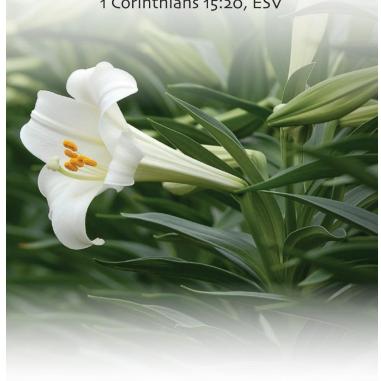
April 2018

Volume 28, Issue 4

THE GOOD NEWSLETTER

of New Jerusalem Lutheran Church 27 Lyons Road, Fleetwood, PA 19522 Ruth F. Doty, Pastor E-mail: njelchurch@windstream.net Website: http://NewJerusalemLutheran.weebly.com Office Phone: 610.682.6064 Church Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9:00a.m.–12:00 noon

has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:20, ESV



THE MISSION OF NEW JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

We are a group of people who gather together in friendship and love to worship God, to spread God's Word, and to care for God's people.



Dear Friends,

April is full of surprises! It always starts with April Fools' Day. Oh, wait! This year it also starts with Easter! Do you wonder how those two are connected?

Anyway, April is full of surprises! Little plants start pushing up from the ground and some burst into bloom. They often surprise us, not only with their color contrasted with the muddy earth of late winter, but we may also have forgotten where we planted them. Some will emerge in places were we have no idea of how they got there.

The earth is full of surprises! We celebrate Earth Day on April 22. Surprise! This year it is also on a Sunday and it just so happens that we have a Faith Formation event for all ages that will focus on the story of Creation. We hope you'll join us. Just bring a lunch and stay after church.

As the days warm and we spend more time outdoors, we encounter folks we haven't seen in a while, maybe not since the fall. How surprised we are to see how much the children have grown, and to catch up on one another's news.

Our Yard Share on April 7 surprises many folks. "What do I need to pay for this?" many ask. "What do you mean the stuff is free?" "It just is. It is free like God's love," we reply. "If you'd like to join us in sharing that love, you can make a donation that will help to buy a stove for an elementary school in Tanzania."

Our God is full of surprises. The stone in front of the tomb does not have the final say! Sadness, despair, anger, grief and death are not the final reality for us. God has so much more in store for us as individuals, a congregation, the world-wide church, and the world.

Join with us as we rejoice in God's surprises and as we take part in surprising those around us and around the world with the good news of God's love.

Joy to you this April, this Easter, this beautiful season called spring!

Pastor Ruth



NEWS & EVENTS

in New Jerusalem and the Synod

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The following items were discussed and decisions made at our March 12th meeting:

- Denny Beshore, Finance Committee Chair, reviewed the results of the 2017 Audit.
- The council meeting for April has been changed to Monday, April 16.
- 3 estimates were received to repair the small roof section above where the Christmas decorations are stored.
- A Spring Campfire has been scheduled for Saturday, April 28.
- A shoo-fly pie bake sale will be held April 20-21.
- A \$50.00 check will be sent to the supply pastor if New Jerusalem cancels a service shortly before it is to be held..

APRIL SIGN-UP SHEETS

We are in need of Flower sponsors for April 8, 22, and 29; a Bulletin sponsor for April 29; and a Children's Bulletin sponsor. Thank you!

YARD SHARE: Saturday, April 7, 2018

Please spread the word among friends and neighbors: We're having a Yard Share. Items will be accepted until Wednesday, April 4. The share starts 8 a.m. Saturday the 7th.

If you are willing to help sort or be present during the share, please contact Sue Schlenker at 610.334.9988. If you are willing to donate baked goods for sale, let Ken Keck know.

Donations will be split between repaying the cost of repaying the parking lot and the stove for Olchoki Elementary School.

What's this about a stove? See the article in the next column.

