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The Christ Times

A publication of Christ Lutheran Church, Stevensville, Michigan



Into the Unknown.

by Pastor Measel

One of the reasons for McDonald's success is that you know what you're going to get. Even before you order, you already know what you want and you know what you'll get. It's known and predictable. No surprises.

God is unchanging, immutable, dependable, steadfast. He knows the future, and he knows you, and he knows *your* future. And he takes care of you and directs everything that happens for you. The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. (Lam 3:22) He's dependable, unchanging.

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When we shop and buy products, we often buy the same brand over and over. The same brand of pickles. The same brand of jeans. The same shampoo. (It's called brand loyalty.) Why do we do that? Because we know what we're going to get. We're comfortable with it. It's expected and known. No surprises.

And that's why God's church and her message is unchanging, immutable, dependable, steadfast. We preach Christ crucified. (1 Cor 1:23) We teach about the forgiveness of Jesus and his love for you. Always! Every time!

Even though we appreciate some variety from time to time, humanity generally likes stability and predictability. We appreciate routine and structure in life. The more unpredictable and unknown the future becomes, the more stress and anxiety we have.

In the midst of unpredictability, in the midst of anxiety over the future, when you are overwhelmed about the unknown future and what to do, rely on Christ. Cling to Jesus. He is always there. He is dependable, reliable, unchanging.

We are living in a time of extreme unknown. We don't know the future. We don't know what next year will bring. We don't know what next month will bring. We don't even know what will happen next week, or even tomorrow.

And then come to his church, hear his unchanging word of forgiveness and love (again), sing hymns and songs about him (again), receive his dependable always-available forgiveness (again), be strengthened thru his body and blood (again). Yes, the particular details of the word, and music, and preaching will have some variety. But overall, regarding the message, you know what you're going to get. It's known and predictable, and that's a good thing.

But God does.



worship WITH US

via Youtube

Sundays live at 8:00 a.m. | christ-luth.org/church

News & Notes

By Pastor Measel

Bible Study

Our fall bible studies will be replaced by Financial Peace University: Tuesday nights at 7:00pm, Wednesday morning at 9:30, and Sunday morning at 9:30 (we will still have a regular bible study on Sunday mornings as well). This fall bible study will begin the week of September 20. This is an excellent opportunity to grow in our knowledge of God's material blessings to us here on earth, and how to be better stewards of those blessings.

After Christmas, we will restart (from the beginning) the apologetics bible study based on the book 'Life's Big Questions, God's Big Answers'. Keep the books handy! We will get back to learning about defending the faith.



James Charles Yeager was baptized on August 30th during the 10:45 Sunday service. He is the son of Rev. Christopher & Alexandria Yeager.

His sponsors are Zachary & Ashley Leshar.



Wedding Announcement

Nicholas Ray Phillips & Lyndsey Ellan Shembarger were united in holy matrimony on August 8, 2020 at Christ Lutheran Church.

Pastor Measel was the officiant.

Update on Grief Share Tuesday Morning Breakfast Group

We miss getting together with all of you to share our daily struggles with grief and to learn more about the grief process and share our daily successes during our grief journey. It has now been 5 months since we were last able to meet at Martin's and it is not clear when we will be able to meet there again. The pandemic has certainly caused problems for our group meetings.

Faith and I have struggled with what we should be doing to provide meaningful grief support during this difficult time. We have not been able to come up with an alternative meeting arrangement or location that will keep everyone safe and still provide grief support in a meaningful way. We are open to any suggestions that any of you may have. Our primary focus of the group going forward needs to be the health and safety of our members.

Becky Russell has suggested the GriefShare website as a source for materials that may be useful. There are grief materials available for viewing there that may be helpful for each of you. In addition, they offer a free encouraging daily email every day for a year. The website is griefshare.org.

Let us know if you have any ideas about getting together safely and observing all current protocols for social distancing and masking. We look forward to meeting with all of you again in person soon.

Len & Faith Timm 428-7123



Financial Update – July, 2020

For the month of July we ran a deficit of \$10 thousand. This compares to an \$18 thousand deficit we ran for July last year.

