



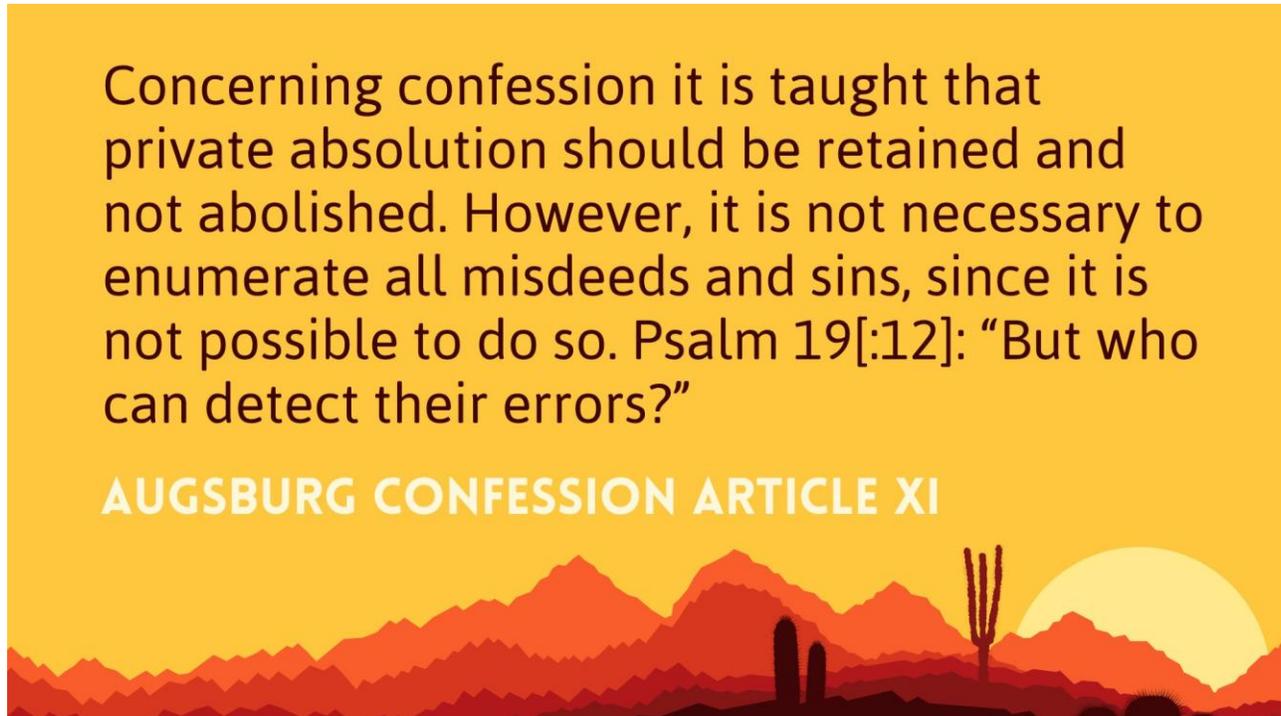
Can you think of a time that left you with a sense of awe and amazement at God, perhaps thinking to yourself or reflecting to other people, “I’ve never felt closer to God!” Growing up, I remember youth gatherings and camp experiences gave me many of those times. The Psalms share this experience many times over like in Psalm 95, “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise! Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!” Reveling in God’s greatness is good!

On the flip side I’ve heard many times people say after a tragic death, or accident, people reflect on how they feel distant from God. Sometimes they will share they feel as though God has abandoned them. It reminds me of Psalm chapter 22, where God allows us to express out of faith the depth of our own brokenness, the hurt we have, and the weight of sin echoing what Jesus spoke from the cross, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me? Why are *you so far* from saving me...” These two sides of human experience impact confession and absolution. The teaching of confession is the XI article of the Augsburg Confession.

