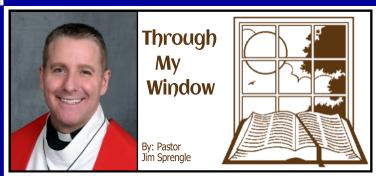
#### APRIL 2025

ne Acts of Ascension



Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes," (Romans 1:16 ESV). "And [Jesus] said to [the disciples], 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation," (Mark 16:15 ESV).

How is your Bible reading and devotion going? How is your fellowship—your koinonia—going? Each month in 2025, we are considering how our congregation can grow in the Word, fellowship, and outreach. So far, we've looked at being in the Word of God daily and the importance of fellowship and life together. Our third focus is outreach.

Most of the time, when we think of outreach, the word evangelism pops into our heads, and we get nervous about the thought of approaching someone about our faith. I wonder-have you heard any good news lately? Certainly, we hear plenty of bad news. Our news feeds are full of negative stories about politics, the weather, homelessness, crime, wars and rumors of wars, and disasters at home and abroad. When I go out in public, complete strangers will often bring up these bad news stories to start a conversation. On the other hand, it's so much better when we hear some good news. For example, a new baby being born, cancer going into remission, a milestone birthday being celebrated, a vacation to Hawaii, or buying a first home. Sometimes, when something really good happens, it's hard not to bring it up to people all the time. For me, I recently paid to have my yard cleaned up and prepared for summer, and I tell everyone how good that feels!

The Gospel—or the Good News—is the best news of all. Better than the greatest experiences or gifts, the Gospel is the power of God to bring a person to faith in Him—granting forgiveness, life, and salvation. When I have good news in my life, I freely share it with nearly anyone who will listen. Next time, we will explore some ways to share the Good News—the Gospel—with people as we live our lives in a bad-news world.

In a few weeks, we will celebrate the greatest event in history—Jesus' death on the cross and His

resurrection on Easter morning. Perhaps inviting a friend or family member to a Holy Week service, Easter Sunday worship, or the Easter breakfast is a way to share that Good News with someone around you. However you decide to share Jesus, remember that He is always the best possible news you can share.

May the Lord bless you during this most holy time, as the Good News of your salvation is proclaimed!

Blessings,

'r Jim

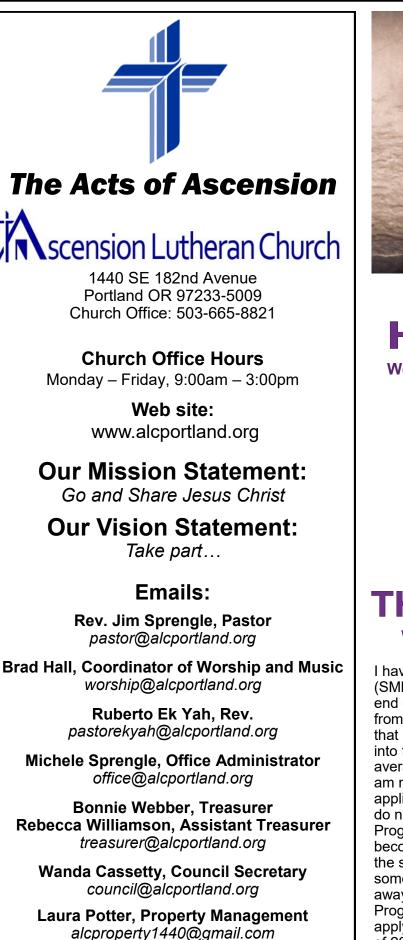
¡Gracia y paz a vosotros de parte de Dios nuestro Padre y del Señor Jesucristo!

A la verdad, no me avergüenzo del evangelio, pues es poder de Dios para la salvación de todos los que creen, (Romanos 1:16 NVI). Les dijo: «Vayan por todo el mundo y anuncien las buenas nuevas a toda criatura. (Marcos 16:15 NVI)

¿Cómo va tu lectura de la Biblia y tu devoción? ¿Cómo va tu comunión, tu koinonía? Cada mes en 2025, estamos considerando cómo nuestra congregación puede crecer en la Palabra, la comunión y el alcance. Hasta ahora, hemos visto estar en la Palabra de Dios diariamente y la importancia de la comunión y la vida juntos. Nuestro tercer enfoque es la divulgación.

