



March 2022



The Disciple's Connection

Here Comes Lent

From the Pastor



March 2nd is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a 40-day journey that calls us to focus on the Passion of our Lord. Some people give up something to help them remember what Christ gave up for them. Others choose a special project to do to help other remember Christ's suffering and death. I have found that music can aid people during their 40-day Lenten journey. Our Lutheran hymnody is filled with wonderful tunes and poignant verses that greatly enhance these 40 days. Let me share some of these verses with you

*Jesus, I will ponder now On You holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death That I may not perish*

*Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I reuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?*

[LSB 440 "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" vv 1, 4]

For me, this is my prayer to begin Lent. O Lord, let me in these 40 days, truly ponder again your Passion for me. Let me truly look at it with repentant grieving, for it was my sins that nailed you to the cross. Let that be your prayer these 40 days.

*You have suffered great affliction And have borne it patiently
Even death by crucifixion, Fully to atone for me;
For you chose to be tormented That my doom should be prevented
Thousand, thousand thanks are due, Dearest Jesus, unto you*

[LW 94 "Christ, the Life of All the Living" vs 2]

Man, to think about the suffering Jesus endured, the suffering I deserve! He willingly, patiently bore it all so that I would not be doomed to eternal death. A thousand thanks seem so small a repayment to Jesus for what he has done for me. A thousand thanks truly is nowhere near the debt that I owe to Jesus for what he has done for me. Still, he does not demand that I pay him back, or else he will place the burden back on me. No, his love for me is far beyond a thousand thanks that I could give back to him. He does it all, knowing that I could never repay him. Thank You, Jesus!

*When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride*

HERE COMES LENT *continued*

*Forbid it, Lord, the I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.*

[LSB 425 "When I Survey The Wondrous Cross" vv 1-2]

I read these words and I hear these words of Scripture, "*But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*" [Galatians 6:14] After all it is the cross of Christ on which we focus our attention, even more during the days of Lent.

"¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." [Hebrews 12:1-2]

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom

Sons of God

By Edward Naumann

In Luke 1, the angel Gabriel visited a priest named Zechariah. Gabriel appeared suddenly as Zechariah served alone in the temple. Zechariah was afraid. For one thing he thought he was alone in the sanctuary. Suddenly, seeing anyone in there with him might have given him a fright. Gabriel, however, was not just anyone; he was an angel. The sight of the glorious creature must have been amazing, as the angel radiated with beauty and the glory of the Lord. He tells Zechariah not to be afraid.



Then the angel announced something quite unexpected, that God had heard Zechariah's prayer. What prayer did God hear? The angel explains: Zechariah's wife Elizabeth will give birth to a son, whose name will be John. Zechariah should have been happy to hear this news, but at the same time it must have been surprising.

Zechariah perhaps he thought, "I prayed so much for a child. Elizabeth and I both prayed. We prayed for many years, and we prayed fervently. But we haven't prayed for a child now in a long time, not since Elizabeth passed childbearing age, and we accepted the fact that we will have no children. And now the prayer we prayed so many years ago has been heard?"

But Gabriel said more, describing the type of man the boy would become. He announced that his birth would bring about joy, gladness and great rejoicing; that he would become great in the sight of the Lord; that he would not drink wine or any strong drink; that he would be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth; and that he, going before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah, would turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord, turn the hearts of fathers to their children and turn disobedient people into those who seek wisdom and justice.

SONS OF GOD continued**Overwhelming news**

For Zechariah, this news was overwhelming, not only that he would have a son, but also that everything else would take place as well. In his mind, it was too good to be true. So, he stumbled and in disbelief, grasped for some reply. He grabbed hold of what he thought was scientific fact: He told Gabriel that he and Elizabeth were just too old to have a baby.

The angel's reply is one of the most amazing revelations. He tells Zechariah, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God" (Luke 1:19). He thereby, like a soldier, indicates his angelic name and rank.

These details may seem meaningless to us. Zechariah, however, when he heard them, should have known what they meant. For Gabriel's name was already recorded in Daniel 8. There, after Daniel saw a vision, a man appeared in front of him, and Daniel heard a voice saying, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision" (Daniel 8:16). And the angel Gabriel explained Daniel's vision.

Zechariah, since he was a righteous man, would have known the book of Daniel. When he heard the name

Gabriel, he would have recognized it and been amazed and afraid.

He knew then that Gabriel was an immortal creature, one of the "morning stars" and "sons of God" who shouted together and rejoiced to see the creation of the world (Job 38:6-7); whom God created in the beginning, and created to be immortal. In short, he knew that Gabriel was an angel.

