

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
2 Cor. 5:17

News Journal

Monthly Newsletter of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

April 2024

THE PASTOR'S PEN **THE SEASON OF EASTER**

The Easter Season, this year, begins on March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday. But Easter is not merely a one-day celebration; it is a fifty-day season from the Day of Resurrection (March 31) to the Day of Pentecost (May 19). This extended season lasts for seven weeks or seven Sundays. It is a time of celebration for our Lord who overcame death and the grave. This year, we will celebrate Easter by having Holy Communion offered every Sunday in the Easter Season. As recorded in the Pastoral Desk Diary 2024, “the colors of Easter are white and gold. White, the color of our Lord’s holiness, is everywhere on Easter, from the paraments and vestments to the traditional Easter lilies. Gold decorations remind us that our resurrection life in Christ is precious and eternal.” After not saying or singing Alleluia for the forty days of Lent, this great word of exultation returns to our worship life in The Hymn of Praise, and our hymns in general. We also return to singing the Psalm and the Second Hymn. Also, do not forget the special Easter greeting and response: “CHRIST IS RISEN!” “HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!”

WHAT IS A PARAMENT? A parament is a cloth or tapestry hanging used to adorn the space of worship, especially those hangings at the altar, pulpit, and lectern. The term is derived from the Latin, “to decorate” or “prepare.”

In the Lutheran Church, we have six seasons of the church year. They are as follows with the color of paraments used:

- Advent – blue
- Christmas – white
- Epiphany – green
- Lent – purple
- Easter – white
- Pentecost – green

Bible Study in April



Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

April 9, 16, 23, and 30
(We will continue our study in the Gospel of Mark)

Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm

April 9 – Bollinger/Yount Room
April 16, 23, 30 – Gathering Room
(We will be studying the two sacraments from The Small Catechism)

Early Service at the Outdoor Chapel



The Early Service of Holy Communion will begin on Sunday, May 12 at the Outdoor Chapel at 8:30 am. It will continue on the second and fourth Sundays of each month through October.

Loose Offering in April



April 7

Youth and Family Ministry of NJLC

April 14

Catawba County Backpack Program

April 21

Catawba County Backpack Program

April 28

Catawba County Backpack Program

Day Camp



Day Camp is returning to NJLC this summer! The opening meet-and-greet will be held Sunday, June 16. Camp will be from Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21. This year, the children will learn about the Adventures of Paul. If you would like more information or to register your child, please contact Kristy at the church office (secretary@njlchickory.com).

Committee Check-In Meeting

The Long-Range Planning Quarterly Check-in Meeting will be held Sunday April 14, at 8:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time for all committees to meet for planning and support.

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Senior Friends Highlights



NJLC Senior Friends meeting was held March 20 at 11:30 with **38 people present** (34 members and 4 guests). Barbara Hamrick presented the devotions, which included the group singing "Jesus Loves Me (for Seniors)." Carolyn Miller provided the piano accompaniment. We then recognized the March birthdays and anniversaries. The meal prayer was given by the Rev. Ron Orovitz.

You have the power to outsmart the scammers...

James (Jimmy) Sherrill IV of Dallas, NC (and grandson of Senior Friends member Libby Mauney) provided our informative program on "Outsmarting the Scammers." He is a Financial Advisor with Edward Jones. After a brief introduction regarding charitable distributions, required minimum distributions (at age 73+), estate planning, etc. Jimmy shared an enlightening packet of number facts, scenarios of potential scammer techniques, red flags and ways to avoid these pitfalls. Throughout his presentation, many members shared personal experiences with scammers and stressed ways to avoid these problems. Discussed the emerging of AI (Artificial Intelligence) and its possible link to scams.



Business:

- Barbara thanked various individuals for their contributions.
- Monthly Reports from our Secretary and Treasurer were shared
- Collected the offering and requested devotional volunteers for July, August and December.
- Reminders given for those attending the meal and play at Hudson Dinner Theater: Departure: 5:25pm from NJLC tomorrow, Thursday, March 21. Dennis Weaver is our driver.



