

Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 886
Summit, SD 57266
605-398-6150 - hlchurch1969@gmail.com

"WORDS OF HOPE FROM HOPE"

VOL. 52 ISSUE 2 MARCH 2025

"IT IS THE MISSION OF HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH TO HELP PEOPLE GROW IN THEIR FAITH; TO BE A LEADER IN THE COMMUNITY; TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF ALL PEOPLE, AND TO TEACH/EDUCATE ALL PEOPLE."

Everyone is welcome

Find us on Facebook: Hope Lutheran Church and www.seesummitsd.com

Follow us on YouTube: Hope's Children

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Have you ever stood and looked at a tombstone? The info on them is pretty sparse; names, possibly spouse or children's names and then there are those date listed, the birth and the death dates. They are separated by the silent but ever powerful dash. That dash represents a lifetime of living, loving, mistake making, forgiveness, laughter, tears and so much more. We live our life in the dash "in between" the two dates.

Our Lenten services this year help us to think about those "In Between" times in our lives and our world. We will use the familiar stories of the Bible to think about what God says and where God is during the "In Between" times of life.

Lent starts with Ash Wed. on March 5th. During this service we will see how God's call to his disciples and to us comes "In Between- tension and Action". It talks about the tension of a call from God into something in our lives that may be uncomfortable and the times we choose to take action.

The "In Between" themes continue throughout the season with: "In Between stranger and neighbor", "In Between Faith and Works", "In Between Rest and Growth", "In Between Lost and Found", "In Between Righteousness and Mercy", "In Between Shouting and Silence", "In Between Power and Humility", "In Between Acceptance and Resistance", and ends with Easter's "In Between Grief and Hope".

We hope you come and join us on our Wednesday night worships. I will begin with worships in Florence at 5:30pm and they will have a supper to follow. Then I will travel to Summit for worships at 7:30pm. Summit's Lenten supers will begin at 6:30pm.

Blessings on Your "in Between" Times,

Pastor Janet Miller

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank to everyone who contributed to the Community Spaghetti Lunch & Silent Auction. We raised over \$5,000 for the Building Fund projects.

The event would not be possible without everyone's help -- setting up, serving, cleaning up (!!!!), donating bars and baskets, bidding on baskets. This was truly a whole congregation effort.

Thank you to Laura Frankenhoff, Kathy Brink, & Annelies Seffrood for coordinating the event.

Mark **February 8, 2026** on your calendar for the 3rd Annual Hope Lutheran Super Bowl Sunday Community Event.



YOUTH GROUP GAME NIGHT JANUARY 2025









Job Duties include but are not limited to:

- 1. Attend Congregational Council Meetings and all Annual Meetings of the Congregation. With the pastor's guidance, ready all agendas and reports needed for the council meetings and annual reports. Take minutes in all council and congregational meetings and provide them in a secretary's report for the next meeting.
- 2. Prepare weekly worship bulletins with the Pastor
- 3. Prepare special service bulletins- for example funeral bulletins- as needed by pastor.
- 4. Prepare and distribute monthly church newsletter.
- 5. Maintain membership role (baptisms, confirmations, transfers, deaths)
- 6. Assist in ordering church supplies (office, altar, communion, etc.)
- 7. Work with Pastor on church communication including Social Media posts, emails, etc.

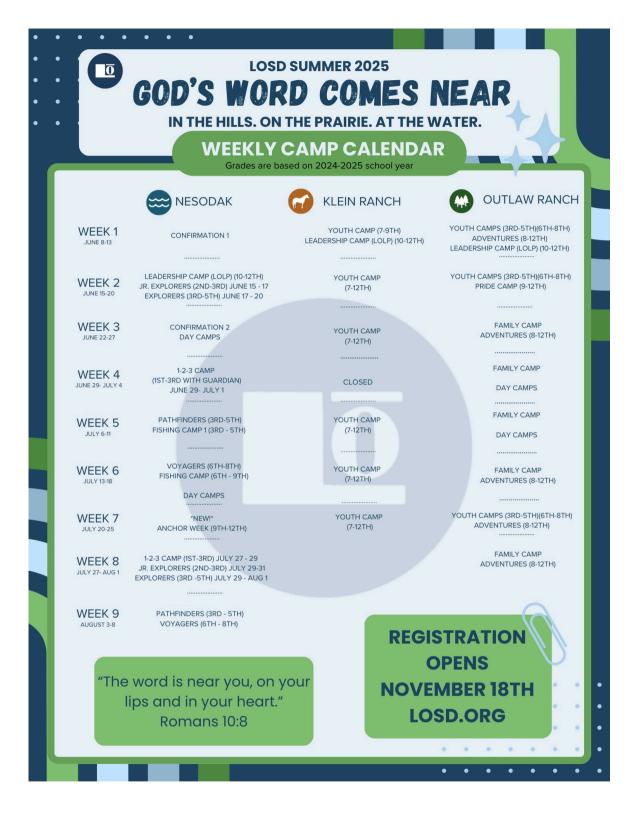
Skills needed:

- 1. Basic computer skills
- 2. Email
- 3. Computer Document production Microsoft Word, Canva
- 4. File management
- 5. Interpersonal skills
- 6. Will need to work with congregation members when they come with questions or requests.
- 7. Will need to be able to hold personal information in confidence as it is shared through the office.

This position is estimated to require 1-2 hours per week (more for week with newsletter production) up to 12-15 hours per month.

The position pays \$250 per month and will be W-2 status with employer taxes paid and employee taxes withheld.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Janet Miller at hlchurch1969@gmail.com or 605-237-8005.



Hope Lutheran has a Campership Fund to help pay for members to attend camp. Hope Lutheran's policy is that the family pays the deposit (typically \$100-\$150 per camper) and the fund will pay the balance of the fee. The deadline to receive Early Bird pricing is *April 15, 2025*. Visit the LOSD website at www.losd.org to register. Reserve your spot today!!



Programs and resources to amplify your generosity

How to apply for a Thrivent Action Team

Your passion and excitement for your community are sure to make your Thrivent Action Team a success. Follow these steps to apply—and don't forget to share the results of your project with us.

- Visit <u>thrivent.com/actionteam</u> for resources to help you brainstorm ideas and prepare for your project.
- 2. Once you have your project idea, get ready to apply. Here's what you'll need to have handy when you fill out the application:
 - · Your User ID and password.
 - Your estimated project date. (Allow 14 days for your Thrivent Action Kit to arrive.)
 - A short description of your project and how your volunteer team will be involved.
 - The church or other nonprofit organization that will benefit from the project, if applicable.
 - How you'll use the Community Impact Card.
 - Number of volunteers on your team and T-shirt sizes.
- 3. Now that you have everything you need, visit thrivent.com/actionteam and click Apply Now to begin the application process. Applying for a Thrivent Action Team takes less than 15 minutes.
- If it is your first time logging in, you will need your Thrivent ID.
 If you don't know your Thrivent ID, please contact your Thrivent financial advisor or call 800-847-4836 for assistance.
 - After you've completed the application, watch your email inbox to see if your project was approved. You should receive an email within 24 hours of submitting your application.

After your project

Go to thrivent.com/actionteam and share your story. Reporting on your project takes less than 10 minutes. Make sure you have the following handy:

- Your User ID and password.
- · What your team accomplished.
- Number of:
 - -Volunteers on your team (and their names).
 - -Hours to plan the event and length of event.
 - -Hours (on average) each person volunteered.
 - -Total participants.
- The amount raised if you hosted a food drive or fundraiser.

Questions? We're here for you. Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Action Teams."

Membership benefits are not guaranteed contractual benefits. The interpretation of the provisions of these benefits is at the sole discretion of Thrivent. These benefits are reviewed and evaluated regularly. Thrivent reserves the right to change, modify, discontinue or refuse to provide any of the membership benefits or any part of them at any time.

Directing Choice Dollars® and personal giving: A how-to guide

Direct Choice Dollars online

- 1 Visit Thrivent.com.
- 2. Click Log in. Enter your Thrivent ID and password. (If you haven't yet registered, click Register now.)
- 3. Click Direct Choice Dollars.
- 4. Choose the organization to which you want to direct Choice Dollars:
 - a. To direct to a previous organization:
 - In the Previous organizations you've chosen section, locate the organization and enter the number of Choice Dollars you would like to direct.
 - b. To direct to a new organization:
 - In the search box, enter keyword(s) like organization name, ZIP code, cause, etc.
 - Locate the organization. Click Select.
 - E nter the number of Choice Dollars you would like to direct.
- 5. Click Review.
- Validate the information. If accurate, click Confirm and Direct.