A STOVE FOR OLCHOKI

Stewardship Committee has challenged us to help

pay for one of three large stoves, heated by wood, in which a large vat of oatmeal-type porridge can be cooked which will feed all of the 1,500 children who attend Olchoki Elementary



School on the outskirts of Arusha, Tanzania. Each stove costs about \$2,500.

The picture above is a "before" picture: stones and wood on a bare earth floor. With this arrangement the school could only prepare one meal a day for orphans, not the rest of the children. While the other children were encouraged to bring lunches, many had nothing to bring.



Here's a stove like one of the ones which have been installed. There are now three on a concrete floor in a fully enclosed building and all 1,500 children can be fed. The money for the stoves was advanced to the school by Operation

Bootstrap Africa (OBA), which now needs to recoup the funds so that OBA can continue to fund other educational projects in Africa.

Stewardship Committee has invited our congregation to make 2018 "The Year of The Stove" so we can help OBA to pay for one for Olchoki. We already have over \$300. Half of the funds from our Yard Share (April) and Festival (September) are designated to help fund this project. Other donations and suggestions are welcome. If making a contribution, just designate it for "Stove for Olchoki". Special envelopes can be found on the greeter's table in the narthex.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

As part of her continuing education, Pastor Ruth will be attending the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University in northwestern Indiana. She will leave town the afternoon of April 8. Following the institute she will stay on for a meeting of the National Council of Christ College and return home the afternoon of April 14.

Pastoral coverage will be as follows: April 8, 9 and 14, Chaplain Colleen Kristula (610.223.1400); April 10-11, Pastor Elizabeth Haines (610.553.7868); April 12-13, Pastor Roger Ulrich (610.372.1973). We thank these members of our faith community for assisting us.

Pastor Ruth will also be at Bear Creek Camp for required continuing education for First Call Pastors, April 24–25. She will be available for pastoral care during this time.

SHOO-FLY PIE BAKE SALE

New Jerusalem Lutheran will be holding a shoo-fly pie bake sale from **Tuesday**, **April 24th to Wednesday**, **April 25th**. If you would like to order any pies, please contact the church office. Pies are only \$5.00.

EARTH DAY AND FAITH FORMATION EVENT – April 22, 2018

Come one, come all! Bring a lunch and join us for our intergenerational faith formation celebration of creation following worship Sunday, April 22. Not only will you hear the account recorded in Genesis 1, you will get to be part of it. Curious? We hope so! Want to know more? Ask Cindy Rissmiller, Dawn Wengert, George DeLong, Phyllis Fenstermacher, or Pastor Ruth.

MAY 2018 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all articles and announcements to the church office by **Sunday**, April 22nd.

SPRING CAMPFIRE - April 28, 2018

Join us at New Jerusalem on **Saturday, April 28, from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** for a campfire. There will be food, fun, and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there. Please bring along some lawn chairs.

CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY - May 20, 2018

On Sunday, May 20, we will be having our Church Music Sunday service. Please come out and support our singers and musicians. If anyone is interested in providing music for this service, please see Faye Dey.

FALL FESTIVAL – September 15, 2018

Mark your calendars to join us on **Saturday**, **September 15 from 4:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m.** for our Fall Festival. We will have hot dogs, hamburgers, baked goods, and beverages for purchase, a Cake Walk, and music provided by The Mike Hertzog Trio.

READING ACTS

During the Easter season our first reading will be from the Book of Acts, a sequel to the Gospel According to Luke. *Sundays and Seasons* describes these readings this way:

The readings in Easter give flesh and blood [to the Easter message of newness of life] by leading us through a different kind of birth narrative: the birth of the church, the risen body of Christ. . . The accounts of this [fledgling] community of "the Way" still sound radical to our . . . ears: 1) a pooling of material resources so all in the community can have enough (Easter II); 2) the apostles continuing Jesus' ministry of heading (Easter IV); 3) the inclusion of the sexually stigmatized and of religious outsiders (Easter V and VI); 4) a peaceful and civil transfer of authority (Easter VII); and, perhaps most shocking of all, 5) peoples and nations formerly suspicious and hostile to one another able to speak to and understand one another, and a Spirit of truth-telling poured out on women and men alike (Pentecost). - From Sundays and Seasons Year B 2018 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission.

