
Outside at church on July 19
See pages 2 & 3

NAMES	Office	When Elected	Term Expires
<i>"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor"; 1 Timothy 5:17.</i>			
<i>Organization of English Lutheran Congregation, 1920.</i>			
<i>Worship, chairman, and constitution adopted, 1920.</i>			
<i>Hansen, chairman, and Oscar Hall, secretary.</i>			
<i>Worship, chairman, Sunday, May 23, 1920.</i>			
C. M. Hansen	President	11-19	
Oscar Hall	Secretary	11-19	
P. M. Olson	Deacon	11-19	
F. M. Johnson	Deacon	11-19	
Alfred Fares	Trustee	11-19	
E. C. Fares	Trustee	11-19	
F. M. Johnson	Treasurer	11-19	
A. J. Midgaard	Auditor	11-19	
E. J. Fares	Auditor	11-19	
E. J. Fares	Auditor	11-19	
E. J. Fares	Auditor	11-19	

English Lutheran
Church is 100!
July 12, 1920-2020
See page 7



Christikon Bible Camp
July 10-18
See page 8

Plan in Place for In-Person Worship

June 23, 2020

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Our church council, our COVID-19 Task Force, and Pastor Jeff continue to make plans to phase back into in-person worship at English Lutheran. It has been a long few months and certainly some of you are anxious to gather together as a church family again. As leaders, we chose to follow the recommendations from *Pierce County Public Health*, the *ELCA*, and the *Wisconsin Council of Churches* and to consciously move slowly, as this is one time being first at something may not be the best course of action. We've watched as other churches have resumed in-person worship, only to cause an outbreak and go back to online only services. So our guiding principle has been to follow Christ's command to love our neighbors by doing all we can to keep our community safe.

In recent weeks, the number of active cases in Pierce County has decreased. If this trend continues we believe we can safely do an in-person worship. We considered both a drive-in service and an outdoor service. Based on a much larger percentage of those surveyed preferring an outdoor service and given the average level of concern of our members about catching or spreading COVID-19, we are planning to begin worshipping in-person, outdoors on July 19. You'll find all the guidelines for our outdoor services on the next page. Please note, due to the fluid nature of this pandemic, if the virus spikes in our region again, our plans for outdoor worship may change or be cancelled suddenly.

We will continue to offer online worship in the coming months for those who are unable to attend in-person or who prefer to worship from a distance for now and in case our in-person worship cancels for bad weather. Watch for details whether the online worship will stream live or be pre-recorded when our outdoor worship services begin.

Thank you for your patience these last few months while we've all done our part to "flatten the curve" and find new and creative ways to worship our Lord and be God's hands and feet in the world!



God's peace,

Pastor Jeff Smith

ELC Church Council

ELC COVID-19 Task Force

OUTDOOR WORSHIP IN THE PARKING LOT OF ENGLISH LUTHERAN **SUNDAYS at 8:30 & 10 AM, beginning Sunday, July 19****

** Unless cancelled due to a spike in COVID-19 cases

If you plan to attend our outdoor worship, you should know:

UNDERLYING CONDITION OR OVER AGE 65? If you are at-risk for COVID-19 (65 years-old or older or have an underlying condition) please consider staying home for your own safety.

FEELING ILL? If you feel ill or have symptoms similar to COVID-19, PLEASE STAY HOME.

MASKS: We **strongly encourage** everyone to please wear a mask at the service. (Exceptions can be made for those with a medical condition like asthma or anxiety associated with wearing a mask and those under age 2.) Remember, it's not about protecting yourself so much as it is about showing love to your neighbor by protecting them from your breathing/coughing/sneezing if you are an asymptomatic carrier of COVID. Please bring your own mask. We will have a limited supply for those who don't have one.

CHAIRS: Please bring your own chair, if possible, to reduce the sanitizing we have to do after worship. We will have a limited supply of folding chairs for those who don't have one or can't physically bring their own.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING: Please come only with those who live in your household and sit together as a household AT LEAST 6 feet from any other household and AT LEAST 15 feet from the worship leaders in the front. Follow instructions from our ushers on where to sit.