La mayoría de las veces, cuando pensamos en el alcance, la palabra evangelismo aparece en nuestras cabezas, y nos ponemos nerviosos ante la idea de acercarnos a alguien sobre nuestra fe. Me pregunto... ¿has escuchado alguna buena noticia últimamente? Ciertamente, escuchamos muchas malas noticias. Nuestras noticias están llenas de historias negativas sobre la política, el clima, las personas sin hogar, el crimen, las guerras y los rumores de guerras, y los desastres en el país y en el extranjero. Cuando salgo en público, completos extraños a menudo sacan a relucir estas malas noticias para iniciar una conversación. Por otro lado, es mucho mejor cuando escuchamos buenas noticias. Por ejemplo, el nacimiento de un nuevo bebé, la remisión del cáncer, la celebración de un cumpleaños importante, unas vacaciones en Hawái o la compra de una primera vivienda. A veces, cuando sucede algo realmente bueno, es difícil no mencionarlo a la gente todo el tiempo. En mi caso, recientemente pagué para que limpiaran mi jardín y lo prepararan para el verano, jy les digo a todos lo bien que se siente!

(Continúa a la página 6)



Hana Brandt, Deaconess Intern deaconess@alcportland.org



## LENT AND HOLY WEEK

Wednesday Midweek Worship: Still 2 Left April 2, 9 at 3:30pm and 7:00pm

> Palm Sunday April 13 at 8:30am and 11:00am

Maundy Thursday: April 17 at 7:00pm

Good Friday: April 18 at 7:00pm

**Easter Sunday** April 20 at 8:30am and 11:00am Breakfast 9:30am to 10:45am

## THANK YOU FROM WYATT BROWN

I have an update on my Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program application, which I turned in at the end of February. I met with an admissions officer from Concordia Seminary, and it was stated clearly that it would be doubtful that I would be accepted into the program. The main reason is my age. The average age of an SMP Program applicant is 52; I am not. In fact, the youngest SMP Program applicant the seminary has accepted was 26. They do not desire men my age to pursue the SMP Program because the best preparation for men to become pastors is through residential attendance at the seminary. After much prayer, consideration, and some work to make sure everything was squared away, I withdrew my application to the SMP Program near the end of March, and instead will be applying for residential seminary starting in the fall of 2026. I cannot find the words to express my gratitude for your willingness to support and sponsor me for this program. Having your trust in this has meant so much to my family and me.

### Deaths / Funerals / Memorials –

- Helen Penk former member, service at Ascension, Saturday, March 8
- **Karla Deal** died January 25, 2025, service St. Michael's, March 22

#### Marriages –

 Wyatt Brown & Katherine Houk, wedding on May 22, 2026

#### Baptisms –

 Arlo Reinert, son of Brandon and Vanessa (Cindy's son), May 4, 2025

#### Transfers, New Members, etc. -

- Judy Davis, former River of Life member, transferring in
- 18-20 repeat visitors
- C-101 class will be scheduled after Easter

#### Confirmation –

- Confirmation 2024-2025 will be Fridays from 5:30-6:30pm in Community Room
  - o 3 students
- Confirmation Day, Sunday, June 8 at 11:00am service
  - o Caleb Zeebuyth will be confirmed

#### Latino Membership –

- Services continue on Sundays at 5:00pm

#### Circuit Visitor Info –

- Immanuel, Sandy I'm still covering one Sunday per month, along with Brad, our Coordinator of Worship and Music who is playing the organ on the same Sunday
- I was elected to serve another 3-year term as Circuit Visitor for the 2025-2028 triennium and will be installed at the 67<sup>th</sup> Northwest District Convention, June 19-21 in Spokane, WA
- Trinity, Oregon City I attended a voters assembly on Sunday, March 30 as Circuit Visitor representing the Northwest District. The congregation decided to move forward with the call process and seek a vacancy pastor when Pastor Engelbrecht retires in June, 2025

#### Miscellaneous –

- Wyatt Brown
  - After finding out that the chances for being accepted into the Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program were low, Wyatt pulled his application
    - § Considering his options, he has decided to apply for residential seminary at Concordia Seminary – St. Louis in the fall of 2026

