

# MESSIAH MESSENGER

June 2023 Volume 44 Issue 6

# HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

Psalm 103:13



## Worship Schedule

## Sunday 10:30 am

Services are broadcast on YouTube, search for MessiahCamrose or find a link on our website messiahcamrose.ca.

We also broadcast on Eastlink TV channels 10, 310 and 610 on Sunday at 10:30 am.

If you have any questions or concerns call the office at 780 672 3444 or email

office@messiahcamrose.ca.

## Summer Office Hours

Beginning June 19 Closed Mondays

Open Tuesday to Friday
9:00 am to Noon
& 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
(Closed for lunch 12:00 to 1:00 pm)

Sharing Jesus Christ with All People

### **Pastor's Ponderings**



"We should plant a tree in our new yard!"

So announced our son
Daniel as soon as he found
out that we were moving.
Although it was still winter
when we moved in, and
our yard was buried under
what seemed like a
mountain of snow, he
could see underneath that

blanket of white to the growing season ahead.

What a brilliant idea, we thought! A great way to celebrate a new home and a new place, and knowing that the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago, we made the decision not to wait too long.

The good news: our new tree has been planted! We chose a sour cherry — Evans variety — because what's more fun than a fruit tree, and we wanted one that wouldn't grow to be too large, and could start producing fruit right away. Thanks to a couple of months to get to know our new neighbourhood, we decided to plant it in our backyard, safely away from the mouths of hungry deer that like to enjoy the buffet at the front of our house.

There was such hope as we dug the hole in the ground and carefully buried the roots. And although it's almost impossible to imagine what a tree will be when it's grown, we have tried to guess how the branches might develop, how high the canopy might be, and how much fruit we might get — maybe even this year!

When asked what he would do if he knew the world was ending tomorrow, Martin Luther is famously credited with saying, "I would plant a tree." I've heard scholars say that he probably didn't say this, but I don't care! He's naming living with hope in the present, even knowing what the future might be. He's naming a vocation of care for the earth that is our human responsibility in the here and now. He's naming a trust in God that's at the heart of faith, for today

and for tomorrow. It all sounds like Luther, whether he said it or not. Who would have thought planting a tree was a such a faith-filled activity?

Messiah's Annual Meeting is Sunday, June 11th. You have done the work of calling a new pastor and beginning a new collaborative ministry. These are exciting things! But there are still trees for us to plant, aren't there? What are the saplings of ministry that we can establish today to provide for the years ahead? What are the seeds that we are laying in hope for a future that we can't predict — for new ways of impacting people with the life-giving gospel of Jesus?

The new trees we are planting may look like ones that have been important to Messiah in the past, like new varieties of cherries or apples or maples: ministries like music programs or refugee sponsorship or community service. Or they may be saplings that we have never planted before, and we are not sure how they are going to do in today's soil. And that's ok, too. Planting is always an experiment: trusting God to bring abundance in God's good time and care.

I look at our new cherry tree at home and I smile as I am filled with hope. I anticipate the jam that will be made. I look forward to the day when the branches will be strong enough to support a feeder, and the birds find shelter among the leaves. I ponder planting another to make the trees even more fruitful.

I look around at our congregation and I smile as I am filled with hope. I anticipate what God will do among us and with us at Messiah. I trust that we can faithfully plant our saplings today, not knowing how those trees will grow, or what the challenges might be, but that in God's grace and care, we are always rooted in hope.

Peace be with you beloved ones of God at Messiah! Pastor Jeff 403 502 1940 jeff@messiahcamrose.ca



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## Pastor's Message

#### The "Wild" Holy Spirit



We have had quite a season of drought... not a lot of rain so far at least.

Sometimes a few drizzles until the other night when we got a bit more. Its not so great for keeping the fires down... Its been a rough spring for that... they

have gotten quite out of control. Its pretty scary when things go out of control. There is really not a lot we can do sometimes... It is not easy to find our homes engulfed in flames and some of our people here in Alberta have had this happen this Spring. There have also been some huge winds in Eastern Canada that have taken down trees.

The Spirit of God is also likened to fire and wind. Although not a wind and fire that takes over in a destructive way, there is something very out of control about how God's Spirit moves. The Scriptures say that the Spirit moves where he/she wills. The thing is we cannot control the movement of God. We like to try sometimes but we truly cannot. Some of this is quite lovely... for the presence of the Spirit was sent to bring us guidance and comfort and help... to be there with us. Who would not want such a beautiful gift?

