



Dear people of God at Good Shepherd,

If you have not heard, I received a divine call to consider being the pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in DeWitt, Iowa.

Below you will find my letter that I read on May 31st, and sent along to the Grace Lutheran in DeWitt to return that call and remain at Good Shepherd.

Thank you for your prayers and support of my family and the ministry here at Good Shepherd.

If you have needed any clarifications or have questions about what a "divine call" is, what they mean, or how they come about, please reach out and I'd be glad to talk with you about the process.

Be at peace that my family and I are very content and happy to be with you all and continue to witness to our community, grow in faith toward God, and share Jesus.

Joyfully His,

Pastor Jonathan Jahnke



*Copy of letter sent to Grace Lutheran Church, DeWitt, IA*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In Psalm 121 we find one of the songs of ascent which God's Israelite children used as they gathered for worship. The Psalmist who, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit wrote this, draws our attention during worship toward the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. He is the one who will watch over our coming in and going out. This Psalm invites to trust that our help always comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth and now where else.

After much prayerful consideration with my family, we have had peace and clarity to lead me in deciding to return the Divine Call to Grace Lutheran Church in DeWitt. Whether in vacancy or no vacancy the Lord will always watch over our coming in and our going out for he is our keeper. While we arrived at this decision in a little over a week, it was not made lightly because you all, my wife, and my kids are all precious in the sight of the Lord redeemed by the blood of Christ.

I deeply desire you all to take encouragement from Psalm 121 as you hear this news. It is not I, or your next pastor, or your last pastor who keeps you or sends you help, only our loving, gracious Lord does. I will be asking the members of Good Shepherd here in Alexandria to lift up prayers on your behalf as you continue in the call process. May our gracious Father, by his Son, through the Holy Spirit, as we hear his Word and receive his sacraments, in our going out and coming in, keep you all during this time.

-Joyfully His,

Pastor Jonathan Jahnke

"In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it." John 1:4-5

# News from Jorgan Dahl

Grüß Gott (may God greet you),

I hope God has been with you all these past few months. The weather in St. Louis has reached a warm and damp time of the year. We have had many rainy days and cooler breezy days leading up to the final weeks of the semester. As we wrap the semester up, we have finally made it into the 80's as a high for the temperature, with the sun out to make it warmer, although it seems that Minnesota has had a bit of a slow start on the heating up of the summer.

The classes have begun their wrapping up and we have had a couple big events going on around campus. We celebrated 100 years of the seminary being built in the St. Louis location, where it currently resides. We then had the blessing of receiving our vicarage placements for those who are completing their second year at the seminary. The fourth years received their first calls to a church as a pastor later in the evening. In my second-year class, there were about 55 to 60 of us who received vicarage placements. I have received my vicarage placement with St. John's Lutheran Church in Dublin, Ohio. I am excited to be installed on July 26 for the 1-year vicarage.

*My new address at that time will be:*

*Home: Jorgen Dahl, 6041 Rings Rd. Dublin, Ohio 43016*

*Church: St. John's Lutheran church, ATTN. Jorgen Dahl, 6135 Rings Rd. Dublin, Ohio 43016*

Between the end of May and the start of my vicarage, I will have a small program that I will be joining for 6 weeks. I will be traveling to the Dominican Republic, to the LCMS Regional Office for Latin American Missions, to take a Spanish language intensive. I hope to learn a bit more of the language so that I might have the opportunity to conduct outreach to the Spanish speaking communities. It will be busy, but I believe it will also be fun.

The continued prayers are always welcome, as my peers and I embark on this next step of our seminary journey. I am thankful for all the support and prayers I have received over these past two years, and I hope you will continue to pray and support all those in the ministry.

