

FEBRUARY 2017

# THE MESSENGER

# 2017

Worship Schedule Sunday: 8 AM and 10:30 AM Sunday Church School for all ages: 9:15 AM

# The Day of Cosmic Justice

For in [Jesus] all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him, God was pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross. Colossians 1:19-20

Get out your red and blue pens and put a big, colorful circle around February 5. Not only is it Super Bowl Sunday, it is the Day of Cosmic Justice.

With the New England Patriots victorious and our football hero Tom Brady (the greatest QB of all time) named MVP, NFL commissioner Roger Goodell will be compelled to award the championship trophy, tributes and kudos to Belichik, Brady and the Patriot team and throng. As he presents the Lombardi Trophy, at that moment, justice will be served. Goodell's Machiavellian machinations to deny this triumph will be put to naught. His bogus, vindictive conflagration of "Deflate-gate" and Brady's four-game suspension will be proven petty, feeble and ineffectual. Goodell should exchange the trophy for a big plate of juicy crow. Or, in this case, falcon.

So, how do I really feel? Don't ask.

Though our man Brady could smirk, sneer and offer some choice words to the commissioner, I'm pretty sure he will not. He will be his usual gracious self. He'll be the gentleman we expect him to be. Justice is served and that's enough.

Though a Patriot victory with Brady accolades may offer a moment of joy and jubilation, in the grand scheme of things, the justice served is but for a few and for a time and a season. After all the Monday morning quarterbacking, it will be relegated to the annals of football history. It wasn't all that cosmic after all.

There is only one instance of cosmic justice which is for all people, of all times and of all places. You won't ever find it on a football field or any other place but one. You find it at the cross of Jesus.

The verses of Colossians 1:19-20 are among my most favorite in Scripture. They remind us that because Jesus gave himself, body and blood, on the cross, God has fully and completely reconciled Himself to us. All sins are forgiven. All debt is paid. All shame is put away. Now when God sees us, God sees us as good. God is pleased to love us and call us His own. This is true and eternal Cosmic Justice.

When God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them, God exclaimed, "It is good! It is very good!" But when our sin corrupted creation and everything in it, all that goodness was desecrated. Only Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, could restore it and reconcile us to our Creator and Father.

"It is finished," Jesus cried. That was the moment of universal victory over all our darkness, sin and death. That was the moment of Cosmic Justice.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 216 North Wooster Ave Dover Ohio 44622-2948 Phone: 330-343-6915 Fax: 330-602-0263 Church E-Mail: gracehappens@gracedover.org Pastor's E-Mail: pastor@gracedover.org Website: www.gracedover.org

# Senior Pastor Donald L. Rice Jr. Planning Council Pg. 2 Since You Asked ... Pg. 3 Announcements Pg. 4 Announcements Pg. 5 Announcements Pg. 6 Announcements Pg. 7 WELCA Pg. 9 Outreach Pg. 10 & 11 Worship & Pg. 12 & 13 Worship Assistance Member Celebrations Pg. 14 Calendar Pg. 15

31-13.

### **Planning Council**

#### PLANNING COUNCIL

Next Meeting March 14th, 2017 @ 6:30 PM



Attendance December 2016 Weekly Average: 162 Difference: -6(-3%)**Offerings December 2016** Total: \$15,671.52 Difference -3282.48 Weekly Average: \$4452.88 Weekly Difference: -\$961.12 (-15%) Christmas Eve 2016 Attendance: 367 Offerings: \$6967.00\*

# **Facts and Figures**

Attendance December 2015 Weekly Average: 168

**Offerings December 2015** Total: \$18,954

Weekly Average: \$5414.00

Christmas Eve 2015 Attendance: 367 Offerings: \$7136.00\*

\*Christmas Eve and Christmas Offerings

Jim Heller - Vice President

Beverly Frantz - Treasurer

### 2016-2017 BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Lynn Foust - President **Christine Sergent - Secretary** 

#### **Property**

#### **Christian Faith and Life**

Jim Heller - Director

#### Hospitality

**Congregational Life** 

Susie Erickson

Elaine Margo

Liz Miller

Liz Nelson

Melody Rader

**Deb Foust-**Director Bobbie Cox Melissa Engstrom **Cindy Jerles** Traci Smith Sarah Wolfe

John Nelson- Director Ed Harper Jeff Hootman Audra Miceli **Betsy Morris** Nathan Vaughan Larry Wallick