Also, please keep at least 6 feet away from other households at all times when not seated- we know you want to hug and shake hands, but we simply can't take the risk at this time. There will intentionally be no hospitality time or receiving line. We kindly ask you to head home as soon as the service is over.

50 PERSON LIMIT: We will limit attendance to 50 people per Pierce County Health guidance. If attendance is high, we will add a service or take reservations for future services.

OFFERING: There will be an offering basket between where you park your car and the seating area in the parking lot. Of course, you can always give electronically online as well.

SINGING: There will be no singing as singing has been identified as a highly risky activity due to the aerosols it creates. Music will be instrumental or "special" pre-recorded singing. You may hum along if you wish!

COMMUNION: We will not be offering communion initially. If the first few weeks of outdoor worship go well, we may provide communion at a later date with many safety precautions.

WEATHER: We will hold the outdoor service unless there is severe weather or rain heavier than a mist. If we have to cancel, online worship will still be available. Check our website, Facebook or our church voicemail after 9 pm Saturday to see if worship has been cancelled.

CONTACT TRACING: We will be collecting contact info and seating locations of worshippers for contact tracing in case someone at our services, later tests positive with COVID-19.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Stay at least 6 feet
(about 2 arms' length)
from other people.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a
tissue, then throw the tissue in the
trash and wash your hands.



When in public, wear a
cloth face covering over
your nose and mouth.



Do not touch your
eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect
frequently touched
objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick,
except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap
and water for at least 20 seconds.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

316917-A May 13, 2020 11:00 AM

Important Information About Your Cloth Face Coverings

Print Resources Web Page: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/print-resources.html>

As COVID-19 continues to spread within the United States, CDC has recommended additional measures to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. In the context of community transmission, CDC recommends that you:



**Stay at home
as much as
possible**



**Practice social
distancing
(remaining at
least 6 feet away
from others)**



**Clean your
hands often**



In addition, CDC also recommends that everyone wear cloth face coverings when leaving their homes, regardless of whether they have fever or symptoms of COVID-19. This is because of evidence that people with COVID-19 can spread the disease, even when they don't have any symptoms. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

How cloth face coverings work

Cloth face coverings may prevent the person wearing the mask from spreading respiratory droplets when talking, sneezing, or coughing. If everyone wears a cloth face covering when out in public, such as going to the grocery store, the risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 can be reduced for the community. Since people may spread the virus before symptoms start, or even if people never have symptoms, wearing a cloth face covering may protect others around you. Face coverings worn by others may protect you from getting the virus from people carrying the virus.



General considerations for the use of cloth face coverings

When using a cloth face covering, make sure:

- The mouth and nose are fully covered
- The covering fits snugly against the sides of the face so there are no gaps
- You do not have any difficulty breathing while wearing the cloth face covering
- The cloth face covering can be tied or otherwise secured to prevent slipping



Wash your cloth face covering after each use in the washing machine or by hand using a bleach solution. Allow it to completely dry.

For more information, go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>



CS-316653-A 05/26/2020

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Music Ministry

As a means of outreach, the Music & Worship committee at *English Lutheran Church* is proud to have two projects designed to make a joyful noise, both from the comfort and safety of your homes and for the good of each other in musical fellowship: announcing the “Pen Pal Praise Project” and the project to “Lay Down a Track—Until We Get Back!”

The “**Pen Pal Praise Project**” is a video and/or audio series dedicated to the congregation and shared with each other in reflection and praise. Submit 2-3 minutes, or 300 words, in an audio or video recording of you singing or talking about your favorite worship song or hymn. You are free to sing portions of the song, or speak about why it is meaningful to you. You may also invite, challenge, or “pass along” your message to someone in particular to submit a similar message: a congregant in need, a friend who hasn’t been to church in a long time, or other families who have their own favorite songs. The Music Director will then take your recording and engineer it to be used for live-streamed services or as “care packages” to other members of the congregation. Let us reach out to each other in song!