In Isaiah 44: 3 we hear these words, "For I will pour out water on the thirsty land. And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring and my blessing on your descendants..." What a lovely picture... of God pouring the Spirit of the living water upon us... and upon those we love... like a blessing.

We tend to see this Spirit only with the eyes of gentle love... but there is something very "out of control" about being filled with God's

Spirit and it is not always a gentle thing. In fact it is sometimes rather wild. So what do we do with this "wild" Spirit... that moves in ways we sometimes don't even appreciate, guiding us often to places that are uncomfortable, sending us out into unknown territory and places we do not really understand to do and be in ways that are not always comfortable?

There is indeed sometimes something "unruly" about the Spirit of God, sometimes a bit wild... like a wild wind that blows where it wills. It reminds me of the huge horse that I rode bareback as a child across the prairie she took off with me hanging on for dear life - no longer in control. The Spirit cannot be corralled, like a wild horse.

In John 3:8 we hear these words, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where is goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

So when we sing the song, "Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me" like a prayer (and it is one of may favorite songs) we are truly asking God to move in our lives in whatever way God wants to move. This may be in ways that are not easy at all. We are asking the gentle presence of the Spirit to move in and not only be with us but to lead and guide us in ways that may not be easy. We are essentially letting go of control. We are asking for the Holy Spirit to move in and through us and to let God's incredible love into our lives and then to flow that love through us to the whole world.

In Philippians, the apostle Paul said he was taken hold of by God and because of this he was willing to do anything to be in relationship with his Lord.

So let us not be mistaken, to be filled with the Spirit of the living God is truly one of the best gifts ever and it is a place of letting go of that precious control that we like to have in our lives and be moved, be "taken hold of" by God. We are called to be the love of God in this world and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we too can be this love in ways that are unimaginable. What a gift! What a wild and beautiful presence!

Join me in this prayer of surrender...

In the love and power of the Spirit of God...

Pastor Bev

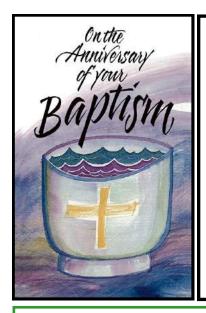
780 678 7830 bev@messiahcamrose.ca

Spirit of the living God Fall afresh on me Spirit of the living God Fall afresh on me

Break me, melt me Mould me, fill me Spirit of the living God Fall afresh on me

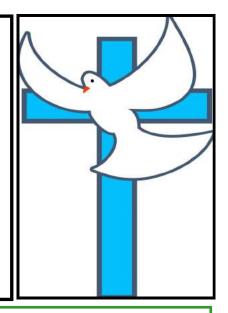
~ Daniel Iverson

#30 - F



We recognize the monthly
Baptismal Anniversaries
of the children
in the *Splash* program: **Krew Matthiessen - June 5** *Let your light so shine* 

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.



If you would like to be added to the volunteer list to help with mowing the Church lawn, leave a message at the office or contact Gord Myrehaug, Chair of the support Committee.

Many hands make light work!





## Synod of Alberta and the Territories

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Dear Beloved of God -

Plans are well underway for our Synod's journey to The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Colombia (IELCO), our Companion Synod Partner, from July 24-August 3.

Twelve participants will experience, embrace and engage in "Daunting Challenges – Wellsprings of Hope" through the varied contexts and ministries of IELCO and of the Lutheran World Federation World Service office, through relationships formed and deepened with our siblings in Christ, and through many opportunities for learning and listening, for discovery and community.

It has been a gift and transforming experience for me to journey with, and to facilitate these journeys, with youth and adults from our Synod since 2009.

During our 2011 journey to Colombia, Rev. Eduardo Martinez, Bishop at that time, was asked to share his thoughts regarding the value of mission experiences such as ours, which focus on the building of relationships – for Synod participants, and for the people, congregations, missions and ministries of IELCO. He responded:

- this mission journey enables the participants to experience the context of ministry,
- this mission journey strengthens relationships we are able then to pray specifically and to share one another's story,
- this mission journey encourages individuals, congregations, missions and ministries of IELCO through listening, learning and affirmation,
- this mission journey enables each to experience similarities and differences, yet we are all the same,
- this mission journey enables the members, congregations and ministries of IELCO to know

that they are not alone; instead, they are a part of a large family around the world,

- this mission journey encourages all to see different ways of living the faith – of being Christian in daily life in different ministry contexts, and
- this mission journey affirms the history of missions and missionaries in Colombia from Alberta.

