

Alleluia! Christ is Risen Indeed!



Inside: WELCA Spring Luncheon

Earth Day

Holy Week

Servant of the Month: Janice Watkins

Emanuel Lutheran Church

Our Mission: To share Christ's unconditional love with everyone.

Greetings from Pastor Lyn

Happy May, Sisters & Brothers in Christ!

There is such promise implicit in the month of May. Spring is beginning to move toward summer, but for now the days are near perfect – not too cool and not too hot – perfect! And we've just celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord and the beauty of that morning lingers in the dewiness of the early mornings as we continue to celebrate Easter every day – perfect!



This article will be submitted before the end of April because I will be taking Mom back to her home, visiting with friends and family along the way and seeing some sights (the reason I'm writing in the past tense again). Please keep us in your prayers while we travel (Mom, Gus the dog, and me).

There is a lot to be thankful for in this new season and I want to begin by thanking everyone who helped with all things Easter! The grounds looked spectacular! The building sparkled! Easter breakfast was fun and delicious, the egg hunt, a rousing success and worship....ahhh...worship. Worship was extraordinary! Beyond happy, beyond joyful – the choir and musicians were superb! The congregation sang their hearts out in gratitude for what our Lord has done! The flower garden in the chancel area invited our imaginations to the garden where Jesus rose. The flower cross outside sent a clear and beautiful message; "God is present in this place." There is no better way to leave on vacation than after celebrating Easter at Emanuel! And in advance another thank you to Pastor Victor Haglund for presiding, preaching and watching over the flock! In one way or another, each one of you help to make Easter and each day special – by the work you do, by the joy you share, by your very presence – thank you!

May holds such promise....be part of the energy and excitement of this new season!

In Christ,
Pastor Lyn



Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Lyn Crase:
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Church Office:
Phone: 209-523-4531
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Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday:
8 am – 3 pm
Friday 8 am – 2 pm

Paula Braxton, Administrative Asst.
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OUR VISION

Emanuel's vision is to be loving, supportive, and welcoming, as we reach out in service and in witness to our neighborhood and the city beyond.

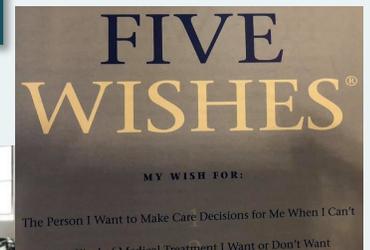
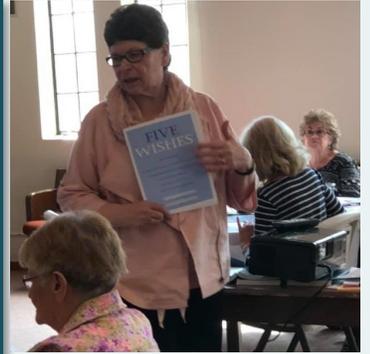
We share a passion to nurture people in all stages and circumstances of life.

We, as disciples of Christ, minister to our changing community in challenging cultural times.

God is calling us to joyfully follow the Holy Spirit in ministry to others.

WELCA Spring Luncheon

The ladies of Emanuel gathered together on Saturday, April 6, for the annual Spring Luncheon, this year entitled Celebrate!. We enjoyed a catered lunch, consisting of a variety of sandwiches, fruit skewers and a pasta or broccoli salad. Lemon cake was served for dessert. Before the lunch, Pastor Lyn presented a program called Five Wishes. We watched a short video that explained this program, designed to help us communicate our plans for the end of our lives and the memorial service or funeral that we want. We sang several hymns appropriate for a memorial service. Barbara Vukich was the pianist and Marilyn Rowland the song leader. This event was enjoyed by all who came.



Proposed Sanctuary Update

Submitted by Sanctuary Arts Team

It is important for the congregation of Emanuel to look to the future while respecting and honoring the past. The goal of the Sanctuary Arts Team is to create a space that helps our worship experience to be relevant, meaningful and lively. There is no place more important to do this than the sanctuary. Our sanctuary is a beloved place for all members of Emanuel and we also want it to be a welcoming space for those who worship with us. It is a place where many of the important events of our spiritual lives have and, importantly, will take place in the future.

