



The View



April / May 2019

Vol. 63 No. 4/5

Be Angry and Do Not Sin

 from the Pastor. . .

When watching the news or reading the paper, it's hard not to be frustrated. Fingers point in every direction casting blame for causing the seething disgruntlement and spurts of open aggression that has infested the entire world. As Christians, and especially so as Lutherans who tend to distance themselves from the political, all we can do is shake our heads at the constant bickering and weep over the horrifically sinful violence that brings nations to their knees (by this I mean in subjugation and defeat rather than in the way that is the true solution of repentance and prayer). Little by little, despite our best efforts, we are all being consumed by anger. It scares me when I see it happen in myself.

I have noticed that my temper is a little quicker, my words bear a little more teeth, my attitude and stance a little more inflexible. Why? Because when treading water in a turbulent sea, it's hard to keep from drinking in the salty water. Recently, despite a reserved façade, underneath was a torrent of rage.

I have always been a "one issue" voter. It's not that I don't care about the other issues; they simply seem less important when compared to the protection of life. As a faithful Christian of the Lutheran confession, I am well aware that no person, party, or system conceived by man is perfect. We are all sinners; we all sin and do stupid things. So I am willing to hear people out and discuss issues. But I am instantly wary of anyone who unabashedly refuses to protect the intrinsic value of life.

I am pro-life because my Lord is pro-life. He is so pro-life that he sacrificed his in exchange for ours to put an end to death's tyranny. No words can express the myriad of emotions swirling through me as one by one the leadership of our nation began to embrace the execution of children in the womb up until birth. I was aghast when post-birth infanticide was presented as beneficial. (I don't care what kind of backtracking was done to mitigate the statements. What was said, was said, and as a pediatric medical professional turned politician, he knew full well what he was saying.) I cannot express the shame I felt when the leaders we elected voted not to mandate medical care for those who survive an abortion. How could we possibly see this as anything other than a flagrant flipping of the bird against the Lord of Life? And so, we too become consumed by anger.

"But it's a righteous anger," we protest. The Apostle Paul writes: "Be angry and do not sin... (Eph. 4:26a). I have also used that excuse, but what good is it? (FYI that passage from Ephesians is taken WAY out of context.) Anger is an emotion, created by God and given to us, like love or happiness or fear or sadness. But just like everything within us, it is easily corrupted by sin. God, who is holy and just, can be perfect and righteous in His anger, but can we? Anger over sin is unavoidable, but is it right for us to embrace that anger? When I am angry, it is near impossible for me to do or say things that are wise or loving. Anger may be motivation to spark action, but more often than not, an action rooted in anger turns out badly and may cause even more harm than the initial offense. Even when taking about anger against something so inherently evil as abortion, does our screaming in outrage help others to see the truth of God's Word and lead them to repentance? Outrage and victimhood do not grant us virtue.

Let's look at what the text from Ephesians actually says. Leading in to the verse in question, Paul begins with a statement of fact: You are a new creation, redeemed by Jesus Christ. He writes:

Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ!— assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. (Eph. 4:17-24)

Continued

Christians do not look or act like the rest of the world, because you are different now. The sins that once may have enticed you are now revolting and unpalatable. They are offensive to us because they offend God and we are united to Him in Christ Jesus. And this is an important point. Even though the offense may affect us, the sin is ultimately against God, therefore, “Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, ‘Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord’” (Rom. 12:19). Only God can truly be just in His vengeance. Only God can truly be righteous in His anger. Our new self may be created in the likeness of God’s righteousness and holiness, but we are incomplete until we are transformed when Christ comes again on the Last Day.

Does this mean that we should not take a stand against sin and evil since we too are corrupted by sin and evil? No! We absolutely should speak out against sin in every form in which it manifests. “Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another” (Eph. 4:25). We cannot truly love our neighbor unless we warn and protect him against sin and its effects. Verse 28 says: “Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.” But we cannot teach the sinner a better way if we are too consumed by anger to speak to him with love.

