

GOOD SHEPHERD  
LUTHERAN CHURCH



RECEIVE GRACE  
CONFESS CHRIST  
BE THE CHURCH

Good Shepherd Family  
Newsletter  
April 2025

# YOU'RE INVITED.

APRIL NEWSLETTER 2025

EASTER IS COMING! Easter is the long-awaited celebration of Jesus' resurrection. After 40 days of tempered repentance and reflection we get to rejoice and celebrate receiving and finding victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil through Jesus' resurrection. This is probably too small of an analogy, but Easter is like the sigh of relief for the Christian hope. All God's promises once again find their yes in Jesus. But before that joyful "Alleluia!" comes Lent and Holy Week.

As a Church community and family, we are called to witness **all** of Jesus' life. Christmas and Easter and much easier times to witness about Jesus' life. But this year I'd like to take time to emphasize one part of Jesus' life that is a bit harder to witness about, Good Friday. In this newsletter I want to invite you to a new opportunity called the CrossWalk. My hope is that Good Friday—and all of Holy Week—would extend beyond church walls and into our daily lives. The CrossWalk is a time to walk, reflect, and pray together about Jesus' suffering and sacrifice on Good Friday. It will strengthen our church family and witness to our community how Jesus' death reconciled the world to God.

Deuteronomy 11:18-19 gives us a picture of how God's people organized their life when they received the 10 commandments which gets at the spirit of what I hope the CrossWalk will do for our church family. "Put these, my words, on your heart and in your soul, bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be as an emblem between your eyes. And you shall teach them to your children, talking to them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you're life down, and when you rise..."

We will do this by walking two miles round trip from the Church property and back. The walk will include Scripture, music, silence, and prayer—both personal and communal. The group will take turns carrying a cross during the two-mile walk. Upon returning to Good Shepherd, we will have a devotion outside and then a light lunch in the fellowship hall. The CrossWalk is open to all ages provided that are able to walk two miles. This event is open to anyone, not just those from Good Shepherd. Our sister congregations in the circuit have received invitations to join us. Even if you can't join this time, I hope we'll continue this tradition annually to reflect on Jesus' sacrifice.

God's blessings to you this month of April, as we near the end of Lent and prepare to celebrate Easter.

Joyfully His,  
Pastor Jonathan Jahnke

# YOU'RE INVITED.



All ages from our church family are invited to a new Good Friday event called the Cross-Walk.

On Friday April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00a.m.

we will gather at Church to begin our time of reflection.

We will then make a two mile walk together taking turns carrying a cross.

As we walk, we reflect on Jesus' words from Matthew 5:41:

'If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two.'

And Matthew 16:24 "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

This event invites us to explore our faith through exercise, and contemplation honoring and meditating on the significance of Christ's sacrifice.



YOU'RE INVITED.



EASTER  
**Breakfast**

WE WILL BE SERVING  
PANCAKES AND SAUSAGES  
ALONG WITH FRESH FRUIT  
AND REFRESHMENTS FROM  
8AM-9AM

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS  
HELPING FUND NYG TRIP  
IN NEW ORLEANS THIS SUMMER

FREE WILL DONATION



# ELDERS CORNER

## **Finding Real Faith in a World of Counterfeits:** **Lessons from Broken** **by Jonathan Fisk**

Back in December, Pastor recommended the book “Broken” by Jonathan Fisk. I read it (or listened to it on Audible, rather) and found it to be cleverly insightful. In today's world, it's easy to get confused about what true faith looks like. Pastor Fisk's book shines a light on this confusion by exposing seven counterfeit "Christian" rules that can lead us astray. These rules might sound good, but they actually pull us away from the heart of Christianity: Jesus Christ. He explores how Satan's old tricks still deceive us today.

### **The Seven Counterfeit Rules**

Fisk identifies seven lies that masquerade as Christian principles but actually distort our faith.