“**Lay Down a Track—Until We Get Back**” is a project designed for members of the choir, musicians who lead contemporary worship, and any eager congregation member who strongly feels like participating in music-making. By sending an email to the Music Director at music@englishlutheranchurch.org with the subject line “Lay Down a Track,” you will be placed on a weekly email subscription that gives you access to musical tracks that will be played on future livestream worship services. You would then record yourself singing, playing an instrument, or clapping/praising along with the music and submit that to be engineered into the music for that week. Special music excerpts are also welcome, as a way to extend worship and musical offerings, even when far apart!

There are still many ways to connect, and what better way than to share in what you experience when making music, what you feel from listening to God’s Word through music, and how you can lift your talents and tongues to God. Let us make a joyful noise together!



Ushers Needed!

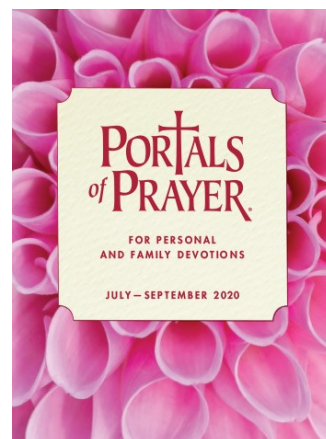
As we move forward with outdoor worship, and later indoor worship, we need a specially trained team of ushers to direct people where to sit, explain traffic flow, point out our offering box, collect contact info, dismiss groups at the end of the service, direct cars where to park, set up a few chairs and possibly do light cleaning of handrails, door knobs, etc. If you are able to be part of a team of ideally 4-6 ushers at each service, please contact our Music Director Evan Mitchell

(music@englishlutheranchurch.org) soon so we can get you trained before our first outdoor service. Thanks for your assistance to help us try to keep worship safe and flow smoothly for everyone.



Portals of Prayer

Portals of Prayer booklets for July—September are available in a bin outside the south office entrance to the church. Please take one if you’d like. They are available for anyone.



100 Year Anniversary!

English Lutheran Church turns 100 years old this month on July 12, 2020!

While we cannot physically gather to celebrate at this time, please keep *English Lutheran Church* in your prayers and we will celebrate in our hearts for the time being! We hope to celebrate this special occasion sometime next fall or in 2021. Please let Pastor Jeff or Trina Groen know if you'd like to be part of a team to plan how to honor this anniversary.



In the beginning...

English Lutheran Church had its official beginning on July 12, 1920, but its origin dates back to the 12th day of August, 1914, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Hanson, when a Ladies Aid was organized through the assistance of the Reverend L. K. Aaberg, Pastor of South Rush River Lutheran Church, rural Ellsworth--now known as Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Twelve members were present.

A year after the formation of the Ladies Aid, concern was shown for the need of worship services on Sunday in addition to regular Aid meetings. Mainly, through the devoted efforts of Mr. Charles M. Hanson and Mrs. O.H. Olson, arrangements were made to conduct Sunday worship services in St. John's Episcopal Church (corner of Piety and Strickland Streets). Proper assistance was sought, and through the Rev. Dr. C. O. Solberg, President of the *English Association of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America* (later, through mergers, becoming what is now known as the *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*) and under his supervision, services were conducted by students (and sometimes professors) of *Luther Theological Seminary* at Saint Paul, Minnesota. This arrangement continued until the formal organization of the congregation and the calling of the first pastor.

The first entry on the official records of the congregation (handwriting of Arthur L. Rustad) reads:

"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor." Timothy 5:17.

Organization of English Lutheran Congregation of Ellsworth, Wisconsin, effected and constitution adopted July 12, 1920. Mr. C.M. Hanson, chairman, and Oscar Halls, secretary. Student A. L. Rustad serving as pastor since Sunday, May 23, 1920.

and that's how it all began!