#### - Human Care Board

- o Planning and seeking volunteers for Easter breakfast
- Looking ahead to the summer months and gathering items for SnowCap

#### - Stewardship Board

- o Meeting on the second Mondays each month at 1pm
- o Ongoing plans to support inactive boards to begin operating again

## April through June 2025 Dates to remember:

April 2, 9, Wednesdays – Lent Midweek (3:30, 7pm)

April 13, Sunday – Palm Sunday

April 17, Thursday – Maundy Thursday (7pm)

- April 18, Friday Good Friday (7pm)
- April 20, Sunday Easter Sunday
- May 11, Sunday Mother's Day
- May 26, Monday Memorial Day
- May 29, Thursday Ascension Day (7pm)

June 8, Sunday – Pentecost Day / Confirmation Day



RobIn Wymore	April	Rose Cassetty	Apr. 16
Elly Brown	Apr. 1	Wanda Cassetty	Apr. 16
Jim Conway	Apr. 1	Merci McInaney	Apr. 17
Gina Kreps	Apr. 1	Arielle Reinert	Apr. 19
Eileen Hatley	Apr. 3	Joshua Hazen	Apr. 21
Emanuel Aguilar	Apr. 5	Nichole Fogarty	Apr. 21
Josue Aguilar	Apr. 5	Joshua Hazen	Apr. 21
Lesly Aguilar	Apr. 5	Margaret Hubbard	Apr. 21
Carolyn Gordon	Apr. 9	Carolyn Shore	Apr. 21
Sylvia Guthrie	Apr. 9	Marcia Bryant	Apr. 24
Giselle Lavadores	Apr. 9	Ruby Sylvia	Apr. 25
Heidi Lavadores	Apr. 9	Sasha Harris	Apr. 28
Laura Potter	Apr 13	Nekayla Maier	Apr. 28
Debbie Walter	Apr. 14	Ty Fogarty	Apr. 29
Barbara Patch	Apr. 15	Steven Schaefer	Apr 29
Cody Brown	Apr. 16	Allan Krueger	Apr. 30
Samantha Brannies	s Apr. 16		



## PRAY FOR OUR MILITARY

Brett Monson – Navy, San Diego CA (Grandson of Joann Schulz)

Michael Williamson, Air Force, Reserve, Texas (grandson of Rebecca Williamson);

Jamie Wong-Lopez, Navy, Kaneohe Bay HI (nephew of Merci McInaney);

Clayton Wright, Air Force – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Colton Wright, Navy – (grandson of Virginia Jacobs);

Tyler Young, Navy – Deployed (nephew of Karen Arronson).

Bradley Zeller, Army – Fort Lewis WA (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)

Kyle Zeller, Army – Ft. Hood TX (grandson of Neil and Deb Zeller)



Rose Cassetty	Apr. 6	Dan Anderson	Apr. 16
Klara Schmidt	Apr. 8	Ty Fogarty	Apr. 17
Jeannette Krogh	Apr. 9	Sylvia Guthrie	Apr. 17
Victor Alvarado	Apr. 11	Teddy Brown	April 20
Karin Richardson	Apr. 11	Bea Kirchner	Apr. 21
Chuck Becker	Apr. 13	Robin Wymore	Apr. 22
Julie Williamson	Apr. 14	Michael Adams	Apr. 23
Keilah Woods	Apr. 14	Larry Hart	Apr. 23
Cecelia Zuriaga	Apr. 14	Mark Wheeler	Apr. 24
Laura Potter	Apr 16		



God's blessings and congratulations to all who are celebrating special days in April! Did we miss your special date? Please let the office know so we can get our records corrected for next year!

## PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN PRAYER

Bonnie Webber, The Family of Carol Hoefer, The Family of Karla Deal, The Family of Dick Clausen (brother of Kaye Beaulieu), Randy Bryant's sisterin-law (Diana), Riki Neagle, Bobbie Adams, Mike Fogarty, Jan Galberth, Jim Eckart, Gina Kreps, Mae Smith, Ed Hubbard, Alma Bangs, Virginia Jacob's brother (Robert), Esperanza Gutierrez' mother (Antonia), \*Barbara Schrader, \*Larry Hart, \*Mel and Lorraine Haggard. \*Home Bound.

