

APRIL 2024

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church Newsletter

Rev. Dr. John Richey, Pastor

St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
18100 Wentworth Ave.
Lansing, Illinois 60438
Pastor's Phone: 1-708 510-7334

Douglas Rebeck, Church Secretary

Sunday Adult Bible Study 8:15a.m.

Sunday Services 9:30 a.m.

Church Phone: 1-708-895-9240

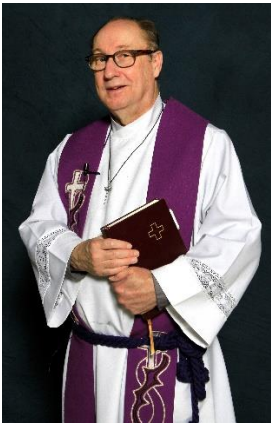
Church e-mail: stjohnslansing@comcast.net

Church Website: www.stjohnschurchlansing.org

Dear Redeemed friends in Christ Jesus,

We continue celebrating Easter throughout the month of April and May. Still, we meditate on the cross which saved us and with the resurrection of Jesus, points us to eternity.

I offer the following poem for your meditation.....



*In Christ,
Pastor John Richey*

The Cross

*I am the cross on the hill,
on the wall,
in the embroidery,
on the brow.*

*I am the cross of Calvary,
infamy, victory, destiny.*

*I am the cross of Oak, Tamarack, Pine,
stained, painted, brazed,
signed by hand.*

*I am the dividing line of death and life,
Good Friday and Easter,
no and yes.*

*I am the yes of God, the final say,
the door through,
the way to the other side.*

*I am the cross of people's yearning,
weeping, begging, suffering.*

I know the people's heart.

*I am the one who said I will,
O God forgive, it is finished.*

I am the heart of God.

I am the cross.

By Dr. Herbert Brokering

Former Staff Associate, Wheat Ridge Ministries



Wheat Ridge Ministries
One Pierce Place, Suite 250E
Itasca, IL 60143-2634
800.762.6748
www.wheatridge.org

CELEBRATIONS WE OBSERVE HERE AT ST. JOHN'S IN 2024

Pentecost Sunday May 19, 2024

The Holy Trinity Sunday May 26, 2024

Reformation Sunday, October 27

All Saints' Day Sunday November 3

Thanksgiving Thursday 28, 2024 7:00 pm

Last Sunday of the Church Year Sunday 24, 2024

OFFICIAL ACTS FOR 2024

Profession of Faith:

Julie Labeledz (approved at the February 2024 Voter's Meeting)

Death: *Charlene Cox, February 14, 2024, Service at Shroeder-Lauer Funeral Home on February 22, 2024*

Rachel Guhl Eckman, Service at St. John's, Lansing on March 15, 2024

GIFTS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF THE LORD

Given to the glory of God in memory of:

Charlene Cox: Jim and Sue Kreger; David Miller; Andy Banas; anonymous

Given to the glory of God a non-monetary donation of printing bid sheets for the auction from the *Granados Family*

Altar Lilies given to the glory of the Risen Christ on Easter Sunday:

Kristine Davy; Tina Funchion; Hal and Eileen Gronewold; Gary and Rene Knight; Edward Knoll; Jim and Susan Kreger; Charles and Kathy Labahn; Kathy Soderstrom; David and Sandy Swanson; Margaret Von Behren; Brian and Sally Winters; Mike and Julie

WORSHIP ANEW SERMON SUMMARIES

April 2024



Christ Cleanses the Temple **March 3, 2024 – Third Sunday in Lent** **Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III**

Christ's cleansing of the temple was one incident in his fight against evil. His carrying on that fight is good news for us, and guides us as to how we believers are to live in today's world.

Sermon Text: *John 2:13-16* **Readings:** *Psalm 19:1, 7-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-16*

Lifted Up **March 10, 2024 – Fourth Sunday in Lent** **Rev. Thomas Eggold**

There is not a story or sign in the entire Old Testament that points more directly to the Cross than the serpent on the stake. Here a bronze serpent hangs from a cross, and it was put there by God precisely because of sin. The sign of our sin and the image of the death we deserve is suspended between heaven and earth and between God and man. And there, on the wooden pole, God saved His people.