- Passed around an interest survey for possible trip to **Daniel Boone Inn** for breakfast, June 14 or 21. Tentatively leave NJLC at 7:00am. Cost is \$15.95 + tax & tip. It is check or cash only, no cards. Breakfast is family style & all you can eat. They do make reservations for groups of 15+. Following the meal we will travel to Valle Crucis and Mast General Store and perhaps some additional stops in the mountains. *(This is not the formal sign-up, but currently we have 18 people signed up with 2 people willing to drive if needed.)*
- **June 9 (2nd Sunday) Hotdog & Hamburger Cookout** after church service **for the congregation.** The sign-up for things to bring and/or help with will be circulated at our April and May meeting then the list will be posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Room.
- Our June Senior Friends meeting will be on the **2nd Wednesday (June 12)** due to Day Camp being held the 3rd week.



LOOKING AHEAD: April devotions: Elaine Garner

April Hostesses: Kristy Painter, Audrey Rozelle, Betty Scipione

April Program: "Personal & Public Safety," presented by Thad Scronce

Next meeting is Wednesday, April 17th at 11:30



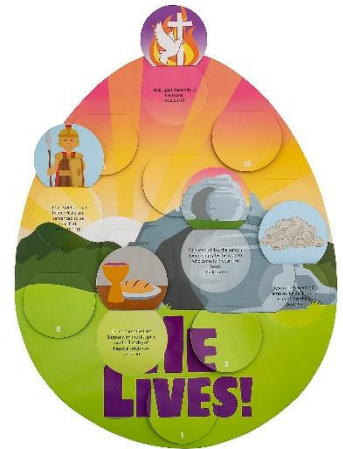
Student and Family Ministries

Purpose Statement: The Student and Family ministries at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church inspire students and families to walk with Christ through a desire to always grow and be in the Word, to share and teach others about Jesus, have a servant's heart through being the hands and feet of Jesus, and be a leader in the world for others to come to know Him.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the Family Easter Egg Hunt a great success. This event would not have been successful if it was not for each of you being the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you for the YAM class for filling all 500 eggs.

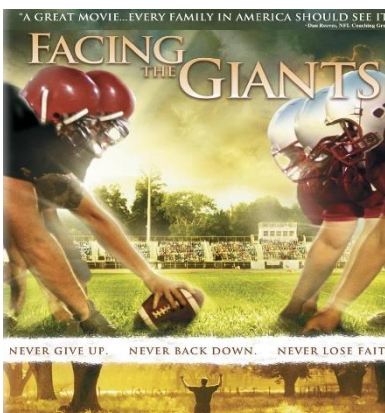
This event brought families from the congregation and those in the community out for games, crafts, devotions, lunch and the great easter egg hunt. Even though it was rainy and cold we were able to do everything inside.

We sent home with each family a lent Holy Week calendar where each day they opened a box with the corresponding number where it shared God's word from Palm Sunday to Jesus's Ascension. It was a time for families to be and set their minds for why we celebrate Easter.



Straight and Narrow: Choices in Life

Sunday, April 14th from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm
6th through 12 graders (Rising 5th Included) at St. Martin's Lutheran Church; Lunch provided. Join us for an afternoon of testing your decision and ability to follow the straight and narrow. This event will focus on temptations, consequences, life choices, and more where we will dive deep into understanding God's path vs the world's path. Let Megan know by April 10th if you will be coming. We will meet at St. Martin's.



Facing the Giants Movie and Discussion

Sunday, April 21st from 1 pm to 4 pm
6th through 12 graders (Rising 5th Included) are invited to come and watch the movie called Facing the Giants. We did watch a few clips of the movie at one of our events, but we plan to watch the whole thing and discuss it afterward and how it applies to our life and walk with God. Students are asked to bring their favorite movie snack to share with others; and be creative (drinks will be provided). Location TBD. If there is a family who would be willing to open their home to have us come and watch a movie, please let me know. We will need roughly 4 to 5 volunteers to help lead small group discussions. Please eat lunch before you come.