(The above is from the *English Lutheran Church* book of history.)

NAMES	Office	When Elected	Term Expires
<i>"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor", 1 Timothy 5:17.</i>			
<i>Organization of English Lutheran Congregation of Ellsworth, Wis., effected, and constitution adopted, July 12, 1920. Mr. C.M. Hanson, chairman, and Oscar Halls, secretary. Student A. L. Rustad serving as pastor since Sunday, May 23, 1920.</i>			
C. M. Hansen	President		
Oscar Halls	Secretary	11-18-20	
O. H. Olson	Deacon	11-18-20	dead
H. V. Lawrence	Deacon	11-18-20	
J. M. Johnson	Deacon	11-18-20	dead
Alfred Larson	Trustee	11-18-20	
J. H. Johnson	Trustee	11-18-20	deceased
E. O. Foss	Trustee	11-18-20	deceased
F. H. Johnson	Treasurer	11-18-20	
H. A. Helgaard	Auditor	11-18-20	
E. Zarbock	Auditor	11-18-20	
O. J. Hobbie	Auditor	11-18-20	
C. J. Groen	Steward	11-18-20	

CHRISTIKON TRIP READY TO GO!

Thanks for your support!



Our group has shrunk in size due to the Coronavirus, but after a 2 week pre-trip self-quarantine, six youth and two adults will head off to *Christikon*, a Bible camp in Montana just north of Yellowstone National Park. Please pray for us during our trip, July 10-18, that we might have safe travels, that we and those we meet will stay healthy, and that we all might grow in fellowship and faith as we enter into the adventure of life together in God's beautiful creation!

Our group includes: **Mary Lundstrom, Matthew Lundstrom, Anissa Cole, Blake Fagerland, Brooklyn Gabert, Zachary Smith**, and chaperones **Julie Lundstrom** and **Pastor Jeff**.



June 2020

Muli Bwanji dear friends,

I would like to share a few updates about our partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi.

Covid-19

In March as we watched the number of infections and deaths from Covid-19 rise throughout the world, I was holding on with hope that Malawi would be spared from this disease. In April cases began to appear there, and testing became more available in the larger cities. In the last 3 weeks, cases have quadrupled, and there are now 455 confirmed cases, and 4 known deaths due to this disease. With the first recorded cases, the government ordered a shutdown, closing many small businesses, and limiting gatherings to small groups - this immediately put a strain on households who rely on those small businesses for survival, and community members who rely on those businesses for food and supplies.

Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe also made the decision to pause in-person worship due to the large numbers of people who gather each week & knowing this would be one way the church could help ensure people's safety. With this decision, pastors and evangelists and many ELCM staff have been out of work with no pay. A court decision overturned the government shutdown and decisions about community safety protocols are being negotiated. And, there is a strong urgency by the government to reopen schools in July, although this is very concerning for most families. Additionally, Bishop Joseph has asked all ELCM staff to work from home if they are able, due to the confirmed Covid-19 cases that are very close to the Lutheran compound in Lilongwe.

Aside from these concerns, there is growing anxiety about testing - currently, most testing access is in the large cities, and very little testing is available in the rural areas, in which the greatest percentage of the population lives in Malawi. And, there are only about 2 dozen ICU beds available within the country, so available health care and treatment also brings some worry for those who could need extensive care.

Feeding stations have remained open, with appropriate safety procedures in place, and it is our goal to help sustain this ministry in whatever way we are able.

Companion Visits

In April of this year a small group of us were planning to travel to Malawi to teach at the Pastors' Academy and travel to Johannesburg for an ELCA/Southern Africa Consultation. The trip was postponed until 2021 (tentatively) due to the global public health concerns.

Social Concerns

Large groups of supporters gather daily throughout the country at various presidential campaigns as the country looks forward to electing a president on June 23.