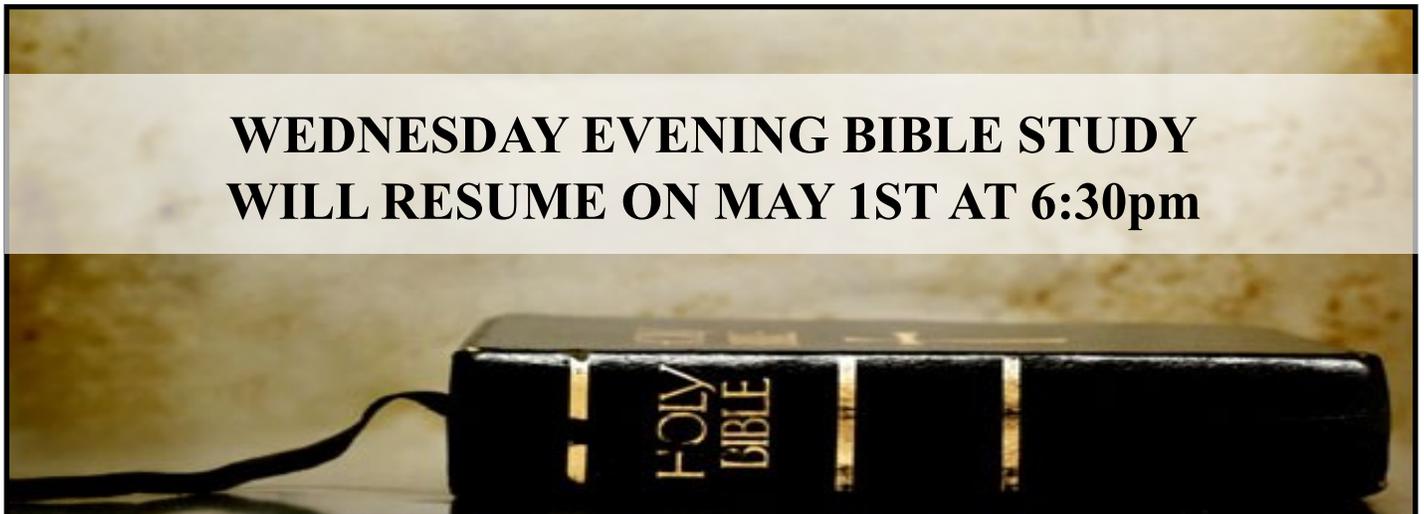
“Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil” (Eph. 4:26-27). God gave us the emotion of anger to alert us to evil, but we must be on guard that our anger does not turn into hatred for our neighbor, which is murdering him in our hearts. The old adage of “hate the sin but love the sinner” is easily said but requires strong self-discipline to carry out. The key here is forgiveness. God loved us when we were unlovable, forgave us even though we were unforgivable. And He calls us to do likewise, since we are in Him and He is in us. Will sins anger us? Oh yeah!!! But we cannot let that anger remain. It festers and changes, becoming resentment and hatred if we do not deal with it by forgiving the sinner. Do not give the devil opportunity. Yes, sometimes sins are so egregious that forgiveness may feel impossible, but nothing is impossible with God. If He can forgive us, then living in Christ and strengthened by the Spirit, we can forgive too.

Putting away our anger means that we can love our neighbor like a brother. (I know that thought may bring scoffing since it is usually family who grieve us the most and our anger against their sin burns hottest of all, but the reason our anger rises so high with them is because we love them and do not wish to see harm befall them.) Speaking to them in love rather than in anger allows us to gently direct them to repentance of their sin and absolution in Christ.

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Eph. 29-32)

In the midst of so many of the devil’s ploys to consume us in our own anger, look to Christ. He has made you a new creation and given you the ability to love and forgive rather than respond with rage. Do not let Satan use your zeal for the Lord as an instrument of downfall. Put away all bitterness, wrath, clamor, slander, anger and malice, and forgive as Christ has forgiven you that both you and your neighbor may rejoice in God’s grace.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY
WILL RESUME ON MAY 1ST AT 6:30pm**



MISSION OF THE MONTH for APRIL 2019



Elizabeth House

Elizabeth House is a testament to the community's generosity in caring for one another. It is a sacred place with a home-like environment. A sanctuary, where patients whose pain and other symptoms cannot be managed at home, receive 24-hour a day care. Most importantly, their family's love and laughter are welcome at any hour of the day or night.

The Elizabeth House was built in 1999 through donations from the community. In 2007, it was expanded to 19 beds. Today, Elizabeth House continues to rely on volunteer and donor support. Watch the brief video below to learn more about the comfort, dignity and peace provided at the Elizabeth House.

24-Hour Support for patients and their families.

At Elizabeth House, husbands, wives, children, and other caregivers, often overwhelmed and exhausted themselves, turn the physical care of their loved one over to people they trust and have the sacred time, space and support to simply be present with their loved one and say goodbye.