Now imagine for a moment standing in church during the worship service as we go through confession and during the time of silence trying to list all your sins silently to yourself. Would you be able to list them all? What if more time was given, would you want to get through all of them? Now if there was a law and expectation to do that once a year, not in your head, but privately to the pastor. In 1215 with the conclusion of the Fourth Lateran Council, there was a law passed which commanded every Christian to confess all their sins at least once a year to their own priest, usually taking place around Easter. Now you are beginning to see the historical background to the XI article of the Augsburg Confession.

One of the greatest harms that came from forced confession of sins was the damage done to the consciences of each Christian. Now confession was a burden to make sure you listed all your sins. It’s not as though the church didn’t believe in the forgiveness of sins. In this sense forgiveness was not forgotten, but twisted. The free gift of forgiveness on account of Jesus’ righteous merits was being smothered underneath works, traditions (without explanation), and many burdensome laws like the one mentioned earlier.

Think back to our example of a “spiritual high” or “spiritual valley”. The requirement of listing all sins during confession began to be a reinforcement for people that God “was far away from saving us” (Psalm 22). Is this how you are taught in our church about confessing our sins and receiving God’s forgiveness on account of Jesus? Hopefully not, as Article XI, “Concerning Confession” states:



Psalm 130:3-4 says, “If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand? But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.” This gets at the heart of what all confession of sins, public and private, should drive us toward. Telling God what has burdened us, especially what we can remember, then turn to God in fear, love and trust! For example, that might mean confessing out spiritual mountain tops or valleys are not beyond the need for God’s forgiveness and grace even as he was in both places.

We teach that private confession and absolution is a good and beneficial gift for a Christian to be involved in, in history the church went too far in demanding it be a law. But today? Well sometimes we need a little help¹ reflecting on the weight of our sins, not to burden our consciences, but to see that God is nearby, not far away for he never forsakes us in Jesus Christ.

Joyfully His,

Pastor Jonathan Jahnke

¹ If you would like further teaching and guidance on how to go through private confession and absolution, or how to practice this in your own home please reach out to me. In addition, see Luther’s Small Catechism “Confession” or in LSB hymnal pages 292 and 326.

ELDER'S CORNER

Be the Light, Not the Noise

Every generation of Christians faces a temptation: to borrow the world's methods for advancing God's Kingdom. In our era, that method is the protest — the march, the sign, the chant. Christians pour into the streets alongside their neighbors, certain that visibility and volume will shift the moral direction of the culture. But I want to ask a harder question: Is this what Jesus had in mind? And is it actually working? I don't think it is. And more importantly, I think Scripture points us toward something far more powerful — and far more demanding.

What Jesus Said About Changing the World

Jesus lived under Roman occupation, among people who desperately wanted a revolution. Many of His own followers expected Him to lead one. He did not. Instead, He said:

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
— Matthew 5:14–16 (ESV)

Notice what He does not say. He doesn't say, “Make yourself heard.” He doesn't say, “Force your convictions on the culture.” He says: let your light shine through your good works, so that others glorify God. The method is a life well-lived. The goal is that people are drawn to the Father. This is not passive — it is in fact the most demanding standard imaginable, because it requires that your entire life become the witness.

Earning the Question

Peter builds on this in 1 Peter 3:15–16: “Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.” The key phrase is “who asks you.” Peter envisions a Christian living in such a way that others become genuinely curious. They see something — a peace, a generosity, a love for enemies — that they cannot explain on their own terms. So, they ask. And that question, born from a real relationship and earned over time, is the open door the Spirit has been preparing.

Nobody has ever been argued into the Kingdom. Nobody changes overnight. Faith grows slowly, watered by years of watching someone live differently. The Christian's most powerful apologetic is not a clever argument or a compelling sign — it is a life that raises questions only the Gospel can answer.

The Easy Way Is Usually the Wrong Way

Here is an uncomfortable truth: protest is easy. You show up, you march, you feel righteous, you go home. But feelings of activism and actual impact are very different things. Real issues have real nuance — nuance that cannot survive a slogan. A sign is a battle cry, not an argument. It rallies those who already agree and hardens those who don't.