#### **Stewardship Development**

Tom Margo - Director Jill Hootman Keith Lands Linda Osentoski Craig Rader Ron Stahl

Faith Bambeck- Director Julie Brothers Ashley Eick **Debbie Flood** Karen Slovak (Rhonda Fisher, Coordinator YFM)

#### Outreach

Joe Penrod– Director Joe Erickson Tanna Loveday Judy Martin Paul McFadden John Wolfe Scott Ebert (church sign) David Elliott (church website)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Donald L. Rice Jr. Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministries: Rhonda Fisher Organist: Linda Hanna Choir: Roberta Myers Secretary: Lisa Morris Treasurer: Beverly Frantz Custodian: Glenn Mitchell

# Since You Asked

Since You Asked...

I was recently skimming the list of Sundays and Principle Festivals in the ELW hymnal and noticed St. Valentine was not listed for February 14. Instead there was Cyril, monk and Methodius, bishop. Why is St. Valentine not listed and those other two are? I've never heard of them.

Hmmm. Interesting.

St. Valentine is no longer listed on the Roman Catholic, Episcopal or Lutheran festival calendars. He is considered more Christian legend than actual person. His story, as intriguing as it is, cannot be verified to any good degree of historical satisfaction. (By the way, the same thing happened to St. Christopher.)

Saints Cyril and Methodius were 9<sup>th</sup> century Greek brothers and theologians. They were sent by the Byzantine (Eastern Orthodox) Church to serve as missionaries to Moravia, Croatia and other Slavic peoples. St. Cyril is acclaimed as the developer of the Cyrillic Alphabet which is used in Russia and several Slavic nations still today. Together, the brothers translated the Gospels and Holy Liturgy into the Slavonic language. It was one of the first liturgies to be offered to the people in their own language. Methodius continued translating other New Testament books and the works of the "Church Fathers" after his brother's death. The brothers are highly revered in both Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches in Eastern Europe.

# The Cross and the Carpenter

Our midweek evening Lenten worship services begin **Ash Wednesday**, March 1, at 6:45 in the sanctuary. The service will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. The Wednesday evening services continue through April 5. A Soup and Sandwich Supper precedes these services at 5:30 p.m. in Luther Hall.

Our Lenten theme this year is *The Cross and the Carpenter*. Each Wednesday a guest woodworker will share how his talent and skills relate to the life and ministry of the boy-carpenter Jesus who makes his way from a wooden trough in Bethlehem to the wooden cross of Calvary.

#### Lenten Schedule of Artifacts

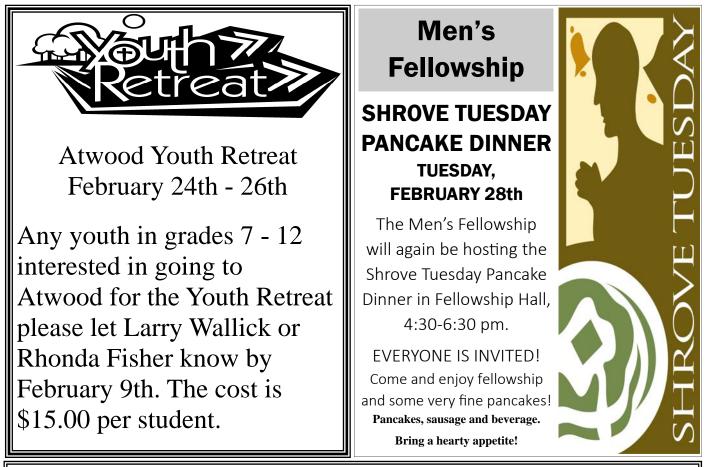
March 1: Ash Wednesday: The Manger

- March 8: The Temple Bench
- March 15: The House
- March 22: The Door
- March 29: The Boat
- April 5: The Temple

#### **Holy Week Artifacts**

April 13:Maundy Thursday: The TableApril 14:Good Friday: The Cross





# **LENTEN SOUP AND SANDWICH SUPPER SIGN-UP**

During the Lenten Season, our congregation offers a soup and sandwich supper on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. This followed by our midweek Lenten Worship Service at 6:45 p.m. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 1. Midweek Wednesday suppers and services continue through April 5.