A reading of the entire book of The Acts of the Apostles (Acts) can be exciting, amazing, and inspiring. Maybe you'd like to try it for the month of April. Instead of just reading one chapter at a time, why not do as much as possible in one sitting or do it in large chunks?

YOU'VE GOT MAIL

During April and May many of our second readings will be from the First Letter of John.

Who was this John? Many think it might have been the apostle John, one of Jesus' disciples, the one in the book of John who is referred to as "the one whom Jesus loved." We know the apostle John eventually went to Asia Minor, specifically to Ephesus, and served the churches in the area. It is even reported that he took Mary, Jesus' mother, with him and cared for her there. Certainly, the writing in these letters is similar to that of the gospel and the theme of love permeates both. Others think that the author was an elder of the church in the area of Ephesus.

Whoever the writer was, the purpose of the first letter seems to be to expose false teachers and to assure believers assurance of salvation. One particular group of false teachers stands out: the gnostics. These folks said that people are made of two parts: spirit and material being, and that the spirit part is entirely good, while all material things are entirely evil. They thought that since material things are evil, it doesn't matter how you behave. As a result of this thinking, they were known for immoral behaviors. For them, salvation was an escape from the body and was achieved by special knowledge (*gnosis*).

If one followed this line of thinking, then, if God is good, God must only be spirit and could not have had a material body. Hence, they said, the Christ only seemed to have a body, could not have died and therefore was not resurrected.

The writer of First John countered this way of thinking. He not only claims to be an eyewitness of the death and resurrection, but boldly and in many ways proclaimed the love of God. "How great is the love the Father lavished on us, that we might be called the children of God." (3:1 NIV) "In this is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us." (4:10-12 NRSV) God and love cannot be separated. In the same way, the words and actions of believers must go together, must be one of love.

Here are the readings we will hear during the coming weeks:

April 8: 1 John 1:1 to 2:2 April 15: 1 John 3:1-7 April 22: 1 John 3:16-24 April 29: 1 John 4: 7-21 May 6: 1 John 5: 1-6 May 13: 1 John 5:9-13

NEWS & EVENTS

in the Community

SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER

To help the family of 18-month old Jackson Radcliffe, who was diagnosed with AML-Acute Myeloid Leukemia, a spaghetti dinner will be held on **Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.** at Janelle's Banquet Hall, 360 Fleetwood Road. Adults – \$9.00, Children 4-12 - \$5.00, Children 3 and under – Free. To purchase tickets (highly recommended, though walk-ins are fine), please contact Shannon Wetzel at 484.866.3877 or wetzelshannon6@gmail.com or Melissa Tyson at 484.357.9624 or by email missytyson@yahoo.com.

PROJECT HELP

Stewardship Committee has decided to postpone our involvement in Project Help until 2019.

What is Project Help? It is a mission trip to help repair houses and assist in community improvements in the very rural area of Starks, Maine, an hour north of Augusta. Youth who have finished ninth grade and adults who want to help are welcome. No special skills needed. Lots to learn and a good time for all. The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, Emmaus, sponsors the program, and is eager for us to join them in this mission.

CLOTHING IS NEEDED by our citizens who have sought refuge in our area from the devastation in Puerto Rico. They are in need of **children's clothing (not baby clothing), especially boys clothing up to age pre-teen. Other badly needed items are men's jeans and other adult-size clothing, including outerwear and winter-type boots and shoes**. You may bring your items to church and we will see that they get there.

HOSTS NEEDED!

St. John's, Kutztown, will be hosting The Celebrant Singers on **Monday, July 23rd** for the second time. Volunteers are needed to host the musicians for one night. What's involved? Pick them up after the concert on July 23rd and provide a bed and shower. In the morning, feed them breakfast and a bagged lunch and bring them to the church parking lot where they will board their bus and be on their way. If you would be willing to help, please contact MaryAnn Hamm at <u>mahamm@ptd.net</u>.