The hard way is to work. To prove yourself. To build genuine relationships across lines of disagreement. To become someone whose character gives weight to their words. This is slow. It is unglamorous. It does not trend on social media. But it is the only thing that has ever produced lasting change in the heart of another human being. And individual hearts are the only place where culture actually lives.

Jesus didn't organize mass demonstrations. He walked with twelve people for three years. He ate with sinners. He touched lepers. He noticed the woman at the well, the tax collector in the tree, the thief on the cross beside Him. He changed the world one person at a time, through the kind of deliberate, costly, personal attention that no march can replicate. And He calls us to do the same.

What the Early Church Knew

The early church did not grow through political pressure or public spectacle. It grew because ordinary Christians lived remarkably different lives — serving the poor, caring for the sick, treating the outcast with dignity, loving their enemies. The early church father Tertullian recorded the pagans saying of Christians: "See how they love one another." That was their sign. That was their testimony. And it was irresistible.

We have largely forgotten this. We have traded the slow, faithful, person-by-person work of genuine Christian witness for the short-term emotional satisfaction of being publicly seen on the right side of an issue. But God is not impressed by our signs. He is looking for our fruit.

Do the Hard Thing

If you want to change your community — if you want to bring people to Christ — do the hard thing. Work with excellence. Be a faithful friend, spouse, and neighbor. Serve without recognition. Engage with those who disagree, not to win an argument, but to understand a person. Build relationships that give your words roots.

Live in such a way that when people see the fruit of your faith — your integrity, your peace, your love for people who have not earned it — they come to you and ask why. That moment of genuine curiosity, born from years of faithful living, is worth more than a thousand marches. It is the moment the Holy Spirit has been preparing all along.



The world does not need more noise.

It needs more light. Be the light.

Brandon Luedeke,
Elder Good Shepard Lutheran Church



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Greeting from the Executive Council,

Here are the Highlights from our March meeting

1. 2025 financial audit- Chad Kohl's is going to do the audit and has done it last 2 years
2. LACE homeschool has asked to use the church on Wednesdays the next school year, passed
- 3 Crestwood drive home owners asked to use the church Sunday April 12 from 2 to 5. passed
- 4 Audio & Video- Brandon Luedeke talked about the audio & video improvements by updating to make recorded services and efficiency in making the video for our live services better.

April 12 Sunday school listening/ feedback session in the Sanctuary after service we need your support. Pastor and the Elders would like to hear your hopes, ideas, and support for Good Shepherd's Sunday School with the goal to better partner with your family. Together as the Family of God, we hope to strengthen how you as parents and your children learn, grow and share about Jesus at home, in daily life, and in our life together at church.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." Please pray for the Executive council and if you have any questions or comments feel free to talk to anyone on the board thanks

Yours in Christ,

Loren



Pastor
Jonathan Jahnke



Loren Boysen
Chairman



Dave Bertek
Vice Chair



Justin Girard
Secretary



Eric Wenz
Treasurer

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Loren Boysen (Chair)	320.760.0199
Dave Bertek (Vchair)	320.491.4652
Gary Lips	612.597.9044
Justin Girard (Secretary)	507.828.7830
Eric Wenz (Treasurer)	952.217.9136
Denise Norheim	320.808.4157
Pam Reese	320.219.3856
Kevin Mork	320.491.0200
Bill Teschendorf	320.815.3099
Pastor Jahnke	701.306.2072



Gary Lips
Council Member



Kevin Mork
Financial Secretary



Denise Norheim
Council Member



Bill Teschendorf
Council Member



Pam Reese
Council Member

GIVING YTD

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fund Balance February 2026			
		FUNDS	EXPENSES
Current Month's Offerings		\$30,371.00	
Year To Date Total Offerings		\$59,171.00	
Thrivent Choice Dollars-YTD		\$818.00	
Miscellaneous Income-YTD		\$	
LCEF Account Transfer-YTD		\$0.00	
Current Month's General Expense			\$31,831.00
Year to Date Total Expense			\$70,497.00
Current Month Net Less Expense	(\$)		\$39,749.00
Year to Date Net Less Expense	(\$)		\$470.00

Did you know? The Executive Council Monthly minutes and Treasure reports are posted on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hallway. Check it out- also posted there are the T.I.M. Missions Newsletters see how our Missionaries are sharing God's Word.

