

The steadfast love of
the LORD never ceases;
his mercies
never come to an end.

Lamentations 3:22, ESV

**FEBRUARY
2026**



Peace Lutheran Church and Wee Creations Ministry
355 E. State Road 120
Fremont, IN 46737
Church Phone: (260) 495-4306
www.plcms.org

A member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Peace Resources

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

CHURCH PHONE NUMBER — 260-495-4306

OFFICE EXTENSIONS:

Secretary- 301

Pastor Jared Rudolph- 303

Kristin McGee- 304

Wee Creations Office- 305

Church Service Hours- 321

**We welcome you to join us for our
Sunday Worship Services**

8:00am & 10:30am

WEBSITE — www.plcms.org

EMAIL ADDRESSES — at church:

Pastor Jared Rudolph - PastorRudolph@plcms.org

Sara Miller – Director@weecreations.org

Kristin McGee – Admin@plcms.org

Emily Disbro - secretary@plcms.org

Stephanie Paradine – ComfortDog@plcms.org

Mary Anne Hibbard - mhibbard@plcms.org

Judy Scharpenberg - kjscharp@mchsi.com

E-News – Just a reminder that we continue to publish our e-news and announcements every week. If you haven't signed up to receive e-news through your email, please email Secretary Emily and she will get you signed up! If you did sign up and haven't seen it, please double check your SPAM folder; it is an email that comes from the secretary's email address: secretary@plcms.org

SUBSCRIBE



A Letter from Pastor Rudolph

"Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3-4)

What does it mean to "become like children"? How about humble ourselves "like this child"? Jesus places our salvation on doing this, so what does it mean? It's an important question to ask!

Often, our society treats children like they're unimportant, or not smart. Many people see kids as a nuisance, something to avoid. The world tells us that kids are what you have when you're done having "fun", as if it's the end of the good times and beginning of the bad times.

But Jesus doesn't say that. Here, He uses children, young children, as the prime example of what it means to be a Christian. "Become like children". Don't try to be "adults," be children and humble yourselves. We adults often try to brag on ourselves. We tell people about our great accomplishments, our great deeds, the great ways we've helped people. We build our resumes and assert how important OUR work is. Yet Jesus calls for us to throw all of that away and be humble. We should praise God, not ourselves. We should trust God, not in ourselves.

We should admit that we can't do everything. We need someone to care for us and to provide for us. We need someone to teach us many things, even the simple things! We need to bring ourselves to a place where we relearn how to crawl, walk, and talk the faith. That's the reason Wee Creations exists, to teach these things in a physical way just as we teach these kids how to do them spiritually. So let's follow Wee Creations' example and get back to the basics. Let's admit that we are not perfect. Let's get baptized (if we haven't been already) or get our family members baptized just as little children get baptized and are brought into God's family. Let's learn to read the Bible again. Let's relearn the basic and foundational things in Scripture: the 10 Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, Confession and Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. Let's humble ourselves and admit that we need God's forgiveness because we need Jesus each and every day of our lives, not just once a month. And let's cling to Him and trust Him, like a little child trusts their parents. That's how we "humble" ourselves, being baptized and trusting God for forgiveness, life, and salvation.

Let's be children today and look to Christ, who died and rose again, in CHILD-like faith.

Pastor Rudolph

PLC Mortgage Update

Our three-year capital campaign ended December, 2025.

With heartfelt gratitude and much excitement,
we are pleased to announce we are entering 2026
MORTGAGE FREE!



Thank you for your faithful giving and continued support of and
prayers for Peace Lutheran Church!

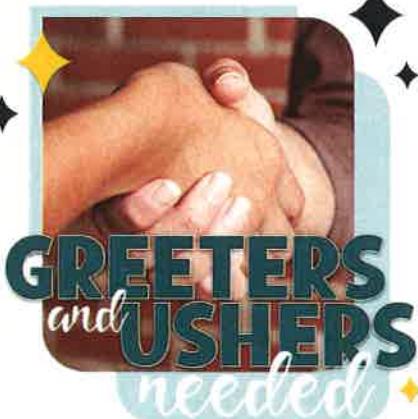
GriefShare® Grief Support Group

*Help and encouragement
after the death of a
loved one*

At a GriefShare group, you'll find understanding,
guidance, relief, and a safe place to navigate the
challenges of grief. Come join us!