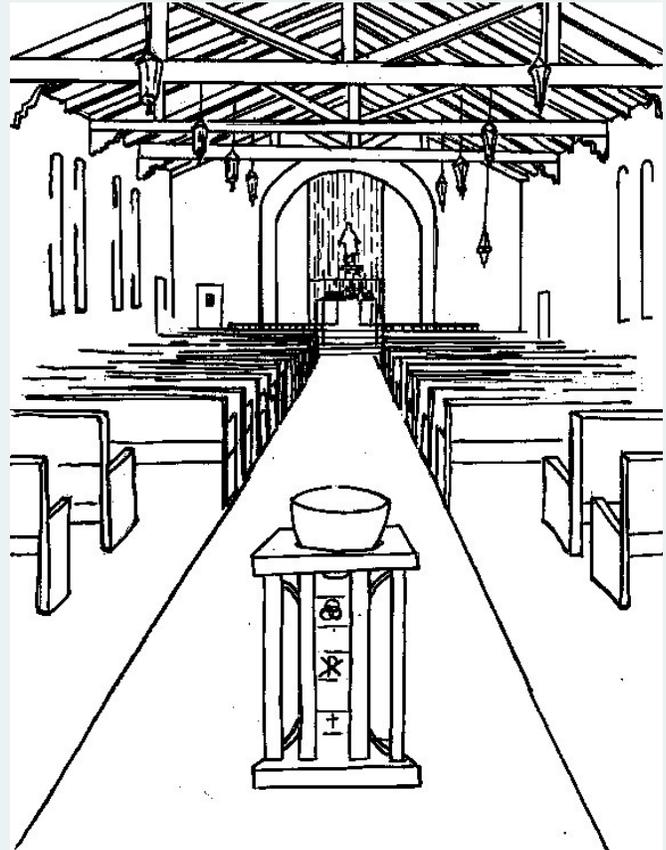
One very important aspect of looking forward is visual. The team has carefully considered a proposal that encourages the congregation to look toward the future by considering changes that would focus on the background of the chancel area and other physical sanctuary elements. It is the belief and hope of the Sanctuary Arts team that these combined modifications will soften the chancel background and serve to further enhance and elevate the entire worship experience. The Sanctuary Arts Team's proposal includes:

- Cover the rocks in the wall behind the altar, perhaps by building a false wall in front of the rock wall.
- Repaint the chancel, including staining the redwood behind the altar.
- Put a new baptismal font toward the entrance of the nave. The existing font will either be incorporated into the new font, or repurposed into a font of living water in the narthex at the entrance of the church.
- Remove and shorten some pews to create a welcoming entrance and an area around the new font.
- Move and store the pulpit.

We understand that these proposals require altering elements in the sanctuary that are dear to some members of Emanuel. These changes represent how worship has evolved and ways to make our sanctuary more in tune with the evolution of worship. The change in the baptismal font reflects the fundamental importance of baptism to our Lutheran faith as well as being the welcoming space entering the nave. The

changes in the chancel represent the importance of focusing on the altar and communion.

Here is a conceptual drawing of these changes.



The proposals were presented to the church council on April 7. Council responded favorably to the proposals but asked for a more complete proposal that would include at least two bids and artistic conceptual drawing and stressed the importance of congregational input.

The council and the Sanctuary Arts Team want feedback from the congregation; this article is meant to open a dialog about these proposals. Members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to come to one of the forums on May 19 and May 26 after church. You are also encouraged to discuss these proposals with a member of the Sanctuary Arts Team as well as the members of church council.

The Sanctuary Arts Team,

Paula Kroeze, Kathleen Reuter, Paula Barton, Sheri Devlin, Marty Strand

The Making of “Our Easter Vigil”



On March 30, a small group gathered at Paula and Jim Barton's to perform and record a vignette written by Pastor Lyn. We hoped to provide an Easter Vigil experience online. You can view the final result on our Facebook page or website. Whether we succeeded in our endeavor is for you to decide, but we definitely had fun doing it (except for the smoke)!



Our Banners



Over time folks have graciously purchased banner items for special occasions in the church year. These banners were originally purchased with the intent to be hung in the sanctuary; but sometimes they don't fit esthetically with the seasonal display. Meanwhile, we love these generous items and honor the loved ones and occasions that they commemorate, so the Sanctuary Arts Team works to find other places to display banners. For example, those pictured here were hanging in Luther Hall on Easter Sunday.