Thank God for Our Food

God said [to Adam and Eve], 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. - Genesis 1:29

There's an old joke about the first-grade teacher who asks her class, "Where do apples come from?" Little Jenny speaks up: "From the supermarket!"

We laugh, but the sad truth is that many of us are so far removed from farms that we forget that our food -every bite -- comes from life, life that God alone created. Yes, farmers sow seeds and care for the plants and trees, but it's God's miracle of life that makes them grow.

As stewards and disciples, we desire to cultivate in ourselves and our communities a deep appreciation for all God provides us, particularly what we need to live. With every mouthful at every meal we thank God for our daily bread, and for the soil, air and water that sustains life.

Easter and springtime are perfect occasions to celebrate God's miracle of life that gives us fruit, vegetables, grains, meat, fish and dairy foods. Here are some ideas:

- In saying mealtime grace, thank God not only for food, but also for the cycles of seedtime, growth and harvest. Thank God for life-nourishing soil, water and air.
- While eating discuss or ponder the origins of the variety of food on your plate. How and where are the plants grown or animals raised? How do they get to your kitchen?
- As a church or family, celebrate Earth Day (Sunday, April 22) by learning about food production and how climate change, pollution and economics impact our food supply.
- Celebrate Earth Day by planting a garden in your yard or community garden on church grounds.
- Learn about nutrition -- what foods are the best and worst for us, and why. Promote healthy eating.
- Learn about food waste in our culture and take steps to reduce it in your home.
- At church, reserve a Sunday for a special service highlighting creation and food. Maybe "Blessing of the Seeds," or the ancient "Rogation Sunday" ritual.

We live in a culture where food is all around us all the time. As steward-disciples, we want to be sure not to take even a mouthful for granted.

-Rob Blezard



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PRAYERS FOR AWARENESS OF GOD'S PRESENCE for Those Homebound or in Care Facilities: Anna Angstadt, Samuel Behm, Bertha Bennecoff, Edna Conrad, Helen Fair, Verna Guinther, Shirley Hertzog, Audrey Hoffman, and Irene Noll.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING:

Members: Glenn Allen, Sarah Bailey, Lori Eck, Erma Guinther, Amanda Herman, Lucille Jones, Wyatt Keller, Sheila Long, Linda Moyer, Betty Musser, Joanne Pauley, Joyce Rothermel, Charles Sanders, and Dale Schwoyer.

Friends of the congregation: Regina B., Dorene Behney, Millie Berger, Thelma Bright, Bill Collins, Dick Curtin, Mark Derr, Barbara Feeman, Olivia Fenstermacher, Eric Fox, Sonja Hernandez, Corinne Hersh, Judy Hilberg, Peg Huffert, Tara K., Janis Kershner, Merritt Kershner, Diane Kiester, Angie Kistler, Joe Klick, Ethan Kunkel, Marie Leibensperger, Catherine Lenio, Pearl Meck, George Noll, Kyle Olinger, Jackson Radcliffe, Ronald Reimert, Jerry Schwambach, Jacki Wagner, Tiffany W., Betty Winnings, and Ken Zook.

OTHER PRAYER CONCERNS: For our nation, especially those hit by disasters and those affected by domestic terrorism, for our president, for peace between citizens and those who serve them, for all our military personnel serving around the world, for areas of the world enduring drought, storms, flooding and other disasters, for refugees and the countries to which they flee, and for peace in the world.

LONG-TERM PRAYER LIST: Myles Angstadt, Sandy Burkhart, Alice Epler, Katie F., Jerry Fusner and family, Erma Gajewski, Lauren Kinney, Leon Moyer, Andrew S., Joshua S., Randy S., Ruby Grace Shoff, Donna Schwoyer, Jack Stoudt, and Marilyn Timm.

"The resurrection ... was only the beginning of a great, grand and vast outreach that has never ended and will not end until our Lord Jesus Christ comes back again."