Contact Us Today

Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 PM
March 3-May 26
Peace Lutheran Church
Fremont, IN
Call or text Luanne Haupt
260-639-7339
to register or with questions
griefshare.org



USHERS AND DEACONS NEEDED

We are looking for friendly faces to join our Usher and Deacon Team! Tasks on Sundays would include greeting and distributing bulletins to attendees, assist with seating if necessary, and help with offerings and communion.

Both men and women are invited to serve. We are willing to train! Please contact the church office if you are interested.



CHANCEL FLOWERS COST UPDATE

Due to rising supply costs, we will see a change in the cost of chancel flowers, starting in February. The cost will increase to \$50. Please see Carol Gepfert or the church office with any questions.



Imagine waking up to an empty refrigerator and checking the cabinet for a snack for you and your child, only to find nothing there. This is too often the reality for individuals at the Family Promise house. Last time I delivered meals to the home, the director advised me to use the security code to get in and leave the food in the refrigerator/freezer, as everyone was either working late or attending after-school activities with their child. When I opened the fridge and freezer to place food inside, I was shocked to see the freezer totally empty and the fridge containing only a partial bottle of salad dressing and a quarter stick of butter. Even though the wonderfully prepared meal items I placed in the fridge/freezer looked wonderful, I was saddened to see the emptiness. It made me feel even more blessed that I have never gone hungry or had to ask for food.

When I left, I envisioned the individuals coming home and being truly thankful for a full meal, ready for them to warm up, provided by people they did not even know. Later, I talked to the director over the phone to inquire about the emptiness, and she confirmed that the fridge and pantry are usually empty. That is why they are so thankful for the area churches providing their evening meal.

Our next opportunity to serve will be the week of March 16. Please consider helping this mission outreach through a donation of meal items, pantry items such as condiments, peanut butter, bread, butter, cereal, oatmeal, paper products, dish soap, etc. We also need drivers to deliver meals during our week and, of course, prayers for this mission and the families. Any items donated for their pantry can be left in the church kitchen at any time (please label them as Family Promise). Thank you for your support! Call or text Connie Sweeney for more info or if you have any questions: 260-665-5146.



With the start of the new year many of us commit to some sort of resolutions aiming to improve our lives - exercising, saving money, getting back to reading and so on. How is that working for you? Perhaps your challenge this year is facing your future without your partner, a loss of employment, a broken relationship - a loss of any kind that disrupted your life.

A Stephen Minister cannot make your 2026 resolutions and challenges come true or miraculously change, but he/she can and is willing to walk along side of you, listening to your deepest concerns and needs and pray with you and encourage you as you learn to address these matters. They may be large or small, but all is done in complete confidentiality and trust, and by God's grace find the resolution and the peace that only flows from Him.

Don't wait any longer! Call a Stephen Leader: Rick Kirkton, Ellen Luepke or Pastor Rudolph and take the first step in discovering how this caring ministry can and will bless your life.



"BACK TO THE BASICS: CHRISTIANITY 101" BIBLE CLASS

Why can we baptize babies? Why do we only commune at Lutheran churches? What questions do you have about God but never asked?

On February 2 and February 9, Pastor Rudolph is offering a class from 5:30pm-6:30pm called "Back to the Basics: Christianity 101" for non-members, long-time

members, and everyone in between! Whether you have been a Christian forever or whether you are new to Christianity, this will be a perfect place to (re)learn what Christianity is all about!

This study will take place of formal Monday evening worship for the month of February. Communion will be served after class on Monday, February 2.

Bring your questions, bring a friend, and be ready to dive into God's Word!



Upcoming Services

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 2/18/2026 at 6:30pm

Lent Midweek Worship:

Wednesday 2/25/2026 at 6:30pm

Wednesday 3/4/2026 at 6:30pm

Wednesday 3/11/2026 at 6:30pm

Wednesday 3/18/2026 at 6:30pm

Wednesday 3/25/2026 at 6:30pm



Soup Suppers

Starting the week AFTER Ash Wednesday, before our Wednesday evening Lent services, our soup suppers will return.

Look for a sign-up sheet on the information desk for those who would like to bring a soup, bread, or dessert.



Blessing Boxes

The blessing boxes in our west parking lot provide a special opportunity to serve others in our community. You are welcome to place non-perishable food items inside the boxes at anytime. Donation items may also be placed in the boxes at anytime. Donation items may also be placed in the designated basket under the mailboxes in the West Lobby.