Here's a brief look at each:

1. **Mysticism**: This emphasizes personal experiences over Scripture. Remember the serpent's question in Eden: "Did God really say?" (Genesis 3:1). Satan still tempts us to doubt God's Word and trust our feelings instead.
2. **Moralism**: This reduces Christianity to being a good person. While morality is important, trying to earn God's love through good deeds leaves us exhausted and misses the point of grace.
3. **Self-Centeredness**: When faith becomes about our preferences rather than God's truth, we're replaying Eden's rebellion. Satan whispered, "You'll be like God!" (Genesis 3:5), and we still fall for it.
4. **Prosperity**: This false gospel promises wealth and success as signs of God's favor. But God's blessings are not limited to our bank accounts.
5. **Spirituality Lite**: This version of faith seeks peace and happiness without commitment to Christ. Real peace comes from Him alone.
6. **Lawlessness**: Disregarding God's boundaries might seem freeing, but it leads to chaos. God's laws protect us.
7. **Rationalism**: This elevates human reason above divine revelation. Since when is God limited to our understanding?

## **Satan's Strategy: Twisting Good Things**

Satan's tactics haven't changed much since Eden. Here's how he operates:

1) **Twist the Truth**: He starts with a half-truth. In Eden, God said, "Don't eat from this one tree." Satan reframed it: "God's holding out on you!"

Today, he distorts God's gifts:

- i) Sex becomes "Do whatever feels right."
- b) Work defines our worth.
- c) Church is just a social club.

2) **Fake the Real Thing**: Satan creates counterfeit versions of true faith:

- a) True prayer becomes empty rituals.
- b) Grace is replaced with "God helps those who help themselves."
- c) Worship turns into emotional hype.

3) **Divide and Conquer**: Satan knows we're weaker alone.

He uses shame or pride to isolate us. Fisk reminds us that real faith thrives in community.

## **Staying Unbroken: Jesus and Everyday Faith**

Here's the good news: We're not helpless against these counterfeits.

Fisk points us back to the basics:

1. **Keep It About Jesus**: The gospel isn't a self-help plan—it's a rescue mission. When Satan whispers, "Did God really say...?", answer like Jesus did: "It is written..." (Matthew 4:4). Keep your Bible close.
2. **Embrace Grace**: God works through ordinary things: Sunday sermons, communion, and your friend's prayers. You don't need mystical experiences—just His Word and promises.
3. **Check Your Heart**: Ask yourself:
  - Am I serving to earn God's love... or because He already loves me?
  - Do I treat church like a spiritual vending machine?
  - Am I trying to "fix" myself... or letting Jesus renew me?
4. **Fight Together**: Satan hates united churches. Let's support each other in truth. Ask someone, "How's God been real to you lately through His Word?"

Fisk's book isn't about doom and gloom—it's freedom.

The devil's lies lose power when we cling to what's unbreakable: Christ's love for broken people.

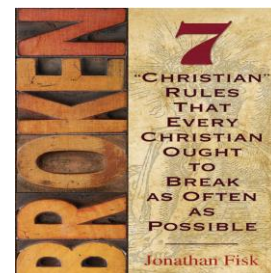
So next time culture (or your doubts) shout, "Did God really say...?", hit pause.

Open the Bible. Pray honestly. And remember: Satan's a liar, but Jesus called him "the father of lies" for a reason (John 8:44), and we are on the winning side, so let's live like it.



*Brandon Luedeke*

P.S. If you're looking for your next read (or listen), give "Broken" by Jonathan Fisk a try.



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320.219.2129



# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

## Mission Council

SUNDAY APRIL 6TH

10:15-11:15

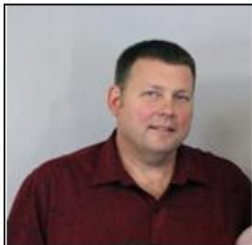
FELLOWSHIP HALL

I invite you all to our Mission Council on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Come and hear what all of the various Mission Groups are about and what they have been working on so far in 2025. This is a great way for you to learn more about the happenings and the people of our Good Shepherd family.

*SEE YOU THERE!*

*Loren Boysen  
Chairman*

### CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2025



Loren Boysen  
Chairman



Dave Bertek  
Vice Chair



Evelyn Beulke  
Treasure



Stephanie Bertek  
Secretary



Denise Norheim  
Council Member



Gary Lips  
Council Member



Kevin Mork  
Council Member



Bill Teschendorf  
Council Member



Carol Barenz  
Council Member



Pastor Jonathan  
Jahnke



# TREASURE


Weekly Income and Attendance info will be emailed on Thursdays afternoon!