I scrambled to write these words in my journal that day. Today these words strike me in a new, different and fresh way as I consider my own ministry context. As lay and rostered leaders, as congregations, as Synod, as the ELCIC, we journey together in mission learning of one another's contexts for ministry. Relationships are strengthened and we are able to pray for another with specificity and share one another's stories. Ministries are encouraged through listening, learning and affirmation. We journey in mission together experiencing similarities and differences, yet we are the same. We discover that we are not alone but part of a family - a congregation, a Synod, the ELCIC, IELCO, the Lutheran World Federation, the Anglican Church of Canada, the Moravian Church, and so on. We journey together in mission seeing a multitude of ways of daily living the faith in various ministry contexts, and we affirm our history and experience of being in mission together.

Would you pray for our Synod delegation and for the IELCO family as together we experience, embrace and engage in "Daunting Challenges – Wellsprings of Hope."

In Christ Jesus – Shalom, +Larry



# Treasurer's Report May 2023

We ended our last fiscal year on April 30 with an unplanned surplus of about \$40,000. One of the reasons was a bequest of \$20,000 from Neta Specht's estate that was designated for the general fund, and another was a one-time donation of \$10,000. It needs to be noted that these were one-time contributions.

Another significant factor leading to the surplus was that the budget included funding for an added half-time pastor for half the year. As it turned out Pastor Jeff came with only six weeks left in the year.

Preliminary financial statements for the past year are included on pages 48-53 of the Annual Report, which is now available.

Included with the financial statements in the Annual Report is Church Council's recommended budget for 2023-2024. You will note that it includes a deficit of about the same amount as the surplus of last year. In many ways this will be a another year of transition as Pastor Bev serves half time with the congregations at New Norway and Bashaw, and as Pastor Jeff becomes acquainted with Messiah. While we expect offerings will continue to increase they are unlikely to cover the increasing expenditures. Using last year's surplus to assist us through this year of transition allows us to continue services and programs at their present levels without major change. It will be important for us to plan carefully towards a balanced budget

in years to come.

I welcome any questions or concerns about the financial statements or the budget. Please feel free to call me at any time.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Stolee, Treasurer



## **Council Report**

Our devotion this month based on John 16:16-24 reminded us that although we are sometimes confused or uncertain, we can rely on Jesus' words that we will see him again and that He is always with us and will guide us.

As our year winds down and we prepare for the Annual General Meeting on June 11, following a potluck lunch, we see light and activity not winding down, but gearing up. All current Council members have agreed to stay on during this transition year into a new model of collaborative ministry. So far it is going well. Pastor Bev is delighting in meeting the people in the rural parishes and Pastor Jeff has begun a series of *Cottage Conversations* to help him get to know the people of Messiah. The wonderful Senior Teas will also continue this spring and summer.

A Messiah - Renewal 125 committee is being formed with goals and ideas for renewal and celebration of our 125 anniversary in 2026.

In September, we will begin work on a new photo directory. Pictures will be taken September 26-30.

Although we pray for rain, we also hope that the leak in the flat roof over the fellowship centre can be easily fixed. The Support Committee has highlighted two concerns: the repair or replacement of the flat roof, and elements of the sound system for broadcasting our services. Neither is a new concern, but the timing may be coming clearer.

We see that God has indeed been guiding us this past year as we moved into new territory, welcomed new people, started new programs like Martha's Table hosting. We look forward with joy and thanksgiving.

Now the God of hope fill you with all

joy and peace in believing, that ye may
abound in hope, through the power of
the Holy Ghost, Romans 15:18