Total receipts for July were slightly lower than July of last year. Significant gifts were received in both months.

Spending for the month of July was \$10 thousand lower than July of last year. Administrative spending was \$9 thousand lower than last July. Compensation and benefits spending was \$7 thousand lower as we did not have the transition expenses related to bringing in a new middle school teacher, that we incurred last year. Properties spending was \$1 thousand higher than last July due to various repair and maintenance items. Youth expenses had a nearly \$2 thousand credit due to the refund of funds paid for the Higher Things summer conference, which was cancelled over pandemic concerns.

Our general checking account had a \$69 thousand balance at the end of July. At the end of July 2019 our checking account balance was \$19 thousand. \$50 thousand had been borrowed off our line of credit with Church Extension as of the end of last July.

Funds received under the Federal government’s PPP forgivable loan program were exhausted in July. It is expected that we will file for loan forgiveness in August.

**Faith Promise Giving
Direct Deposit Form**

On the following page is a form which may be used should you wish to start having your faith promise giving handled electronically versus using envelopes to make weekly or monthly giving in church.

This option is offered as a convenience as increasing numbers of members are using electronic means for much of their personal bill paying and other transactions.

If you have any questions, please talk with Craig Klein.

LWML Grant for September

Ministry in Motion at Trinity in Mobile, AL



Trinity Lutheran School, modeled after the ministry of Rosa J. Young, has remained a stronghold of Christ centered education in a community dealing with inter-generational poverty and the challenges of urban living. Today Trinity serves 200 students from infants through fifth grade, and reaches another 45 students daily from four public schools through its afterschool program and Good News Bible Club.

Daily prayer, chapel, and devotions help children, many from unchurched homes, develop spiritually in knowing God loves them. Grant funds are needed to purchase a handicapped accessible church bus for school children, elders, neighbors, and church members to participate in church and school ministries.



Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

4333 Cleveland Ave.

Stevensville, MI 49127

(269) 429-7222

FEIN # 38-1572143

Electronic Payments Authorization Form - ACH (Authorized Clearing House)

FAITH GIVING

DATE OF AUTHORIZATION _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

AUTHORIZATION TYPE

- New Authorization
- Change Giving Amount
- Discontinue Giving
- Change Banking Information
- Change Date of Giving

GIVING SPECIFICS

Date of First Giving _____ Date of Last Giving (optional) _____

FREQUENCY

- Monthly Specify Numerical Day of the Month _____
- Bi-Weekly (every other week)
- Weekly

AMOUNT OF GIVING

Amount of Giving *per* transaction _____

Please debit this giving amount from my/our checking account (attach voided check below)

I authorize the above named organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide notification to terminate the authorization.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

(Attach voided check here)



**In our Thoughts
& Prayers**

HEALING

- Addie Scheffler**
- Al Kasewurm**
- Amanda Clark**
- Amee Mantei**
- Barbara Maul**
- Bea Rudlaff**
- Connie Schmidt**
- Dave Knuth**
- Dee Payovich**
- Deleigh McClintock**
- Denice McClintock**
- Ferny Rantz**
- Jim Walters**
- Laura Lesher**
- Laura Schornhorst**
- Laurie Ulmer**
- Leni Weisser**
- Mary Panzica**
- Miro Virsik**
- Nancy Duke**
- Pat Jeager**
- Ron Szoke**
- Sally Knuth**

- Aubrey Hamby**—nephew of Dee Payovich
- Austin Arndt**—grandson of Linda Steinke
- Bill Bunte**—cousin of Mary Spaulding
- Bruce Wurdeman**—brother of Diane Strohacker
- Catie Reed**—granddaughter of Doris Beezley
- Chris Dunn**—nephew of Thelma Szoke
- Christine Lowmaster**—niece of Sharon Lowmaster
- Gertrude Keen**—mother of Debbie Tietz
- Grace Gerken**—niece of Andrew & Terri Gerken
- Jim Russell**—brother of Mark Russell
- Paula Hicks**—niece of Dee Payovich
- Phil Oberhaus** – brother of Susan Jackemeyer
- Taryn Schrader**—sister of Tamara Paulun
- Trina Justin**—friend of Rev. & Lorelle Moritz
- William Maul** – brother of Charles Maul