If you have not been receiving this email, please inform the Church office asap so, you may be added to our list.

Executive Council Monthly Minutes /Treasure reports are posted on Bulletin board in hallway by Fellowship Hall.

<b>Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Fund Balance February 2025</b>			
		<b>FUNDS</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>
Current Month's Offerings		\$26,536.24	
Year To Date Total Offerings		\$59,911.07	
Thrivent Choice Dollars - YTD		\$508.00	
Miscellaneous Income - YTD		\$0.00	
LCEF Account Transfer- YTD		\$0.00	
Current Month's General Expense			\$28,664.74
Year to Date Total Expense			\$61,046.70
Current Month Net Less Expense	(\$1,671.00)		
Year to Date Net Less Expense	(\$627.63)		

**HOW TO GIVE USING VANCO MOBILE**  
(Support our ministries from anywhere.)

<b>Go to the App Store or Google Play to download the Vanco Mobile app for free.</b>		<b>GET STARTED Scan me</b>
<b>1) Create your</b>	login and password	
<b>2) Search for Our Church</b>	Enter our church's name and click Search Then, select our church	
<b>3) Select Your Fund and Amount</b>	Select your fund and donation frequency, then select your payment method.	
<b>4) Enter Payment Method</b>	You can save this payment method for future donations.	
<b>5) Choose to Cover Processing Fees</b>	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.	
<b>6) Complete Your Donation</b>	Review and complete your gift by clicking Submit.	

**Pick up a flyer in the Narthex by the entry door for step-by-step instructions!**



*Evelyn Beulke,  
Treasurer*

# ALTAR GUILD

We have now observed Ash Wednesday and the Sundays in Lent, leading up to HOLY WEEK: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday look at the events that led up to Maundy Thursday, when we remember the institution of the Lord's Supper in memory of Christ's Passion. Good Friday follows with us remembering the climactic event in the life of our Lord on earth as a man, the crucifixion. Saturday, we see our Savior resting in the tomb. This week focuses on the suffering and death of our Savior and the importance that it has for us and our salvation.

Easter is the high point of the Church year and has been 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.

Please Thank Danielle Meinert and Marian Brelje for their care of the Altar in March. Tracy Boysen, Brenda Wysoski and Carrie Carlsrud will care for the Altar in April. They will arrange all of the flowers that are ordered for the Easter Sunday Victory Garden, which will beautify the Altar.

In preparation for Good Friday and the rest of the weekend...we will need help covering and hanging the black drapes over the windows and Cross after the Maundy Thursday service in preparation for the Good Friday service, also Saturday morning taking them down so the flowers can be arranged for the Victory Garden.



*Amory Anderson*



# SUNDAY SCHOOL

Happy Spring from Sunday School! March went by so fast!

Olivia from Lutheran Island Camp came to visit us and shared some camp songs and games with all the kids! We look forward to seeing her again later this year!



Our friend Swift, the Falcon tells us that *Jesus surprises us!* Swift helps us to remember the bible verse, John 14:6. It states "Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life.

No one can come to the Father except through me.'"

Looking ahead to April, the children will be part of the procession and singing at the beginning of service on Palm Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>. **Parents, please have the kids in the education wing at 8:40 am that Sunday so that we can distribute palm branches and get the kids ready to go.**

There will be group Sunday School with Easter crafts that Sunday after church. Also, a reminder that there will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, enjoy that time with family celebrating the risen Lord!



*Myah Kremer*

# LWML

## *Lutheran Women in Missions*

Spring was/is a busy time for our Lutheran Women in Mission. In February we were finally able to meet and do our gifting as well as plan other Spring activities.

Below is a list of the giving to mission this year:

\$500.00 T.I.M. (Together in Missions for the Zone)

\$200.00 Youth with a Mission

\$200.00 Life Connections

\$500.00 Flooring in the Fellowship Hall

\$100.00 Alexandria High School Food Shelf

\$100.00 Discovery (Alexandria Junior High School) Food Shelf

\$1,600.00 Total amount given to missions.