May it be that God blesses us and keeps us,

Jorgen Dahl (Vicar Elect)

dahlj@csl.edu

4130 Lake Ridge Dr.

Big Lake, MN 55309 (until vicarage)



# ELDER'S CORNER

## FROM HELPERS to CHAMPIONS

### On Sacrifice. Stepping Up, And A Boy with A Lunch:

Paul writes in Ephesians 2 that we are saved by grace through faith, not by works, so that no one can boast. That's the starting point, and it's a gift none of us earned. But faith in Jesus doesn't only change where we end up. It changes how we live now. Jesus modeled that. He humbles Himself, came to us in the flesh, and showed us what it looks like to love your neighbor as yourself and carry one another's burdens (*Galatians 6:2*). Those aren't extras bolted onto the Christian life. They're what a life shaped by the gospel looks like from the outside.

You don't have to look far to find people carrying something heavy. On any given Sunday, there are people in these pews dealing with burdens that never get spoken aloud. We pray together, say amen, and go home. The question worth sitting with is whether we're also reaching back into the week, toward a neighbor, a fellow member, someone who could use more than prayers said in their general direction.

The pastoral shortage in our circuit is one of those burdens, and it belongs to all of us. Several congregations nearby are without consistent Word and Sacrament ministry. That's not their problem to solve alone. Finding ways to ease it is part of what it means to love our brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Five Loaves and Two Fish

Our pastor has been serving as Circuit Visitor for the Alexandria Circuit. On top of his work here at Good Shepherd, he's been helping coordinate care across congregations that are stretched thin. That takes time, some of which would otherwise be spent here, and we want to be honest about that rather than pretend there's no cost. But consider what it would mean to pull him back simply because it's more comfortable for us. We'd be holding tightly to what we've been given while our neighbors go without. Scripture has a word for that, and it isn't sacrifice.

In John 6, Jesus looks out at a crowd of five thousand and asks Philip where they're going to buy bread to feed them all. Philip does the math and concludes it's impossible. Andrew finds a boy with five barley loaves and two fish, but can't quite bring himself to believe it matters:

*"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?"—  
John 6:9*

It's a fair question. Five loaves and two fish against five thousand people isn't a plan. It's a gesture. And yet Jesus takes what the boy offers, gives thanks, and distributes it. There's enough for everyone, with twelve baskets left over.

What stays with us about this story isn't only the miracle, though the miracle is astonishing. It's the boy. He didn't hold back his lunch because it seemed too small to matter. He didn't wait until someone else stepped up with more. He offered what he had in a situation where it looked comically insufficient. And Jesus made it enough. Not heroic self-sufficiency. Just: Here's what we have. Use it.

## Helpers and Champions

Someone said something recently that we haven't been able to shake:

**“We have a church full of helpers, and we're in need of champions.”**

A helper shows up when asked. A champion sees something that needs doing and goes after it. Both matter. Right now, we need more of the second. We need people to take ownership of ministries that shape this congregation's future: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation, young adult ministry, Bible studies, and visiting shut-ins. None of these require ordination. They require time, faith, and a willingness to lead.

Here's the practical connection: if more of our members are leading those ministries, our pastor doesn't have to choose between Good Shepherd and the circuit. He can do both. The boy's loaves didn't deprive anyone at the back of the crowd. We shouldn't wait until we feel fully equipped. The disciples didn't think five loaves were enough either, and on their own, they were right. The point is to offer what's in your hands and trust that God tends to multiply what's freely given.

## You'll Come Back More Blessed Than You Left.

Anyone who has spent time serving others will tell you this: you almost never walk away with less than you started. The person who takes on a Sunday School Class finds their own faith getting worked over in the preparation. Whoever commits to visiting shut-ins usually finds they're the one receiving wisdom and encouragement. The one who steps up to lead a Bible study has to dig into the text more deeply than they ever did as a participant.

Jesus told his disciples to give, and it would be given to them: *“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure, you use it will be measured back to you.”— Luke 6:38*

That's not a transaction. It's a description of how grace actually works. Pouring yourself out for others is one of the primary ways God fills you back up. The boy in John 6 didn't go home hungry.

## Run the Good Race

Paul writes to Timothy about finishing the good race (2 Timothy 4:7) That image fits here. We're not asked to win it alone or all at once. We're asked to run, to keep moving, keep offering, keep showing up for the people around us, in this congregation and beyond it.

