

Voice of Faith

FEBRUARY 2012

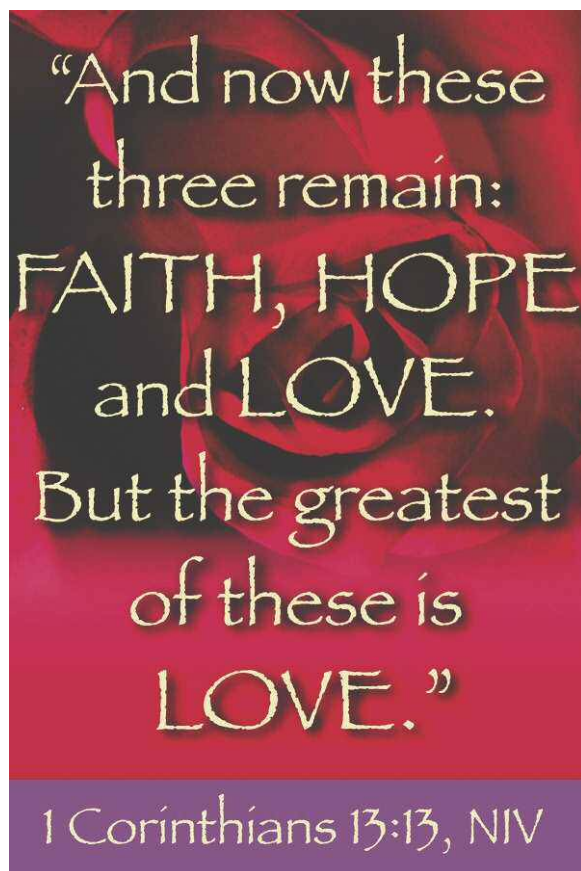


431 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005
Phone: 847-253-4839
Email: pastomgr@aol.com
Website: faithlutheran-ah.org

Sunday Services
8:30 & 11:00 AM

Christian Education Hour
9:45—10:45 AM

Office Hours
8:30 AM—4:00 PM



Pastor, Thomas J. Sanders
Pastor Emeritus, C. David Stuckmeyer
Minister of Cong. Life, Jim Harbke
Parish Nurse, Margie Mayfield
Ministers of Music, Michael Gagne &
Robin Meredith-Kramer
Secretary, Lynne Manning
LCC Comfort Dog, Samson

Our Mission

"Partners with Christ in Building His Kingdom"

Our Vision

"Bringing Children and Families To the Love and Care of Christ"

Voice of Faith

JUST WONDERING



There has been one reoccurring theme in my thoughts lately. It started during the Christmas season when someone put a comment into the comment box outside the church office. Their comment was, "Become a more God-centered family and church." While I am not completely certain why that comment was made, I have some suspicions. Then in staff meeting we got on the topic of what it means to be the body of Christ and how does the body care for its parts?

There seems to be a fine line between caring about and for people and meddling in places we have not been invited to go. And just recently I ran across an article about what people want to experience in church. The author said people are looking for five things:

Connecting with God – experiencing God's presence in their daily lives;

Experience Transformation – wanting their faith to change their lives in some positive way;

Gain New Insights – growing in knowledge of what God's will is in their life and/or understanding some theological idea that they did not understand well before;

Feeling Cared For – wanting to be a part of a group and feeling connected to others in that group in positive and caring ways;

Helping the Poor – touching the lives of those in need outside of the congregation.