Popular items in the Blessing Boxes include:

- cake and cookie mixes
- breakfast cereal
- creamy peanut butter

Please note: no glass containers or jars, as these may break in colder weather.



The Food Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary is open to all seminary students and their families. Food and household items are available to these families at no charge. Students volunteer service time for the privilege of shopping. The Food Co-Op is set up like a small grocery store.

This month's donation wish list items include crackers such as:

- coffee
- tea
- powdered drink mixes such as Kool-Aid, lemonade, or Gatorade



Help save a life.

Schedule your blood donation appointment today.



The Next Peace Lutheran Blood Drive is:

Thursday, March 19

1:00pm-5:00pm

If you are interested in donating, Just go to the link below and search for our drive to see the available times and schedule an appointment.

www.redcrossblood.org

or call:

1-800-RED CROSS

Thank You

Dear Board of Directors and all our friends at Peace,

Gina and I are deeply grateful for the incredible outpouring of support you have shown us as we embark on this new chapter of our mission together! The congregation's generous gift at the end of this past year – and, even more, your steady prayers – have warmed our hearts and made us feel loved!

In fact, your encouragement has reminded us that we are not walking this path alone. We are part of a community that believes in us, cares for us, and continues to lift us up as we seek to share God's love with others. It is as if we hear St. Paul telling us, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13) God has used you to fill us with joy and peace, and now we get to share Christian hope with others!

As we begin this missionary work, please know that you are with us in every step—in the places we go, in the words we share, and in the ways we serve. We are grateful for your partnership, your faithfulness, and your friendship. We will carry you in our prayers, trusting that God will guide and bless you in the coming year.

With heartfelt thanks and warmest blessings,

Pastor Jeff and Gina



P.S. If you would like to sign up to receive our newsletter,

please use the QR code, or simply drop us a line!

Pastor's email address is: jeffrey.teeple@lcms.org



Regarding the call for a senior pastor, the call committee has forwarded all necessary preliminary documents regarding congregational data to the English District. All pastoral nomination

forms from congregational members will be submitted to the district in early February. The CADDS survey which will be evaluated by the district was completed by congregants during the month of January. The call process is moving forward and the call committee has been meeting to develop questions for the interview process of prospective pastoral candidates. Stay tuned for further details as the process unfolds.

NEW COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Peace Lutheran Church's new text alert system is now up and running! Important information will be communicated from this number, similar to the "Remind" messages we used to use:

1-833-535-3884

We encourage you to save this number in your contacts. If you did not receive the initial text, please check in your unknown senders folder. If you do not have a cell phone or texting capability, please contact the church office.

**Please note this number is only for announcements and alerts sent from the church office. This new messaging number will NOT replace the church office phone number. If you are in need of two-way communication, we encourage you to contact the church office using the office phone number, 260-495-4306, or through email. We look forward to using this new system to communicate announcements and important updates with you!

CHAIR YOGA

Wednesday afternoons 12:30pm-1:30pm

Peace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

The suggested fee for each class is what you can afford up to \$5.

Additionally, items will be collected at each class for donation to the Food Co-Op at Concordia Theological Seminary. See Jessica Durham with any questions.



Men's Bible Breakfast

Saturday, February 14

8:00am

Peace Fellowship Hall

All men are welcome to attend breakfast, which will be followed by a short Bible study.

LWML Kendallville Zone Spring Gathering

April 11, 2026

Living Water Church, Wolf Lake, IN



LWML Kendallville Zone will hold our spring gathering on Saturday April 11 at Living Water in Wolf Lake. Will we have a Bible study and a speaker from 4 Kenyas Kids. More information to come! See Sharon Aldrich if interested, or with any questions.