Gail Stolee, Secretary

## **Hastings Lake Bible Camp**













## Programs for all Ages

See website for pricing and specific program descriptions

#### **SUMMER PROGRAMS**

Dates	Main Site	Wilderness Site  Junior Adventure I  Age: 12-14		
July 2-7	Prime Time (Adult Camp) Rev. Lee Woolery Senior Youth Age: 14-18			
July 9-14	Junior Youth Age: 12-14 Leaders in Training Age: 14-18+	Kids' Adventure I Age: 8-11		
July 16-21	Family Camp I Speaker TBA	Junior Adventure II Age: 12-14		
July 23-28		Kids' Adventure II Age: 8-11		
July 30 - Aug 4	Kids' Camp (5 night) Age: 8-11			
Aug 2-4	Mini Camp (2 night) Age: 6-9			
Aug 7-11	SKILLS Camp (MAD, Sports, Photography) Age: 8-16 Kids' Camp (4 night) Age: 8-11			
Aug 13-18	Family Camp II Revs. Kristian Wold & Margaret Propp			
Aug 18-20 (Weekend)	Family Retreat Speaker TBA			
Aug 21-24	Family Camp III Revs. Prema Samuel & Matt Lyseng			
Sept 22-24 (Weekend)	Family Adventure Speaker TBA			

## About Kuriakos

#### **CONTACT US**

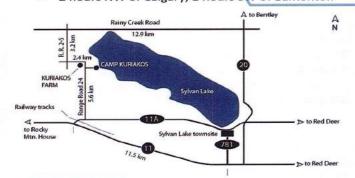
(403) 746-2702 info@kuriakos.ab.ca www.kuriakos.ab.ca

5-39317 Range Road 24 Lacombe, Alberta T4E 2R7

#### LOCATION

We are conveniently and centrally located

- 15 minutes west of the town of Sylvan Lake
- 30 minutes west of Red Deer
- 2 hours NW of Calgary, 2 hours SW of Edmonton



#### **AFFILIATIONS**

We are affiliated with Lutheran and Anglican churches and a member of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Canada.

Kuriakos has a long history as an accredited camp with the Alberta Camping Association, which ensures camps across Alberta maintain high standards of safety and excellence.









Congregational Annual Meeting
Sunday June 11, 1:00 pm
We will have a pot luck lunch in the
Fellowship Centre prior to the meeting.



Annual Reports are available at the church office and at the Welcome Centre.

## Food Bank Sunday - June 11

Food Bank donations are still needed and can be left in the grocery cart in the Church foyer during the week or at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings or dropped off directly to the Neighbor Aid Food Bank located at 4524 54 Street in Camrose.

Monday to Friday from 9:00 am - Noon & Tuesday to Thursday 1:00-4:00 pm.

Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated and can be made online at <a href="atbcares.com">at atbcares.com</a> by entering CAMROSE NEIGHBOR AID CENTER INC. in the Find A Cause search area.





Adult Class, Sunday, 9:15 AM
in the Basement Auditorium
The last class will be held on June 4
before the summer break with Leann Reinhart
sharing her Faith Journey.



## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

By Zoom

Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Contact the office for the Zoom link.

## ATTENTION HEARING AID USERS



We are equipped with T-Coil in the sanctuary. Contact your hearing aid provider to see if your hearing aid is T-coil compliant. If so, obtain the instructions for activating it.

The Support Committee



What is this? It's a QR code. What is it used for?

It's used by smart phone users for a

"Quick Response" to access information from the internet.

Why does Messiah have one?
So that people can just aim the camera on their smartphones and go directly to Messiah's website instead of searching for it on the internet. Just

point your camera and touch the link.



We are able to accept
E-transfers set up from your
online banking,
that deposit directly,
at the following email address:
offering@messiahcamrose.ca



Eternity for Today devotional books for April to June 2023 are available in the office, or at the Welcome Desk at the back of the sanctuary, for a suggested donation of \$2.00.





#### You are Welcome to join for Worship in the Country

Your pastors would like to remind you that since we are a part of a collaboration with two other parishes, it might be enjoyable if some of Messiah people joined out there for worship from time to time. So, feel free to take a drive out that way and join Pastor Bev and the New Norway and the Bashaw parishes for worship sometime. We meet on the second and fourth Sundays. We will keep you informed when there are changes to these times and services.

#### The Service times are:

**Bashaw Parish** (Zion Lutheran) is held at 9:15 am. **New Norway Parish** (Bethesda) is held at 11:00 am. Both of these Churches are found in the towns of Bashaw and New Norway.

There is coffee served after each service.

You are Welcome!!



# **NEWS** BRIEFS



#### ADDRESS CHANGE

The mailing address for CLWR has been changed to:

400-185 Carlton St., Winnipeg MB R3C 3J1

The telephone number **1-800-661-2597** is still the same.