Gabriel also mentioned his rank and station: One who stands "in the presence of God."

We may think it is normal to believe in angels, but we have to remember that Zechariah lived in a time when some of the most powerful people in Jerusalem — especially among the priests in the Temple — were the Sadducees, who denied that angels existed (Acts 23:8). There were deep divisions in Jerusalem, between the Sadducees who denied the existence of angels and denied the resurrection, and the Pharisees, who believed in these things. The Sadducees sat in the ruling positions of power on the Judean Council known as the Sanhedrin.

"If only the rulers of Israel could see what I see now!" Zechariah might have thought, as the angel Gabriel spoke to him. "There would be no more arguing, and this dispute could be settled once and for all."

More than his name, Gabriel also mentioned his rank and station: One who stands "in the presence of God." Zechariah probably also understood from his readings that from among the many myriads of angels that God had created, only seven angels were privileged to hold this station (Rev. 8:2; see also Tobit 12:15). Not only were the angels real, but here stood one of the highest-ranking angels. And more than that, Zechariah was going to have a baby boy.

Words can hardly express the awe Zechariah must have felt, and also how foolish he felt to have disbelieved Gabriel's message. It was too late, however, for him to change his initial reaction. To give Zechariah a sign of the truth of his message, Gabriel took away his speech, and prophesied: "Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time" (Luke 1:20).

SONS OF GOD continued

And with that, the angel left him. Zechariah could not speak. After his days of service in the temple, he went home, and everything happened just as the angel said. His wife conceived, despite her old age. The boy was filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb. His relatives gathered with them and rejoiced with them. And when the boy was born, Zechariah called him John. With this final act, Zechariah was finally able to speak again.

Sons by adoption and grace

Jesus teaches us how valuable God considers His human children as He stations angels to watch over them. "Their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 18:10), He explains, while encouraging his followers never to look down on even the littlest of His disciples.

With such simple words, Jesus explains the relationship between the two categories of sons of His Father: the angels, the sons of God by creation and obedience; and men, sons by adoption and grace.

We might think it only proper that we should serve the angels; they came first and remained obedient to the Father, while we, like newborn babes, only entered into the world recently. Besides, we were conceived and

Although we are only children by adoption, we should not be afraid, but confidently call upon God, according to His will, saying, "Our Father ... Thy will be done."

born in rebellion and sin, not sons of God by nature but made sons only by God's grace. God adopted us as His sons by His undeserved grace.

We like to strive for first place, and for others we like to show favoritism. We give priority to those who have earned seniority, and we give preference to the strong over the weak, the great over the small and the rich over the poor. Of course, we would think that the noble, powerful, immortal angelic sons of God should enjoy more honor, glory and service than the sinful, weak and mortal human adopted sons.

According to the plan of the Father, however, these creatures who bask in the glory of God are not served, but they serve. Angels are ministering spirits, sent to serve those who will inherit eternal life (Heb. 1:14).

God puts the first last, and the last first. He puts His spiritual sons in service to the adopted sons. He commands the children who have always obeyed Him perfectly to be the ministering servants of those who rebelled against Him and returned.

Such is the mystery of the will of God the Father. Far above His sons by adoption and His sons by creation is His only-begotten Son. This is His Son by essence, eternally begotten of the Father before any creature or creation. Indeed, only through Him were all things created. And yet the Father sent His only-begotten Son into the world, to become lower than the angels, to bestow upon mankind the unimaginable gift, of taking into Himself

SONS OF GOD continued

our humanity, thereby giving everyone who believes in Him the power and the right to be lifted up, to become a child of God. And as part of this plan, He willed that the angelic sons of God should become servants to the adopted sons, just as the angel Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, brought a message to Zechariah.

Although we are only children by adoption, we should not be afraid, but confidently call upon God, according to His will, saying, "Our Father ... Thy will be done." We should ask that He send His holy angels to serve us and watch over us, so that the evil foe may have no power over us. This He will surely do, "for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith" (Gal. 3:26).

The Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann lives and serves in South Asia, as theological educator for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Nauwmann, Edward, (2020, September 9). Sons of God. The Lutheran Witness. <https://witness.lcms.org/2020/sons-of-god/>



The Lenten Season will soon be upon us. Join us on Wednesdays for our midweek Lenten services starting Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022 for the series:

“Witnesses to Christ—People from His Passion”

This series paints a portrait of Jesus through the eyes of those whose interactions with Jesus lead us to meditate on His Passion. Our life in Christ will be strengthened as we hear the witnesses of those who were present as part of Jesus’ journey to the cross. We’ll meet villains, Barabbas & Pontius Pilate. We’ll meet sinners, Peter, Mary Magdalene, Judas, as well as others. All weekday special services begin at 7:00 p.m., unless noted otherwise

St. Paul’s Midweek Lenten Schedule

Ash Wednesday: March 2nd – John the Baptist, Pastor Sundbom – Communion celebrated

Midweek 1: March 9th – Mary, the sister of Lazarus & Martha, Pastor Jonathon Schroeder, St. John Geneva

Midweek 2: March 16th – Barabbas, Pastor Kurt Ziemann, Zion Painesville

Midweek 3: March 23rd – Pontius Pilate, Pastor Sundbom

Midweek 4: March 30th – Peter, Pastor Kevin Gynn, Faith Mentor

Midweek 5: April 6th – Malchus, Pastor Freddy Davison, Lighted Cross Ashtabula

Maundy Thursday: April 14th – Judas Iscariot, Pastor Sundbom – Communion celebrated

Good Friday: April 15th – John, the Gospel Writer, Pastor Sundbom

Easter Vigil: April 16th – Worship Service with Communion 6:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 17th – Mary Magdalene, Pastor Sundbom – Communion celebrated



Life Quotes for March

March 6 “Just as God personally created your body, so too He continually designs His body, the Church, bringing together people from all walks of life, all nations, and all abilities, in service to the world. And while it may be true that the world does not appreciate the gifts you have to offer, the body of Christ most certainly needs you.” *Michelle Bauman, director of Y4Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

March 13 “Paul kept his eyes on Christ who came and faced all the same heartaches, burdens, and sadness we do, and came through victorious. He shouldered our guilt and punishment on the cross and died that we might have life to the full.” *Daily Devotion, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

March 20 “The Word became flesh and God made Himself man as an embryo. Jesus took the lowliest form of a servant to leave no human life out.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

March 27 “I cannot ponder every day the full life of Christ in the Gospels. But I can during the year on various days celebrate and ponder His Annunciation, Nativity, Presentation, Baptism, Temptation, Transfiguration, Triumphal Entry, Last Supper, Agony in the Garden, Arrest, Trial, Passion, Carrying of the Cross, Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection, Great Commission, or Ascension.” *James M. Kushiner, executive director, Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org



Announcements

Adopt-a-Backpack Outreach Campaign



The Outreach Committee is looking for assistance in sponsoring the cost of backpacks full of school supplies/toys for needy children ages 2-4 and 5-9 years old. We will be kicking off the campaign on February 13th and close it out at the end of June. Our preschool children will be the main recipients of the backpacks. We have posted a list of items that will be placed in each backpack on the bulletin board at the back of the Sanctuary. Our goal is to supply a backpack to 100 children for the 2022-2023 school year. The board is loaded with empty pencil cases. If you are able to sponsor a backpack for a child, please detach a pencil case from the board, place \$20 cash or check inside it and place it in the offering plate. We will keep everyone informed of the progress of the campaign and likely ask for assistance to fill up the backpacks with the supplies once they arrive. Also, if you know of any children that could use a backpack this fall, please let one of the committee members know ... Star Graziadei, Ken Chaffe, Jeff Troutman or Kristi McConnell. Thank-you.

Are You Feeding Your Mite Box?

Please remember to feed your mite box or use the donate button at <http://lwml Ohio.org> to continue to support the mission work of the LWML. Just follow the directions on the page remembering to list St. Paul's, Painesville as your church and Northeast as your zone.



Altar Flowers



A great way to remember any occasion is with Altar Flowers. The Altar Flower Chart is located in between the two sets of double doors leading to the kitchen. Just sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Clearly print the occasion being remembered, who the flowers are for and who they're from. Altar flowers are \$40.00. Place the monies in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" with the weekend date and put the envelope in the collection plate.