Direct Choice Dollars by phone

- 1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."
- 2. Press 1 to direct Choice Dollars or 2 to hear Thrivent Choice Dollars program Terms and Conditions. (If prompted, say or enter your phone number and date of birth.)
- 3. A client service professional will work with you to direct Choice Dollars.

Want to make an even bigger difference?

Make a personal donation at thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Thrivent pays the processing fees so 100% of your donation goes to help.* Scroll down to the Make a personal donation section, click Donate and search the Thrivent Choice Catalog. Once you locate the organization to which you wish to donate, click Make a personal donation. You'll then be sent to a Personal Donation page. Follow the prompts to make the donation.

*Thrivent will pay up to \$300,000 in online processing fees per calendar year for personal donations made through Thrivent's online giving platform. The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.



thrivent.com • 800-847-4836

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Thank you to everyone who has designated their annual Thrivent Choice Dollars to Hope Lutheran Church. Since 2020, Hope Lutheran has received over \$5,600 from this program. Thrivent members must annually designate the recipient to receive this donation. *March 31,* 2025 is the last date to designate your 2024 Choice Dollars. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Janet or Annelies Seffrood.



January/Winter 2025 Newsletter Inserts

From the Bishop's Desk

Dear South Dakota Synod,

Grace and Grace and peace to you in this new year. Maybe you, like our family, still have one of these old-fashioned calendars that hang in a prominent place in your home so everyone can see what's happening. Hopefully, much of the year is blank yet filled with things, people, and places that give you joy. We know that there will be days coming; we don't know when, and that will zap our energy; we will pencil in dates and times for farewells of neighbors and friends, funerals, retirements, and other things that can cause sadness and anxiety. So, my hope and prayer for you is that days of joy in your future may outshine the darkness of life.

Please also add a few dates to your calendar for 2025 that mark the journey we, as the SD Synod and the ELCA, are on together in Christ.

- 1. Your conference assemblies will take place on Sunday, February 23, 2025. So that you know the location and time for your assembly will be communicated to you through your conference leadership. Please watch for communication from your conference leaders. At the 2025 conferences, you can pre-identify candidates for the call to serve as the SD Synod Bishop and other business. While I am eligible and available to serve for a second term, I am not automatically on the ballot or in the pool of candidates. I pray for the Holy Spirit to be at work in the people of the synod.
- 2. We will assemble at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD, on Friday, May

30th, and Saturday, May 31st, 2025. I hope every congregation will show up not just to elect a bishop and do business but also to meet Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, who will be our churchwide representative, deliver reports, listen to you, and preside over the bishop's election.

3. July 28 - August 2, the church will gather in Phoenix, AZ, to be church together. We will elect a new Presiding Bishop and Secretary and be in discernment together about matters coming before the church. The SD Synod will show up with a group of voting members from different people of the SD Synod.

If you would like to talk about any or all of these things with me, please reach out, and I am happy to talk. Please mark your calendars and watch for more updates through the weekly e-news. If you are not subscribed to the weekly e-news, please visit www.sdsynod.org. Scroll to the end of the landing page and enter your email address in the box before clicking subscribe.

Journeying in Christ with you, Rev. Constanze Hagmaier Bishop of the SD Synod

What Does It Mean to Be "Called?"

Dear People of God,

In How do we think and speak about "call" as baptized people of God, particularly from a Lutheran lens? In the last two synod newsletters, we have been focusing on discernment. Simply put, discernment is "perceiving the will and way of God in the church and in your life (What Shall I Say? Discerning God's Call to Ministry, p. 5)." One resource a person (like YOU!) can utilize is titled Called to Lead, written by the Rev. Paul Baglyous.