Sermon Text: *John 3:14-15* **Readings:** *Psalm 107:1-9; Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14-21*

Greatness In His Glory **March 17, 2024 – Fifth Sunday in Lent** **Rev. Shayne Jonker**

Jesus alone was qualified, there is no one on earth who can lift this miserable cup of death to his lips and drink it to the bottom. There is no one on earth who can be baptized into our death and rise up out of it to life. Only Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh can stand in our place and do for all what we can't do for ourselves.

Sermon Text: *Mark 10:45* **Readings:** *Psalm 119:9-16; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Mark 10:32-45*

The Suffering Savior **March 24, 2024 – Sunday of the Passion** **Rev. Paul Shoemaker**

Jesus took upon Himself the sins of all people for all time. On Calvary's cross He paid for those sins in full. His resurrection on Easter was God the Father's "Well done." He accomplished His task. His victory is complete.

Sermon Text: *Mark 15:1-47* **Readings:** *Psalm 31:9-16; Mark 15:1-47*

Boy! Do I Love Him! **March 31, 2024 – Easter Sunday** **Rev. William Mueller**

Easter Sunday is so filled with joy! The sudden turn of events in the life of Jesus and His disciples. Even though He had told the disciples about it ahead of time, no one remembered this would be. Death is swallowed up in victory. In the resurrection of Jesus death is undone. The plug is pulled on death. And this brings us great joy.

Sermon Text: *Isaiah 25:6-9* **Readings:** *Psalm 16; Isaiah 25:6-9; Mark 16:1-8*

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.
5 Martin Luther Drive † Fort Wayne, IN
46825-4996
Tel: (260) 471-LOVE (5683) † Toll-Free:
(888) 286-8002
info@WorshipAnew.org

BROADCAST:
Sunday 8:00 am- Comcast 184 OR WPWR
channel 50
Direct TV Sunday 10:30 am
TCT channel 377



What About . . .

Lutheran Worship

Why does our Lord gather us for worship?

The most precious gifts and treasures our Lord gives us are His forgiveness, life and salvation. Through His innocent life and bitter sufferings and death, Christ has purchased and won us from sin, death and the devil. Through Jesus Christ, all the sins of the world were paid for and the wrath of God was appeased. Christ has reconciled the whole world to God.

Jesus Christ serves us again and again as His Gospel is proclaimed, as His people are baptized and as His Word is read. He serves us as His forgiveness is pronounced and penitents absolved. He serves us as He gives us His body and blood under the bread and wine to eat and to drink. This is how our Lord gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. What a blessing it is to be called and gathered for worship by our good and gracious God!

What is at the heart and center of Lutheran worship?

Lutheran worship puts the focus squarely on Jesus Christ, who is present for us and with us through His Word and Sacraments. Lutheran worship is, therefore, Christ-centered, not man-centered. When we are gathered for worship, we are not contemplating some far-off Christ or meditating on abstract concepts, or pondering various principles for living. Neither are we in church to be amused or entertained. Christ is living and active among us, right where He has promised to be in His Word and Sacraments. Jesus said, "Lo, I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 18:20). When He gathers us around His Word and Sacraments, He fulfills this promise to us once again.

What is the basic pattern or "rhythm" of Lutheran worship?

Here is how our hymnal *Lutheran Worship* describes it: Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. . . . Saying back to Him what He has said to us, we repeat what is most true and sure. . . . The rhythm of our worship is from Him to us, and then from us back to Him. He gives His gifts, and together we receive and extol them. We build one another up as we speak to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.

What does "Divine Service" mean?

Historically, the phrase used to describe Lutheran worship is Divine Service. This helps us understand the rhythm of worship—that it is first and foremost God serving us with His gifts, and then our service to Almighty God in thanksgiving and praise for all He has done. This rhythm of God giving His gifts and our giving Him thanks is conveyed aptly in the term, Divine Service.