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Backpack Warehouse Service Project: Sunday, May 5th from 2 pm to 4 pm
6th through 12 graders (Rising 5th Included) will be traveling to the warehouse where the backpack food is stored and packed for different schools for students and families who fall on hard times and do not have enough food to eat at their house. More information on location and traveling to this event will be shared soon.



Family Life Ministry Event: Mission Frenzy

Sunday, May 19th from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm
at New Jerusalem

Grades: K through 12th Grade Plus Parents/Guardians

This event will be focusing on learning and practicing being the hands and feet of Jesus through multiple stations where everyone will be able to do hands on service projects that will impact our community both local and further away.



HIS HANDS HIS FEET

In the next few weeks we will be asking the congregation to donate specific items or make a monetary donation to allow the items to be purchased. Be on the look out for this.

Lunch will be provided as well. Please let Megan know no later than May 15th.

Learning, Youth, and Family Committee will be meeting on Monday, April 8th at 5:15pm to 6:15pm. This meeting will be focused on planning Children, Student, Family, and Sunday School events from May through the summer. Anyone is invited who has an interest in planning, sharing, or participating in making an impact in the lives of those at the church but also in the community. If you are unable to make it but would like to be part of the committee please let Megan know.

Church Council Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024

(Motions are in **BOLD** and Actions are *Italicized*)

The March 2024 Church Council meeting was held March 11, 2024. All members of Church Council were in attendance except Karen Teague. The meeting was called to order by President Ken Temple. Robert Hoyle led devotions. Danny Black will lead the devotions in April. Betty Scipione was council designate in February and said there were no issues brought forward. She mentioned that the lights at the front door were replaced. The minutes for the council meeting held February 12, 2024, were approved as written.

Treasurer Reports were received as information and show the following month end balances.

Current: \$80,028.18	Benevolence: \$10,996.14	Youth: \$2,168.85	Lutheran Men: \$832.31	Phillips Fund Checking: \$9,590.55
Available: \$59,485.87	Current CD: \$62,301.33	Women's: \$384.47	Mauser Fund CD: \$83,683.58	Phillips Fund CD: \$22,169.41
Building: \$58,517.24	Building CD: \$102,929.59	Cemetery Fund: \$7,277.36	Cemetery CD: \$16,086.09	

Pastor's Report (February 2024):

Pastoral Contacts – 50; including Home Visits – 12

Hospital Visits – 7

Nursing home visits – 5

Pastor's study – 8

Other – 18

Services of worship – 7 (including Ash Wednesday Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes, and two Lenten Services of Holden Evening Prayer)

Meetings – 30

Classes taught – 7 (Bible Studies on Tuesday morning and Tuesday evening)

Attended the funeral for Helen Barba's father, Steve Marlowe, on February 17, 2024.

Attended the funeral for Rick Duckworth on February 21, 2024.

The Life-to-Life Discipleship class began on Tuesday, February 20. It is going very well with six students involved. The Tuesday morning and evening Bible Study classes are going very well also. We have great fellowship and lively discussion at both classes. I encourage you to get involved in one of these classes.

The Youth and Family Ministry is going very well. We have had a couple of events in February and look forward to having more events in March. Megan Gwaltney continues doing a great job as we draw young people and families from not only New Jerusalem and St. Martin's but other congregations in the area. We look forward to hearing her report this evening.

Lent is quickly coming to a close. Our attendance at the Sunday evening services has averaged about 39 worshippers. Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching. I trust that you will make every effort to be present for the services we have planned. Remember, the sunrise service will begin at 7:00 am on the 31st (Easter Sunday). Breakfast will be at 8:00 am. Please encourage others to come and worship with us. Thank you for all that you do.