If you know of anyone who needs prayer and you have permission to include them in this publication, Please call the church office to let Michele know. 503-665-8821

If you would like to be a "link" in our prayer chain, or if you have a prayer request, please send an email to: office@alcportland.org or call: 503-665-8821

## YOUTH AND FAMILY

## MARCH YOUTH and FAMILY NIGHT NEWS SOUPER SMARTIES NIGHT

On March 21st, the youth and family ministry got together for a night of fellowship, food, laughs, and trivia!

The night began with a potluck, primarily soup. All the soups were fantastic, and the youth and family ministry are very thankful for everyone who brought things for us to eat! After eating and plenty of wonderful conversation, we wrapped up the meal and began to play some trivia. There were four categories of knowledge: Old Testament, Gospel, Epistle, and miscellaneous church trivia. Everyone who played did quite well, and the teamwork displayed at each table that participated was awesome. For those who did not want to participate, there was the option to bead bracelets, and the making of dozens of bracelets brought joy to the many who did.

The March Youth and Family Night was a blast! It was a great night full of fellowship, soup, and trivia. Thank you so much for everyone who attended and brought great food. You all made it a truly memorable night!

**HE IS RISEN** 

## APRIL YOUTH and FAMILY NIGHT All Are Invited!

Our Youth and Family Ministry typically meets on the third Friday of each month. However, since the third Friday of April falls on Good Friday, we encourage everyone to attend church services instead.

In place of our regular gathering, the Youth and Family Ministry—together with the Outreach Board—will be hosting an Easter Egg Stuffing Event on Thursday, April 11th, at 6:30 PM. This event is in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt the following week.

**Everyone** is welcome to join in the fun—there will be plenty of eggs to fill and snacks, so the more, the merrier! We hope to see you there!

Who: Everyone is invited this time! (Invite your friends!)
What: Easter Egg Stuffing and snacks
When: March 21, 2025 at 6:30pm
Where: Ascension Community Room
Why: Stuffing eggs for the big Easter egg hunt on Saturday

# EASTER BREAKFAST

The Human Care Board invites you to our Annual Easter Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday April 20, Easter Sunday from 9:30 to 10:45am. This special event will support the Benevolence Fund, which provides assistance to those in need.

Tickets will be available between services starting Sunday, March 23, to help us estimate attendance, but no advance purchase is required. Be sure to hold onto your ticket, as it will also enter you into a drawing for door prizes! The cost is \$5 per adult, and children under 10 eat free. Freewill offerings are also welcome and appreciated.

If you'd like to contribute food items, check out the whiteboard in the Narthex after March 23 for the sign-up list.

We look forward to celebrating Easter morning with you!

We need helpers with the Easter Egg Hunt. Questions? Contact Cindy Reinert at cinrein@live.com or just come on out to Vance park to help from 9:30 to 11:30am.

> THE HUNT BEGINS: Saturday, April 19 at 10:30am Children under 5 only from 10:30 to 10:45am Children 5 to 10 may join in at 10:45am Children over 10 may join in at 11:00am

## Join us in Vance Park next to Ascension

1440 SE 182nd Avenue, Portland



# THROUGH MY WINDOW (Viene de la página 1)

El Evangelio, o la Buena Noticia, es la mejor noticia de todas. Mejor que las experiencias o los dones más grandes, el Evangelio es el poder de Dios para llevar a una persona a la fe en Él, otorgando perdón, vida y salvación. Cuando tengo buenas noticias en mi vida, las comparto libremente con casi cualquier persona que quiera escuchar. La próxima vez, exploraremos algunas formas de compartir las Buenas Nuevas, el Evangelio, con las personas mientras vivimos nuestras vidas en un mundo de malas noticias.

En unas pocas semanas, celebraremos el evento más grande de la historia: la muerte de Jesús en la cruz y su resurrección en la mañana de Pascua. Tal vez invitar a un amigo o familiar a un servicio de Semana Santa, al culto del Domingo de Pascua o al desayuno de Pascua es una forma de compartir esas Buenas Nuevas con alguien a tu alrededor. Independientemente de cómo decidas compartir a Jesús, recuerda que Él siempre es la mejor noticia posible que puedes compartir.