The Divine Service is a "holy" time, meaning a time "set apart." It is a time to be set apart from the workaday world—a time to spend with our Lord. Indeed, in the Divine Service we are gathered together in the presence of the holy, almighty, ever-living God, and thus we are part of a time of "heaven on earth," as our Lord forgives our sins and gives us new life today, and eternal salvation with Him forever. This understanding of the Divine Service explains why many who experience Lutheran worship for the first time describe it as dignified, reverent and sacred.

What does Lutheran worship look and sound like?

Lutherans use orders of service common throughout the history of the Western church. The two main parts of the Divine Service are (1) the proclamation of the Word of God, and (2) the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Other orders of service used in the Lutheran church feature a more extended service of the Word as well as times of prayer, such as the services of Matins and Vespers, Morning and Evening Prayer, Compline, and the Litany.

In Lutheran services, pastors and congregations sing or speak the liturgy back and forth or together. Congregational singing of hymns has always been a hallmark of Lutheran worship. The best of musical traditions, both ancient and modern, are embraced by the Lutheran church in its worship, with an emphasis on congregational singing, reinforced by the choir.

Our pastors wear special clothing called vestments. These garments cover the individuality of the man and emphasize the sacred duties of the office he has been given to carry out. Throughout the course of the church year, an appointed order of readings and prayers helps the congregation focus on the major events in the life of Christ and how those events affect us today. Preaching, usually based on the appointed lessons, is a hallmark of Lutheran worship, distinguished by a clear presentation of God's Law and Gospel.

What About being a Lutheran?

leading teachings, which, unfortunately, even to this very day, obscure the glory and merit of Jesus Christ. What motivated Luther was a zealous concern about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Here is how the Lutheran Confessions explain what the Gospel is all about:

“Human beings have not kept the law of God but have transgressed it. Their corrupted human nature, thoughts, words, and deeds battle against the law. For this reason they are subject to God’s wrath, to death and all temporal afflictions, and to the punishment of the fires of hell. As a result, the Gospel, in its strict sense, teaches what people should believe, namely, that they receive from God the forgiveness of sins; that is, that the Son of God, our Lord Christ, has taken upon Himself the curse of the law and borne it, atoned and paid for all our sins; that through Him alone we are restored to God’s grace, obtain the forgiveness of sins through faith and are delivered from death and all the punishments of our sins and are saved eternally. . . . It is good news, joyous news, that God does not want to punish sin but to forgive it for Christ’s sake” (FC SD, V, 20).

What is a “confessional” Lutheran?

The word “confession” is used in a variety of ways, but when we speak of a “confessional” Lutheran we mean a Lutheran who declares to the world his faith and most deeply held belief and conviction, in harmony with the documents contained in the Book of Concord. You will catch the spirit of confessional Lutheranism in these, the last words written in the Book of Concord:

“Therefore, it is our intent to give witness before God and all Christendom, among those who are alive today and those who will come after us, that the explanation here set forth regarding all the controversial articles of faith which we have addressed and explained—and no other explanation—is our teaching, faith, and confession. In it we shall appear before the judgment throne of Jesus Christ, by God’s grace, with fearless hearts and thus give account of our faith, and we will neither secretly nor publicly speak or write anything contrary to it. Instead, on the strength of God’s grace, we intend to abide by this confession” (FC SD, XII, 40).

What is an “unconditional subscription” to the Confessions?

Confessional Lutheran pastors are required to “subscribe” unconditionally to the Lutheran Confessions because they are a pure exposition of the Word of God. This is the way our pastors, and every layman who confesses his belief in the Small Catechism, is able with great joy and without reservation or qualification to say what it is that he believes to be the truth of God’s Word.