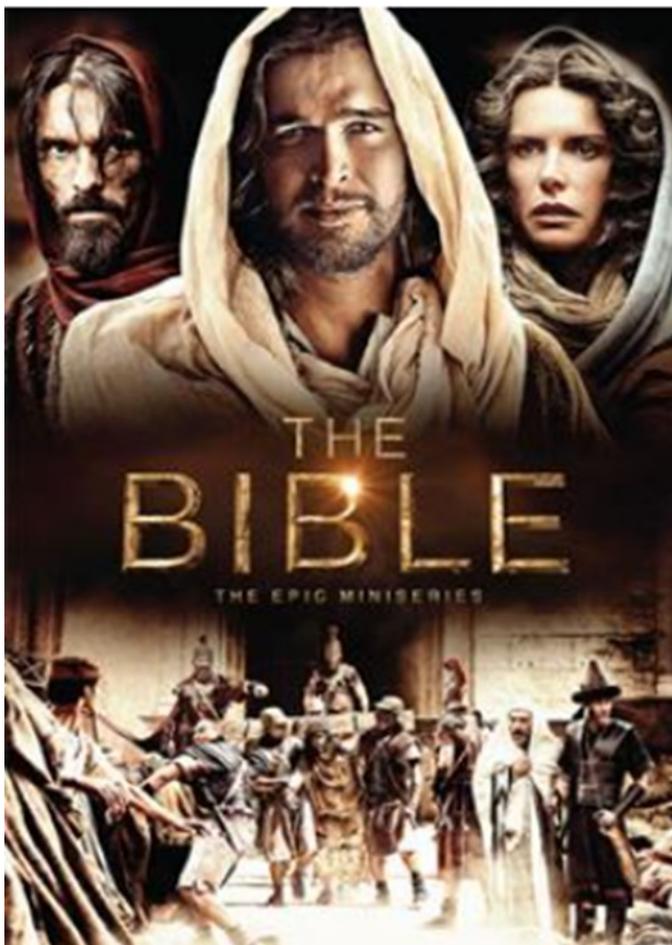


St. Paul's invites you to ...
Movie Matinee –
“The Bible: 10 Episode Epic Miniseries”

Sundays Feb. 6, Feb 20, Mar. 6, Mar. 20, and Apr. 3 at 2 p.m.

Two Episodes per showing

Free Admission



Miniseries Description:

From Executive Producers Roma Downey and Mark Burnett comes The Bible — an epic 10-part miniseries retelling stories from the Scriptures for a whole new generation. Breathtaking in scope and scale, The Bible features powerful performances, exotic locales and dazzling visual effects that breathe spectacular life into the dramatic tales of faith and courage from Genesis through Revelation. This historic television event is sure to entertain and inspire the whole family.

A **concession stand** will serve snacks and drinks.

**Bring your family and friends to see this
docudrama miniseries!!!**



February Meeting Notes

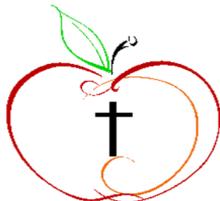
- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor made 51 calls, 7 shut-in visits, and performed 1 funeral, also he announced Circuit Pastors will rotate during Lenten services beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 2 @ 7pm.
- 2) President's Report: Eric said since Lenten services coincide with our normal time for meetings, we could hold a Zoom virtual meeting if necessary. Discussion of organist under New Business.
- 3) Treasurer's Report: Russ reported we were down about \$11,000 in income in 2022 from 2020, and over all we were down over \$8,000. He expected January to improve our position.
- 4) Education Report: Erin reported Sunday school kids helped undecorate the church, and that Sunday school and Bible study attendance was down last month due to illness and weather.
- 5) Preschool Report: Star reported Preschool has resumed classes with 2 new students, Parent/Teacher conferences will be Feb. 2 & 3, and that registration for 2022/23 will begin this month. Also, the Board has approved wage increases, tuition increases of 10%, and registration fee increase of \$5; state inspection was conducted.
- 6) Elder's Report: Dale reported the letters were sent to 58 inactive members seeking their wishes to remain on active list, as of Feb. 2 none have responded and will be removed from the active roster--leaving 151 active members (81 households). At their February meeting, the Elders decided to remove the mask mandates during services effective Ash Wednesday (March 2) for those who are vaccinated, as the number of COVID cases have dramatically decreased and to resume serving communion at the rail.
- 7) Financial Secty: Jenn reported that few have signed up as helpers to count the collection, but many will continue to help.
- 8) Outreach Report: Kristi reported the delivery of Memory Hearts began in early Feb. to families and many thanks to Dennis and crew for making them. Items for Backpacks for Kids has been finalized, the Board will seek donations for filling them--the preschool will be the prime receivers of the filled packs slated for distribution for the 2022/23 school year. She also reported Movie Matinee will begin Feb. 6 @ 2pm, with additional showings 2/20, 3/6 & 3/20 @ 2pm. "The Bible" mini-series will be shown, snacks and refreshments to be offered. Also, 13 Prayer quilts have been made the past several months for sick and recovering members.
- 9) Building & Grounds Report: Craig reported 6 mice kills this season and the phone in classroom 7/8 has been repaired. Also the middle parking lot light pole is rotting at its base and will need to be replaced after the snow melts.
- 10) Contribution Secretary Report: Dennis reported that in January contributions were up \$9,441 (73.8%) from last year, thanks to a generous member donation, and the number of contributors was down by 3 from last year; also, envelope boxes are distributed.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Organist: Marlyss is still recovering and will be out for the remainder of Feb-hopes to return in March. Matt Chaffe will continue to fill-in. After discussion, Craig made motion to continue to pay Marlyss her organist salary minus her choir director's salary, and to give Matt the choir director's salary in addition to the guest organist pay thru March. Dennis 2nd. Motion passed.
- 2) Peggy's office chair: It was mentioned that Peggy's chair is starting to show its age. Dale made a motion to have Peggy select a new chair for the office. Star 2nd. Motion passed.
- 3) Council decided to take up a collection from council members to give our janitor Julie Reynolds a bonus in appreciation for her extra work throughout the pandemic.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 7 @ 6pm. Zoom meeting if necessary before then.