¡Que el Señor os bendiga en este tiempo santísimo, en el que se proclama la Buena Nueva de vuestra salvación!

Bendiciones,



# Women's Bible Study

Our next bible study will begin Tuesday, April 8 at 2:00pm. We will be studying the book of Esther. All ladies are invited.

## THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS AND THRIVENT ACTION TEAM CARDS

Ascension's Stewardship Board is quietly planning on ways we can assist our congregation to be better stewards of God's gifts to Ascension. One of those ways is to ensure our Thrivent members are aware of Choice Dollars and Thrivent Action Cards.

Choice Dollars are available if money is invested at Thrivent. These dollars can be directed throughout the year to a charity of your choice. They do not count nor are they tracked as part of the charitable gifts we track for each member/ friend. These are dollars that Thrivent makes available each year and allows their members\* to decide how they are spent.

Thrivent Action cards are also a great way to support projects and events sponsored by our boards and committees. Each card is worth \$250, and each Thrivent member is allowed two cards per year. Married Thrivent members qualify for two cards each. These cards can be used for just about anything that can be considered a charitable project. As an example, the Youth and Family Board used their Family Night craft time to decorate wooden boxes that hold a small, pre-recorded music box. These were then distributed by Pastor Jim as he visited our shut-ins. Thrivent cards can be used to purchase the wooden boxes, the pre-recorded music boxes and even the supplies used to decorate them. Can you imagine the surprise and joy our shut-in members must have felt when they realized that someone in our congregation was thinking about them while decorating their box? And the joy and comfort they receive on an on-going basis listening to favorite hymns?

Our Stewardship Board is asking our Thrivent members to prayerfully consider Ascension as the recipient of both Choice Dollars and Thrivent Action cards. Both can be accessed through online access to Thrivent. If you haven't used these options in the past, or do not have online access, we have our very own Thrivent representative, Neil Zeller, who has offered to assist anyone in applying for and designating these gifts. The dollar amount of these gifts is quite large. If we have 20 members that use both Thrivent cards for Ascension events, we are adding \$10,000 to our income! We will be tracking both Thrivent gifts so we can report back to you in our financial reports.

Because some might have privacy concerns around these gifts, Choice Dollars are directed without the recipient knowing who gifted the money. We are in the process of setting up a tracking system for Thrivent Action Team cards that will allow for privacy. For now, please notify either Sheryl Maier or Debbie Rekdahl so we can start tracking available cards. Stay tuned! More information will be coming soon.

Information for Debbie and Sheryl:

Debbie Rekdahl email: drekdahl@hotmail.com mailbox: 150 phone: 971 282-5041

Sheryl Maier email: sheryl.maier@comcast.net mailbox: 82 phone: 503 705-8382

\*A client with benefit membership is someone 16 years or older who meets membership eligibility, has been admitted for membership, and has a qualified connection to a Thrivent financial insurance or annuity product or received a settlement agreement from such insurance.

The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent clients with membership and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at thrivent.com/ thriventchoice.