Supporting our pastor's role in the circuit is one expression of that. So is raising your hand for a ministry role you've been quietly considering. Both come down to the same thing: not keeping what we have to ourselves when others need it.

Good Shepherd has been blessed with a pastor who preaches faithfully and loves this congregation well. He's now being asked to help carry something bigger for our neighbors in the circuit. That answer to that isn't to pull him back. It's to step into the gaps alongside him so that both this congregation and our neighbors are cared for.

Brin your five loaves. See what God does with them.

*Brandon Luedeke and Greg Armbruster*

**Elders Good Shepard Lutheran Church**

## Your Elders:



Pastor Jahnke  
701.306.2072

Greg Armbruster  
952.288.3953

Loren Boysen  
320.760.0199

Gary Christianson  
320.491.0258

Dave Erickson  
320.491.3703



Jason Norheim  
320.808.4156

Brandon Luedeke  
320.304.4237

Paul Luedeke  
320.760.6937

Keith Ramsay  
320.219.2129

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Greeting from the Executive Council,

Executive council and elders attended Alexandria circuit meeting right after the Ascension Day service on May 14 at Zion church. The Circuit meeting discussion was on pastor vacancies. There are 54 vacancies now compared to 33 in 2024 in MN north district, in our surrounding circuits (Fergus Falls, Wadena, Long Prairie, Alexandria) 22 pastor vacancies out of 42 congregations, by year end Alexandria Circuit will be 7 vacancies out of 14 congregation. Vacancy pastors and fill in pastors are becoming increasingly scarce. MN north district put together a pastor vacancy guide as a resource for churches with vacancies and for churches with called pastors to help these churches out. Alexandria Circuit pastors have agreed until September to serve vacant congregations 1 time per month and help with sermons for lay led services. MN north district made it very clear they do not dictate what congregations must do but will help facilitate and support them thru the process they choose. Pray for congregations with pastor vacancies and congregations with called pastors that we may learn new ways to help serve them.

Yours in Christ,  
Loren Boysen

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Loren Boysen (Chair)	320.760.0199
Dave Bertek (V.Chair)	320.491.4652
Gary Lips	612.597.9044
Justin Girard (Secretary)	507.828.7830
Eric Wenz (Treasure)	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



# GIVING YTD

	FUNDS	EXPENSES
Current Month's Offerings	\$32,671	
Year To Date Total Offerings	\$146,846	
Thrivent Choice Dollars- YTD	\$2,898	
Miscellaneous Income- YTD	\$250	
LCEF Account Transfer- YTD	\$2,000	
Current Month's General Expense		\$38,796
Year to Date Total Expense		\$137,184
Current Month Net Less Expense		\$(4,621)
Year to Date Net Less Expense		\$12,811

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## ALTAR GUILD

We have come to the conclusion of the Easter season by celebrating the Feast of Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Easter. On Pentecost we commemorate the sending of the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, to the disciples who were waiting in Jerusalem after Jesus ascension. It is through the work of the Spirit that we are blessed to receive the benefits of the work that Christ does for us, it is also a time of great celebration and joy.

The third division of the Church Year which covers the rest of the calendar year, is the Time of the Church. This time begins with the Sunday of the Holy Trinity, known as the First Sunday after Pentecost. If Pentecost falls early, there may be as many as twenty-eight Sundays after Pentecost.

During the Time of the Church, the focus is on Jesus teachings and how they applied in the life of the Church.

Each Sunday is still a celebration of the resurrection, as it is in the Time of Christmas and the Time of Easter, but the intensity of joy and festivity of the occasion is not as great during this time. This time is also referred to as "ordinary time." Then the cycle of the Church Year begins again. The paraments are green through this time.

Please Thank Audrey Robotcek and Kay Nibbe for their Altar care in May. Amory Anderson and Ann Smith will prepare the Altar in June. Flowers in May were in honor of the Confirmands. Please consider sharing flowers from your gardens as they start blooming.

Submitted by,



Amory Anderson



# LWML

Greetings from LWML!