No One Dies Alone

Patients without families to help care for them are cared for by our staff and volunteers as if they were their own family. Your gift to the Elizabeth House helps ensure that hospice patients who do not have a spouse, children, or other caregiver are not alone.

MISSION OF THE MONTH for MAY 2019



A home is where families grow, memories are made and possibilities arise. But sadly, not everyone has a safe, healthy place to call home. Instead, many are struggling to get by, forced to live in substandard housing. We believe everyone deserves decent, affordable housing. That's why Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent partner together to activate churches, communities, and Thrivent members to make a difference.

For the 4th consecutive year Henderson County Habitat for Humanity has been fortunate to receive a matching grant from Thrivent Financial for a "Faith Build" home for a Habitat partner family in Dodd Meadows, a Habitat-built community in East Flat Rock south of Hendersonville.

We're partnering with area churches to match the grant and provide enough volunteers to build the home. Our goal is to partner with twelve churches and so far we have 8. We're hoping your church might help us meet our goal!

We can promise that "Build Days" will be a fun and rewarding experience. No previous construction skills are necessary, and Habitat will provide all the tools and training. Also, there are lots of ways to help build a house besides just swinging a hammer, and we can give you ideas to help your members participate.

Mt. Pisgah will be participating in the Thrivent Build partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Watch for more info and volunteer opportunities in the church bulletin.

HAITI MISSION

New Bakery Opens in Laotchikit!

A new bakery opened in Laotchikit in March with the help of a \$200 microloan from Pastor Walta. There is much work to be done in the Central Plateau and many villages in need of Lutheran schools. Pastor Walta talked to several people in Laotchikit about starting a business to generate revenue to support more Lutheran Schools in the area. Pastor Walta gave \$200 USD from his salary as a translator for the Haitian government to start a cookie baking business. On the first day they baked 500 cookies and sold 200 cookies in the first two hours. The price is equivalent 6.25 cents per cookie. After one month, the business will be evaluated to determine if it is economically feasible to continue. The goal is this business will employ workers and be able to support the small Lutheran School in Hinche which needs \$300 per month to operate.

So the next time you are in Laotchikit, remember five Haitian Gourdes will buy one delicious cookie!



The exchange rate is 83.54 Haitian Gourdes to one \$1 US Dollar.

THANK YOU MT. PISGAH!

There is an expression in Haiti that is the mantra of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. "God is good all the time. All the time, God is good." Usually this expression is said when a blessing is shared but more often it is used when there is sadness to remind people God is in control. Sickness, death, the aftermath of a devastating hurricane, crop failure from draught, cholera outbreak, typhoid fever, motorcycle accident; all of these events are common occurrences in the Central Plateau.

But I would like to use this expression to share my deepest thanks to each of you for loving the lost children in Laotchikit. I call them lost because they are castoffs from society with no family, no security and no love. They have no voice so no one knows their stories. But when you see their beautiful faces you know they have a Heavenly Father who loves and adores them.

The Board of Missions sends our humble thanks and gratitude to every member of Mt. Pisgah for donating funds to buy bunk beds, mattresses, mattress covers, sheets, pillows & pillow cases. We are in awe of the outpouring of God's love you showed for His precious children in Laotchikit. Because of your generosity, there will be clean beds for the many children living in the protection of the children's shelter at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Laotchikit.

"God is good all the time. All the time, God is good."
In the words of Martin Luther, "This is most certainly true!"

Wendy White

BOARD OF MISSIONS

Mission Opportunities

- There is a need for construction workers and laborers to improve a church camp near Fairbanks, Alaska. The cost of the trip is only airfare to Fairbanks. The trip will be May 17th through May 24th. If anyone is interested please contact Wendy White for details as soon as possible.
- There is a need for VBS teachers this summer in Alaska. The teachers would join other mission teams for a week any time from May 13th through July 27th. Cost for the trip is airfare to Fairbanks.



Saturday,
April 13th
at 9AM

Many thanks to the following people who directed their Thrivent Choice dollars totaling \$766.00, to Mt. Pisgah in March 2019:



Robin Breier
Robert Frank, Jr.
Delores Vasilenko



Coordinating Care Help Needed

We have many homebound church members as well as many caregivers in the congregation who could use support. If you are interested in helping by calling, visiting, sending cards, or providing occasional transportation, please look for the "Coordinating Care" table on Easter Sunday. You will be put in touch with the appropriate church committee (Elders, Community Concerns, or Parish Life).