Together in ministry,

The Rev. Randall A. Cauble, Pastor

Congregation +/-:

Several members have mentioned that the church has not been cleaned very well, specifically the restrooms and the Sanctuary. Congregation members are coming to clean the church. It may be time to review the janitorial job description with G&M Maintenance. We also need to consider the fact that we are only paying them \$495 per month. It may be that we would have to pay more to get everything done that we consider necessary. Robert will send data from the county to John about how many hours per square foot should be spent on cleaning. BJ has a friend who cleans churches and will ask her how much she charges and whether she charges by the hour or by square footage. The Property Committee will then reach out to G&M Maintenance to review their contract.

Announcements/Petitions and Communications: None

Old Business:

- Automatic Door Opener Update
 - The automatic door opener has been installed.
 - Robert is going to add about 15 seconds to the hold open time.
- Outdoor Worship Area Update
 - Rusty emailed the City of Hickory about when we would receive the grant money. They said they would find out more in 3-4 weeks.
 - We have spoken with a civil engineer, Dan Shabeldeen. He is interested in working with the people doing the work. He would design a plan and then we would have to apply for permits before the work could begin.
 - The city will eventually give us a check for \$100,000. There is no draw process.
 - Rusty spoke with Senator Proctor and told him we appreciated his efforts on our behalf. Senator Proctor asked that we keep him in the loop if we had any problems.
- Barbara Hamrick payroll
 - Robert spoke with Barbara and she agreed that we could collect a love offering to help cover the cost of the 1099 employer taxes she must pay.

New Business:

- Loose Offering
 - April 7 – Youth and Family Ministry of NJLC
 - April 14 – Catawba County Backpack Program
 - April 21 – Catawba County Backpack Program
 - April 28 – Catawba County Backpack Program
- Carolinas Mission Region Convocation Delegate
 - Vicki Cauble said she would be interested in representing New Jerusalem as our Carolinas Mission Region Convocation delegate. **Pastor Cauble made a motion to elect Vicki Cauble as our delegate.** Danny Sorrells seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
- New Vacuum Cleaner
 - Since Megan now has an office upstairs and other activities have increased, Danny Sorrells asked to purchase a new vacuum cleaner for that area. Council approved.

Ministries: (Pastor is a member of all committees):

Cemetery Committee (John Lutz and Rusty Lutz)

- Columbarium

- We have a solution for how to bore the holes for the columbarium in the future. For now, we have hired someone to repair the niche that was damaged.
- Kathy Lail was very pleased with what was done for Mike's niche.
- We currently have 13 niches available in the columbarium and 58 plots available in the cemetery. 12 of those plots are single plots and 46 could accommodate a husband and wife.
- We will need more space in the future. When we get down to a certain number of spaces left in the columbarium, we will need to order another one.
- We have received a quote for \$16,000 for a 48-niche columbarium from the same company who installed the one at Bethlehem Lutheran.

Property Committee (Danny Black and John Lutz)

- The Church Grounds Workday is scheduled for this Saturday. It is supposed to rain. John may try to call people and reschedule it for Friday.
- John received a request to improve the lighting in the Adult Assembly Room. Since the electrician was already here installing the electronic door, John asked him to work on the lights as well. The electrician increased the number of fluorescent lights and changed them to LEDs.

Fellowship Committee (Karen Teague) –

- The Fellowship Committee worked with Women's Group 1 to sponsor the March birthday celebration. The ladies from Group 1 said that they appreciated the help.

Finance and Stewardship Committee (Deron Bumgarner)

- Youth & Family Expenses
 - With the complexity of sharing the cost of Megan's salary and youth events with St. Martin's, the Finance Committee recommends spending the remaining balance from the youth account and then pulling future expenses from Current Available.
 - Next year the budgeted line item in the Current Fund would increase to include more than just the mission trip.
 - **Danny Black made a motion to spend the remaining balance from the youth account and pull any additional expenses from Current Available.** Danny Sorrells seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
 - Is there a limit to what Megan can spend without council approval?
 - Reimbursements have a cap of \$500, but may be adjustable for trips and other things.
 - We need to decide how big projects are budgeted since we split costs with St. Martin's. Currently, all expenses are coming to New Jerusalem and St. Martin's reimburses us (salary and activities).
 - Megan can make a recommendation to the Finance Committee each year during budget planning based on the activities she has planned for the following year.
 - A credit card for Megan was approved at the February council meeting, but no limit was discussed. **Robert Hoyle made a motion to set the credit card's limit to \$2,000.** Rusty Lutz seconded the motion. *The motion passed unanimously.*
 - We will request that Megan to do a budget with St. Martin's for 2025 spending when the time comes so that we are all on the same page.