We are creating a catalog of these items by season so as to help us plan and incorporate them into future seasonal installations. At some point in the future, we hope to be able to include mentions in Emanuel's publicity. In the meantime, we appreciate your gifts, honor your commemorative, and crave your understanding.



Katie's Kitchen



Katie's Kitchen continues to be open to Modesto Junior College students for breakfast on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. The Property team has repaired the grill on our oven, so now we can produce many delicious pancakes! We could still use a few more hands and a few more dollars. If you can help, please speak to Sue Wilke.

Earth Day Potting Party

A small group met at Pat and Jack Smith's home to plant succulents in biodegradable pots for us to give away at Earth Day. The Smith's provided the plants and soil and Rose Epting provided the small pots. Altogether we prepared about 200 plants and all of them were snapped up by attendees on the day of the event.

Alice Hoaglund dedicated her efforts that day to the memory of an old friend, Louise Hall, who was an early, dedicated proponent of Earth Day.



Earth Day, May 20, 2019



In addition to giving away succulents, we had a free drawing for a quilt that was made by our Piece Makers. We also stamped butterflies and beach scenes on a lot of happy children's hands. Ziva the greyhound was popular with many of the kids, too.

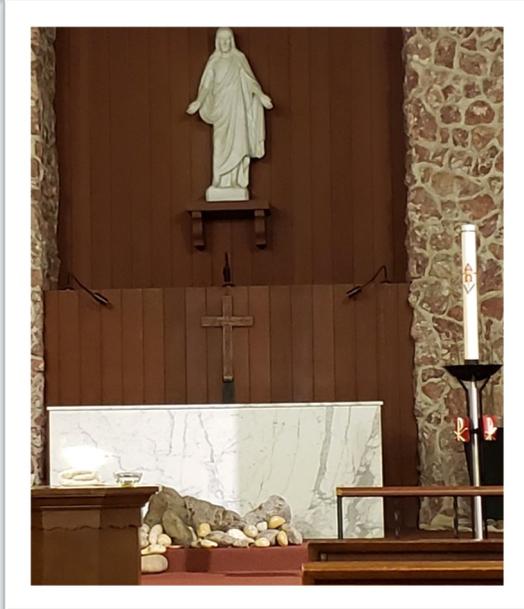
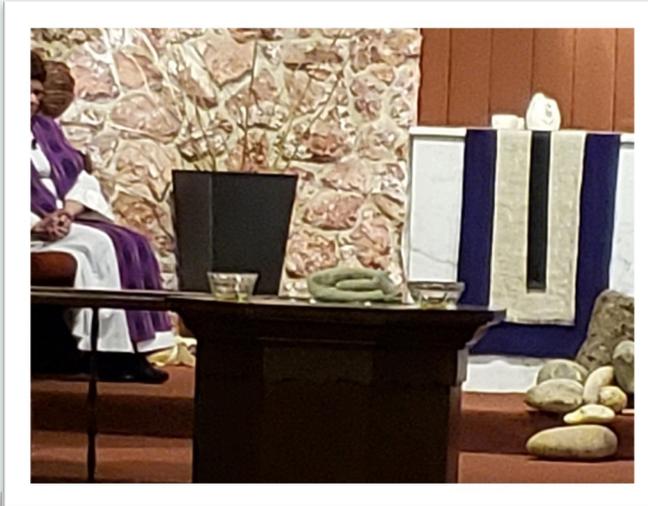


Palm Sunday at Emanuel



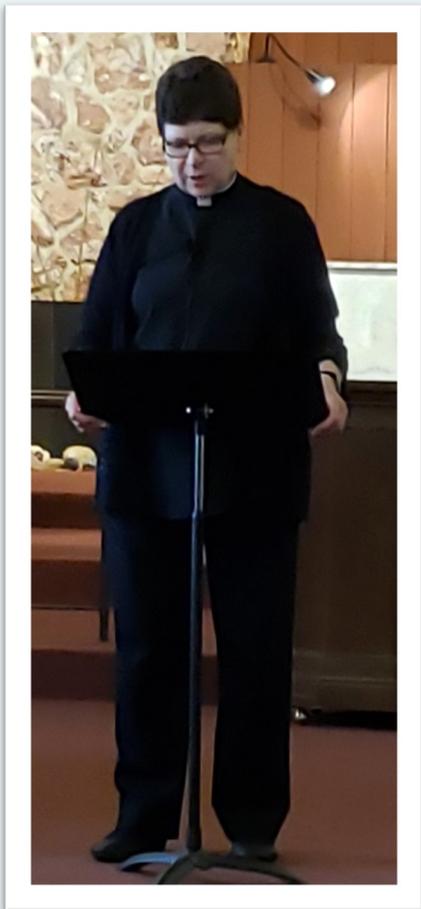
We gathered in the Narthex with our palms, entered singing, and vividly experienced the Passion story.