## Newsletter DEADLine by Thursday, April 24

				Hazen		Gina
	Z Late Communion	Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Herb Hoefer Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	8:30 Jim Eckart NEEDED 11:00 Matthias McInaney Randy Schroeder NEEDED	AV: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 Laura Potter / Wendy Hazen Power Point: 8:30 Wanda Cassetty 11:00 John Hazen	Greeters: 8:30 Nancy Thomas 11:00 Margaret Hubbard Reader: 8:30 Jim Eckart 11:00 Peggy Hall	Altar: Karen Zahursky Flowers: Shery Maier Counters: Rebecca and Karon Sunday School: Hana and Gina
	27	46 11 83 4 183 4 193 4 193 1 1	Alime 8:30	AV: 8:30 11:0( 8:30 8:30 11:0(	<b>5</b> 82 + 283	Su Co Fic
<b>JTS</b>	20 No Communion Easter	Elder: 8:30 Bruce Blubaum 11:00 John Hazen Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	8:30 Mike Adams John Aden 11:00 Bob Freeman James Freeman	AV: 8:30 Stan Chapulis 11:00 J. E. Knox Power Point: 8:30 Debbie Rekdahl 11:00 Rosemary Knox	Greeters: 8:30 Norma Dillon Jean Dillon 11:00 Christina Freeman Esperanza Gutierrez Reader: 8:30 Carlyn Staudt 11:00 Michele Sprengle	Altar: All Altar Guild Flowers: Schaeffer Family Counters: Bob and Elaina Sunday School: No SS
<b>SERVANTS</b>	18 Good Friday	<b>Fider:</b> 7:00 Randy Schroeder	<b>7:00</b> John Aden Stan Chapulis	<b>7:00</b> AV J. E. Knox Power Point Rosemary Knox	<b>7:00</b> Margo Bachhuber	Altar: All Altar Guild Counters: Bob and Elaina
S						
ß	17 Maundy Thursday	<b>Elder:</b> 7:00 John Hazen	<b>7:00</b> John Aden Stan Chapulis	7:00 AV Michele Sprengle Power Point Laura Potter	<b>7:00</b> Nancy Thomas Warren Thompson	Altar: All Altar Guild Counters: Bob and Elaina
<b>d</b> A <b>d</b> A	13 Late Communion Palm Sunday	Elder: 8:30 Dave Oswald 11:00 Randy Schroeder Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	8:30 Jim Eckart Stan Chapulis 11:00 John Aden Matthias McInaney NEEDED	AV: 8:30 Teresa Osgood 11:00 Wyatt Brown Power Point: 8:30 Tom Osgood 11:00 Katherine Houk	Greeters: 8:30 Millie Edwards 11:00 Carrie Graham Reader: 8:30 Joann Schulz 11:00 Sue Rotramel	Altar: Barb Cochran Flowers: John and Wendy Hazen Counters: Dave and Jan April 9 and 13 Sunday School: Michele Leads Carrie / Michele Leads
	6 Early Communion	Elder: 8:30 Randy Bryant 11:00 Bob Ritchie Acolyte: 8:30 NEEDED 11:00 NEEDED	8:30 Mike Adams John Aden Stan Chapulis <b>11:00</b> Marcus Young Paul Walter	AV: 8:30 Laura Potter 11:00 NEEDED Power Point: 8:30 Jenny Schuldheisz 11:00 Michele Sprengle	Greeters: 8:30 Margo Bachhuber B:1200 Elizabeth Alvarado 11:00 Riki Neagle 8:30 Karon Keup 11:00 J.E Knox	Altar: Virginia Jacobs Flowers: Wanda Cassetty Counters: Karon and Sheryl April 2 and 6 Sunday School: Carrie and Michele / Carrie Leads
	Apr.	പാവന്നം	ϽͽϫͲϗͽ	<> ∞ σσ	<b>⊖</b> кшш⊢шко Кш∢Ошко	RAHLA SREACCA SREACOC

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 6:00pm Elder Meeting	2 3:30pm Lent Midweek 5	<b>3</b> 6:00pm Praise Team	4 5:30pm Confirmation	5
			Worship 7:00pm Lent Midweek 5 Worship	7:00pm Choir Practice		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8:30am Worship w/Comm. 9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship	1:00pm Human Care Board Meeting	2:00pm Women's Bible Study	3:30pm Lent Midweek 6 Worship		5:30pm Confirmation	
	6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study	6:00pm Council Meeting	7:00pm Lent Midweek 6 Worship		6:30pm Youth and Family Night	
<b>13 PALM SUNDAY</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Education Hour	14 1:00pm Stewardship Meeting	15	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Praise Team	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	<b>18</b> 7:00pm Good Friday Worship	19
12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship w/ Comm. 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study		7:00pm Choir Practice			
20 EASTER SUNDAY	21	22	23	24	25	26
8:30am Worship 9:00 –10:45am Easter Breakfast 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Spanish Worship 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study		NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	6:00pm Praise Team 7:00pm Choir Practice	5:30pm Confirmation	
	28	29	30			
9:45am Education Hour 11:00am Worship w/ Comm. 12:15pm Bell Practice 5:00pm Spanish Worship w/ Comm. 6:00pm Online Worship Posted	6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study					