In 35 years of ministry, I think those very things have been my hope and prayer for every congregation that I have served. I believe that our worship together needs to bring us into the presence of God as His people. That in that hour we are together in the sanctuary of Faith, the words we say, the hymns we sing, the music we hear, the prayers we pray, and the holy meal we share need in some way help us experience God's real presence in our lives. And that somehow we take that experience into our daily lives and in our own private devotions and prayers and in odd moments of the day we feel God's presence. Hopefully, knowing God's presence will in some way shape our lives to be a better a person than we were the day before. I know that growth will come as the Spirit leads us into a deeper understanding of God's Word and will. Often that will come from the sermons we hear, the Bible classes we attend, and what we read in our private devotions. For me, the pressure lies in making sure that somehow my sermons and Bible classes give you that opportunity for growth and insight. Caring for one another and for those in need in this world is a constant thing we strive for as a staff. Not only in our caring for you the members of Faith, but also in helping you discover ways to care for one another. But it also reminds us that our focus cannot simply be inward, we must look outwardly too. As the Body of Christ, His presence in our world today, we seek to share his love and care with those who need it.

So my question is how do we do these things better? What can and should we be doing? The Board of Directors is talking about goals for the coming year. It would seem that our goals need to center around those five things people expect from their church. How can we do them better? How can we do them in light of our mission to "partner with Christ in building His Kingdom" and our vision of "sharing the love and care of Christ with children and families?" I look to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, for your comments and insights. Please share them with me by dropping me a note or an email. How can we be all that God has called us to be in 2012? How we answer these questions will go a long way to help us be God-centered.

Pastor Tom



“I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother and in your mother and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I (Paul) remind you (Timothy) to fan into flame the gift of God...for God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. “

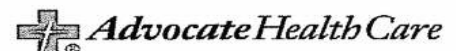
II Timothy 1:5-7

Reflecting on the spiritual heritage passed down to Timothy, I recently happened upon a fascinating document: the history of Faith Lutheran Church, written by John Schroeder's father. It awed me that 210 people attended the initial worship service in February of 1947 and that by the fall of the same year, the congregation had increased to 500. DOUBLED! And within the next ten years Sunday school enrollment would surpass 700 children. The theme of that first worship service highlighted the Synod's motto, "Each one, Reach one." Obviously, the newly born church took the challenge to heart.

A few pages further I learned of the Faith Blood Bank, established in 1963. The blood drive which took place in May '76 resulted in 84 pints of blood and with a well-supplied blood bank, members were encouraged to call the church office if they were in need.* It was noted that Faith had replaced blood for many of its families, the cost of which would have amounted to thousands of dollars.

So, where am I going with this? I believe that we can still reach others, as was magnificently demonstrated in 1947. The surrounding community has grown considerably since that time and nearly all of us are related to, or in contact with people who are unchurched. Secondly, I have a renewed commitment to our annual blood drive which has been struggling to reach goals of 25 to 30. (My professional guess is that we as a congregation have easily utilized as many pints in 2011 for various health/surgical challenges.) If each one of us makes a commitment to reach another, in both the physical and spiritual arenas, we will be a healthier community. Please consider your involvement on Sunday, February 19 for our annual blood drive. If you donate regularly, would you consider inviting someone else to donate as well? Or if you've never donated, might there be another who would participate in this with you? Thanks in advance for your commitment to others!

Margie



*By the way, we aren't taking calls to the church office any longer if you are in need of blood, but please call with questions about eligibility, donating, etc.

Arlington Heights Teen Center

On November 28, 2011, the Teen Center in Arlington Heights reopened under the direction of a Christian group, Campus Life. Members of our youth group have met with the director, Brian Booth, and our Mission Committee made a generous financial donation to help support this endeavor. Presently, the Teen Center is open from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Volunteers are an important part of the teen center. Faith wants and needs to be involved. Mr. Harbke has scheduled a meeting with Brian to determine the volunteer needs. Maybe you could consider a short term activity such as teaching a cooking, computer, or art class. Look for further information and details in the upcoming weeks on how you can become a Teen Center volunteer.

LEGO Club

LEGO Club was held in January under the direction of Pat Kopp and Dennis Vick. We desire to continue LEGO Club on a monthly basis, but volunteers to lead and to guide the children participating are needed.