**KINDNESS
CHANGES
EVERYTHING**

February: Random Acts of Kindness Month

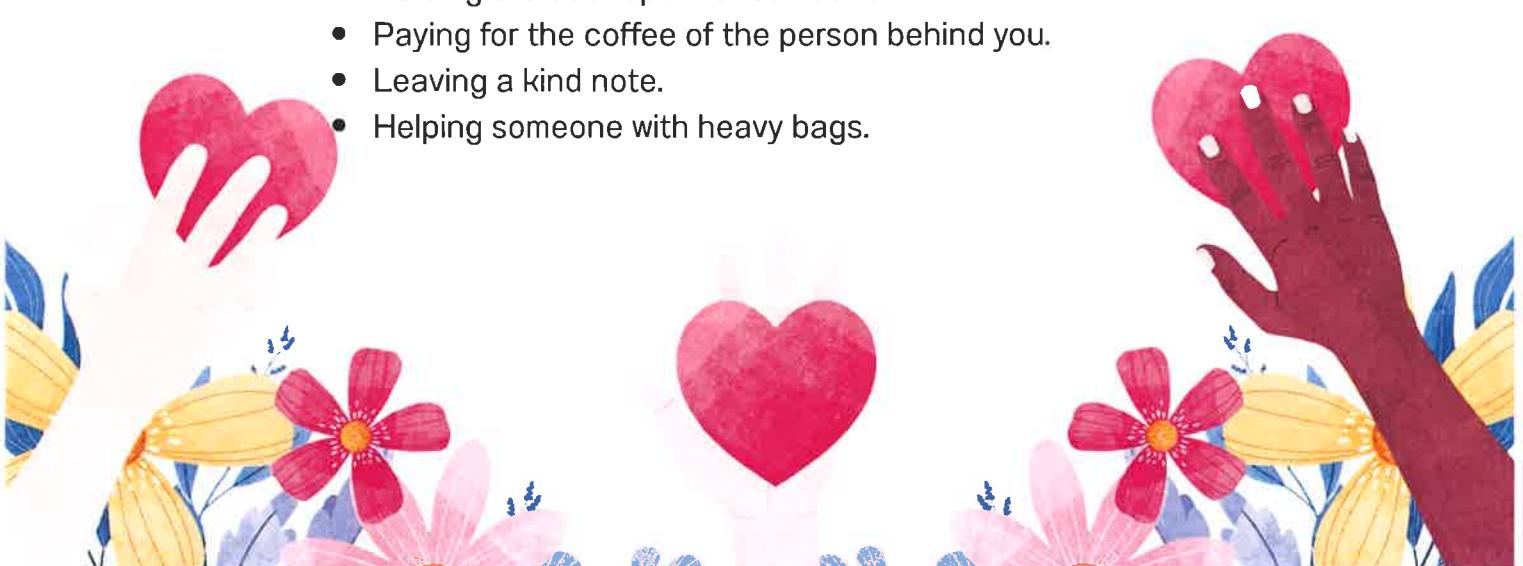
Random Acts of Kindness (RAKs) are selfless actions, big or small, that spread joy, boost well-being for givers and receivers, and create positive ripple effects, often underestimated by the performers, according to scientific studies. These acts, from paying for coffee to helping with groceries, improve mood, reduce stress, foster community, and release feel-good chemicals like dopamine, making the world a kinder place.

- **Boosts Happiness & Mood:** Both the giver and receiver experience increased happiness and satisfaction, reducing negative feelings like anxiety and depression, notes research from [The Ohio State University](#) and [Cedars-Sinai](#).
- **Reduces Stress:** Performing acts of kindness can minimize stress and anxiety, offering a break from self-focused thoughts, says [Abundance Therapy Center](#).
- **Creates a "Helper's High":** Altruistic acts stimulate the brain's reward centers, releasing dopamine and serotonin, which create feelings of euphoria and improve social behavior, according to [CNN](#) and [Summa Health](#).
- **Strengthens Social Connections:** Kindness fosters a sense of belonging and community, improving social support and bridging gaps between people.
- **Spreads Positivity:** Kindness is contagious; receiving an act of kindness makes people more likely to be generous themselves, creating a ripple effect.

Look for opportunities to perform small, selfless acts daily. Consider some of the suggestions below. Visit the [Random Acts of Kindness Foundation](#) to read inspiring stories.

Simple Examples of Random Acts of Kindness

- Giving a genuine compliment.
- Holding the door open for someone.
- Paying for the coffee of the person behind you.
- Leaving a kind note.
- Helping someone with heavy bags.



DOVE Tales

The LORD is good to all, and His mercy is over all that He has made. All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and all Your saints shall bless You!

Psalm 145:9 ESV

Hello, Friends!

I hope you've been staying warm this cold new year. I thank God for my super warm coat and all the cuddles I've received since last writing to you – definitely love and mercy from Him!

Last month I shared my resolution: to work on obeying my commands. Here's one I haven't shared yet: LAP. When my handler says "lap", I put my front paws on and across the lap of the person in front of me. Often a hug is needed and this is a way for me to give extra love. Deuteronomy 33:12 NIV says, "Let the beloved of the LORD rest secure in Him, for He shields him all day long..." That's what happens when a person crawls into God's lap! My team tell stories all the time about how I recognize people who especially need love right at the moment I'm there. Often I will immediately lay my head in their laps. It is a gift to me from God that helps me do His work.