Seder Dinner, Maundy Thursday

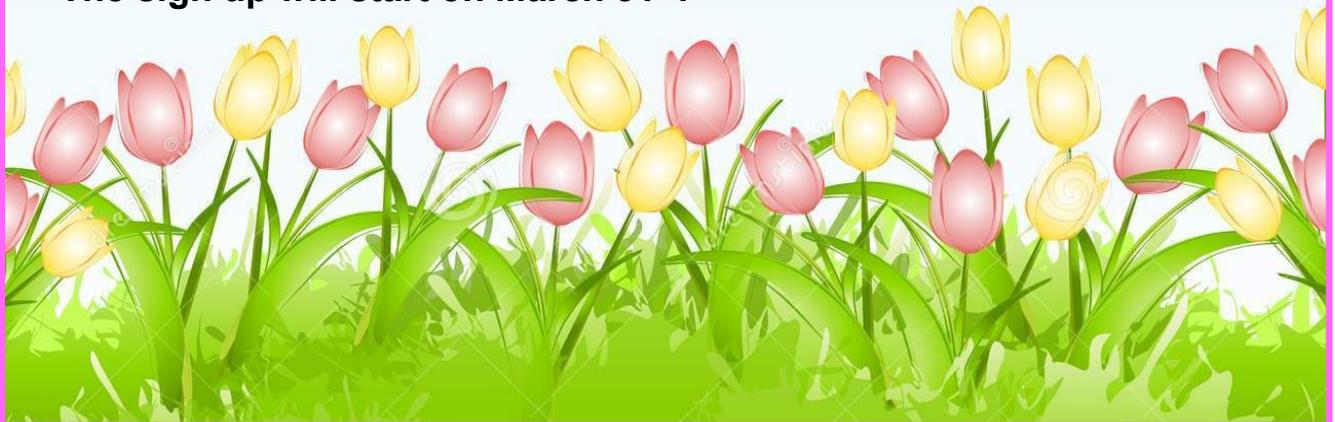
April 18th at 5:30 pm sharp



Join Pastor Jonathan for an educational and informative dinner that will consist of two parts; a Seder plate with foods representing the Jewish Passover of God's plan of liberation from slavery in Egypt, followed by a Jewish meal. The menu will be Lamb and artichoke stew, Potato and Leek soup, salad, home made matzo bread and desserts. There will be no charge for this meal. **Sign up will begin on March 31st.** The Maundy Thursday worship service will follow the meal at 7:00 pm.

Easter Brunch

An Easter Brunch will be served between services on Sunday, April 21st. The menu will be Egg Casserole, French Toast Casserole, hard boiled and deviled eggs, coffee cakes and muffins, chicken salad and egg salad sandwiches, and fruit. **The cost will be \$5 each; children are free. The sign up will start on March 31st.**



EASTER LILIES

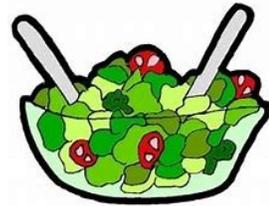


Thirty three (33) Easter Lilies have been ordered from Forget-me-not florist and will be arriving the **Thursday before Easter**. The plants will be **\$11.00** and can be reserved by entering your name, phone number and the number of lilies that you would like on the sign up sheet in the hallway. **A separate check, made payable to: Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church, with the notation "Easter Lilies" in the memo section, may be placed in the Offering Plate.**



PIZZA, BOARD GAMES & FUN!!

Join us on **May 19th** after the late service for Pizza, salads and fun! We will be playing several games (board games and other types of games) after the meal. You can bring your favorite game or play one that will be set up. **The cost will be \$3 per person; children are free.**

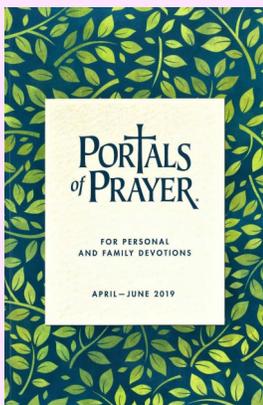


RECIPE'S NEEDED!