From the Preschool

PRESCHOOL**Registration**

2022-2023 Preschool Registration

Registration for St. Paul's Preschool 2022-2023 school year will be opening soon. If you are interested in your child attending St. Paul's Preschool in the fall please pick up a registration form which are located at the back of the sanctuary next to the double doors. Registration for current preschool families will begin on February 7th with open registration beginning February 23nd. Once open registration begins classes will be filled as registration forms are received. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Marizek at 440-354-

3000. If you know someone who has a preschool aged child please pass a registration form on to them.

March Birthdays

John Galayda	2nd
Suzanne Luther	2nd
Debbi Davis	6th
Don Bennington	22nd
Laurie Srebernak	26th
Rich Szoradi	29th
Sandy Heckler	29th



March Anniversaries

Russ & Karen Tuttle	50 years on Mar 4th
Frank & Laura Vosicky	23 years on Mar 27th



Those Who Serve: March 2022

ELDERS:

6:00 P Saturday Aaron Lindrose
9:30 A Sunday Craig McConnell

LECTORS:

03-05-22 6:00 P Saturday Pastor Sundbom
03-06-22 9:30 A Sunday Eric West
03-12-22 6:00 P Saturday Dale Kerver
03-13-22 9:30 A Sunday Jennifer Drake
03-19-22 6:00 P Saturday Dave Murphy
03-20-22 9:30 A Sunday Terry Wakelee
03-26-22 6:00 P Saturday Pastor Sundbom
03-27-22 9:30 A Sunday Jack Lelle

COUNTERS:

Jenn Drake, Jeff Troutman

GREETERS:

6:00 P Saturday
9:30 A Sunday

**SIGN UP IN MARCH TO GREET
YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.**

**Sign-up sheet located on the
double doors at the back of the
Sanctuary.**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Preschool

250 Bowhall Road • Painesville, OH 44077

(440)354-3000 | www.splcpainesville.org | office@splcpainesville.org

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor
Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music
Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am
Children 10:45am

St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director
preschool@splcpainesville.org
www.stpaulspainesville.com

Also Supporting



St. Paul's Preschool
250 Bowhall Road
Painesville, OH 44077
440-354-3000



508 Mentor Avenue
Painesville, OH 44077
440-357-7778

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">  <p>Communion Service</p> </div> <p>Woman's History Month</p>	<p>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <p>Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study - 8:30am & 10:45am</p> <p>National Nutrition Month</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7 pm Choir Practice Cancelled</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>Worship Service 7:00 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7 pm Virtual Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Employee Appreciation Day</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>International Woman's Day</p> <p>7 pm Choir Practice Cancelled</p>	<p>9</p>  <p>7 pm Mid-week Lenten Worship</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7 pm Virtual Bible Study</p> <p>8 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> 
<p>13</p>  	<p>14</p> <p>Pi Day</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7 pm Choir Practice Cancelled</p>	<p>16</p>  <p>7 pm Mid-week Lenten Worship</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6 pm Outreach Meeting</p> <p>7 pm Virtual Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>World Poetry Day</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7 pm Choir Practice Cancelled</p>	<p>23</p>  <p>7 pm Mid-week Lenten Worship</p> <p>National Puppy Day</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7 pm Virtual Bible Study</p> <p>8 pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>25</p> <p>International Waffle Day</p>	<p>26</p> 
<p>27</p> 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7 pm Choir Practice Cancelled</p>	<p>30</p>  <p>7 pm Mid-week Lenten Worship</p>	<p>31</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p> </div> <p>March Birthstone Aquamarine, Bloodstone & Jade</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> <p>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm</p> </div> <p>March Flower Daffodil</p>