Volunteers are needed to provide <u>soup and dessert</u> for one of our Lenten Soup and Sandwich Suppers. This may be a family, friend or group project.

Sandwiches will be coordinated with your soup of choice. Sandwich provisions will be made available each week for quick and easy assembly before the meal. Beverages will also be provided.

Suppers begin at 5:30 p.m. On average, 40 people attend each week. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Thank you.



# Opportunity to Serve

Volunteers are being sought to **run the sound system during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.** This need not be one person. If several persons volunteer, a rotating schedule can be designed to meet the individuals' schedules. Training to serve in this important capacity will be provided. If you can help, please contact Pastor Rice or the church office. Thank you.

We wish to sincerely thank Howard Stein for his years of excellent service in this capacity for the last several years. We greatly appreciate his faithfulness.



# Jesus Knows Me and Loves Me, Too!

Volunteer Opportunities

**Jesus Knows Me and Loves Me, Too!** is this year's Vacation Bible School theme. Bible Stories, crafts, music, recreational activities and fellowship suppers will be designed to help our children develop their relationship with Jesus and one another.

VBS 2017 will be held June 19-23. A summer supper for children, parents and teachers will be offered at 5:30 p.m. Learning activities begin at 6:05 and continue until 8:15.

This year's Bible Stories and learning activities focus on Jesus' childhood and his relationships with other children. We are reminded that Jesus knows me because he was a child, just like me. And, we hear and learn how Jesus loved children, just like me.

A volunteer sign-up sheet seeking teachers, teaching assistants, activity directors and helpers will be posted on the narthex bulletin board by the end of the month. Registration sheets for participating children will be printed in the May and June newsletters.

#### Jesus Knows Me and Loves Me, Too!

Monday: Jesus Was Born a Baby, Just Like Me. (Luke 2:1-6) Tuesday: Jesus Knew Danger and Scary Times, Just Like Me. (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23) Wednesday: Jesus Learned His Lessons, Just Like Me. (Luke 2:41-52) Thursday: Jesus Cared for Others, Just Like Me. (John 4:46-54) Friday: Jesus Knows Me Celebration: Covered Dish Dinner & VBS Program

# Knowing Jesus. Showing Jesus. Celebrating Grace Congregational Life Ministries

This month, on Sunday, February 19, we celebrate Grace Congregational Life Ministries.

Our board of serving members share their particular gifts and talents by providing careful and prayerful guiding of church programs and projects that enhance our spiritual welfare and congregational unity.

During the past year, Congregational Life Ministries has diligently worked to create "Confirmation Hall" in the central hallway of Luther Hall. It is a display of confirmation photos from 1912 to the present. It also redesigned the display of "Sons of the Congregation" and former pastors. One of the board's earlier projects was refiguring our narthex to provide a more welcoming space for worshipers and visitors. Congregational Life is available to Pastor Rice, Music Director Bobbie Meyers, and the Altar Guild to evaluate and offer guidance on worship policy and practice.

Jim Heller serves as the ministry board director. He also serves as the congregation's Vice President. Other ministry board members include Susie Erickson, Elaine Margo, Liz Miller, Liz Nelson and Melody Rader. We thank them for their service and greatly appreciate their guidance and hard work.





**Breakfast for Lunch** is one of our most popular fellowship events. It will be held this year on February 19 following the 10:30 a.m. worship service in Fellowship Hall.

The brunch will include a variety of breakfast casseroles, sausage, bacon, pastries, beverages and more. Gluten-free breakfast items will also be available.

The meal is sponsored by our Grace Hospitality Ministries board. Deb Foust serves as directing chef and is ably assisted by culinary artists Bobbie Cox, Melissa Engstrom, Cindy Jerles, Traci Smith and Sarah Wolfe.

A free-will offering will be taken to support our Grace Grocery Bag Ministry. This Outreach Ministry helps feed over 120 households each month.