We are in the planning stages of doing a cookbook to be put out early 2019 and will be looking for wonderful recipes from the congregation! Look for boxes out in the narthex and near the preschool to contribute your recipes. **The last day to submit recipes will be May 31st.**



FREE Tax Return Preparation for Elderly Taxpayers, February 1st - April 17th, 2018 at Hendersonville Church of Christ, ANNEX 1975 Haywood Road / Hwy. 191. No appointments necessary – first come first serve. Tuesdays – Fridays 9AM-3PM, Mondays in the evening 4PM-8PM, Saturdays 9AM-1PM. Certified AARP Volunteers. **Phone # 698-6213.**



APRIL—JUNE
Portals of Prayer
are available
now
in the
Narthex

Lutheran Witness & Portals of Prayer Contributions

Please consider a contribution to offset the cost of the *Lutheran Witness & Portals of Prayer* publications provided to the congregation. **The current price for a yearly subscription for LW is \$12.95. Quarterly Portals of Prayer are \$2.50 ea for the digest size and \$1.25 ea for the pocket size.**

THE SEMI-ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, MAY 19th BETWEEN SERVICES

LWML RUMMAGE SALE on June 1st, 2019 Drop off starts any time after May 5th



Are you ready for spring cleaning? Save it for the rummage sale! Items can be dropped off along the back wall of the Fellowship Hall. **Please don't drop off anything sooner than May 5th due to programs at the church/school.** Only bring items that are in good shape and unbroken.

Please DO NOT drop off TV's, computer monitors, clothing, or furniture.

Proceeds will benefit the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) for various mission projects.



Commemorate a special date or celebration

Altar flowers are needed for: **May 5, 12, 19 & 26**

Altar arrangements of cut flowers are needed for the **open** dates indicated above. Please call the Church Office (692-7027) or sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board near the Ladies' Room. If you choose to use a Florist other than **Etowah Florist** or **Forget-Me-Not**, please let the Church Office know to make arrangements for a Saturday delivery.



Look for the LWML Mite Box
the **FIRST SUNDAY**
of the month!



SERVING IN APRIL 2019

APRIL USHERS

	8:00 AM	10:45AM
4/7	Lydia Cassidy Bill Kruse	John Frost, Steve Kirchoefer, Laura Reinhold, Harold Zell
4/14	Rudy Eidam Paul Mincer	Adell Keeney, Helga Feige, David White, Maureen Duemig
4/21	Rick Sanborn Paul Mincer	John Frost, Steve Leyrer, Laura Reinhold, Harold Zell
4/28	Jen Stickney Mike Ebanks	Steve Kirchoefer, Kathy Kirchoefer, Ben Kirchoefer, Dan Kirchoefer

APRIL LECTORS

	8:00 AM	10:45AM
4/7	Rick Sanborn	John Zagone
4/14	Jerry Kaufman	Kathy Kirchoefer
4/21	Laura Reinhold	Maxine Tatreau
4/28	Paul Mincer	Debbie Zagone

SERVING IN MAY 2019

MAY USHERS

	8:00 AM	10:45AM
5/5	Lydia Cassidy Bill Kruse	John Frost, Steve Kirchoefer, Laura Reinhold, Harold Zell
5/12	Rudy Eidam Paul Mincer	Adell Keeney, Helga Feige, David White, Maureen Duemig
5/19	Rick Sanborn Paul Mincer	John Frost, Steve Leyrer, Laura Reinhold, Harold Zell
5/26	Jen Stickney Mike Ebanks	Steve Kirchoefer, Kathy Kirchoefer, Ben Kirchoefer, Dan Kirchoefer

MAY LECTORS

	8:00 AM	10:45AM
5/5	Rick Sanborn	Jim Wing
5/12	Jerry Kaufman	Kathy Kirchoefer
5/19	Laura Reinhold	Maxine Tatreau
5/26	Rick Sanborn	Jerri Creech

He is not here
he has Risen!

April 2019

CHRIST THE LORD
IS RISEN TODAY!

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 Women's Bible Study 10am Mission Board 11am Mid-week Lenten Serv. 1pm & 7pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 1pm	4 Men's Bible Study 8 am Quilter's Ministry 9am	5	6
7  5th Sunday in Lent Communion 8am Bible Classes 9:15am Communion 10:45am Choir rehearsal	8 Ladies Guild 1pm	9 Elders Meeting 7pm	10 Women's Bible Study 10am Mid-week Lenten Serv. 1pm & 7pm	11 Men's Bible Study 8 AM Church Council 7pm	12	13  9am
14 PALM SUNDAY Communion 8am Bible Classes 9:15am Communion 10:45am Choir rehearsal	15	16	17	18 Men's Bible Study 8 am Quilter's Ministry 9am Seder Dinner 5:30pm MAUNDY THURS. 7pm	19 Good Friday Service 1pm & 7pm Church Office & Preschool Closed	20
21 EASTER SUNDAY Communion 8am Easter Brunch Communion 10:45am	22	23	24	25 Men's Bible Study 8 am	26	27
28 Worship 8am Bible Classes 9:15am Worship 10:45am Choir rehearsal	29	30				

Birthday Blessings!