Here are a few recent examples of how the Dove Team has shown extra love to people who have needed it:

- Visits to Eugene Sumney – he always pet me at church with a chuckle and grin. He loved our visits with him at Northern Lakes!
- Petting me helped a friend at Cameron Hospital on her worst day at work.
- "Lap" on the bed of a Cameron patient who was struggling with medical problems gave him comfort. He said reading Psalm 91 often helps him. He needs our love, prayers and support.
- I visited a woman at Maple Lawn who had suffered a stroke and gave her lots of love. Her niece said her aunt passed away the next day and felt I knew her aunt would soon be leaving this life and helped make her last day on earth very special.
- A school lunch lady had just lost her dog and needed extra snuggles. I snuggled students, too.

I can't wait to see you at church! Remember, I'm always glad to give you a cuddle and God's love!

Sharing His mercy,

Dove

PS: Want to join us sharing love and mercy?
Email Stephanie Paradine at comfortdog@plcms.org





NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

January 25-31

Let's Make a Joyful Noise **PSALM 98:4**



LCMS Schools (24-25 Stats)	# of Schools	# of Students	# of Teachers
Early Childhood	1,664	71,718	6,161
K-8 Schools	722	72,518	1,232
High Schools	114	16,790	6,143
Total	1,733	161, 026	13,536

National Lutheran Schools Week is an opportunity for our Lutheran Schools to come together as a community of believers across the nation and around the world to celebrate the joy and purpose found in Lutheran education. Our theme, drawn from Psalm 98:4, is a powerful and vibrant call to action: "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!" Lutheran education is built on Christ and centers on the Gospel. That means every subject taught, every relationship nurtured and every celebration held has eternal significance. And so, with joy in our hearts and praise on our lips, we are confident that Jesus is present in every classroom, guiding our students and staff in truth and love.

Peace Lutheran Church began in 1983 and has consistently grown in outreach to the tri-state area. We began our preschool in 1992 as a ministry in service to God and our community. In 2008 we expanded our ministry with the opening of our full day, year round program. In 2024, we expanded our ministry again with the new construction and a whole campus renovation. Wee Creations has seven classrooms that provide early childhood education for Infants through Preschool. We are open year round, 7:00am to 5:30pm. With a maximum enrollment of 96 children (infant through pre-school age), we are able to provide strong academic preparation while encouraging their faith in Jesus Christ to grow and develop.

Wee Creations is one of more than 1,700 schools and early childhood centers within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. God has richly blessed our ministry with a wonderful staff of loving teachers, supportive parents, and a very supportive congregation. The staff, children and families of Wee Creations want to thank the members of Peace for our BEAUTIFUL building! It is amazing! You have created a lasting legacy to sustain our ministry to the community for the next generation! THANK YOU!



PHILOSOPHY STATEMENT

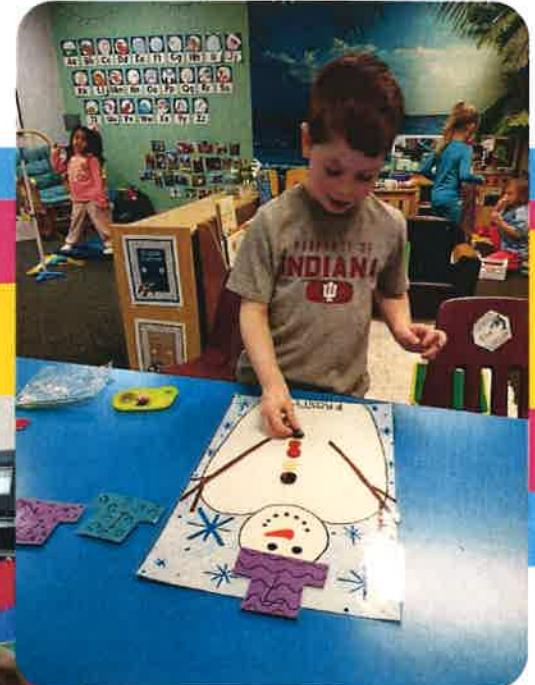
As a ministry of Peace Lutheran Church, Wee Creations Early Learning Ministry provides a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. Our curriculum is based on the Word of God and designed to enhance the child's spiritual, social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development. Our qualified, Christian staff provides an age and developmentally appropriate curriculum, which places an emphasis on the importance of play as a means of learning. Events, programs, and activities are provided to support the whole family in their growth and development.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of WCM is to share the love of Jesus Christ with children and their families by providing them with a Christ-centered, quality, and developmentally appropriate education.