Online Giving

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1) *Create your*

login and password

2) *Search for Our Church*

Enter our church's name and click Search/Then, select our church

3) *Select Your Fund and Amount*

Select your fund and donation frequency, then select your payment method.

4) *Enter Payment Method*

You can save this payment method for future donations.

5) *Choose to Cover Processing Fees*

You can choose to cover the donation processing fees by adding a small amount on top of your gift. Click the button to opt in.

6) *Complete Your Donation*

Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.

Pick up a flyer in the Narthex on the CHURCH communication wall for step-by-step instructions!

Stay up to date on the weekly giving and attendance.

Informational email is sent every Thursday.

If you are not receiving this email and would like to receive.

Please inform the church office to be added to the list.

ALTAR GUILD



We have now observed Ash Wednesday and the seven Sundays in Lent, as well as

Maundy Thursday, when we remembered the institution of the Lord's Supper in memory of Christ's Passion. Good Friday followed with us remembering the climactic event in the life of our Lord on earth as a man, and crucifixion. Saturday, we saw our Savior resting in the tomb. Our focus this week was on the suffering and death of our Savior and the importance that it has for our salvation.

We have now concluded the high point of the Church year, Easter, called the "queen of feasts." Easter is the time of greatest joy because of the resurrection of our Lord; Jesus proving that He is the victor over sin, death and the grave.

Thank you to all who stayed to help cover the windows in preparation for Good Friday evening service, and to take them down once again on Saturday morning to prepare for the floral arranging of the Victory Garden that adorned the Altar for Easter Sunday morning.

Thank you also to everyone who ordered flowers in memory of loved ones to beautify the Altar. You may take them home after Sunday Service, as well as the drip tray if you like, Pastor Jon does like it when they are left for a couple of Sundays.

Please thank Evelyn and Elaine Buelke for their care of the Altar in March. Brenda Wysoski, Marilyn Groth and Tracy Boysen will care for the Altar in April, as well as arranging the flowers for the Victory Garden. Audrey Robotcek and Kay Nibbe will be our May care givers.



Submitted by,



Amory Anderson



LWML

Greetings in the name of Christ!
We did not have a meeting in

March, instead we did our annual prayer service with Zion's LWML group.

Our April meeting will be held on Monday, April 20th at 6:30 pm. This month we will be starting with a service project putting together May Day baskets for the shut-ins of our church and follow this with our regular business meeting.

Our district convention is coming up in June. Brenda Wysocki and Jennifer Adamek will be attending as delegates representing our group. Registration will open up around the middle of April. If anyone would like any more information on the convention, please let me know.

Our diaper drive for Life Connections was very successful! We collected over 1000 diapers! And Life Connections was very happy for the large donation! Thank you to all that donated to this wonderful organization.

Our box for Love Inc incentive items is still in the hallway. This is an ongoing incentive and you may donate to this at any time.

The zone Spring Rally will be held on Saturday, April 25th at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Leaf Valley. Registration starts at 1:30pm with the rally starting at 2:00pm. The speakers for this will be two women from the LAMP foundation and all women of the church are welcome.

I hope that everyone has a blessed Easter!
Blessings,



Tracy Boysen,
LWML President
"Serve the Lord with gladness!"
Psalm 100:2



LIC

Clean up day on the Island is scheduled for **Saturday, May 2nd**. There will be basic clean up around the island and buildings and now that our congregation sponsors the Eunice Cabin, we will be sprucing that up also! All members of the congregation are invited to come and join in getting our island ready for the summer campers!

A sign-up sheet will be on the LWML table in the hallway going to the fellowship hall. This is so that the island knows how many people they will be serving for lunch. Any questions regarding this you may ask Ann Smith!