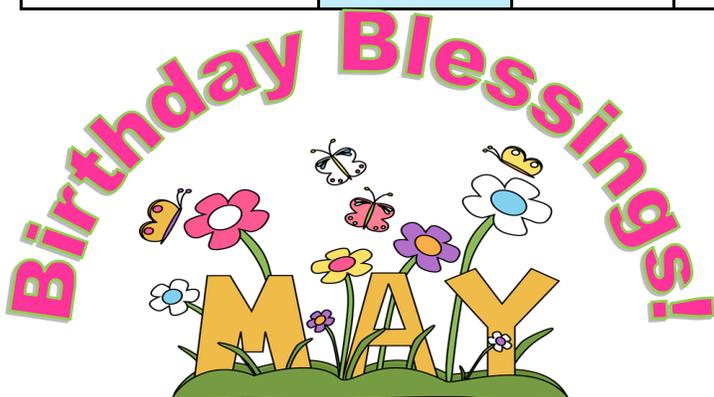
4 Marilyn Pittman	17 Leah Ryel
8 Bea Luecke	21 Marjorie Zell
13 Ethan Lumley	21 Mary Rappley
14 Peggy Blythe	27 Karen Ude
15 Dailyn Rappley	28 Charles Ginter
17 Russell Rappley	

**THE CHURCH OFFICE AND PRESCHOOL
WILL BE CLOSED ON
GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 19TH**

REMINDER
The APRIL
Council Meeting
is on April 11th
at 7:00PM
in the Library

MAY 2018

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1. Women's Bible Study 10am Mission Board 11am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1am Evening Bible Study 7pm	2 Men's Bible Study 8 am Quilter's Ministry 9am	3 Preschool Graduation 5:30pm 	4
5  Communion 8am Bible Classes 9:15am Communion 10:45am Choir rehearsal	6	7	8 Women's Bible Study 10am Evening Bible Study 7pm	9 Men's Bible Study 8 am	10	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY Worship 8am Bible Classes 9:15am Worship 10:45am Choir rehearsal	13 Ladies Guild 1pm	14 Elders Meeting 7pm	15 Women's Bible Study 10am Evening Bible Study 7pm	16 Men's Bible Study 8 am Quilter's Ministry 9am Pastor's Circuit Church Council 7:00pm	17	18
19 Communion 8am Congreg. Meeting Communion 10:45am Pizza Party Choir rehearsal	20	21	22 Women's Bible Study 10am Evening Bible Study 7pm	23 Men's Bible Study 8 am	24	25
26 Worship 8am Bible Classes 9:15am Worship 10:45am Choir rehearsal	27 Memorial Day Church Office & Preschool Closed	28	29 Women's Bible Study 10am Evening Bible Study 7pm	30 Men's Bible Study 8 am	31	



3 Ben Kirchoefer	18 Jerry Kaufman
4 Larry Tharp	19 Lydia Cassidy
5 John Zagone	20 Wendy White
12 Gerry Ormsby	23 Jennifer Wolfe
14 Barbara Hotaling	26 Jan Tharp
14 Barbara Volk	29 Erica Genaw
15 Eleney Selius	30 Donna Clancy

Weekly Bible Studies

Wednesday @ 10:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study in the Library

Wednesday @ 6:30 pm
Evening Bible Study in Fellowship Hall

Thursday @ 8:00 a.m.
Men's Bible Study at Denny's Restaurant (with breakfast).

Sunday @ 9:15 a.m.
Adult Bible Study

2019 LENT & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- † **April 3-Mid-week Lenten Services 1:00PM & 7:00pm**
- † **April 10-Mid-week Lenten Services 1:00PM & 7:00pm**
- † **April 14: Palm Sunday - Regular Worship Services**
- † **April 18: Maundy Thursday Services 7:00pm**
- † **April 19: Good Friday Service 1:00pm & 7:00pm**
- † **April 21: Easter Sunday - Regular Worship Services**