Maundy Thursday

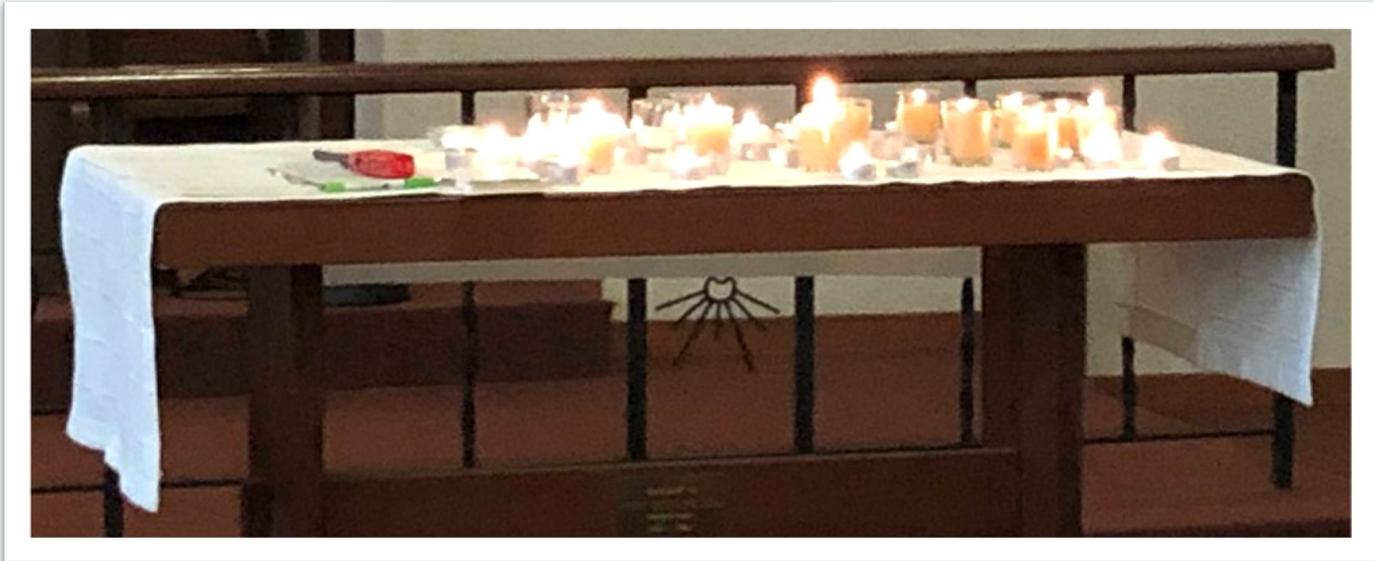


We had our hands washed and blessed for God's work, shared communion, stripped the altar, and left it bare in preparation for Good Friday.

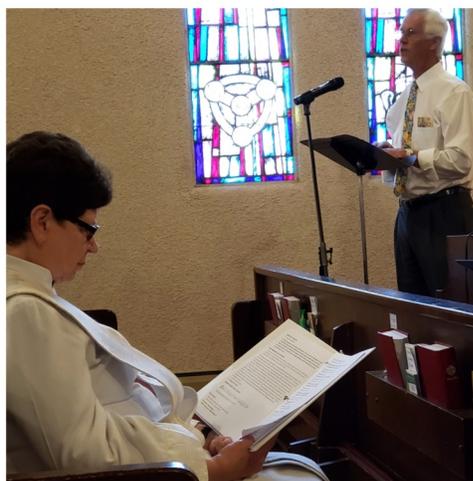
Good Friday



**Pastor wore black,
we solemnly
celebrated the Cross,
and we held a Prayer
Vigil.**



Easter Sunday



**Flowers!
Worship!
Brunch!**



Easter Egg Hunt



And plenty of eggs!