Learn more about Lutheran Island Camp at [Retreat Center | Lutheran Island Camp | United States](#)





Please join us in the Sanctuary after service Sunday **April 12th** for feedback and listening session for the 2026-2027 Sunday school year.

Pastor and the Elders would like to hear your hopes, ideas, and support for Good Shepherd's Sunday School with the goal to better partner with your family. Together as the Family of God, we hope to strengthen how you as parents and your children learn, grow and share about Jesus at home, in daily life, and in our life together at church.

As we continue to partner with you and your family teaching the faith together, please take some time to pray this prayer and reflect on this scripture!

Prayer: Lord God, heavenly Father, Your Son gathered the little children to Himself that He might bless them. Strengthen the parents of our congregation that they may faithfully bring up their children in the nurture and instruction of the Lord by a life of prayer and devotion to You and Your Word. Bless the work of our Sunday School teachers and all who assist our parents in teaching the faith to children, that all might be led into the Savior's loving arms and grow to lead godly lives to the praise and honor of Christ's holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it."

Sunday School

Happy Spring! The warm weather gave Sunday School inspiration for our devotion we did together. Spring is full of joy from the warm weather and the start of green grass and flowers. Spring is also full of rain and mud. Spring is similar to life, full of ups and downs. Sometimes when we are in a muddy situation it is hard to not feel sad or bad about ourselves. We may feel stuck in the mud and spiral out of control with our thoughts. When we feel this way, it can be helpful to take a deep breath and then remember that we can pray and ask God for guidance. Sunday School kids worked on learning **Philippians 4:6**, which states "**Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**"

Hopefully your spring is full of joy and even if you are stuck in the mud Tina the Termite reminds us in **Romans 8:31** that "**If God is for us, who can ever be against us?**" With God we can do great things! Sunday School looks forward to the rest of the year!

Thank you for the continued prayers, have a great month!



Myah Kremer



Good Shepherd Moms Group

April
13 • 27

May
11

If you have any questions

please contact: Danielle Jahnke 507•273•7436

Mom's Group

Grow in God's Word with other moms
and a play time for our children.

We would love to have you!

Library Highlights

Naomi Rawlings wrote a series of books, Dawn of Alaska. The series includes, Written on the Mist, Whispers of the Tide, Above all Dreams, Echoes of Twilight, and Against the Rain. One more will be coming soon. She shows life as it was in Alaska in the 1890's and all the problems they encountered after the United States bought the territory from Russia. Two of the women pursued non-traditional vocations, a doctor and lawyer, and the problems they went through with running the trading post and a shipping and ship building company are unbelievable. Many times, they keep repeating verses from the Bible to keep the going ahead with their lives. The books are well written and of course each one focuses on how the family found their spouses. HAPPY READING!!



Marian Brelje

Zion Lutheran School NEWS

More information available on the
Office Bulletin board or by visiting with
Joanna Girard.

The Zion Lutheran School
Grace
2026 Gala
FRIDAY, MAY 1st, 2026
We invite you to join us at our 16th annual Grace Gala,
celebrating and supporting Zion Lutheran School.

Register and/or donate today!
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BROADWAY BALLROOM
Event Center & Catering

When: Friday, May 1, 2026, at 5 PM
Where: Broadway Ballroom
What to Expect: Dinner, live auction, games,
raffles, and prizes!
Silent Auction: Online bidding April 24th - April 30th

Fellowship

True Fellowship Turns Strangers into Companions.

We have the perfect opportunity to express our true love for Christ.

Sunday, **April 19th** Good Shepherd Lutheran will be hosting and Adult & Teen Challenge Concert.

The concert will begin at 10:15am right after our church service and during the education hour.

At 11:15am immediately after the concert there will be a meal catered by Travelers Inn

Restaurant for the entire family.

Please join us for beautiful Christian music and amazing testimonials of how God has and is changing lives.