#### SUPPORT FOR SYRIA

Work is being extended to cover **WASH** (water, sanitation and hygiene) and community awareness/training in earthquake safety, health and hygiene (including cholera prevention). There are still many more families that need our help following the massive earthquake in February. **Just \$35 can provide safety and security to a Syrian family in need.** 

#### BURUNDI

In Burundi, conflict and changing climate have left thousands of families facing hunger. CLWR's local partners are providing both immediate food assistance and longer-term livelihood support to vulnerable families. Families are being provided training, equipment, supplies, livestock and seed to grow their own food, improving the family's nutrition and developing new income sources.

#### **NICARAGUA**

Across 23 communities in this country, children are receiving financial help to stay in school, getting extra learning supports and a daily hot meal at school.



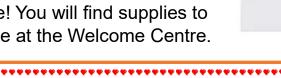
"Local Effort for Global Challenges"

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING June 5, 2023 @ 6 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Fellowship Centre 4810 – 50 Street

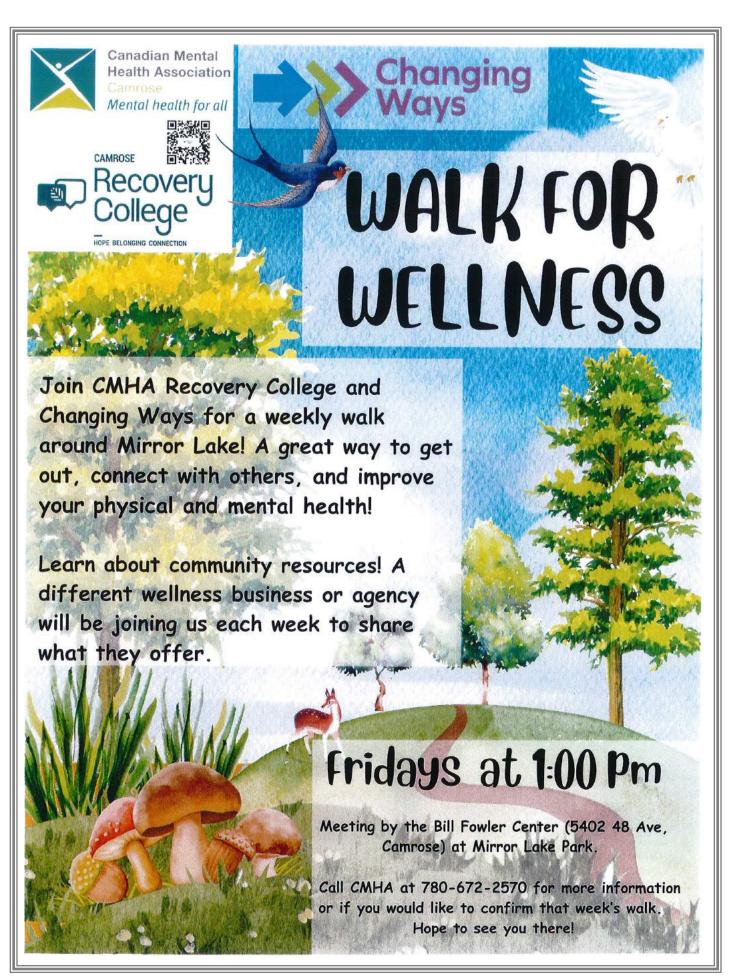
Guest Speaker : Stefan Andersson Reflections on the India Tour: Pipal Tree Project

Light lunch and refreshments provided All are welcome **NAME TAGS...**Having a name tag on is a nice way to greet other worshippers. Please wear one if you have one! You will find supplies to make one at the Welcome Centre.



Reminder: If family members or loved ones are in the hospital, please let the church office know so we can make a pastoral visit.

The hospital no longer releases this information to Pastors.



# New in the Church Library

### Thankfully by Hazel Erga

Hazel told some of her "Faith Journey" in the adult Sunday school in May by reading from her book *Thankfully*. It was written mainly for her extended family, but it will interest anyone who knows Lyle and Hazel. My wife Patricia observed while reading it, "It's hard to put down!"

Hazel covers their travels to various continents, some of their nail -biting illnesses and accidents, interspersed with family items which keep the account honest and inspiring.

Two copies join books by other "Messiah authors" in the Biography section of our church library. It's coil-bound, sideways.



Youth Event May 12, 2023



Playing Sardines "AHA" We Found You!