J A

J J

### Announcements



On Sunday, January 15th the youth group with the help of a few others cleaned the Sanctuary and surrounding area. When we were done we went bowling and dusted the gutters for them!





Youth in grades 3 through 8 are invited to spend Super Bowl afternoon, February 5, sharing Valentine's Day love with some of our older adults.

First, they will meet in Luther Hall following the 10:30 a.m. worship service for a pizza luncheon. This will be followed by putting together Valentine Love Gifts Bags for Grace members who are homebound or in long-term care. This will include creating hand-made Valentine's Day cards. With a job well done, the young people will head out to the lanes for a few games of bowling and return in time for the BIG GAME. If you have any questions please see Debbie Flood.

Thank you.

# Sharing God's Goodwill in Ghana

Aaronn Sergent will share information and insight from his Engineering Service-Learning Mission trip to Ghana during both worship services on February 12. He will present during the time usually allotted for the day's sermon.

The main purpose of Aaronn's learning mission trip was to help the Ghanaians develop sustainable technologies that improve their day to day lives. During his adventure, Aaronn experienced the unique culture of Ghana's Brong Ahafo region. During his trip, he and his team not only needed to design and develop technologies, but then teach the Ghanaians how to use and sustain them.

Our Grace Lutheran Endowment fund help finance Aaronn's service-learning mission trip. He is eager to express his appreciation for the grant and share the results of his helpful endeavors of goodwill to our African neighbors in Christ.

Aaronn is a junior at The Ohio State University majoring in engineering. He is the son of Mike and Christine Sergent of Dover.





THE MESSENGER

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# Women ELCA

Lutheran World Relief Final Project Numbers for 2016



Quilts: 37 Personal Care Kits: 21 Soap: 42 School Kits: 4



Cost of stocking the food pantry for one month.

This is the amount needed to stock the food pantry for 1 month. We thank the congregation for donating food items and cash contributions to keep the pantry stocked.



first of the year.



KNOTTERS

Will resume after the first of the year.

Product	Price /	piece	Days in a month	Total	
Peanut Butter	\$	2.29	X 30	\$	68.70
Fruit	\$	0.89	X 30	\$	26.70
Cereal	\$	1.59	X 30	\$	47.70
Meat	\$	1.30	X 30	\$	39.00
Chicken Soup	\$	1.00	X 30	\$	30.00
Tomato Soup	\$	1.00	X 30	\$	30.00
Potatoes	\$	0.65	X 30	\$	19.50
Corn	\$	1.00	X 30	\$	30.00
Green Beans	\$	1.00	X 30	\$	30.00
Pork/Beans	\$	1.00	X 30	\$	30.00
Peas	\$	1.00	X 30	\$	30.00
Mac-N-Cheese	\$	0.45	X 30	\$	13.50
Spaghetti	\$	1.00	X 30	\$	30.00
Spaghetti Sauce	\$	1.00	X 30	\$	30.00
				\$	455.10

<u>ALDI</u>	<b>Buehlers</b>	<u>Wal Mart</u>	Big Lots	
Peanut Butter	Vegetables-	Spaghetti Sauce	Soup-	
Mac-N-Cheese	Corn		Chicken	
Potatoes	Green Beans	<u>Dollar General</u>	Tomato	
Fruit Cocktail	Peas	Spaghetti		
Cereal	Pork/Beans	Luncheon Meat		

# Outreach

# **GROCERY BAG MINISTRY**

Thanks to all who have volunteered to be packers for the Grocery Bag Ministry this year.

Donations to the Food Pantry have increased in response to a greater need for our food bags. In December, we distributed 142 bags, and have already distributed 115 in January. We are seeing a greater demand for this outreach program. Monetary and food donations are very much appreciated.

What goes into a bag to feed the hungry? The basic food items are: peanut butter, canned meat, vegetables, fruit, cereal, soup, macaroni & cheese, canned white potatoes, spaghetti sauce and spaghetti noodles. We also pack a roll of toilet paper and a bar of soap when available.