Support

Many of you have inquired about how we can best walk with our brothers and sisters in Malawi during this time. One important way to offer support is through our prayers - please continue to pray for health, for effective leadership, and for peace for our companions in the church, but also throughout the country. The next most effective way we can assist right now would be through financial gifts. These gifts will be used for the following: 1.) Food and supplies for feeding stations, and 2.) Assistance with ELCM staff stipends. Perhaps you feel called to contribute a financial gift to these ongoing needs. Gifts can be mailed to the synod office, or made online.

Thank you for your ongoing, strong support of our companions in Malawi - your generosity continues to warm my heart! I will provide additional updates when I receive more detailed information.

Please join me in praying for God's continued blessings on our partnership with the ELCM as we look forward to all the ways we will walk together in the light of Jesus Christ. Zikomo Yesu!

Together in Christ,
Deacon Laura Ramlow
Companion Coordinator - Malawi, Africa



CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES & FINANCIAL UPDATE



June Council

- † Reviewed the recommendations of the ELC Covid-19 Task Force (Pastor Jeff and Peter Carr) for outdoor worship services.
- † Acceptance to begin outdoor worship services with the recommended guidelines of the Covid-19 Task Force on July 19, 2020. MSC.
- † The next council meeting will be held in person at ELC in the fellowship hall on July 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. following recommended guidelines.

2020 General Fund

Month	Actual Monthly Income	Actual Monthly Expense	Actual YTD Income	Actual YTD Expenses
January	15,199.64	18,437.01	15,199.64	18,437.01
February	12,812.80	45,778.25	28,012.44	64,215.24
March	16,968.91	16,637.73	44,981.35	80,852.99
April	15,685.28	16,273.33	60,666.63	97,126.32
May	16,359.94	16,237.64	77,026.57	113,363.96

Cash Balances as of May 2020 month end:

Total = \$181,489.99

General Fund = \$44,532.50

Dedicated Fund = 71,765.48

Thrivent = \$65,192.01



Notes:

~ The general fund, year to date expenses for 2020 are higher due to \$28,000 being moved to Thrivent from this fund.

~ *English Lutheran Church* received a potentially forgivable loan through the *Paycheck Protection Plan* through the *Small Business Administration*. We have been using \$28,200 for our payroll and utility expenses.

ELC Online Resources

Please check out our *English Lutheran Church* website for many different resources. We update it weekly. There are links to:

- ~ At-home worship documents
 - Hearts @ Home (new every week)
- ~ Video Devotions
 - Joyfully Generous 8 week series
- ~ Vacation Bible School curriculum
 - Simple Summer
 - Joy in My Heart
- ~ Daily YouTube children's activities & videos
 - Faith Finders
- ~ Summer Book Club
- ~ Pierce County Public Health updates
- ~ FIN—Faithful Innovations Network—our synod is offering a FREE summer of listening three workshop series helping us to pay attention to what God is doing in us and our congregations in the midst of this pandemic.



You can find links to these resources and more at www.englishlutheranchurch.org

Visit us online today!



Backpack Program

This summer we are packing bags for the summer backpack program. There are 20 families currently receiving food. If you wish to make a donation to this program, you may do so by mailing a check to the church with *Backpack Program* in the memo line, or use one of our e-giving options on our church website (text, mobile app, or online) with a notation of *Backpack Program* or email Trina in the office noting that your donation should be directed to the Backpack Program. Thank you to our volunteers who are packing bags each week! Thank you for your support!