Learning, Youth, and Family Committee (Lisa Cook, Robert Hoyle, and Jan Sorrells)

- Events since the last Council meeting

- February 25 - Rising 5th through 12th graders went bowling. We had over 30 bowlers and others who came to hang out with us at the bowling alley.
- March 10 – The older youth had an egg hunt, games, food, and a devotion. 13 total youth attended (4 from NJLC)
- Megan did a great job with the children’s sermon.
- Upcoming events
 - March 23 – Easter Eggstravaganza including games, crafts, an egg hunt, and lunch.
 - April 14 – Rising 5th through 12th graders are invited to an event called “Straight and Narrow: Choices in Life” which will focus on temptations, consequences, life choices, and more. They will deep dive into understanding God’s path vs. the world’s path. Let Megan know by April 10th if you plan to attend. The event will take place at St. Martin’s.
- Megan’s Schedule (subject to change)
 - April 7 and May 12 – off
 - New Jerusalem – April 14 and 28, May 5
 - St. Martin’s – April 21, May 19 and 26

Long Range Planning Committee (Rusty Lutz and Danny Sorrells) –

- We will host the quarterly meeting the second Sunday in April.
- An alternative to volunteers mowing every week was suggested at the last quarterly meeting. We received a quote to mow, trim, and blow the church grounds (\$220) and the parsonage (\$55) for a total of \$275. The cemetery mowing is separate. We may consider paying to have this done once per month to ease the burden on the volunteers who are currently mowing.

Service Committee (BJ Morgan and Karen Teague)

- We donated 42 pounds of food this month.
- We will meet this month or early next month to plan a joint event with Megan for Disaster Relief collection.

Witness Committee (Betty Scipione and Ken Temple) - No meeting.

Worship Committee (Pastor Cauble and Betty Scipione)

- We are planning for Holy Week and Easter services.
- We will have communion every Sunday of the Easter season. In the future, when paraments are white, we will have communion. This is in addition to the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

P.R.O.M. (Please Remember Outreach Ministry)

- 50 contacts were made.
 - 27 people were contacted including 11 home and nursing home visits and 16 phone contacts.
 - 23 get well, sympathy, and thank you cards sent.
- New to P.R.O.M. – Donna Bunton and Jennifer Bumgarner
- Held 4 prayer vigils, 1 first Sunday birthday celebration, and made 6 E-sign changes.
- Our prayer list, the number of homebound members, and the number of members living in nursing homes continues to grow. Please consider helping us.
- Respectfully submitted by Mike Scipione.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Ken Temple, President

Lisa Cook, Secretary

April Birthdays

1 – Mickey Parks, Madison Cook
 2 – Abby Temple
 3 – Betty Scipione
 4 – Kylie Morgan, Joann Wilfong
 6 – Kyndall Dover, John McNeely
 7 – Syeth Spurrier, Lisa Cook, Anna Spinks
 9 – Teresa Vanderlinden, Nicole Black
 10 – Amanda Helms, Christopher Barkley, Jacob Dover
 11 – Jakie Rhodes, Libby Throckmorton
 12 – Piper Huffman
 14 – Joseph Stephens
 15 – Aaron Lail
 16 – Jerry Bowman
 18 – Joshua Sigmon, Roger Evans
 19 – Lauren Bumgarner
 20 – Todd Lutz
 21 – Heather Hefner
 22 – Glenda Shook, Emily Howard
 23 – Linda Lutz
 24 – Kathy Lail, Stephen Bekemeier
 28 – Leslie Hildebran
 29 – Dillon George
 30 – Mary Settlemyre, Kay Weaver, Jennifer Reid