Anniversaries

- Jerry & Wilma Malinasky**—60th
- Matt & Julianne Mast**—13th
- Loren & Margaret Gerber**—68th
- Mick & Lee Yeske**—69th

♥Birthdays

- ~ **Bob Wolflanger**—52 years

♥Births

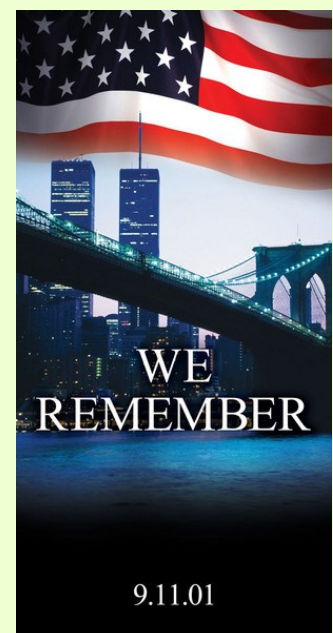
- ~ **James Charles Yeager, son of Rev. Christopher & Alex Yeager**

♥Deaths

- ~ **John Clem**, nephew of Thelma Szoke

♥Servicemen in our Prayers

- Alex Root**
- Allison Blake**
- James Vieregge**
- Joseph Schaffer**



Altar Flowers



August 30

Matthew & Julianne Mast on the occasion of their 13th wedding anniversary.

Al & Leni Weisser and Bob & Sybil Kish on the occasion of their 62nd & 40th anniversaries, respectively.

September 6

In Loving Memory of Earl Totzke, given by Joyce Totzke.

September 13

In honor of the teachers & staff of Christ Lutheran School



DATES ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020

Please consider honoring or remembering a loved one by sponsoring a Radio Broadcast, or Altar Flowers. The charts for 2020 are on the bulletin board in the commons area. The radio broadcast is \$150.00 (consider sharing it with a friend or family member) and is a wonderful opportunity to share our service with those that are shut-in. The altar flowers are \$15.00. After the services, they are delivered to a shut-in or someone that is sick or hospitalized. These are all wonderful programs and they are made possible because of *YOU!* Thank you.

The September radio broadcasts are sponsored by the following people

- ◆ In loving memory of Earl Totzke, given by Joyce Totzke
- ◆ In loving memory of Clarence Schadler, given by Mike & Terrie Smith

Thanks
TO
Everyone

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for your outpouring of love, support, and prayers during this time. I have been overwhelmed with the beautiful cards, phone calls, meals, rides, and "special painters!" You have all been such amazing servants of Christ during this time.

Tom and I are truly blessed by having you in our lives. You mean more to us than you will ever know.

Please continue with prayers. I now am realizing what these words mean: "the peace that passes all human understanding" - I have that peace and it is from all your prayers!

In Christ,
Laurie Ulmer

Dear Christ Lutheran Members,

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bridgman, would like to thank you for all your donations for this year's "Free-For-All." About 300 people attended this event and found many treasures. We appreciate your thoughtfulness in supporting this community event.

God Bless You!

In His Service,

Sue Berk

GOOD NEWS!

The flooring update is complete throughout the building. Thank you for the donations, the memorials, and the hard work of so many volunteers who worked at the rummage sales!

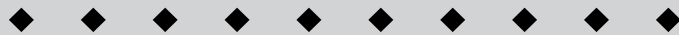
LADIES LEAGUE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

The first ladies' league meeting of the season will be held at North Lake Park, Grand Mere at 6:00 p.m. We will have election of officers and discuss the financial direction of the ladies' league. Bring your own supper and beverage. Hope to see you there!



Watch for Radtke Jam Sales to begin again soon. Just in time for the holidays!



ARE YOU AN AMAZON SHOPPER??

AMAZON SMILE DONATES TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Shop for anything at Amazon at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-1572143> and Amazon donates to Christ Lutheran Church. If you have any questions about this program, see Christine in the office.