Dr. C. F. W. Walther, the Missouri Synod’s first president, explained the meaning of an unconditional confessional subscription in words as clear and poignant today as they were then:

“An unconditional subscription is the solemn declaration which the individual who wants to serve the church makes under

oath that he accepts the doctrinal content of our Lutheran Confessions, because he recognizes the fact that they are in full agreement with Scripture and do not militate against Scripture in any point, whether the point be of major or minor importance; and that he therefore heartily believes in this divine truth and is determined to preach this doctrine.”

So what is it to be a Lutheran?

Being a Lutheran is being a person who believes the truths of God’s Word, the Holy Bible, as they are correctly explained and taught in the Book of Concord. To do so is to confess the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Genuine Lutherans, confessional Lutherans, dare to insist that “All doctrines should conform to the standards [the Lutheran Confessions] set forth above. Whatever is contrary to them should be rejected and condemned as opposed to the unanimous declaration of our faith” (FC Ep. RN, 6).

Such a statement may strike some as boastful. But it is not; rather, it is an expression of the Spirit-led confidence that moves us to speak of our faith before the world.

To be a confessional Lutheran is to be one who honors the Word of God. That word makes it clear that it is God’s desire for His church to be in agreement about doctrine, and to be of one mind, living at peace with one another (1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:11). It is for that reason that we so treasure the precious confession of Christian truth that we have in the Book of Concord. For confessional Lutherans, there is no other collection of documents, or statements or books that so clearly, accurately and comfortingly presents the teachings of God’s Word and reveals the Biblical Gospel as does our Book of Concord.

Hand-in-hand with our commitment to pure teaching and confession of the faith, is, and always must be, our equally strong commitment to reaching out boldly with the Gospel and speaking God’s truth to the world. That is what “confession” of the faith is all about, in the final analysis. Indeed, “It is written: ‘I believed; therefore I have spoken.’ With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak” (2 Cor. 4:13). This is what it means to be a Lutheran.

For Further Study:

Robert Preus, *Getting into the Theology of Concord: A Study of the Book of Concord* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1977).

David Scaer, *Getting into the Story of Concord: A History of the Book of Concord* (St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House, 1977).

To purchase a copy of the Book of Concord, call Concordia Publishing House at 800-325-3040.

— Dr. A. L. Barry
President

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

A special thank you to our donors

Albanese	Jim & Sue Kreger	Texas Roadhouse Dyer, IN
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 697	John/Patti Smierciak	The Nimon Family
American Legion Riders 697	Julie Labeledz	Theatre at the Center
Aurelio's	Jutta Kerstin	Thrivent
Bark Box	Karen Erickson	Tom & Lori Sabal
Beggars Pizza	Kathy Maanum	Tracey Krause
Big Guy BBQ	Kathy Soderstrom	Trustee Maureen Grady Perovich
Bonnie Lau	Kay Muller	Unilever
Bozo Hot Dogs	Kohl Children's Museum	Unlimited Service Automotive
Braggs Automotive	Kreger Signs	Wayne Douma
Brookfield Zoo	Landheim Training & Boarding Center	Loving Hands
Café Borgia	Lansing Friends of the Library	
Calumet Bakery	Lynnie Ques	
Calumet City Plumbing	Marge VonBehren	
Carol Chambers	Metropolitan Steel	
Cathryn & Caleb Douma	Pastor /Elders	
Century 21 Circle/Shirley Nivens	Planer Family	
Chicago White Sox	Pour on Roy	
Chick-Fil-A Homewood, IL	Ray Nommensen	
Choir & Chimes	Rick & Cheryl Zimmerman	
Copper Muggers	Ridgeway Petroleum	
Costenero Family	Sarah Niven	
Crazy Lady Deco	Schultz Insurance	
Crescent Jewelers	Sharon Andresen	
Don & Pat Livingstone	Shirley Odegaard	
Duane & Sandy Schultz	Son of the American Legion Squadron 697	
Elizabeth Lugo	St. John's Supporter	
Field	St. John's Trustees	
Field Museum	STJ Trustees	
First Savings Bank of Hegewisch	Lansing Lions	
Former Students	Heather Young	
Friends of St. John's	*if for some reason we missed your name please accept our sincere THANKS for your donation. Every effort was made to note the names of the donors or how they asked to be listed in our program.	
Funchion Family		
Gary Railcats		
Goldie Malueg-Lattimore		
Granados Family	A huge THANK YOU to you all for donating your time and shopping with us tonight. We hope you enjoyed your evening.	
Hair Wash/Style By Darlene		
Hal & Eileen Gronewold		
Hallow Homes		



What a St. John's blessing that so many came out to our Spring Dinner Auction.