Servant of the Month

Janice Watkins is another person who is long overdue for being our designated Servant. She serves on our Fellowship committee and represents that group on Council. She cheerfully helps out whoever has signed up for Coffee Hour on Sundays and most weeks can be found in the kitchen helping with cleanup.

When we had a last-minute need for someone to prepare and serve Easter Brunch, Janice stepped in and lead the charge. Despite the fact that she had little advance warning, she gathered a small group of helpers and served a tremendous meal.

Thank you, Janice!



THANK YOU!

I think you will agree that Holy Week at Emanuel was very special this year. Part of what made it special was our choir and its leader, Barbara Vukich. Our choir is not numerous, but they are very talented. They spent many hours rehearsing and performed at Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and, of course, Easter Sunday.

Thank you, Barbara, and thank you choir members.



April Council Notes

Council met at 12 pm on Sunday April 7. Pastor led off by reading from Isaiah 43, "The Lord is Doing a New Thing". We discussed what this is at Emanuel.

New Business

Paula Kroeze provided copies of a proposal from the Sanctuary Arts Team. See the article in this Echoes for details. Council took no action except to ask Paula for a more detailed proposal with initial bids.

Pastor and several members will be absent, so we agreed to cancel the May meeting.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Lyn provided a written report. She proposed a council or congregational retreat in August, possibly Aug. 24 at Debbie Van Diepen's mountain cabin. Regarding security, we learned that the synagogue had received a

federal grant and we might consider the same.

Various Reports

Outreach reported that both Care Cupboard and Katie's Kitchen will operate during MJC's summer session. WELCA donated \$500 to these activities. We are discussing partnering with Second Harvest to reduce our costs.

Dennis reported that the Property team repaired the stove pilots, including the grill. He has discussed safety issues with Pastor Lyn.

Social Media has completed the Easter Vigil Video. The posting of sermons to Facebook is now going smoothly and people are watching them.

Worship team is planning for Pentecost. There will be Wired Word



sessions on May 17 and 19 (Friday and Sunday). Sue Wilke is working on four concerts to be performed on Sunday afternoons this summer.

Financial Summary

Bob Reuter reported another shortfall from our already unbalanced budget. He is transferring money from reserves to cover some of this.

	March Income	March Expenses	March Gain/Loss
General Fund	17,457	(22,901)	(5,444)
Building Fund	4,886	(6,929)	(2,043)
Day Care	31,030	(31,221)	(191)
TOTALS	53,373	(61,051)	(7,678)

May Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is May 21

All those celebrating their births during the month of May will receive a Birthday Blessing Prayer from their Emanuel Family. Don't miss out!

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 5/1 David Fauskin | 5/9 Rose Epting | 5/18 Ellen Barton |
| 5/1 Sheri Delvin | 5/10 William Castleberry | 5/23 Kim Peterson |
| 5/4 Sue Allen | 5/13 Patricia Gabrielson | 5/26 Jack Smith |
| 5/4 Azaria Martinez | 5/16 Mary Cline | 5/29 Michael Clarke |
| 5/4 Ray Simon | 5/16 Michael Rokaitis | 5/30 R.G. Crawford |



- 5/30 Brett Shank
- 5/30 Lois Tollefson-Silva
- 5/31 Kathleen Obermeyer

Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

It may not be obvious, but I have tried very hard to make this page not about me. Last month, though, I injected a little bit of myself into the text. For one of very few times, Rose commented favorably on that Epilogue. Given that, maybe it is OK to be a little bit personal here.

So, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you. You have together changed my life for the better these last few years. When Rose and I came to Emanuel, we fully intended to stay in the background. I looked forward to sitting in a pew on Sunday and then going home, free as a bird.

It didn't work out that way. Mike Clarke asked to be relieved of his website work. Since I had done this for previous churches and nobody seemed to be stepping forward, I said cheerfully "sure, I can do that".