The proposed Saturday dates for 2012 are:

- February 11th
- March 10th
- April 14th
- May 12th
- June 9th
- July 14th
- August 11th
- September 8th
- October 13th
- November 10th
- December 8th

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one of these Saturdays. A sign-up sheet can be found just outside the LEGO Room on the lower level of the Education building.

Have you noticed.....

Recently a new bulletin board display was placed in Fellowship Hall. The display shows pictures of the children sponsored by members of Faith. Along with the picture is information about each child, including where they live.

Please feel free to add to the display. If you are sponsoring a child, whether through Childcare Worldwide, Compassion International, or another organization, we would love to have you add this child to the bulletin board.

If you have any questions, contact Joan Ahr or Jim Harbke.

Thanks to all!

This past Advent and Christmas season was a wonderful time here at Faith. It was a time of joy and blessing. It would not have been so, if it were not for so many of you.

I want to thank:

- *The Woman of Faith, the Mission Committee, Caring Connections and especially Don Henning for the cookies, gift and cards to those who are shut in;
- *Those who contributed to the LOVE offering – we were able to help out a number of brothers and sisters here at Faith have a better Christmas because of the outpouring of your love;
- *Those who donated to the Uptown Giving Tree;
- *Those who decorated and undecorated the church for the season;
- *Those who participated in the Dec. 18 service, "The Story of Bethlehem," especially the children, youth, and adults who took on roles, the L.I.G.H.T. children, the choir, the bell choir, and the soloists for making this an inspiring service;
- *The choir and bells for their hard work and beautiful concert, "The Sounds of the Season;"
- *The ushers, greeters, Communion assistants, readers, altar guild, counters and coffee an' people who faithfully served during this busy time of year;
- *The staff for all they did to help make this season a true celebration of our Lord's birth;
- *And to all of you who worshipped the new born King with heart and voice and gifts.
- *And most of all to God for giving us a reason to celebrate in the midst of the dark and cold month of December.

CHRISTMAS 2012

While the time of services is usually not hard to determine for most of the year, Christmas Eve always seems to be a challenge. With family celebrations, *when* we celebrate the "Reason for the season" seems to become an issue. For a number of years, here at Faith, Christmas Eve was celebrated at 5:30 P.M. and at 10:00 P.M. (11 had been the standard time, but attendance began to drop dramatically a number of years ago.) The staff noticed that 10 P.M. attendance had dwindled to about 50, and thought maybe there were better times, so in 2011, we tried 3:30 and 7:00 P.M. Attendance at those two services was about equal and did not differ much in totals from previous years. Several people, however, commented that neither time fit well with their schedules.



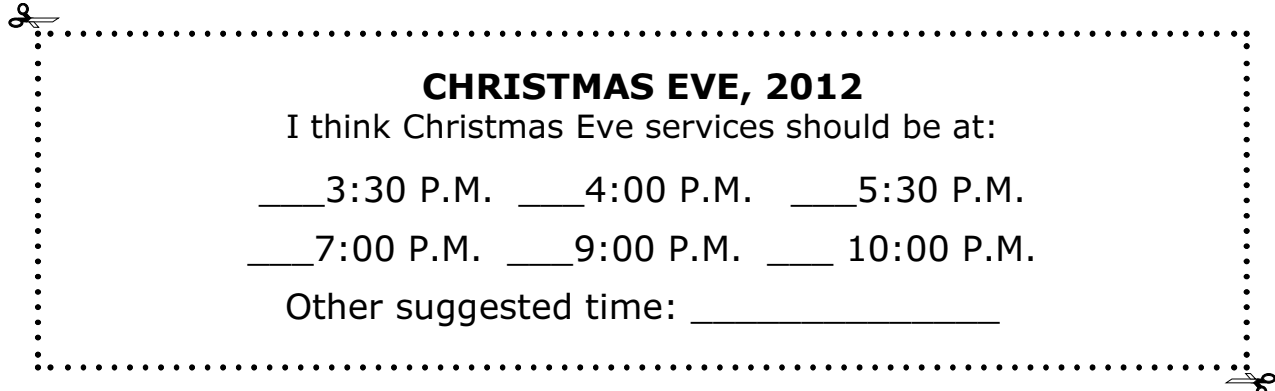
Christmas Eve in 2012, is on a Monday. (Yes, that means we will have church on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday that week). Since Christmas Eve falls on a weekday, the staff would like some input on when the services should be. Below is a quick survey of times for Christmas Eve services. Please indicate the time you would prefer to worship by marking that time slot with a "1" and put a "2" on your second choice. The surveys may be returned to the church office by placing them on the secretary's desk or placing them in the offering plate. Thanks for your input!