On pages 9-10, Pr. Baglyous invites the reader to reflect on what it means for every baptized person to be called by God:

Baptism is a call from God to live in active relationship with God and in active response to God as people clothed in Christ. God's call is seldom a one-time event in the lives of God's people. After the initial call to Moses in the incident of the burning bush, God called Moses again and again to undertake particular tasks in particular situations. The call of Moses at the burning bush on Mount Horeb inaugurated a vocational relationship ongoing call and responsive action between God and Moses. Similarly, the initial call of Jesus to Simon and Andrew and James and John while they were occupied with their nets and their boats began a lifelong vocational relationship in which those disciples would hear the voice of their good shepherd calling them again and again by name to come. and to go, and to undertake particular tasks in particular situations. So it is for us as well. Our vocation as baptized people clothed in Christ is to live in active response to God who calls us again and again to particular tasks in particular situations and to embark upon new ventures in ministry.

Our baptismal vocation might not require us to abandon our occupations. although sometimes God does call us to make dramatic changes in the course of our lives. More often. God calls us to undertake a particular task of ministry within the familiar course of lives...To live our our baptismal vocation involves remaining open and expectant to God's call however and

wherever and whenever we might discern it, day by day, and to remain ready to respond.

Spend some time in the questions below in self-reflection, journaling, or with a friend or mentor. To work your way through *Called to Lead*, sign up for FREE through PASQUE, the SD Synod on-line learning community, at (www.sdsynodlearns.org).

TELLING YOUR CALL STORY

Recall or reflect upon an occasion when you discerned God's call to you. When and where did it happen? To what was God calling you? How did God call you? How did you recognize, or how later did you come to recognize, that God was calling you?

How did you respond to God's call in the situation you are recalling or upon which you are now reflecting? Did you respond with an attitude and action of "yes"? If so, what helped you to do that? What motivated you to respond in the way that you did? Or, conversely, did you respond with an attitude and action of "no," declining to undertake the particular task or commitment to which God was calling you? If so, what stood in your way or inhibited you?

What have you learned from the situation you are recalling or upon which you are now reflecting? How has it affected your relationship with God?

Find an opportunity to share your call story with others in your congregation, and to hear their call stories as well. How does our life in community with other baptized people help us to grow in our baptismal vocation?

Rev. Renee Splichal Larson
Associate to the Bishop for Candidacy,
Congregation, and Rostered Minister
Accompaniment

Mission Planning

In my first few years as a pastor, January hit hard. The high and busyness of Christmas was over, and there was a lull before Lent. It was also the time for the Annual Meeting that lent itself to reflection on the year before and visioning for the year ahead. In some of those early years, I would think about all the things I wanted to do in the upcoming year. The things that needed to be accomplished or new ministry ideas that would fix one problem or another.

After a few years, the questions that I would wrestle with began to change. In part, because if I looked at all the things I wanted to 'do' in the previous year, I wondered what difference it made. So, instead, it became more important for me to ask questions of 'why?' than 'what?'. Of course, the 'why' of the church is pretty clear: we are "people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world." Easy.

But the 'why' also isn't so easy. It takes prayer, reflection, and conversation with others to experience a fuller view of God's creative power and the redemption and sanctification being worked out in front of us that we might be called into. From the why and listening to the needs of the community, both inside and outside of the congregation, would come a deeper sense of mission.

Mission planning takes intention and is not work that you need to go alone. Several resources offer a framework for how to go about these conversations.

Living Lutheran by Dave Daubert

This is a go-to resource for congregations wanting to start thinking about who they are

and the difference it makes in the community. It makes for a good group read with questions at the end of each chapter and a sample for the work of mission and vision planning.

LEAD PLAYBOOK

The Lead Playbook is a comprehensive guide to transforming your congregation's relationship with the community around it. An excellent place for congregations who are ready to dive deep into listening to neighbors and community stakeholders. Each congregation received a copy of the Lead Playbook at Synod Assembly (2022), so look around the office and dust off your copy. Or, we still have a few extra in the synod office.

Rev. Jonathan Vehar Associate to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

Rural Ministry News

Beloved Travelers,

Would your congregation like to host a seminarian and help them become the future leader we need for thriving rural ministries? Part of the Journeying Together in Christ initiative is to connect the next generation of leaders to our rural congregations in South Dakota. Through the funding of the Lilly Foundation we can host ELCA seminarians in South Dakota for an immersion experience that will introduce these students to the joys and challenges of rural ministry. Reach out to me at jpakan@sdsynod.org for more information.