OTHER EVENTS COMING UP

Church Service & Picnic August 23rd

at Brophy Park

Annual Polka Fest September 12th

October 31st Annual Trunk and Treat

TBD Progressive Dinner

Join us Tuesday, April 14th at 5:15pm for our next Fellowship Team meeting.



We look forward to seeing you!

Denise Armbruster



Mn Adult & Teen Challenge
— **CHOIR** —
Good Shepherd Lutheran
April 19th
Concert-10:15am
Family Meal-11:15am
meal catered by Travelers Inn Restaurant



Thank you for your support.

 GET HELP Start the application process: mntc.org/help	 PRAY Your prayers make a difference in the lives of our clients!	 MENTOR Support one client in their faith journey: mntc.org/mentor	 GIVE Cash, check or text FREEDOM to 80888 to give online
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Adult & Teen Challenge
Minnesota

April Celebrations



Noah Tabbert	April 04
Finan Jonas	April 04
Brynn. Erickson	April 05
Cheryl Schwanke	April 05
Dominik Meyer	April 05
Matthew Chan	April 05
Ricky Walberg Jr.	April 06
Justin Girard	April 06
Archer Girard	April 09
Paul Luedeke	April 10
Rochelle Tvrdik	April 11
Roman Jonas	April 14
Leandra Boysen	April 14
Brandon Luedeke	April 18
Sharon Nack	April 19
Colton Carlsrud	April 19
Luke Wenz	April 21
Joyce Hausmann	April 22
Julia Sprengeler	April 24
Cassian Jonas	April 24
Ray Bohn	April 24
Sarah Smith	April 24
Anne Isder	April 26
Evan Larson	April 27
Pam Bettermann	April 28
Lee Barenz	April 28
Abigail Nelson	April 29
Marlene Froemming	April 29



Jason and Renee Haugen	Apr-01
Ralph and Cheryl Erickson	Apr-02
Charlie and Val Christopherson	Apr-08
Larry and Joan Lobitz	Apr-10
Craig and Bernadette Rasmusen	Apr-11
Karen and Bob Nolz	Apr-17

APRIL FUN

What do you call a sunny day that follows two rainy April days?

What did the tree say when spring finally arrived?

When shouldn't you plant spring flowers?

How do pastors like their orange juice?

Why can April jump so high?

What did the tree say to the new spring flower?

- Monday
- What a re-leaf
- When you haven't botany
- With pupit
- It has a little spring in its step
- Im Rooting for you

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00am PALM SUNDAY Worship/Baptism 10:15am Education Hour	30	31 4:30pm Worship Team practice	1	2 7:00pm MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP	3 9:30am CROSS WALK 11:30am Lunch & Fellowship Cross Walk 7:00pm GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP	4
5 7:00am Sunrise EASTER Worship with Communion 8:00am Easter Breakfast-free will donation 9:00am EASTER Worship with Communion	6	7 4:30pm Worship Team practice	8 7:30am MC Home School Co-op 10:00am Bible Study	9 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches	10 10:00am LIFE CO-OP	11 Fellowship Hall Reserved
12 9:00am Worship with Communion 10:15am Education Hour 1:00pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	13 9:30am Mom's Group 4:15pm LWML Lead Meeting	14 4:30pm Worship Team practice 5:15pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm Executive Council Meet	15 7:30am MC Home School Co-op 10:00am Bible Study	16 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches 6:30pm Uplifters Alexandria	17 10:00am LIFE CO-OP	18
19 9:00am Worship 10:15am MN Adult Teen Challenge Choir 11:15am Congregational Lunch w/Choir	20 6:30pm LWML Meeting	21 4:30pm Worship Team practice 7:00pm Elders Meet	22 7:30am MC Home School Co-op 10:00am Bible Study	23 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches	24	25 2:00pm LWML Spring Rally
26 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00am Worship w/Communion 10:15am Education Hour	27 9:30am Mom's Group	28 4:30pm Worship Team practice	29 7:30am MC Home School Co-op 10:00am Bible Study	30 Valley Counseling/Library 9:00am Love Patches	1	2