## **CAMROSE NEIGHBOR AID Needs Your Help**

Volunteer drivers to take clients into Edmonton for speciality medical appointments. Call **Neighbor Aid for more** information 780-679-3220 or drop by and pick up a volunteer form. 4524 - 54 St.

## **HANDY PERSONS** (Men or Women)



Camrose

Would you like to help with odd jobs around the church? We're looking for people who like to work with their hands!

Would you or someone you know like to be part of a team similar to the Wednesday Workers?? Please leave your name at the office if vou are interested!





## **CAN WE HELP?**

There is a volunteer group of people at Messiah who are available to help you or do tasks for you...





or give you a ride to an appointment.



If there is small job that you would like help with or would like done, please phone Messiah Lutheran Church at 780-672-3444 and leave a message with the receptionist. You will receive a call back to set up a time to get together & make a plan.





## Messiah Lutheran Church Sharing Jesus Christ with All People

4810-50 St. Camrose AB T4V 1P5 Phone: 780-672-3444 Website: messiahcamrose.ca Email: office@messiahcamrose.ca

Senior Pastor Messiah: Jeff Decelle Pastor: Bev Swanson (serving 1/2 time at Messiah and 1/2 time at Bashaw/New Norway)

Administrative Coordinator: Lori Mokry
Part-Time Administrative Assistant: Shirley McFall
Audio Visual Ministry Coordinator: Lowell Dahlman
Bookkeeper: Sheila Becker

Custodians: Carolyn & Lloyd Olson Music Ministry Coordinator: Tova Olson

### **Messiah Church Council**

David Dahle, President

Agnes Hoveland, Vice-President

Gail Stolee, Secretary Dave Stolee, Treasurer

Members at Large: Liaising With:

Dena Grue Worship Committee
LeRoy Johnson Learning Committee
Mary Broen Support Committee

Max Lindstrand Witnessing Committee

Carolyn Andersen Service Committee

If you know someone who does not have access to Eastlink TV or the internet, but they have a DVD player, please contact the office at 780-672-3444 and we can make arrangements to deliver a DVD of any of the services to them!



We continue to broadcast on Eastlink channels 10, 310 & 610.

Our services are on YouTube. Search for MessiahCamrose.
There is also a link for on our website messiahcamrose.ca.



Previous Sunday's services may also be found on YouTube or on our website at messiahcamrose.ca and under the Worship Service tab you will find "Worship Services Archived."

## Messiah Messenger

Published 11 times a year
September to July
Also available online at: messiahcamrose.ca
under the Communications tab.
To request email delivery or to
submit articles by email,
Write to: office@messiahcamrose.ca
Messenger Editor: Dena Grue

Members, staff, committees and groups are encouraged to submit articles so that we are aware of what is happening in our congregation.

Next Issue: July/August Material due: June 20 Delivery date: June 30

# **JUNE 2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12:15 Staff Meeting	2	3
4 Holy Trinity	5 9:00 Service	6	7	7:00 Learning Committee	9	10
9:15 Adult Class NO Sunday School 10:30 Communion Worship Service 2:00 Communion @ Seasons	Committee 2:00 World Mission Prayer Group  6:00 Sahakarini Annual Meeting	12:00 Martha's Table	9:00 Men's Coffee Group 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM	9:30 Praise Circle 5:00 Witnessing Committee	4:00 Wedding Rehearsal	4:00 Maiya Sweet & Blake Thompson Wedding
11 Pentecost 2 Food Bank Sunday  10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 12:00 Potluck Lunch 1:00 Annual Congregational Meeting	12 6:00 Staff BBQ	13 10:00 Communion @ Hillside 12:00 Martha's Table 2:00 Grace Circle @ Hillside 2:30 Communion @ Deer Meadows 7:00 Joy Circle	14 9:00 Men's Coffee Group 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM 7:00 Faith Circle by ZOOM	15 12:15 Staff Meeting	16	17
18 Pentecost 3  10:30 Communion Worship Service & Installation of Council and Committees  11:45 Coffee Fellowship	19 SUMMER HOURS BEGIN OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY	Messenger Articles Due  12:00 Martha's Table	9:00 Men's Coffee Group 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM	22	23	24
25 Pentecost 4 10:30 Worship Service  11:45 Coffee Fellowship	26 SUMMER HOURS OFFICE CLOSED MONDAY	12:00 Martha's Table	28 9:00 Men's Coffee Group 10:00 Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM	29	Messenger Delivery	