We are excited to share that our group has been hard at work cleaning and decorating the Eunice cabin at Lutheran Island Camp. Through handmade items, new purchases, and generous donations, we are helping create a warm and welcoming space for the campers who will enjoy it this summer. *see pictures next page*

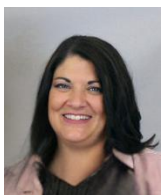
We will not have a business meeting in June as this is when we do our annual outing. Our tour this year will be on Monday June 15th at 5pm and we will be touring the Alexandria campus of MN Adult and Teen Challenge. We will meet at church at 4:30 pm and leave at 4:45pm to carpool over to the facility. After our tour we will be going to D Mike's for dinner. There is a sign-up sheet on the LWML table. Please sign up so that we have an accurate count for both the tour and reservations at the restaurant.

Our district convention is approaching fast. It will be in Waite Park June 22-24. We have 9 people from our congregation attending with Pastor as our zone counselor and Danielle as our Young Woman Representative! Our group is making baskets for the silent auction with all money raised going to our mite mission goal. Our three offerings for the convention will be to (1) our mission goal, (2) Lutherans for Life, and (3) C.R.O.S.S. Appeal. There is a list of items on the bulletin board that we are collecting for the ingathering at the convention. These items will be donated to (1) Terebinth Refuge and (2) Place of Hope Ministries. If you would like to donate items there is a box under the table for these and the people attending convention will bring them there. Thank you for your help and support of these ministries.

Our National LWML Mission Grant Goal for the 2025-2027 Biennium is \$2,622,270.00. This biennium is from July 1st, 2025 to June 30th, 2027. I am happy to report that as of May 1st, 2026, less than halfway through the biennium, the national board has paid out over half of our goal! Over \$1.3 million! Those little boxes collecting coins (mites) are making a huge impact throughout the world! Thank you so much to all of you for supporting us in this effort!

We do not have a meeting in July, our next meeting will be Monday, August 17th. We will be starting at 5:30 pm with a potluck dinner in the fellowship hall and our meeting to follow at 6:30 pm in the education wing!

God's blessing on a wonderful summer!



Tracy Boysen,  
LWML President

*"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Psalm 100:2*

# Lutheran Island Camp-EUNICE Cabin



Photo credit  
Lutheran Witness

Good Shepherd Volunteers were able to attend and help at Lutheran Island camp on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Getting the camp and our sponsored cabin “Eunice” ready for campers this summer. We were able to spruce up the cabin with new curtains and some new chairs, cleaning, and planting some flowers around it. We have a fund started with \$500 in it to put new flooring in the cabin. The total amount needed to purchase and install the flooring is \$2500. If you would like to donate to this fund you may speak with Brenda Wysoski.



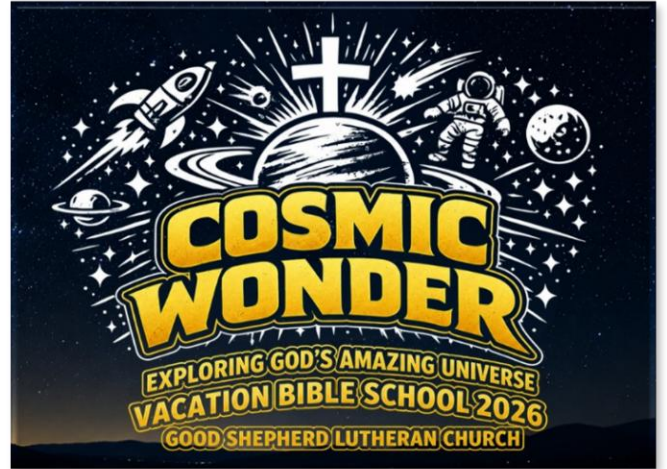
photo credits Brenda W

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for VBS this year to explore God's amazing universe! We'll be exploring fun facts about outer space and learning about the astronauts who explore space!

## Did you know?

There are 88 constellations in our solar system. You may know some common ones like the



## BIG DIPPER

Or

Do you know any other constellations?

## ORION



VBS will be Monday, August 3rd through Thursday, August 6th. Supper will be served from 5:00-5:30, with the program from 5:30-8:00. Registration is available online on the Good Shepherd website or using the QR code on the VBS table.