Thank you everyone who donated, attended, told a friend, helped set up, take down and picked up & returned the super heavy loaner tables.

It was so nice to see the gym full of

life again. We did not know what kind of turn out to expect but trusted the event would be just what St. John's needed.

We also thank Heather Young's friend, Lisa Sowa-Downs, who took these pictures. Go to St. John's facebook and you'll find more pictures. Thank you Lisa.

REMEMBER OUR HOMEBOUND

Here are our current Homebound addresses if you would like to brighten up their day...they would love to be remembered all year.

Andy Banas Jr.
3640 186th Street #302
Lansing, IL 60438

Irma Deichen
Cedar Creek Health Campus #508
18275 Burr Street
Lowell, IN 46356

Sandra Luecke
17725 Arcadia Ave., #203
Lansing, IL 60438

Shirley Odegaard
17041 Grant St.
Lansing, IL 60438

Norma Vierk
Hartsfield Independent Living #1349
10000 Columbia Ave.
Munster, IN 46321

Shirley Weiss
21 Ivy Lane
Dyer, IN 46311

Margaret Zoellick
Evergreen Senior Living Memory Care
10820 W. 183rd St., Room #31;
Orland Park, IL 60467

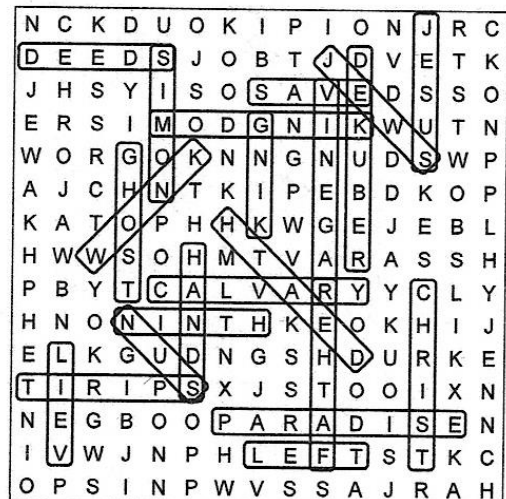
Pastor Richy is available if you have questions or wish to talk to someone....call 708 510-7334 or call the office @ 708 895-9240



Prayer for our Homebound: *Being unable to go out among our friends and church family is difficult, Lord. Remind us that we are still members of Your Body, the Church, and send visitors to share encouragement, hope and most especially, Holy Scripture. Let us likewise give encouragement and love as we are able. Grant us patience during this season of life, and surround us with Your presence, for the sake of Christ. Amen.*

Word Search answers for our Word Search on page 10

PUZZLE 56





APRIL BIRTHDAYS



BIRTHDAYS

Jim Kreger, Apr 1
Thomas Brazzale, Apr 4
John Szymanski, Apr 9
Bob Fernandez, Apr 10
Braden Winters, Apr 12
Susan Kreger, Apr 13
John Mascio, Apr 14
Michelle Planer, Apr 14
Nancy Wojcik, Apr 15

Julie Labeledz, Apr 16
Betty Mayerak, Apr 18
Robert Vierk, Apr 19
Shirley Weiss, Apr 19
Duane Schultz, Apr 20
Michael Winters, Apr 23
Arthur Cain, Apr 25
Nicholas Paunovich, Apr 28

ANNIVERSARIES

David and Shirley Niven, Apr 16

RAISE RIGHT CARD FUNDRAISER

The Shop with Scrips (also known as Raise Right) card fundraiser is being offered EVERY MONTH. Orders are to be placed the last Sunday of the month with delivery the following Sunday. The enrollment code is A938D6FC4588 The website is..... <https://www.raiseright.com/> Questions? ...call Tina Funchion @ 708 789-2844 funchionpt@comcast.net.