We welcome all packaged/canned donations. We will pack any kind of soup, fruit, vegetable, soap or toilet paper that is donated, as well as extra items not on the list. <u>Grocery size</u> <u>paper bags are also needed.</u>

Thank you to all who bring food in for the grocery bags that are filled each month. Look in the Sunday bulletins to see which items are most urgently needed.



Pease be aying for...

All those serving in the armed forces, especially Christopher Smith, Seth Erickson, Gerald Case , Richard Martineau.

Ella DeVore William Page Mary Ann Gray Waldine Krantz Geraldine Kiehl Joe Palmer JoAnn Hammond **Richard Bleininger** John Page **Rachelle Coulter Sensel** Norma Grywalski **Brandon Myers Cathy Nardecchia Mary Akins Phyllis Espenschied Pastor Robert Young** Marty Weber

**Carol Davidson Glenn Siber Mildred Schauer Rick Vesco Barb Bollon Francis Moser Barbara Stull** Walter Heck **Mary Marino Norma Buehler** Wayne Page **Dorothy Hanna Jill McCreery Denbow Mary Etta Light Karen Page Dale Kreisher** Larry Lloyd

#### IN OUR PRAYERS...

Please take a moment to review the names on our church prayer list. If you know the current recovery status, condition, or needs of any person listed, please advise Pastor Rice or the church office. We rejoice in God's healing and grace when someone is well enough to come off the list and we promise our prayers to all who are added. Thank You.



With Deepest Sympathy

Our deep and heartfelt sympathies are with the family and friends of Rosann Patterson.

May the Lord embrace this family with His love and bless them with peace.

# Outreach

#### OUTREACH NEWS... HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE A BLESSING TO OTHERS

We at Grace have volunteered to provide one meal per month — the 4th Sunday of each month need volunteers and to provide the meal and to deliver it to the Friends of the Homeless of County which is a group of



concerned citizens from various churches and social service agencies in the county who have recognized the need to assist persons experiencing homelessness. The residents eat dinner at 6:00 each evening. All tableware is provided by the shelter, and they ask that if we are just dropping the food off to bring it in disposable pans.

If you are unable to deliver your portion of the meal, please contact someone else who has signed up to deliver food.

Let's continue to work together as the body of Christ and serve our brothers and sisters in need.

New sign up sheets are posted for the March meal to the homeless shelter. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.

# PERSONAL CARE KITS

# The power of a small package

Personal Care Kits especially help cleanliness and prevent disease outbreaks that can so frequently happen in foreign countries or right here in the United States after natural disasters. LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF is asking congregation participation to help restock their supply of personal care kits. Consider making a kit or dropping off one or more of the items listed below to the church office. Thanks for helping!

Personal care items that go into each kit are:

# **Personal Care Kits**

light weight bath towel
 20" X 40" to 52" X 27" (dark color)
 bath size bars of soap
 wide tooth comb
 adult size toothbrush
 nail clipper with file

Thank you to the volunteers who prepared and delivered food to the **Homeless** Shelter on January 22nd, 2017.

February's dinner at the Homeless Shelter is on Sunday, Feb. 26th, at 6:00 pm. The sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. We have cut down on the expense of the items needed (less meat, more casseroles) or have divided the donations into smaller units to make it financially easier for you to donate. Please check to see how you can help.

# Worship

# **OPEN ALTAR FLOWERS**

If you would like to provide altar flowers in memory or in honor of loved ones, please either sign up on the list in the Narthex or call the church office at 330-343-6915.

The cost for one vase is \$18. You will be billed by Blossom's Florist.

Altar Flowers are available for the following dates.



Feb. 5th - 1 vase Feb. 12th - 1 vase Feb. 19th - 1 vase Feb. 26th - 2 vases Mar. 19th - 2 vases



Feb. 5th - Nicole Willey & Jennifer Vaughan Feb. 12th - Marcie & Grace Castricone Feb. 19th - Ashley Eick & Melissa Engstrom Feb. 26th - Deb Foust & Deb Flood

# Worship Readings

Sunday, Feb.5th Isaiah 58:1-9a Psalm 112:1-9 Psalm 119:1-8 **Altar Guild** 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:13-20 Matthew 5:1-12 Tuesday, February 28th, 2017 Sunday, Feb. 19th 9:00 am Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Exodus 24:12-18 Psalm 119:33-40 Psalm 2 2 Peter 1:16-21 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Matthew 5:38-48