We are blessed by many members of our congregation who help in many ways with the Good Shepherd Rummage Sale, Bake Sale and Coffee Shop which is the major fundraiser.

March 17, 2025 at 6:30p.m. was our Lutheran Women in Mission Prayer Service. This year Past Jahnke led us in this service with help from Marcia Lips, Marian Brelje, Ann Smith, Lavonne Schimmelpfennig and Sue Nelson as pianist. Marlys Olson, Evelyn Beulke and Marcia Lips provided desserts for fellowship time. Other members helped with clean up. Thank you all for your participation and help!

**April 21, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m. is our next meeting with Anna Olson our guest speaker on the Amish Lifestyle.**

April 27, 2025 Good Shepherd LWML hosts the *Alexandria Zone Spring Rally* which will be held in the afternoon, yes, it will be Sunday afternoon. Pastor Lovejoy from Grand Rapids will be our guest speaker.



Barb Schuneman,  
President, Good Shepherd LWML  
"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Psalm 100:2



# LWML SPRING RALLY

## **PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD & Ephesians 6**

The Sword of the Spirit

Shield of Faith

Breastplate of Righteousness

Helmet of salvation

Belt of Truth

Boots of Peace



Our LWML Spring Rally Ingathering donation focus will be for Someplace Safe. Interested in helping? Donations should be brought to the ingathering at the rally on April 27, 2025



Questions?  
See Kari Kremer

### **General Needs**

- Gas station gift cards
- Grocery store gift cards
- Gift cards for local clothing stores, restaurants, discount stores, Walmart etc.

- VISA gift cards/prepaid cards
- Laundry detergent and HE laundry detergent

### **Infant and Toddler**

- Diapers (especially sizes 2-6)
- Pull-Ups sizes 2T-5T

- Baby wipes
- Baby shampoo /• Baby lotion

### **Personal Care and Hygiene**

- Full size bottles of unopened adult shampoo and conditioner
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Unopened body wash/soap
- Razors and shaving cream
- Shower sponges

- Body lotion
- Brushes or combs
- Mouth Wash
- Deodorant
- Feminine care products

### **Household**

- Cleaning supplies: soaps, mops, brooms, trash bags
- Air mattresses
- All sizes of sheets, comforters and blankets

- Handmade quilts
- New towels: bath, hand, washcloth, etc.
- Paper products: paper towels, toilet paper

### **Arts, Crafts, Learning, Entertainment**

- Notebooks, journals, sketch pads, pens, and pencils
- Art supplies, markers, crayons, color pencils, coloring books
- Family board games, playing cards, puzzles

- Picture books, child and teen books, inspirational/empowering books
- Sports equipment for all ages

# SHARING LOVE...

## Gift of Books from the Library....

There are four books in the Sunrise Series by Karen Kinsbury, Sunrise, Sunset, Someday and Summer. They are about an actor who was struggling to be a Christian in Hollywood. He was adopted by missionaries as a baby. Through several circumstances he managed to find his birth family but he was afraid to contact them because he didn't want the publicity to affect them. He went into a small theater and watched a great performance in the small town. After filming a movie in the town he reconnected with his birth family, married a girl in that town and decided what he really wanted was a simple life in a small town.

## Fellowship

As we look forward to spring, please mark your calendars for May 11 when we will have a church picnic. That is also the last day of Sunday School. More information on that will come next month. We decided with the suppers during Lent we will not be scheduling a Fellowship Luncheon. If anyone has ideas for a fun event for the congregation, please let us know or come to the next meeting which will be on April 8 at 5pm.

Special Thanks to everyone who has graciously helped out with cookies and donations to the Sunday cookie fund.



*Marian Brelje*

## Love Patches sharing Love!!



Jillian loved her quilt of red hearts and shapes. Pictured with her parents Ralph and Cheryl Erickson along with Marlys Olson Member of Love Patches.