- 2 Richard Sheetz
- 5 Sara Jane Beshore
- 5 Justin Rahn
- 7 Barbara Seyler
- 14 Samuel Behm
- 17 Harold Seyler
- 18 Jayna Howell
- 19 Erma Guinther
- 21 Annabell Keller
- 23 Brooke Adams
- 28 Amy Broussard
- 29 Rebecca Keller
- 29 Daniel Moyer
- 30 Dallas Bennecoff
- 30 Richard Carl



- 9 Jason and Tina Howell (7 years)
- 17 Richard and Lori Boyer (36 years)
- 24 Randy and Tammy Cleaver (9 years)

If your name or the name of someone you know didn't appear on this list, we apologize and hope you will let us know so we can make the necessary corrections. Thank you.



New Jerusalem Lutheran Church Statement of Accounts <u>February 28, 2018</u>

Asset Accounts	Balance
Memorial	\$ 20,968.24
Thrivent	7,708.53
Checking	2,826.64
Youth	404.54
Fidelity	155,629.31
Cash Reserve	4,772.09
Mission Investment	11,304.02
Local Care	1,244.23

<u>February 2018 – 'Actual' vs. 'Required'</u> <u>Income</u>

Income <u>Used For</u> :	Income Required <u>Per Month</u>	Actual Income	Difference
Operating Expenses	\$ 8,779.58	\$ 4,707.00	\$ (4,072.58)

Income Required per Month — Based on 2018 Budget Passed by Congregation Less Budgeted Benevolence Contribution

Parking Lot – Funds received to offset expenses for Driveway/Parking Lot Repaying

\$ 37,140.00 Total Expenses for Project\$ 17,526.50 Funds Received to offset expenses



In John 10, what metaphor does Jesus use to describe himself?

- A. "I am the gate ..."
- B. "I am the good shepherd ..."
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A nor B

Answer: C (See John 10:9, 11.)

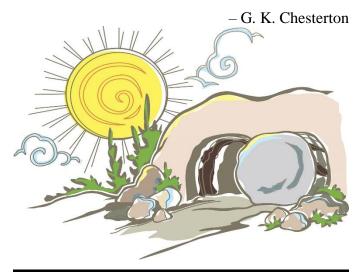
Did You Know?

PHOENIX

According to ancient legend, the phoenix lived for 500 to 1,400 years (depending on the version of the myth), at which time it would set its nest ablaze and be consumed in the flames. After three days the bird would be reborn and was said to repeat this cycle, "rising from the ashes" again and again. Early Christians saw in the phoenix a symbol of Jesus' resurrection and eternal life.

EASTER'S DAWN

On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak...found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn.



THANK YOU

Thank you for your gift of \$330.33 on January 30, 2018. Your gift helps strengthen relationships and build capacity to serve the most vulnerable in our midst. Together we build the resiliency of the Gospel so that our congregations proclaim clearly that God is always bringing forth renewal and hope. – Gratefully yours, *Julia Menzo, Director of Community Outreach, Lutheran Congregational Services*

THREE-MONTH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

1 * 8 15 * 22 29	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM	Resurrection of Our Lord – Holy Communion (W) Second Sunday of Easter (W) Third Sunday of Easter (W) Fourth Sunday of Easter (W) Fifth Sunday of Easter (W)
May 6 ◆ 13 20 27	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM	Sixth Sunday of Easter – Holy Communion (W) Seventh Sunday of Easter (W) • Mother's Day Breakfast before worship Day of Pentecost – Holy Communion (R) The Holy Trinity – Holy Communion (W)
June * 3 10 ◆ 17 24	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM	Second Sunday after Pentecost – Holy Communion (G) Third Sunday after Pentecost (G) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (G) • Father's Day Breakfast before worship Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (G)