**Adults:** Signup sheets for volunteers, Thrivent dollars, food donations are on the VBS table.

Each year we host 70-100 children at VBS, ages 3 through 6th grade, many from other churches and some with no church affiliation.

Our goal is to give them an experience they will remember for a lifetime. This is our biggest community outreach program and we need about 70 volunteers to make this event run smoothly for the children and their families. We would love to have you participate!

**Prayer for VBS:** God, let our church be a great influence in our community through our VBS. We want your perfect love to be at the foundation of our community, and we pray that we spread your love. Let our doors be open and our hearts be welcoming to all kids and their families. Let your goodness shine through us. Amen.



# LIBRARY HIGHLIGHTS

Terri Blackstock has another fantastic Christian Mystery Series- Sun Coast Chronicles. There are four books in the series, Evidence of Mercy is about a rich, arrogant pilot who wants to buy a young lawyer's plane. They take a test drive and it ends in a plane crash as they try to land due to sabotage of the landing gear, they survive and you will be surprised at the changes that make in their lives. Justifiable Means has a young gal who accused a person of rape because of what had happened to her sister earlier. Ulterior Motives is about a person who has been set up as a murderer. What he goes through in trying to find the real murderer will keep you reading. Presumption of Guilt is about a newspaper reporter who wants to expose what is happening at the St. Clair Children's Home. All four books detail how faith in God brings them through many trials. Some of them bring non-believers turning to God with the help of Christians. HAPPY READING!!



Marian Brelje

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## LOVE PATCHES

Even though we officially ended our Quilting season for the Summer, we so enjoy our time together, that we are gathering informally to quilt and fellowship together.

If you would like to come hang out with us, and get a feel for what we do, please stop in Thursday Mornings.

Please let us know if someone you know could use a quilt. We have plenty and you can pick it out!! We were blessed to have Brenda and Tricia join us. Many hands make quick work.



Marian Brelje

*14 Quilts getting ready to go to  
Lutheran Island Camp for the 2026  
Quilt Auction.*



### ***Love Patches Quilting***

*L to R- Marlys O, Kay N, Marian B, Amory A, LaVonne S, Tricia A, Jennifer A. Brenda W, Marilyn G and Joan L (not pictured)*

# FELLOWSHIP

*"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."  
1 Corinthian 1:9*

June Fellowship Luncheon will be held at the Muddy Boot in Forada on June 3<sup>rd</sup> @ 11:30am.  
Join us for good food and fellowship.

## Mark your calendars for our future events:

- Sunday August 23<sup>rd</sup> - Outdoor church service followed by picnic meal at Brophy Park.
- Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> - Polka Fest
- Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> - Progressive Dinner *NEW this YEAR-great time to get together.*
- Saturday October 31<sup>st</sup> - Trunk or Treat
- February 7, 2027- Combination of Chili Cookoff and Game Day

Come join us for one or all of these opportunities for fellowship.

Our Fellowship Team meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:15pm.  
Come and help us plan events for our church family! Next meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm  
If you have questions, please call me at 952-686-3575 Denise Armbruster

We look forward to seeing you!



Denise  
Armbruster

## SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the Picnic at the Church's Outdoor Service scheduled for Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at Lake Brophy Park.  
Please call or text Danielle Meinert at 320.491.3009 if you are interested in helping.

# T.I.M-Together in Missions



## FISHING TOURNAMENT & FISH FRY DINNER

Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

Trinity Lutheran Church, Carlos,  
Fishing Tournament

\$30/fishing adult, *includes fish-fry meal*

Fishing Registration = Any time between 8-9am

Fish Fry Dinner *(all you can eat)*

Begins at 4pm

\$15.00 discount ticket *meal only*

Discount deadline for purchase June 21st

\$20 on-site \*children <5 years old eat free\*

*Purchase tickets in the church office.*

Golfers start getting  
your teams together  
four August

Fishing Tournament  
and Fish Fry  
*Purchase your tickets  
in the church office!*

**Save the Date!**  
1st Annual  
**Together in Missions**  
— 4 PERSON SCRAMBLE —  
**Golf Tournament**

**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**ENTRY FEE  
\$100  
PER PERSON**

**REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:**

- 18 HOLES OF GOLF
- POWER CART
- DINNER WITH AWARDS CEREMONY TO FOLLOW

**REGISTRATION STARTS 12:00 NOON**

**SHOTGUN START 1:00 PM**

**DINNER & AWARDS CEREMONY 5:30 PM**

All proceeds will be delivered to one or more missionaries sponsored by the 14 churches of the Alexandria Circuit of LCMS.