Pastor Joel Pakan Director for Rural Ministries <u>ipakan@sdsynod.org</u>

LssSD.org

January 31, 2025

Dear Pastors & Church Partners.

I want to take a moment to update you on how recent executive orders are impacting our agency's work and the services we provide to vulnerable individuals and families across South Dakota.

Refugee Resettlement

As you may know, one of the first actions taken by the administration was the temporary suspension of the refugee resettlement program in the United States. On Friday, January 24, a "stop work" order was issued, instructing all resettlement agencies—including ours—to halt any efforts related to welcoming new refugee arrivals to South Dakota.

While we are not able to welcome new refugees for the foreseeable future, our work with refugees does not end with their initial arrival. Provided that federal funding remains uninterrupted, our team at the LSS Center for New Americans continues to provide ongoing support to refugees for up to five years post-arrival, helping individuals and families build stability, find employment, and move toward self-sufficiency. At this time, we remain focused on lawfully ensuring that the refugees currently living in South Dakota have the support they need to navigate this uncertain time and remain protected from any additional vulnerability based on status and employment.

We are actively monitoring legal challenges to this suspension and staying in close communication with our national partners, including Global Refuge and the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Freeze on Federal Grants

In addition, on Monday, January 27, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) ordered all federal agencies to temporarily halt the disbursement of federal grants and loans. Shortly before the order was to take effect, a legal challenge was filed by a federal judge. The court is set to review the legality of the freeze on Monday, February 3.

Since then, the OMB issued a memo rescinding the original directive to freeze federal funds. However, it is unclear as to whether the OMB is permanently rescinding the funding freeze, or simply reacting to or considering arguments in the judge's order.

LssSD.org

The situation continues to evolve rapidly, creating uncertainty, and we are closely monitoring developments. What we do know is that freezing federal grants would have significant implications—for our organization and, perhaps more importantly, for the many South Dakotans who rely on these critical services, particularly underserved and vulnerable individuals and families.

Federal funding accounts for approximately \$6.5 million—or 23%—of our \$28 million budget. This funding freeze directly affects 30 areas of our agency within the following programs:

- Behavioral Health Counseling for victims of violent crime
- Re-Entry Services Domestic violence assessments and counseling
- Financial Counseling
- Homeownership Education
- Education on Safe Decision Making for Youth
- Parenting Classes
- Runaway & Homeless Youth Services
- Refugee Support Long-term support for case management and aid for refugees

The uncertainty surrounding this funding threatens vital services that so many individuals and families rely on. We remain committed to advocating for the continuation of these important funding sources and will keep you updated as the situation evolves.

What You Can Do Now

I invite you to use your voice. Please reach out to our Congressional delegation and inform them of the impact to South Dakotans with the potential cessation of funding. (SDLegislature.gov/ContactUs/Congress)

I ask that you hold LSS staff and leadership, the people we serve, and all refugees in your thoughts and prayers during this time.

And finally, your financial contributions will help us continue the vital work of serving those in need.

Thank you for your continued compassion and support of our mission. If you have questions, please contact me directly at Rebecca.Knudsen@LssSD.org or 605-444-7501.