Then Debbie Van Diepen, who was serving as our volunteer administrator, realized that she needed help. When I learned that Pastor Stan Niemi had produced the Echoes himself, I volunteered to do that, too. That's when this page started. My first Echoes was for March 2014 and the first Epilogue was in the April issue. That makes this my 62nd page of stuff that you shouldn't bother to read, but I have fun writing.

Next thing I knew, there was a Council vacancy and I had no legitimate excuse for not agreeing to finish Kelly Daily's term. I'm still

on Council and enjoying it, but I'm not allowed to run next year, so I hope you'll consider stepping in!

Then, Kathleen Reuter asked me if I would be willing to be a lector. Since I admire the sound of my own voice, I readily agreed. This was a new thing for me. Not only had I not read in previous churches, but I had stayed away from serving on or near the altar. It was a short step from there to volunteering to be Assistant Minister on occasion. This I had never dreamed of doing. It was definitely out of my comfort zone. But once I did it, I realized that it wasn't that scary. It is an honor and a privilege to offer you Christ's body at communion. I always feel uplifted afterwards.

When Pastor said that she wanted to do something different this year and told the Social Media committee that we needed to make a video for Easter Vigil, I got stretched again. For the first time, I directed a video, then edited it into a final product. I had done some video work before, but this time I was all in on the project. It was a blast for me!

Then came Holy Week this year. On Palm Sunday, I definitely bit off a bit more than I was comfortable chewing. Kathleen Reuter and Sue Wilke had put together a most excellent slideshow to go with a "dramatic" reading of the Passion according to Mark. I agreed to set



up the projection equipment and was asked politely if I would read one of the parts. Coincidentally, it was my turn to be Assisting Minister that day, too. I was emotionally drained at the end of the service, but at the same time I was energized.

On Maundy Thursday, I literally sat in the pew and was a passive participant, although I

did sneakily take a few photos for this issue of Echoes. On Good Friday I read and carried the cross down the aisle at the end of the service. Again, totally new to me. Joyce Bachman told me I looked "solemn". She said it as a complement. I was afraid that I looked awkward and lost, so thanks, Joyce.

Easter Sunday was a joy! I took zillions of photos before and after the service and again was Assisting Minister. Sue Wilke had been scheduled but she made the correct choice to sit with her family and I happily agreed to substitute. Rose was upstairs with the choir and I was sitting up front to record the sermon for Facebook posting anyway. It was a real thrill to serve on Easter, so thank you, Sue!

Thank you, all of you, for helping me stretch beyond my boundaries of a lifetime and experience new things at the tender age of 72. If you, too, need stretching, you can find opportunities here at Emanuel.

Emanuel Calendar of Events

May 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 CARE CUPBOARD SUNDAY Family Promise 9:30 am Worship Service	6 Family Promise Day Care Chapel Women's Bible Study MSYC Rehearsal Girl Scout Leader Mtg. 10:00 am 3:00 pm 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	7 Family Promise Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study Cancelled 7:00 am 12:00 pm	8 Family Promise Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Multi-Faith Leadership Meeting 7:00 am 11:30 am	9 Family Promise Adult Bible Study @ Emanuel Day Care Board Mtg. LEAH CIRCLE 9:30 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	10 Family Promise	11 Family Promise Organ practice 10:00 am
12 HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY MOTHER'S DAY 9:30 am Worship Service	13 MSYC Rehearsal Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm 7:00 pm	14 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study 7:00 am 12:00 pm	15 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting 7:00 am 10:00 am	16 Adult Bible Study @ Emanuel REBECCA CIRCLE- Katie's Room Day Care Board Mtg. 9:30 am 1:30 pm 5:00 pm	17	18 Organ practice 10:00 am
19 BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service 2:30 pm MSYC Season Finale Concert - Facility Use	20 Day Care Chapel LYDIA CIRCLE 10:00 am 7:00 pm	21 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study 7:00 am 12:00 pm	22 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting 7:00 am 10:00 am	23 Adult Bible Study @ Emanuel 9:30 am	24 Day Care Ice Cream Social 6:30 pm	25 Quilting Bee Organ practice 9:00 am 10:00 am
26 INTER-FAITH SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service	27 Echoes Deadline Memorial Day - Office & Day Care CLOSED Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm	28 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study 7:00 am 12:00 pm	29 Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting 7:00 am 10:00 am	30 Adult Bible Study @ Emanuel 9:30 am	31	