Thank You for Serving in April

New Jerusalem Lutheran Women

Group 1	Tuesday, April 9 – 6:30 pm	Gathering Room
Group 3		Out to Eat
Group 4	Monday, April 8 – 7:00 pm	Hostess/Leader – Sandra Bollinger Gathering Room

New Jerusalem Lutheran Men No Meeting

Council Designate Danny Black

Teller Committee *Danny Black
Wayne Cashion
Jan Sorrells

Altar Committee Carolyn Robinson, Chm.
Pat Bolch
Jenny Morgan
Glenda Shook

Read Lessons Jenny Morgan

Assist with Communion Jenny Morgan

Flowers in the Church

Apr. 7	Danny and Dianne Black
Apr. 14	Open
Apr. 21	Dennis and Kay Weaver
Apr. 28	Jeanne Sigmon

Ushers James Morgan, Chm.
Wayne Cashion
Paul Kurzyna
Danny Sorrells

Tape Ministry

Apr. 7	BJ Morgan
Apr. 14	BJ Morgan
Apr. 21	Connie Bumgarner
Apr. 28	Connie Bumgarner

Yard Maintenance & Mowing

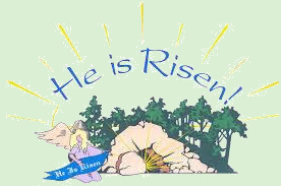
Apr. 7	Garret Turbyfill, Paul Kurzyna
Apr. 14	Ed Kanupp, Braden Southers
Apr. 21	W.R. Bumgarner, Ken Temple
Apr. 28	Mike Scipione, Hans Robinson

Looking Ahead

Sunday, May 5 Backpack Warehouse Service
Project (2 pm – 4 pm)

Monday, May 13 Mother's Day Banquet
More information to come!

Sunday, May 19 Family Life Ministry Event:
Mission Frenzy (12:30 pm – 3:00 pm)



April 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	<p>1</p> <p>6:00 pm – Bible Journaling</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:00 pm – Piece Makers</p> <p>5:00 pm – Prayer Vigil</p> <p>6:00 pm – Life-to-Life Discipleship</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:30 am – Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>Following the Service – April Birthday Celebration</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:15 pm – Learning, Youth, and Family Committee Meeting</p> <p>6:00 pm – AHG</p> <p>6:30 pm – Church Council</p> <p>7:00 pm – Women’s Group 4</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 am – Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 pm – Piece Makers</p> <p>5:00 pm – Prayer Vigil</p> <p>6:00 pm – Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 pm – Women’s Group 1</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 pm – Hand bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30 am – Chrismon Ministry</p> <p>6:00 pm – Bible Journaling</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:30 am – Committee Quarterly Check-In Meeting</p> <p>9:30 am – Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>12:30 pm – Youth Event (Straight and Narrow: Choices in Life)</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00 am – Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 pm – Piece Makers</p> <p>5:00 pm – Prayer Vigil</p> <p>6:00 pm – Life-to-Life Discipleship</p> <p>6:00 pm – Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>11:30 am – Senior Friends</p> <p>6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 pm – Hand bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:30 am – Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion</p> <p>1:00 pm – Youth Event (Facing the Giants Movie and Discussion)</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 pm – Bible Journaling</p> <p>6:00 pm – AHG</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00 am – Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 pm – Piece Makers</p> <p>5:00 pm – Prayer Vigil</p> <p>6:00 pm – Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:00 pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>7:00 pm – Hand bell Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:30 am – Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 am – Service of Holy Communion</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>10:00 am – Bible Study</p> <p>1:00 pm – Piece Makers</p> <p>5:00 pm – Prayer Vigil</p> <p>6:00 pm – Life-to-Life Discipleship</p> <p>6:00 pm – Bible Study</p>	<div style="background-color: #4CAF50; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Paraments </div> <p style="text-align: center;"> April 7 – White April 14 – White April 21 – White April 28 – White </p>			