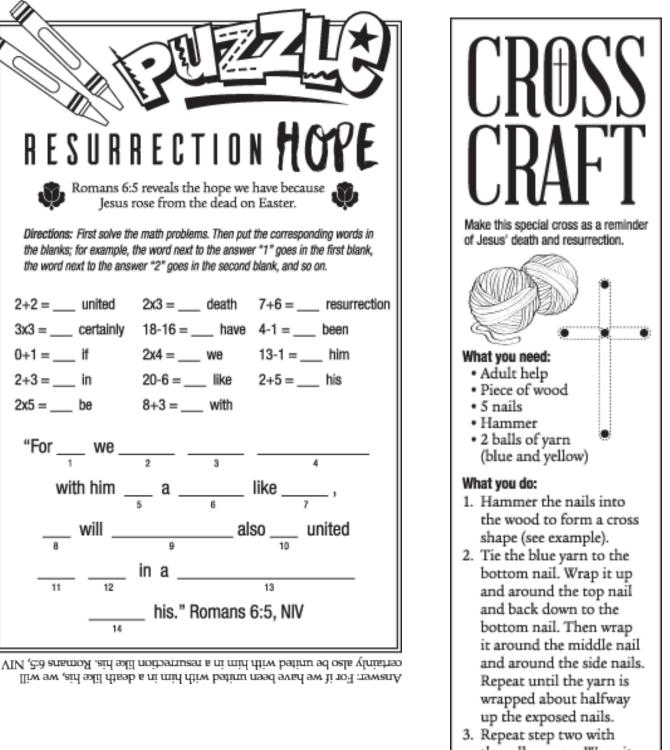
(*) Fellowship after worship
(*) Breakfast before worship

FELLOWSHIP DATES:





APRIL 2018 ACTIVITIES



 Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.

APRIL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS & SPONSORS

DATE	GREETER	READER	FLOWERS	BULLETINS
4/1	ТВА	Sara Jane Beshore	The Rissmiller Family	Cheryl Wiltrout
4/8	Josh Keck	Gladys Kline	Ted and Betty Eshbach	Todd Wagaman and family
4/15	TBA	Roy Merkel	Elaine Seip	Elaine Seip
4/22	TBA	Dawn Wengert	(sponsor needed)	Gladys Kline
4/29	ТВА	Ken Keck	(sponsor needed)	(sponsor needed)

ALTAR GUILD: Sara Jane Beshore

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS: (sponsor needed)

SANCTUARY CANDLE: Cheryl Wiltrout

COMMUNION BREAD: 4/1 – Sara Jane Beshore

COMMUNION SET-UP: 4/1 – Sara Jane Beshore

COUNCILPERSON: Linda Moyer

COST: Flowers - \$35.00; Bulletins - \$7.00; Children's Bulletins - \$5.00; Sanctuary Candle - \$15.00

APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Resurrection of Our Lord • Holy Communion	2	3 6:00pm-Faith Formation Committee Meeting 7:00pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6 Adult Retreat at Bear Creek Camp until April 8	7 8:00-2:00pm-New Jerusalem Lutheran Yard Share
8 Second Sunday of Easter • Fellowship after worship Pastor Ruth at Continuing Ed until April 11 th	9 7:00pm- Finance Committee Meeting	10 7:00pm -Senior Choir Rehearsal	11	12 Pastor Ruth – Out of Town	13 Pastor Ruth – Out of Town	14 1:00pm-Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Collin McCulloch
15 Third Sunday of Easter	16 7:00pm-Council Meeting	17 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal	18 11:30am -Fellowship Luncheon at Airport Diner	19	20	21 4:00-7:00pm- Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Jackson Radcliffe, Janelle's Banquet Hall
22 Fourth Sunday of Easter • Earth Day • Faith Formation Event after worship • Fellowship after worship	23	24 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal Pastor Ruth, First Call Training	25 Pastor Ruth, First Call Training	26	27	28 3:00-9:00pm-Spring Campfire
NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 29 Fifth Sunday of Easter	Shoo-fly Pie Bake 30	Shoo-fly Pie Bake▶ 31 6:30pm-Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm-Senior Choir Rehearsal	Shoo-fly Pie Bake►			

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