Wee Creations Growth

Classroom	Current Enrollment	New Enrollment Maximum
Infants	16	16
Toddlers Ones	10	10
Toddlers Twos	10	10
Early Preschool	10	14
Preschool (ages 3-4)	11	20
PreK (ages 4-5)	21	24
Total Child Spots	78	96
Teachers	19	



February

BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Chris Harwood
2/2 Ron Heilman
2/3 Donna Webb
2/4 Elliot Teeple
2/8 Roger Rupright
2/9 Linda Reidenbach
2/10 Frank Densel
2/11 Don Alfeld
2/12 Jenni Sorg
2/13 Roger Diehm
Carol Harkins-Outman
2/16 Rocco Bergquist
Paula Huguenard
2/18 Joan Wright
2/19 Sharon Aldrich
Shannon King
Craig McGee
2/20 Julie Clary
Lucy James
Dawson Tuttle
2/21 Ken Donaldson
Judy Hostetler
2/22 Jeff Frastaci
Adam Tuttle

ANNIVERSARIES

2/23 Brian Harris
Rev. Don Wunrow
Andrew Mann
2/24 Kelly Kobelak
2/25 Rose Ehle
Brady Baas
2/26 Gary Huguenard
Nancy Zimmerman
2/28 Steve Wright
David McDowell
2/29 Bob Gepfert

2/2/1996 Terry & Karen Dalrymple
2/4/1995 Joe & Liz Thomas
2/15/1969 Gary & Susan Tinkel
2/16/1974 Rick & Earlene Panning
2/17/1973 Ken & Carol Frenger
2/17/2017 James & Barbara Wagner
2/24/1968 Gary & Carol Sturgis

Altar flowers

2/1/2026 family of Gene & Birdie Melcher
2/8/2026 Terry & Karen Dalrymple
2/15/2026 Bob & Carol Gepfert
2/22/2026 Steve & Linda Soldano



February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00am-Worship 9:15am-SS/BC 10:30am- Worship/HC Potluck meal after worship	2 10:00am- Women's Bible Study 5:30pm- Back to Basics Study/HC 5:30pm- Boy Scouts	3 10:00am- WCM Chapel	4 9:30am- Sewing Sisters 10:00am- Online Bible Study 12:30pm- Chair Yoga 12:30pm- Through the Bible Study 6:00pm- Handbells 7:00pm- Adult Choir	5 9:30am- Adult Bible Study	6 5:30pm-in gym Girl Scouts	7
8 8:00am- Worship/HC 9:15am-SS/BC 10:30am-Worship 5:30pm- Youth Group	9 10:00am- Women's Bible Study 5:30pm- Back to Basics Study 5:30pm- Boy Scouts	10 10:00am- WCM Chapel	11 9:30am- Sewing Sisters 10:00am- Online Bible Study 12:30pm- Chair Yoga 6:00pm- Handbells 7:00pm- Adult Choir	12 <i>NO Bible Study today</i>	13 10:00am- Stephen Ministry Supervision	14 8:00am- Men's Bible Breakfast
15 <i>Transfiguration</i> 8:00am- Worship/HC 9:15am-SS/BC 10:30am- Worship/HC	16 10:00am- Women's Bible Study 5:30pm- Boy Scouts	17 10:00am- WCM Chapel	18 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9:30am- Sewing Sisters 10:00am- Online Bible Study 12:30pm- Chair Yoga 12:30pm- Through the Bible Study 5:00pm- Handbells 6:30pm- Worship/HC	19 9:30am- Adult Bible Study	20	21
22 8:00am- Worship/HC 9:15am-SS/BC 10:30am-Worship	23 10:00am- Women's Bible Study 5:30pm- Boy Scouts	24 10:00am- WCM Chapel	25 9:30am- Sewing Sisters 10:00am- Online Bible Study 12:30pm- Chair Yoga 5:00pm- Handbells 5:30pm- Soup Supper 6:30pm- Worship/HC 7:15pm- Adult Choir	26 9:30am- Adult Bible Study	27 10:00am- Stephen Ministry Supervision 5:30pm-in gym Girl Scouts	28