

The Echoes

July 2019



Grads and
Dads



Inside: Eat Pray Love

Unique Lenten Sacrifice

Father's Day and Grad Day

Servant of the Month:

Tom Watkins

Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

Greetings from Pastor Lyn

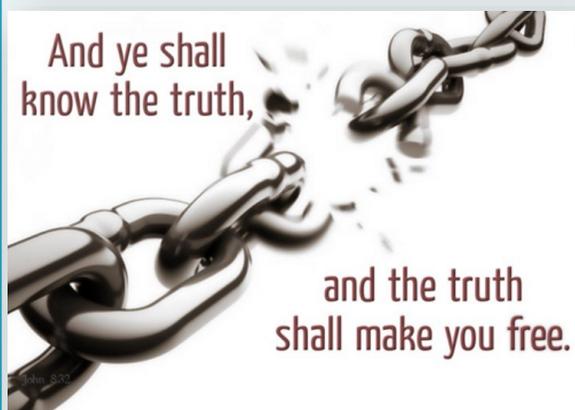
Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

By the time some of you read this month's edition of Echoes, Independence Day will have come and gone. Celebrations of our nation's freedoms were numerous and loud! In fact, fireworks started going off in my neighborhood early in June. However you celebrated the 4th, I hope it was fun and a safe time for you and your neighborhoods.



This summer is the Summer of 4-Letter Words. That's our theme as we look for those small words in the assigned Lectionary texts. On Independence Day "freedom" is celebrated by most (not all, I realize, but for the sake of this article I'll maintain that assertion.) And as one would expect, the words "free" or "freedom" or "freely" appear frequently in the Bible. We understand that freedom in Christ is different than the type of freedoms we enjoy as Americans. Both are important, but if one feels less-than-free as a citizen, then what it means to be free in Christ is multiplied many times over.

The thing about Christian freedom is that it's – free! There are no conditions or approvals needed from God – God has already said "yes"



to us at creation and reiterated that to us in our Baptism. We do not have to prove ourselves worthy of love, mercy, forgiveness, grace in order to be truly free. Christ took care of all that on the cross.

Jesus says "if you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31) It's summer and it is tempting to let go of attending church and by extension, let go of the worshipping community, citing the "freedoms" of a summer full of competing events or commitments. Jesus would have us commit to spending time in his word – any time of the year. The

Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

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Monday through Thursday:
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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.

Pastor Lyn, continued

interesting thing is that the more time one spends with Jesus and his word, the freer one becomes. Just saying ...

Enjoy your summer, but remember your church family misses you when you aren't here. When even one person is missing the entire worship experience is diminished. That may sound a bit radical but it's true. The church needs you and you need your church to remind you of the great freedoms we enjoy and celebrate every time we gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Summer Blessings,
Pastor Lyn



Something different!

VBS 2019 will be for all ages this year. We get a chance to be kids again, having fun and learning too.

Eat. Pray. Love!

Photos by Mike Epting



On June 20 there was a remarkable gathering at the Modesto Islamic Center. People of all faith traditions came to share a meal and pray for understanding and cooperation. These photos show Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and "Nones" together in common cause to get to know each other a little better.

Emanuel was well-represented, but maybe we can make next year's event even better.



June Graduates

Sue Wilke's grandson Nathan represented all the June graduates who were listed in the bulletin on June 2nd:

Nathan Wilke — California State University, BA in English. Proud grandparent is Suzanne Wilke

Alley Taylor — Modesto High School. Proud grandparent is Teri Scott

Azaria Martinez — Endeavor High School. Proud parent is Laura Marquez

Jamie Allen — Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, BS in Psychology. Proud grandparent is Sue Allen

Joshua Romano — Downey High School. Proud grandparent is Barbara Bauman

Christian Houser — St. Mary's College, BS in Business. Proud grandparent is Marsha Waggoner

Lyndsey Pacini — Fresno State. BS in Economics and **George Jones** — Fresno State, BS in Economics. Proud great-aunt is Marsha Waggoner



Social Media Diet

by Paula Barton

In a rash moment on March 6, I decided to delete my favorite Social Media applications from my phone. I reasoned that this unique act would change my daily practices and isn't that the point of a Lenten discipline? Besides, my iPhone tells me the percentage of time spent each week on general categories and, frankly, it was getting embarrassing. And, of course, the resulting battery drain from all that usage was inconvenient, at best. Plus, it wasn't like I would completely cut myself off from the Internet; it would still be acceptable to access my accounts from a desktop computer. And frankly, I was curious about collateral impacts.



The first week was as frustrating as any diet. It was a few days before I broke the habit of reflexively picking up my phone and being surprised that I couldn't connect. My action also happened to coincide with a similar movement/challenge to break the phone habit on one of the national morning shows. So I wasn't very original— a healthy dose of humility.

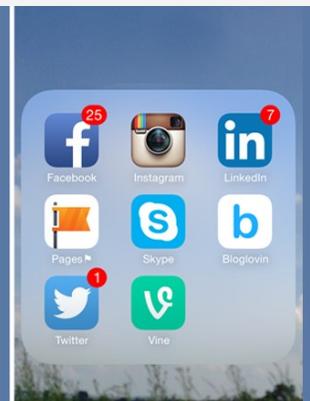
By the second week I noticed that I wasn't thinking about cooking quite as much, as I wasn't being bombarded by delicious or time-saving recipes on Facebook. I didn't lose any weight though, which surprised me because I felt like I gained a pound after each episode of *Bigger, Bolder Baking*. I also wasn't feeling like I was missing out so much after reading AGAIN how easy and profitable it is to start a particular type of Social Media account and monetize it. For 4 easy payments of \$29.99... On the other hand, my discipline freed up time to be wasted in others ways. I completed the last levels of 5000 levels on a fun little word game. (It told me I was brilliant every time I passed a new level...boy, this little device is addictive!)