VOLUNTEER SUNDAY

Sunday, September 13th is "Volunteer Appreciation" Sunday. We have been blessed here at Christ Lutheran with many willing workers in God's kingdom. Anyone who has volunteered in any way, such as serving as a board member, elder, usher, ladies league, altar guild, etc. during the past year will receive a gift.

Special Dates in September

EDUCATION SUNDAY
September 13

ALL BOARDS MEETING & PARISH PLANNING
Monday, September 14
7:00 p.m.

VOTER'S MEETING
Monday, September 21
7:00 p.m.

COMMUNION SUNDAYS
September 13
September 27

CONTEMPORARY SUNDAY
September 20
10:45 a.m.

ARCADIA - LITE PLANS HAVE CHANGED: we will now get together on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10. Bible Study and lunch in the morning and optional golf in the afternoon. More details to follow. The Bible Study will be on 'Resources for Godly Men Facing Challenges' based on John chapters 10-17. Contact Fred Pieplow (269-369-2081) or e-mail him at fpieplow@gmail.com if you are inter-

Our new website is up and running.
Check it out at Christ-luth.org.

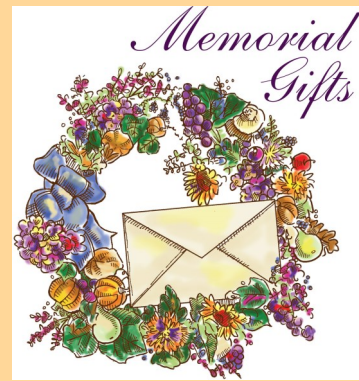




Susan Bittenbender	9/1	John Allen	9/14
Carol Post	9/1	Wayne Belke	9/14
Pamela Seely	9/2	Eleanor Hoge	9/14
Lincoln Zech	9/2	Sandra Strefling	9/14
Todd Batson	9/3	Diana Brunke	9/15
Janet Reimann	9/3	Craig Klein	9/15
David White	9/3	Wilma Malinasky	9/15
Kailee Siemans	9/3	Linda Drews	9/17
Keith Bonner	9/5	Sharon Jeschke	9/17
Cailey Rooker	9/5	Al Kasewurm	9/17
Ronald Szoke	9/5	Andrew Steffen	9/17
Josh Lowmaster	9/5	Fred Pieplow	9/18
Kai Bhatti	9/7	Randy Rudlaff	9/19
Diane Clark	9/7	George Morgan	9/19
Brittany Cochran	9/8	Donnie Necas	9/21
Erik Kasewurm	9/8	Kaitlyn Ross	9/21
Julianne Mast	9/8	Angela Lies	9/24
Isaiah Webb	9/8	Rochelle Necas	9/24
Jacob Webb	9/8	Chloe Kalinas	9/25
Lauren LaBaumbard	9/9	Millie Ott	9/25
Dennis Metz	9/9	Brian Shembarger	9/25
Mary Panzica	9/9	Theresa Steffens	9/25
Sarah Beck	9/9	Andrew Brown	9/28
Fred Knuth	9/10	Kayla Matheny	9/28
Fred Cooper	9/11	Martin Measel	9/28
Chuck Dinges	9/12	Christopher Coder	9/29
Kathleen Fisher	9/12	Aubrey Dunn	9/29
David Nitz	9/12	Wally Maurer	9/30
Margaret Gerber	9/13		
Amy Gorske	9/13		
Miro Virsik	9/13		
Keith Yeske	9/13		



Michael & Lora Freehling	9/1/1990	30
Matthew & Julianne Mast	9/1/2007	13
Paula & William Benner	9/3/2011	9
James & Beverly Ross	9/4/1993	27
Martin & Jill Measel	9/5/1998	22
Martin & Marilyn Strefling	9/12/1964	56
Jeffrey & Karen Ziebart	9/15/1984	36
Robert & Adeline Scheffler	9/20/1952	68
Christine & Scott Germain	9/22/2012	8
Kevin & Patricia Allred	9/29/1990	30
Kenneth & Barbara Mach	9/29/1979	41