## Sunday, Feb. 12th

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

## Saturday, Feb. 26th

Matthew 17:1-9

# **Replenishing the Children's Worship Bags**

Our worship bag continues to be a blessing to children and parents in our worship each week! Most of the 10 bags are used every Sunday. The bags serve as a way for parents to have their young children in worship with them while they get a chance to worship. We will be purchasing new books, toys and crayons for the bags soon. If you would be interested in providing



money for the purchase of these items you may make a donation by placing it in a special offering envelope with worship bags written on it. If paying by check please remember to write Children's Worship Bags in the memo line. Thank you for continuing to support this ministry.

E-mail →Me «

# Worship Assistants

SUNDAY 8:00 A	M WORSHIP		<b>USHERS</b> Tim Keplinger	
ACOLYTES	ACOLYTES LAY READERS DEACON/COMM. ASS		Richard Elliott	
			Steve Zimmerman	
2/05	2/05 Nancy Wilson	2/05	Jim Heller	
2/12	2/12 Kim Gray	2/12	Scott Ebert	
2/19	2/19 Terry Miller	2/19	Edward Harper	
2/26	2/26 Gale Limron	2/26	David Elliott	

# SUNDAY 10:30 AM WORSHIP

#### USHERS

Feb. 5 John Lorenz, Larry Wallick, Tom Margo, Ron Stahl
Feb. 12 Jim Gibb, Mike Sergent, Jimm Morris, Butch Morris, Maguire Morris
Feb. 19 John Stahl, Robert McCulloch, Keith Lands, Paul McFadden
Feb. 26 William Page, Jeff Keller, Jeff Hootman, Joe Vanfossen, John Wolfe

ACOLYTES	LAY READERS	DEACON/COMM. ASST.
2/05 Katelyn Foust	<b>2/05</b> Jan Ochsenbine	2/05
2/12 Austin Brothers	2/12 John Stahl	2/12
2/19 Jacob Flood	2/19 Jimm Morris	2/19 Deborah Horn
2/26	2/26 Rick Homrighausen	2/26

## **ALTAR GUILD**

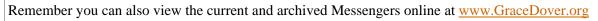


February: Barbara Thompson, Melody Rader, Wendy Mady, Debbie Smith, Betsy Morris

March: Glenda Sclater, Joan Davis, Marcie Castricone, Liz Miller

# Get the Messenger By Email

If you'd like to receive the Messenger by email please send an email to GraceHappens@GraceDover.org with the words "Email Messenger" in the subject heading.



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#### gracehappens@gracedover.org

pastor@gracedover.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 216 North Wooster Ave

Dover OH 44622-2948

#### 330-343-6915

# February 2017 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Sun	Mon	Тие	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5011	Mon	100				
			<i>1</i> 7 pm Boy Scouts	2 12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 7 pm Gallery Choir	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8 am Worship Communion Boy Scout Sunday 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion <u>Youth Bowling &amp;</u>	6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 7 pm Valley Voices	12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 4 pm TOPS - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	7 pm Boy Scouts	12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Gallery Choir		8 am Men's Breakfast
Care Packages	13	14	15	16	17	18
8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion	6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 7 pm Valley Voices	4 pm TOPS - ORC 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Happy S Valentines Day	7 pm Boy Scouts	12-1 pm Bible Study 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Girl Scouts - YH 7 pm Gallery Choir	<u>Messenger</u> <u>Deadline</u>	10
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion <u>Breakfast for Lunch</u>	6:30 pm Girl Scouts - LH 7 pm Valley Voices		7 pm Boy Scouts	12-1 nm Bible Study		ood Retreat
26 8 am Worship Communion 9:15 am SCS 10:30 am Worship Communion 6 pm Meal to the Homeless Shelter	27 6:30 Girl Scouts 7 pm Valley Voices	28 9 am Altar Guild 12 pm Senior Crafters - ORC 4 pm TOPS - ORC 4:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<u>SAVE THE DATES</u> March 1 - Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services April 23 - Mission Trip Chicken BBQ June 19 - 23 - Vacation Bible School			