CHRISTMAS EVE, 2012

I think Christmas Eve services should be at:

- 3:30 P.M. 4:00 P.M. 5:30 P.M.
 7:00 P.M. 9:00 P.M. 10:00 P.M.

Other suggested time: _____



From the Treasurer From the Treasurer

This month's report contains hardly any numbers. If you're looking for details, and lots of them, pick up a copy of the Treasurer's Report in church or check it out on our website.

A few words this month about designated contributions which are donations made for a specific purpose. Most of our income is undesignated and goes straight to the general fund to pay the bills. Designated income pays for specific bills or is forwarded for a specific purpose. Several examples from last year include the Back-To-School program, tables and chairs for Fellowship Hall and housing for the Ugandan Children's Choir. We receive regular contributions to the Capital Improvement, Renovation and Education Funds as well as the Mission Committee. All of these donations are very helpful and greatly appreciated.

I'd like to highlight three specific purposes that could use some help which are our Health and Comfort Dog Ministries and the Guest Musician account. Our Health Ministry, run by our parish nurse Margie, has been paid for by the Behrens Fund for the last couple of years but that fund is running low. Our comfort dog Samson was covered by Pastor Tom in last month's issue and our Guest Musician account has a pretty low budget. We generally try to bring in additional musicians for special services and have regularly exceeded the paltry budget amount. We are able to do so thanks to generous designated contributions we hope will continue.

Finally, speaking of designated contributions, we received \$2,798 last year in Thrivent Choice dollars. That is a lot of money. Thrivent customers get to direct a portion of Thrivent's profit to the charity of their choice and many of you have designated FLC. Thank you very much. If there are others who need information about the program or help with their designation, please let me know.....

Alan
alanahr@comcast.net

Renovation Report

Phase One of the renovation has finally been completed. As with any major renovation, problems developed, alternatives were discussed, and solutions were decided upon and completed.

I wish to thank everyone who had a part in the renovation, from the time given as a volunteer, to the financial contribution made in support of this project. A special thanks, to Harvey Smith, Joan Ahr, and the members of the renovation committee. Without the dedication to painting by Harvey and Joan we would never have completed this phase. And though the committee is still at work, the time spent over the last 2+ years has been longer than originally anticipated. I thank each of these individuals for their dedication.

Now we are preparing to move to the next phase of the renovation - bathrooms of the education wing. The renovation committee made a recommendation to the Board of Directors and have been asked to cut costs in the bathrooms so that kitchen upgrades can also be made with the renovation funds remaining. This process is underway. When available, these plans will be submitted once more to the Board of Directors and then conveyed to the congregation.

Thank you all for your patience and your support during the renovation.

Jim Harbke





Lent will be here shortly. Ash Wednesday is February 22. As in the past, we will be holding special midweek services during Lent. The Ash Wednesday service will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. The rest of the midweek services will be about 45 minutes long and use a simple form of Evening Prayer.

This year our theme will be "Surprising Words from Our Savior's Passion." Many of them were spoken by our Lord and reveal his heart for you and me. In the coming weeks, the bulletin and *The Voice* will have more information on our Lenten worship.