Special Prayers:

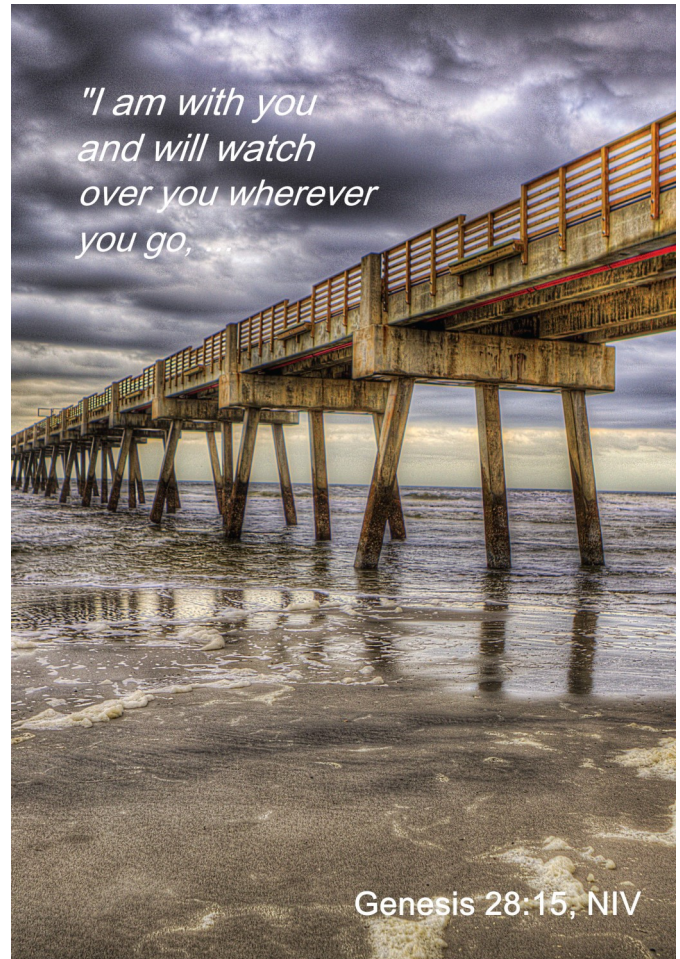
- ~ Prayers for the family of Tessa & Adam Figi on the birth of their baby daughter
 - ~ Juliette Rose Figi. All are doing well!
- ~ Prayers for the family of Gary Karlstad who has died. Our prayers are with his mother, Joyce Karlstad, and brother, Bruce (Chris) Karlstad.
- ~ Prayers for the family of Diane Wiskerchen as her father, Ed Sanders, died.
- ~ Happy Birthday to Marlin Peterson who turned 90 in June!

Long-term:

- David R. Johnson
- Burt & Lila Larson
- Rusty Crow
- Sherry York ~ Surgery
- Debbie Kannel-Howard
- Terry Wegerer, Brother of Darla Moquin
 - ~ Stage 4 Lung Cancer
- Jerry Place, Deanna Redding & Darren Place's Dad
 - ~ Dementia
- Clint Olson
- 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
- Hazel Wegerer ~ Dementia
- Mackenzie Marks, Connie Gossett's Granddaughter
- Tomi Erlandson ~ Seizures & Health
- Dale & 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 July
~ Mary Sokolik



English Lutheran Church
229 West Main Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin
Phone: 715-273-4617
Church website:
<http://www.englishlutheranchurch.org>
Find us on Facebook!

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, Evan Mitchell
music@englishlutheranchurch.org

Congregational Council

President: Peter Carr
Vice President: Dennis Boettcher
Treasurer: Gary Brown
Secretary: Julie Davis
Jen Abbas
Melba Smith
Eric Van Nocker



Our Mission:

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

Cross Beams


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Email:
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July 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

	TUE 30	WED Jul 1	THU 2 12pm Faith Leaders COVID Call with Public H	FRI 3 Independence Day observed	SAT 4 Independence Day
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Worship 	7	8	9	10 Christikon Bible Camp	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Worship 	12	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none">11:30am Salem Group Meeting	15 Tax Day	16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Online Worship 	19	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none">6:30pm Church Council Meeting	22	23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Worship (time TBD) 8:30am Outdoor Worship 10am Outdoor Worship 	26	27	28	29	30 12pm Faith Leaders COVID Call with Public H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online Worship (time TBD) 8:30am Outdoor Worship 10am Outdoor Worship 	31	Aug 1			