## Love Patches

We have completed many quilts for Love Patches this past year. We feel so blessed to be able to offer a little comfort for people going through hard times. It is extra special to have individuals pick out a special quilt (we have many to pick from) for their friends or relatives. Please let us know if you have someone who needs a quilt. We have also given a few quilts to the police department that they can give to individuals needing a quilt. With the closing of Joann's stores where we could get many deals, materials for backings will cost more. Next fall we will be asking for an occasional Thrivent Card to keep our expenses down.

# LCMS NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING EVENTS AND FUNDSRAISING

Help raise funds for our youth to attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

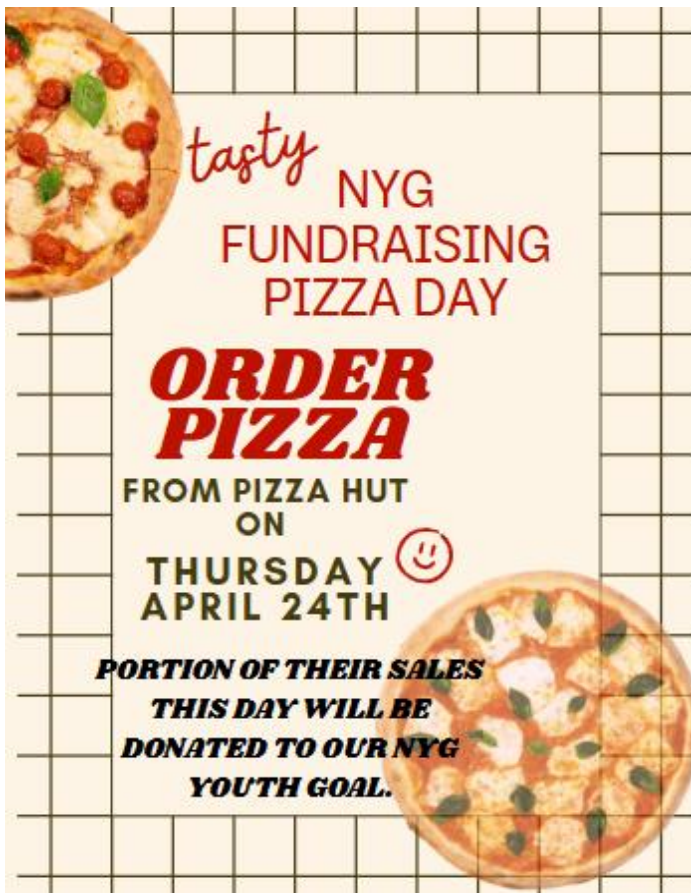
Make Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>  
Your family PIZZA NIGHT.

Simple as 1-2:

1 order your pizza at PIZZA HUT in  
Alexandria, MN

2 enjoy

*Pizza Hut will donate a portion of their  
sales to our NYG Youth goal.*



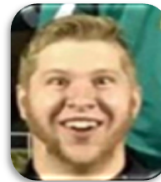
Donate your spare change or bills to help our  
Youth attend the LCMS National Youth Gathering in  
New Orleans this July!

Place your donation in either jar for

**Pastor Jon**

or

**Amanda Thurk**



The Fullest Jar/most cash on **July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025** will be the wonderful  
recipient of a delicious pie in the face!  
(located in the Narthex)



Gather your loose change  
Check your chair cushions  
Or under your couch  
cushions and load the jar  
to overflowing for the  
winner of the PIE !!!

*in the face*





# MISSIONS

## Other events

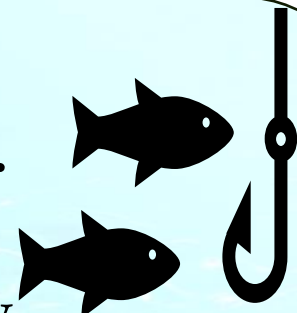
Join the Duncan family for Andrea's Baby Shower.....



**ALEXANDRIA CIRCUIT T.I.M.**  
*(Together in Missions)*

**Fishing Tournament and Fish Fry**

**June 14, 2025**



Next Planning Meeting  
April 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:00pm @ Good Shepherd Lutheran Church



# MISSIONS

## Other events

**Weber / St John**  
**Harmony in Faith**  
**Sunday, May 4th, 6:00pm**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**2702 MN-29, Alexandria, MN 56308**



Weber / St John was born from a Craigslist ad between musician and composer Kurt Weber, inspired by his time overseas in the US Army, and Ash St John, a classically trained violinist. Since their first meeting in 2020, they've bonded over a shared love of music and their faith in Jesus.