Ministry of Music at Faith **Thank you!!!!**

Our very own Linda Cesario said it wonderfully on our first official Sunday of the New Year to the children on January 1st. She mentioned that one of her new years resolutions was to thank those that were involved here at Faith and gave an uplifting message to the Children (and to the Children at heart) on that Sunday who were there attending worship.

I would like to echo Linda's words and I would like to acknowledge and say a very special thank you to all of those that have been involved with the Faith Lutheran Music Ministry during the past year. First I would like to thank our Pastor, Rev. Tom Sanders for his continuous support of the music ministry here at Faith along with Jim Harbke, and our Board of Directors. Thank you to my wonderful Music Associate, Mrs. Robin Kramer who has always been there every step of the way since I have arrived here at Faith back in August. Thank you to the members of the Faith Chancel Choir for singing their hearts to God each weekend as well as being diligent during practice. Thank you to the Kings Ringers for ringing so wonderful each time that they help lead and inspire us during our worship services. Thank you to our Praise Band and their leaders who inspire and make a joyful noise to God when they lead our worship services.

Music is such a powerful companion to the service and what better way than to join us as we start off the new year! If you love singing, please consider joining the chancel choir. We are currently meeting on Thursdays from 7pm-8:45pm in the Sanctuary. If you enjoy ringing handbells, then please join us on Tuesdays from 7:30pm-8:30pm. If you enjoy singing some of the contemporary songs or play an instrument, please consider joining the Praise Band by contacting Robin Kramer.

The Music Ministry here at Faith has something for everyone and I hope that you can be a part of any of our wonderful music ensembles that lead us in worship each week through song. If you are interested in joining any of these ensembles, then please see either myself or our Music Associate, Robin Kramer or email me at FaithMusicAH@aol.com.

Soli Deo Gloria!
-Michael Gagne



FEBRUARY 2012 BOARD BANTER

I hope your new year has gotten off to a good start and that you enjoyed the good weather while it lasted. Faith is entering the new year in better financial shape but still being challenged when it comes to bringing people to the love and care of Christ. I am hoping that the congregation meeting has sparked some thought and discussion and that we will be able to move ahead in a manner that fulfills God's will and is pleasing to Him.

I regret that at the time I am writing this we cannot report on progress being made by the family ministry committee. I also do not know the new composition of the board of directors, but I would like to thank those who served the past year and have left the board. I think we made some progress including moving ahead with renovation and improving finances. Our music ministry has generated new excitement. We have also been blessed with some new members who are actively supporting Faith and its ministries. In addition, we have done more with outreach and been out in the community. More, however, remains to be done.

As I write this, I have just finished reading Evangelist Billy Graham's ***Nearing Home: Life Faith, and Finishing Well***. Billy Graham, who is now in his nineties, discusses old age and finishing well from a Biblical perspective. He talks about the challenges we face as we grow older and how we can continue to effectively serve God. While it is particularly relevant to those of us who are older, the book provides insights that are relevant to people of all ages and beautifully describes the importance of intergenerational interactions. I would highly recommend this book, and I would enjoy talking about it with others who have read it. I think it might provoke some thought about what an aging congregation can do to attract younger families to the church.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all of you who prayed for my husband, Fred Foy, when he suffered a mild stroke before Christmas. He was sincerely moved when he received the note saying the church had prayed for him. He has made what seems to be a full recovery, but it was a wake-up call for both of us. It also helped us focus on what was really important this Christmas. The fact that some cookies did not get baked and other things did not get done really did not make much of a difference. The important thing was that the Lord blessed us and allowed us to join other family members to celebrate our Savior's birth. Not to step on Margie's territory, but I would like to underscore the importance of knowing the warning signs of stroke and heart attack and getting help as soon as possible. Fred's speech was slurred, his face was askew, and he was dropping things, but he did not think anything was wrong and initially argued with me about going to the hospital. When we got to the emergency room at Northwest Healthcare, Fred's blood pressure was 193/133, which is very high, and at one point he lost use of his left arm. Be persistent and err on the side of caution in seeking help if you notice something is not right with someone you know. It could literally make a difference between life and death.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day, but remember that as Christians we should reflect God's love for us to others all year round.