With deepest gratitude,

Rebecca Kiesow-Knudsen

LSS of SD President/CEO

Hope Lutheran Church Profit & Loss

January 2025

Offerings & Income 41130 · Auto / Online Offering 41120 · Traditional Offerings 41140 · Venmo Offerings 44310 · Building Projects - Special 43000 · Florence Parish Contribution 44100 Interest Earnedc 44200 · Thrivent 44440 · Special Offerings to Pass On	710 \$	553.00 \$ 35.00 \$.00 \$ 650.00 3,500.00 \$ 2 \$ 133.00 \$.00	
Total Offerings & Income	\$	11,082.82	
Expense			
66110 · Pastor Salary	\$3	666.66	
66120 · Pastor Bousing Allowance		\$ 1,916.67	
5		\$ 427.17	
66160 · Pastor Benefits		\$3,080.06	
66320 · Janitor Salary		50.00	
66390 · Other Payroll Expenses	\$ 19	9.13	
63300 · Insurance Expense	\$ 48	36.59	
Total 63100 · Worship & Education	\$ 19	95.23	
63200 · Fellowship Expenses	\$ 8.	49	
62300 · Printing and Reproduction	\$ 12	20.45	
62000 · Office Expenses - Other	\$ 16	5.66	
67420 · Electricity	\$ 90	0.68	
67430 · Water/Sewer	\$ 84	1.00	
67440 · Telephone & Internet Expens	\$ 96	5.47	
61450 · Special Offerings Sent On	\$ 10	00.00	
69000 · Miscellaneous Expenses		\$ (428.11)	
Total Expense	\$	10,130.15	
Net Income	\$	952.67	
=			

Account Balances	Dec 31, 2024	Jan 31, 2025	
11102 · General Fund Checking	\$ 16,868.15	\$ 1 9,645.66	
11201 · Building Fund Saving	\$ 6,119.82	\$ 6 ,119.82 \$	
11113 · MWBank MC - Pastor Janet	\$ -	4 16.40 \$ 1	
11114 · MWBank MC - Sarah	\$ 150.22	45.27 \$ 1	
12004 · CD 710143990	\$ 15,000.00	5,000.00 \$ -	
12101 · Undeposited General Funds	\$ 2,236.29		
Total General Fund Accounts	\$ 40,374.48	\$ 4 1,327.15	
11300 · HS Youth Group Checking Acct	\$ 2,824.61 \$	\$ 2 ,824.61 \$	
11400 · Sunday School Checking Acct	748.63 \$	8 07.20 \$ 1	
11500 · Campership Checking Acct	1,026.92	,026.92	

February 16, 2025 Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Janet, Dustin Holt, Tamijo Bronson, Traci Ellingson, Tim Gapp, Brittany Graf,

Nicole Ebsen, Cooper Ebsen, Vicky Gleason Absent: Scott Kneeland, Addison Bronson

Others Present: Annelies S

Annual meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion by Dustin Holt, Second by Traci Ellingson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Passed

No Pastor's Report due to illness and injury.

New business:

Election results: Tamijo Bronson elected president and Tim Gapp elected vice-president

Ash Wednesday supper will be served by the Church Council. Laura Frankenhoff took home leftover food from spaghetti feed. She is going to make hotdish and garlic toast. Council members will need to donate salad and bars. Meal will be served at 6:30 PM.

Youth group will serve the other 5 meals on Wednesday. They will sign up at Confirmation.

Council will be installed during Ash Wednesday worship at 7:30 PM.

Confirmation date will be set after Janet speaks with families.

Reminder about Thrivent Choice

Old business:

Secretary needs to be hired. Job description will be drafted.

- Weekly bulletin
- Monthly newsletter
- Basic technology (emails, etc)
- Maintain Parish records
- Coordinating ordering with the treasurer
- Separate email for the secretary
- Communication
- Manage the Facebook page with the pastor

Salary is \$250 per month for secretary for 10-15 hours per month.

Applications will be accepted for the month of March or until filled. Letter of interest with qualifications needs to be submitted. Pastor Janet would interview applicants as they are submitted.

Motion by Tim Gapp, Second by Brittany Graf to adjourn the meeting. Passed Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 26 after worship.

2025
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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9th Sunday White Sunday School 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM	3	4	Ash Wednesday Black Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM	Quilting 9 AM - 12 PM Dean Conference Zoom Meeting	7	8
10th Sunday Purple Sunday School 10 AM Children's Church 11 AM	10	11	12 Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM Council Installation during Worship	15	14	15
16 11th Sunday Purple Sunday School 10 AM Worship & Communion 11 AM	17	18	Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM	Quilting 9 AM - 12 PM Conference Pastors Meeting	21	22
25 12th Sunday Purple Sunday School 10 AM Worship 11 AM	24	25	26 Lenten Supper 6:30 PM Worship 7:30 PM Council Meeting Following Worship	27	28	29
30 13th Sunday Purple Sunday School 10 AM Worship 11 AM	5 1			e Luther urch Ven	T-H-1 1 ef	