Specializing in hymn arrangements, they see their music as a way to serve Jesus and bring joy to others, it is their joy to share their gift whenever and wherever they can.

MISSIONS  
Other events

# Save the Date

## Good Shepherd Picnic

Honoring all women on Mother's Day

SUN 11 MAY





# CELEBRATIONS



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:



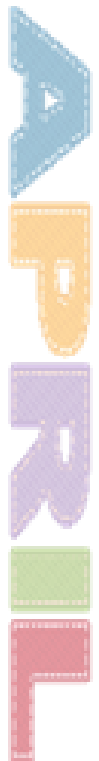
April 4	Amber Johnson Finan Jonas Noah Tabbert	April 15	Jordyn Wicht
April 5	Brynn Erickson Dominik Meyer Cheryl Schwanke	April 17	Jay Trebelhorn
April 6	Justin Girard Annie Trebelhorn Ricky Walberg Jr.	April 18	Brandon Luedeke
April 9	Archer Girard	April 19	Colton Carlsrud
April 10	Paul Luedeke	April 22	Joyce Hausmann Ray Bohn
April 11	Irene Roth Rochelle Tvrdik	April 24	Sarah Smith Julia Sprengeler
April 14	Leandra Boysen Roman Jonas	April 26	Anne Isder
		April 27	Evan Larson Lee Barenz
		April 28	Pam Bettermann Aaron Runge
		April 29	Marlene Froemming Abigail Nelson



## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

April 1	Jason and Renee Haugen
April 2	Ralph and Cheryl Erickson
April 8	Charlie and Val Christopherson
April 10	Larry and Joan Lobitz
April 17	Bob and Karen Nolz

# GOOD SHEPHERD HAPPENINGS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30 9:00am Worship 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School <b>11:00am CONFIRMATION RETREAT</b></p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1 4:30pm Worship Team Practice 7:00pm T.L.M. Planning Fishing Tourn</p>	<p>2 10:00am Bible Study 5:00pm LENTEN SUPPER 7:00pm LENTEN WORSHIP</p>	<p>3 9:00am Love Patches</p>	<p>4 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 9:00am Worship with Communion <b>10:15am Mission and Ministry Council</b> 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School</p>	<p>7 6:30pm VBS Planning</p>	<p>8 9:00am GS Moms Group 4:30pm Worship Team Practice 5:00pm Fellowship Team 6:30pm Executive Council</p>	<p>9 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm LENTEN SUPPER 7:00pm LENTEN WORSHIP</p>	<p>10 9:00am Love Patches</p>	<p>11 9:30am Church Reserved Life Coop</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 <b>CONFIRMATION SUNDAY</b> PALM SUNDAY 9:00am Worship / Communion 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School</p>	<p>14 4:15pm LWML Lead Meeting</p>	<p>15 4:30pm Worship Team Practice 7:00pm Elders Meet</p>	<p>16 10:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>17 9:00am Love Patches 7:00pm MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP *Worship team singing*</p>	<p>18 9:00am CROSS-WALK 7:00pm GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20 7:00am Sunrise Easter Worship/Communion 8:00am NRG Easter Breakfast 9:00am Easter Worship/ Communion NO Bible Study NO Sunday School</p>	<p>21 6:30pm LWML Meeting</p>	<p>22 9:00am GS Moms Group 4:30pm Worship Team Practice 7:00pm Fair Booth Meeting</p>	<p>23 10:00am Bible Study 12:00pm PHALL Reserved PEO</p>	<p>24 9:00am Love Patches</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 9:00am Worship/*Worship Team* 10:15am Bible Study 10:15am Sunday School 11:00am PHALL Reserved-Andrea Dahl Baby Shower 2:30pm LWML Alexandria Zone Spring Rally</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 No Worship Team Practice</p>	<p>30 10:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>1 9:00am Love Patches</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>