LANSING FOOD PANTRY MONTH DRIVE

DON'T FORGET that our Lansing Food Pantry donation collections go on each month. Items may be placed on the table inside the inner school doors. Delivery takes place the last Monday of the month.



WATCH CHURCH VIA YOU-TUBE

Reminder: For those who cannot physically attend worship services, you can worship using "You Tube." We record weekly worship services and post them on "You Tube" after the service. Whether you have a Smart TV or computer to get "You Tube," simply use the search using words like: "St. John's Lutheran Church, Lansing, IL" and you will see all the services to choose from. Thanks to Brian Winters who manages this weekly.



WORD SEARCH FOR THE MONTH

From "Bible Memory Word Searches Volume 1, published by Barbour Publishing, Inc. Used by permission." Answers on page 8

N	C	K	D	U	O	K	I	P	I	O	N	J	R	C
D	E	E	S	J	O	B	T	J	D	V	E	T	K	
J	H	S	I	S	O	S	A	V	E	D	S	S	O	
E	R	S	I	M	O	D	G	N	I	K	W	U	T	N
W	O	R	G	O	K	N	G	N	U	D	S	W	P	
A	J	C	H	N	T	K	I	P	E	B	D	K	O	P
K	A	T	O	P	H	H	K	W	G	E	J	E	B	L
H	W	S	O	H	M	T	V	A	R	A	S	S	H	
P	B	Y	T	C	A	L	V	A	R	Y	C	L	Y	
H	N	O	N	I	N	T	H	K	E	O	K	H	I	J
E	L	K	G	U	D	N	G	S	H	D	U	R	K	E
T	I	R	I	P	S	X	J	S	T	O	O	I	X	N
N	E	G	B	O	O	P	A	R	A	D	I	S	E	N
I	V	W	J	N	P	H	L	E	F	T	S	T	K	C
O	P	S	I	N	P	W	V	S	S	A	J	R	A	H

shalt thou be with me in _____ . 44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the _____ hour. 45 And the _____ was darkened, and the _____ of the temple was rent in the midst. 46 And when _____ had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my _____: and having said thus, he gave up the _____.

56. JESUS' CRUCIFIXION Luke 23:26. 32-46

And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one _____, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. . . . 32 And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to _____ . 33 And when they were come to the place, which is called _____, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the _____ . 34 Then said Jesus, _____, forgive them; for they _____ not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots. 35 And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him _____ himself, if he be _____, the chosen of God. 36 And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him _____, 37 And saying, If thou be the _____ of the Jews, save thyself. 38 And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE _____. 39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40 But the other answering _____ him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our _____: but this man hath done nothing amiss. 42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy _____. 43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today

APRIL 2024

	1	2	3	4 No Confirmation 6:00 pm Chimes 7:00 pm Choir	5	6
	Clipper Nation Basketball practices 6:00-9:00 pm					
7 Second Sunday of Easter 8:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion	8	9	10	11 6:00-7:15 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Chime Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	12	13 Elders' Mtg TBD
	Clipper Nation Basketball practices 6:00-9:00 pm					
14 Third Sunday of Easter 8:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	15 1:30 pm Loving Hands and LWML Meeting TAX DAY	16	17	18 6:00-7:15 Confirmation 6:00 pm Chime Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	19	20
	Clipper Nation Basketball practices 6:00-9:00 pm					
21 Fourth Sunday of Easter 8:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion and Choir and Chimes	22	23	24 Council Mtg. TBA	25 6:00-7:15 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm Chime Practice 7:00 pm Choir Practice	26	27
	Clipper Nation Basketball practices 6:00-9:00 pm					
28 Fifth Sunday of Easter 8:15 am Adult Bible Study 9:30 am Worship Voters' Mtg. right after church	29	30				
	Clipper Nation					