Blessings,

Gilda Karu





Since most of us likely missed the above event, I'd like to invite you to a smaller screen showing on Sunday, February 26, in the Fellowship Hall at Faith. We'll serve a light soup luncheon following the second service (approx 12:15pm start). Meg McClaskey, BCC, Ethics Consultant, Manager Spiritual Care Services from Northwest Community Hospital and Margie Mayfield, Advocate parish nurse will be showing the PBS documentary, *Consider the Conversation*. There is no fee or registration, but please feel free to contact Margie at 847-253-4919 with any questions.

It is our desire to facilitate important conversations that we should all be having with our health care practitioners and family members. These conversations should be as regular as an annual exam, and re-evaluated as frequently too. This event provides information and discussion that might better equip you to express your values and desires with regard to medical care and treatment throughout life. It is not a subject exclusively prepared for seniors, so invite your spouse, family member or trusted person who might be required to speak on your behalf someday. Together, let's educate ourselves and be prepared for potentially challenging situations. Thanks, and please, come be part of the conversation!

Care / Connection

The Care/Connection team has met three times since September in an attempt to facilitate the health and pastoral care dimensions of Faith. We have discussed many internal and outward connections. PLEASE contact any of the following team members:

Gilda Karu
 Ruth Blazeovich
 Rachel Schindler
 Charlie Blazeovich
 Deb Hallman
 Curt Edelmann
 Marybeth Jackson
 Judy Otis
 Shirley Laube
 Lynn Zahour
 Kathy Petrella
 Karen Oomens

or Margie Mayfield with ideas or questions.

We encourage each person to sign the register at worship services, updating with a current email address and understand that any follow-up communication is simply to express concern when absences are noted. Because of privacy changes at the hospital, the church office is dependent on members advising when hospitalization takes place. We no longer receive that information from the hospital directly and desire to provide support and spiritual care during hospitalizations.

MISSION COMMITTEE

Hard to believe, but 2012 is here. We will undoubtedly have many opportunities to share the love of Christ throughout the coming months. We are not like the Chicago Cubs who must always wait till next year! Our time has come and with your generous love and prayerful support, the Mission Committee will bring the love of the Christ-Child to those in need. May God richly bless you this year and always. Thank you!

The Mission Committee
 P.S.—Remember "Souper" Bowl Sunday

COFFEE AN'

Thanks to all who served Coffee An' in January. Needed: Volunteers to sign up for serving Coffee An' in February, March, and April. Please check your calendars and consider hosting. When you head downstairs after church for a hot cup of coffee and maybe a little sweet snack and see nothing set up, that's because there were no volunteers to serve that day! If you have any questions, contact Cindy Schindler . (Please note there will be NO Coffee An' on February 19th due to the blood drive.)

C.F.W. WALTHER – “The American Luther” and “Father of the Missouri Synod”



While serving as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis and helping to guide the Saxon Lutheran colony that had formed in St. Louis, and Perry County, Missouri, it came to Dr. Walther's attention that other groups of German Lutherans were spread across the United States. He began writing to the pastors of those congregations and began a discussion of forming a “synod” of like-minded congregations. On April 26, 1847, twelve pastors representing 15 German Lutheran congregations met at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Chicago, Illinois, and founded a new church body, the *German Evangelical*

Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States. Walther became the fledgling denomination's first president from 1847-1850 and was re-elected again in 1864 and served until 1878. The new synod grew quickly during the 19th century, reaching 685,000 members by 1897.