In Loving Memory of Arlene Dinges

Bob & Sandy Dixon
 Loren & Margaret Gerber
 Bob & Jeanne Hartman
 Don & Sharon Jeschke
 Craig & Suellen Klein
 Tom & Laurie Ulmer
 Florence Ziemer
 Ron & Carol Bonczkowski
 Ralph & Devona Dinges
 Al & Kathy Kasewurm
 Delmar & Lynn Lange
 Glen & Pam Greiffendorf
 Susan Lake
 Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Braley
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Coffey
 Jim & Jeanine Damaske
 Jim & Amy Wells
 Jim & Tina Machacek
 Gary Machacek
 Joyce Frazier
 Jeff & Sherry Knapp
 David & Coralie Dirlam
 Joyce Zeilke
 Dennis & Sharon Kniola
 Larry & Joyce Dinges
 Diamond Factory Service
 Duane & Betty Harfert
 Heather Jung, Emerson & Madeline
 Don Evans
 Marjorie Brien
 David & Caralie Dirlam
 Gustave Damaske

In Loving Memory of Ruth Pursley, sister of Laura Schornhorst

Loren & Margaret Gerber
 Harry & Pat Jaeger
 Jerry & Laura Schornhorst

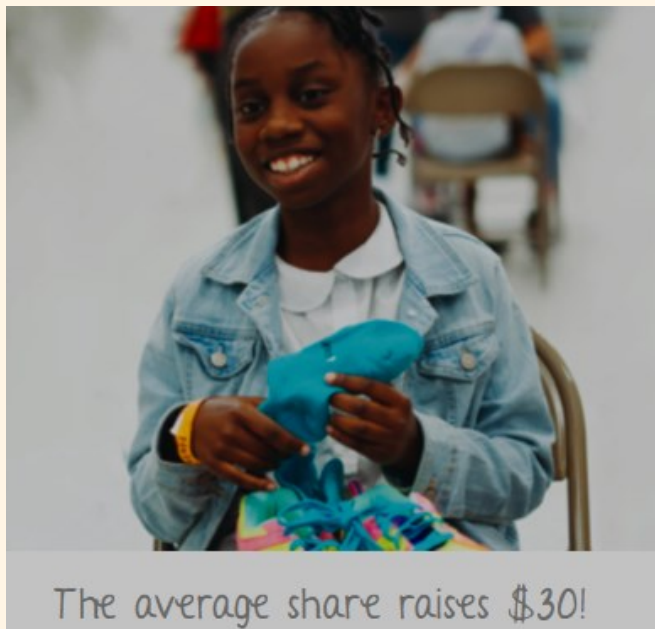
In Honor of Arlene Frobel's 80th Birthday

Janet Zielke

In Honor of her Birthday

Helen Quardokus

thrivent[®]



-----Give Students a Foot Up-----

Join with Thrivent and Samaritan's Feet as we hold a back-to-school "shoe raiser" – to support kids in need in our community and around the country. No matter if they are learning in-person or from afar new shoes are one of the most-needed items by students. While this shoe drive may look a little different than what your typical shoe drive, the result is the same: Students across the country will receive shoes, thanks to people like YOU! Get started:

1 – Get Creative. Post a photo with as many shoes as possible! For every shoe featured, \$2* will be donated toward this fundraiser. Use the "Share a Photo or Comment" button to post your photo.

2 – Give. For every \$2 you donate through their page Thrivent will add another \$1* to the cause.

3 – Send hope. Write a Hope Note for one of the children who will receive shoes by going to <https://bit.ly/hope-notes>

Inspire your friends, family and those you volunteer alongside! Share this page so they can help, too! Samaritan's Feet serves and inspires hope in children by providing shoes as the foundation to a spiritual and healthy life resulting in the advancement of education and economic opportunities. Since its founding in 2003, Samaritan's Feet and its partners have distributed over 7.5 million pairs of shoes in 108 countries and over 420 U.S. cities. Be a part of the movement today! To learn more visit www.samaritansfeet.org *

Thrivent will donate up to a total of \$180,000 to Samaritan's Feet through the photo share and personal donation matching opportunities. All personal donations in support of this fundraiser will be made through InFaith Community Foundation. Thrivent will pay the online processing fees for personal donations made through InFaith Community Foundation up to \$100,000 per calendar year.