**QUESTIONS? CONTACT:** Dale Buchholz at 320.760.8280 or Tonia Dittberner at 320.815.0850

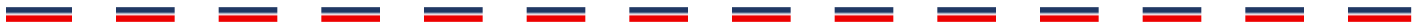
**Registration details TO BE PROVIDED SOON!**

*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*  
MATTHEW 6:21



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Jerry Rumohr	June	01	Eli Kremer	June	16
Bob Olson	June	02	Evy Schreiber	June	18
Grady Starzl	June	02	Harlan Lobitz	June	19
Jean Christianson	June	02	Susan Breitreutz	June	20
Layla Simonson	June	02	Rikka Krenz	June	21
Zeke Rodriguez	June	06	David Madison	June	22
Karl Hausmann	June	08	Darlene Murray	June	24
Myles Lipp	June	08	Eli Samari	June	24
Riaden Luedeke	June	10	Nancy Gesell	June	26
Jared Gesell	June	11	Julie Duncan	June	27
Chuck Betterman	June	12	Isaac Heckert	June	27
Eve Sprengeler	June	12	Jim Deakins	June	28
Denise Armbruster	June	13	Ann Smith	June	29
Chris Brown	June	14	Pete Kremer	June	30
Clarence Rasmussen	June	15	Wanda Swenson	June	30
Jonathan Jahnke	June	15	Robert Robotcek	June	30
Shawna Kohls	June	16	Naomi E. Luedeke	June	30



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

Lynn and Darlene Murray	Jun-01	Elizabeth Ortiz and Austin	Jun-16
Lee and Carol Barenz	Jun-02	Bret and Hailey Duncan	Jun-18
Paul and Geri Luedeke	Jun-05	Alan and Pam Bettermann	Jun-18
Ronald and Audrey Rogers	Jun-05	Rod and Janet Seward	Jun-20
Jan and Joyce Hausmann	Jun-07	Mike and Sarah Sprengeler	Jun-21
Steve and Shirley Johnson	Jun-11	Lewis and Brianna Varnum	Jun-22
Jason and Denise Norheim	Jun-12	David and Tricia Anhalt	Jun-22
Lydia and Ryan Jonas	Jun-12	Derek and Kiana Tintes	Jun-26
Kerrie and Scott Hieb	Jun-13	Henry 'James' and Eleora Mathiowetz	Jun-29
Howard and Susan Breitreutz	Jun-15	Edward and Rachael Buchholz	Jun-30

# June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00am Worship	1	2	3 10:00am Bible Study 11:30am Fellowship Luncheon	4 Valley Counseling 6:30pm UPLIFTERS ALEXANDRIA	5	6
7 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion	8 4:15pm LWML Lead Meeting	9 5:15pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm Executive Council Meet	10 10:00am Bible Study	11 Valley Counseling	12	13
14 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion	15 6:30pm LWML Meeting	16 7:00pm Elders Meet	17 NO Bible Study	18 Valley Counseling 6:30pm UPLIFTERS ALEXANDRIA	19	20
21 TIM Fish Fry Ticket Discount Deadline 9:00am Worship	22 LWML District Convention	23 LWML District Convention 4:30pm Worship Team practice	24 LWML District Convention NO Bible Study	25 Valley Counseling 6:30pm VBS Planning	26	27 8:00am T.I.M. Fishing Tourn Registration 4:00pm T.I.M. Fish Fry <i>all you can eat</i>
28 9:00am Worship	29	30	1 10:00am Bible Study	2 Valley Counseling/L ibrary	3	4