In its early days, the synod was conservative on a number of issues. Following Walther's lead, it strongly opposed humanism (an emphasis on human reasoning over divine will and revelation) and religious syncretism (what a church teaches is not as important as simply be united. A desire to agree even though we disagree on essentials.) He also advocated practicing church fellowship only with those Lutheran congregations whose synods were in complete doctrinal agreement with the Synod. In 1872, the Missouri Synod joined the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Norwegian Synod, the two other large conservative Lutheran bodies, in forming the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America. (The Conference was dissolved in 1961.)

During his tenure as Synodical President, Dr. Walther remained pastor at Trinity Lutheran in St. Louis. He also served as a professor and later president of the seminary that begun in Perry County and later moved to St. Louis. He also founded the St. Louis Lutheran Bible Society in 1853 and started two important publications: *Der Lutheraner* (in 1844) and *Lehre und Wehre* (in 1855). He was author of many books and periodical articles, among which the most noteworthy *Pastoral Theology, Church and Ministry* and his classic treatise on "*The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel*."

Roster Changes

New Address



Miss Christina Schindler

Mrs. Elsie Weber



FEBRUARY 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>8:30 AM Worship/Comm. 9:45 AM Chr. Ed. & Bible Study 11:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Korean Worship Blood Pressure </p>       	<p>6:45 PM Men's Bowling 7:00 PM Rainbows</p>	<p>10:00 AM Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Music Makers 7:30 PM Bell Choir</p>	<p>7:00 PM Care/Connections Mtg. 8:00 PM Korean Worship</p>	<p>7:00 PM Faith Choir</p>	<p>5:30 PM FYO Ski Retreat</p>	<p>FYO Ski Retreat 5:30 AM Korean Worship</p>
<p>8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Chr. Ed. & Bible Study 11:00 AM Worship/Comm. 1:00 PM Korean Worship Valentine Bake Sale VOICE OF FAITH DEADLINE</p>	<p>6:45 PM Men's Bowling 7:00 PM Rainbows</p>	<p>10:00 AM Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Music Makers 7:00 PM Quilting 7:30 PM Bell Choir</p>	<p>7:00 Study Buddies 8:00 PM Korean Worship</p>	<p>11:30 AM Men's Day Out Lunch 1:30 PM Race-track Min. Mtg. 7:00 PM Faith Choir</p>	<p>5:30 AM Korean Worship</p>	<p>5:30 AM Korean Worship 9:00 AM Prayer Shawl Mtg. 9:00 AM Lego Club</p>
<p>8:00AM-1:00PM Blood Drive 8:30 AM Worship/Comm. 9:45 AM Chr. Ed. & Bible Study 11:00 AM Worship 1:00 PM Korean Worship </p>	<p>6:45 PM Men's Bowling 7:00 PM Rainbows</p>	<p>10:00AM Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Music Makers 7:30 PM Bell Choir</p>	<p>6:00 PM Soup & Salad Supper 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service/Comm. 8:00 PM Study Buddie-  8:00 PM Korean Worship</p>	<p>11:30 AM Ladies Lunch Out 7:00 PM Faith Choir</p>	<p>7:00 PM Faith Choir</p>	<p>5:30 AM Korean Worship</p>
<p>8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Chr. Ed. & Bible Study 11:00 AM Worship/Comm. 12:15 PM Consider The Conversation  1:00 PM Korean Worship</p>	<p>6:45 PM Men's Bowling 7:00 PM Rainbows</p>	<p>10:00 AM Bible Study 4:00 PM Confirmation 6:30 PM Music Makers 7:00 PM Women of Faith Mtg. 7:30 PM Bell Choir</p>	<p>7:00 PM Lenten Service 8:00 PM Korean Worship</p>	<p>SHARE </p> <p>LOVE </p> <p>BE GOOD </p> <p>HUGS </p> <p>PRAY </p> <p>I LIVE LIFE </p>	<p>5:30 AM Korean Worship</p>	<p>5:30 AM Korean Worship</p>



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