Education Sunday

Sunday, September 13

Please join us on Sunday, September 13th as we highlight an important ministry of the church; to provide Christian education and to foster growth in the faith of all Christians, young and old.

Travis Grulke, Michigan District Superintendent of Schools, will be joining us for worship at both services to present our school with our NLSA Accreditation. Please join us for the special occasion.

Therefore, 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,

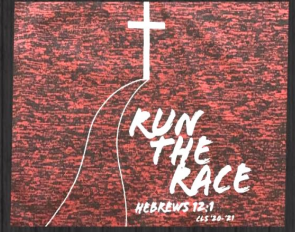
Hebrews 12:1



2020-2021 Theme Buffs for Sale

Cost: \$5 each
Sold by the PTL

Buffs will be available to purchase at Check-In Day on August 11 & during the first week of school. Supplies are limited—don't miss out!



Call the school office if you are interested in purchasing a school theme buff. (429-7111).



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

We have been working very hard to prepare for face to face instruction in the fall. As things become clear regarding the requirements of the state, we find ourselves in need of some special volunteers. Our "Back to School" committee is seeking some Angels in our midst to help out in the fall as we return to face to face instruction. These "CLS Angels" would be trained in the proper use of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and help with:

- ◆ Cleaning surfaces during the lunch hour
- ◆ Delivering meals to the classrooms
- ◆ Other various similar duties

If you or someone you know would like to help out in this way, please contact Mr. Webb at nwebb@christstevensville.com or Mrs. Cole at acole@christstevensville.com
Thank you!

Financial Peace University coming to Christ Lutheran soon!

Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went! *Financial Peace University* is a nine-lesson class designed to help you build a budget, dump debt, grow your wealth, and leave money stress behind. Each lesson is based on biblical wisdom and common sense. We will host classes here at Christ and / or online. Class will start The week of September 20.

Tuesday nights at 7:00pm, Wednesday morning at 9:30 am, and Sunday at 9:30 am.

If you have any questions, see Pastor Measel or Fred Pieplow.



LWML NOTES

October 4th we will be celebrating LWML Sunday— a little different this year, as everything is! A large mite box will be close to the sanctuary entrance for your mites/donations.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Fall Rally this year – looking forward to conditions improving so we can have one in the spring. ALSO, we are not collecting items for “Backpack for Lutheran World Relief” —again we hope to be able to do this in 2021. Thank you Terry Steffens for all the sewing on the backpacks (150). If anyone has purchased items already and would like me to store them, please call me at 429-4518.

We trust God to guide us through these rough times, as He always has.

Please keep your focus on Jesus and be safe!

Joyce Totzke

LWML Representative

September 2020

Christ Lutheran Church Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Private Communion: 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. 7:00 pm Worship Service 8:00 p.m. Private Comm.	4 Office Closed	5
6 8:00 am Worship Service 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Worship Service	7 Labor Day Office Closed	8	9	10 Private Communion: 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. 7:00 pm Worship Service 8:00 p.m. Private Comm	11	12
13 Education Sunday 8:00 am Communion Worship Service 9:30 am Zoom Bible Class 10:45 am Communion Worship Service	14 7:00 pm BOARD MEETING 8:00 pm PARISH PLANNING MEETING	15	16 6:00 pm – Ladies League Meeting Grand Mere Park	17 Private Communion: 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. 7:00 pm Worship Service 8:00 p.m. Private Comm	18	19
20 8:00 am Worship Service 9:30 am Zoom Bible Class 9:30 am Peace University Bible Class 10:45 am Contemporary Worship Service	21 7:00 pm VOTER'S MEETING	22 Christ Times Week 7:00 pm Peace University Bible Class	23 9:30 am Peace University Bible Class	24 Private Communion: 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. 7:00 pm Worship Service 8:00 p.m. Private Comm	25	26
27 8:00 am Communion Worship Service 9:30 am Zoom Bible Class 9:30 am Peace University Bible Class 10:45 am Communion Worship Service	28	29 7:00 pm Peace University Bible Class	30 9:30 am Peace University Bible Class			