By the fourth week of Lent my spirit was lagging. But I was heartened to notice that it had certainly changed my daily practices. I forgotten my phone at home several times in the course of a month. If you know me very well, that never happens.

More importantly, if I had a few minutes to wait, I was reading a book or doodling instead. If I was at my desk I was just as likely to check my favorite sites, but since it had been many hours since the last check in, I felt pretty out of the loop and reading now 'old' comments didn't offer the same



Life
without
Social
Media



Paula's Social Media Diet, continued

satisfaction. In fact, in a short period of time I had recalibrated how I care about certain social media personalities. I had forgotten that for most personalities, it is a one-way, superficial relationship. The clue should have been that I am one of 40k followers.

Social media makes engagement feel so real and compelling. After all, they usually respond so very kindly to any comments I might post! But how can that be a substitute for a real relationship that would in return for my cute comment, make a pithy recomment on my little photo? I humbly acknowledge to being a little jealous of several 'influencers'. Certainly, I am just as capable and as engaging as is Teri or Christy, writing about sewing and family from the wilds of a midwestern winter. But I have not done the work to get to influencer status. Nor do I know what life is really like on the other side of the camera in those households.

Hmmm. I thought I wanted to be an 'influencer.' Maybe not.

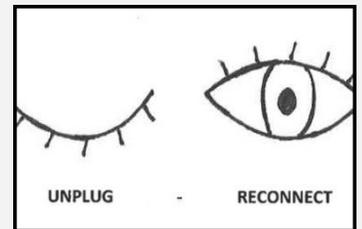
So, the result of my discipline:

It made me think about all the opportunities to interact with folks that I miss every day. A genuine smile. Indulgent patience. Why do I care so much about Lisa in London but not Alicia across the street?

Then I remember that I love my current job so much because of the critical element of face-to-face engagement that makes progress possible. My students are working hard to make up for whatever got in their way to getting a free, public high school education — something that most of us take for granted. Their hearts and minds are working overtime to be open to the future and to overcome the past. Maybe they had a substance addiction and dropped out. Maybe they got into the cycle of trouble with the law. Maybe there was an unplanned pregnancy. Or maybe they suddenly became a caregiver because there was no one else. So now the hope of a better future burns bright but is constantly threatened and we have to talk about how to go on when a loved one has died. Or how to make progress when the baby is sick. Again. Or how to juggle two jobs with constantly changing shift schedules and be alert enough to make thoughtful responses to legitimate writing prompts. All of these things are common trials, but who of us can carry on alone through the hard times?



I love that Social Media has introduced me to people all over the world who share my interests. I am thankful my Lenten discipline reminded me of the beauty of all the rest.



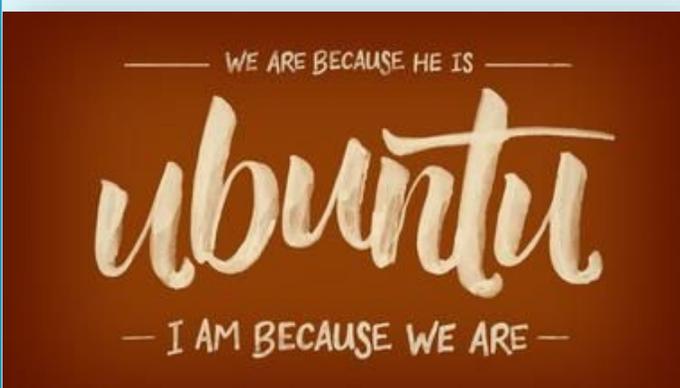
GATHERING, WORD, MEAL AND SENDING

Bishop Eaton's Monthly Column for Living Lutheran, June 12, 2019

Liturgy is important—not each constituent part—but the basic structure of corporate worship: gathering, word, meal and sending. It's a discipline Lutherans willingly undertake because it helps individuals and the entire community express our connection with other Christians throughout the world and across the ages.

When we gather, it's not simply a group of like-minded individuals. We gather in Jesus' name and we gather as the body of Christ. "So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:5).

The African concept of Ubuntu, "I am because we are," captures this. South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu explains it this way: "I need you in order for me to be me, and you need me in order for you to be you. We are bound together. I need other human beings to be a human being. A person is a person through other persons."



We gather in the presence of Jesus, God with us, in whom we all have our ultimate identity.

I've often heard it said that one can worship God in the beauty of nature. I'm glad that people are moved to awe and praise when encountering the

majesty of God in the created world. We all should stop and notice the divine presence! But corporate worship is something else. This was made beautifully evident to me when I visited the Community of Sant'Egidio in Rome.



This community of laypeople gathers regularly for Scripture reading, prayer, and to serve the poor and broken in the city around them. Sant'Egidio takes particular care of those who are mostly homebound during the week. Weekly worship with the rest of the community is a celebration for these people. They are reunited with the rest of the family—all gathered to worship the Lord. Their joy is palpable.



We gather around the word—Scripture, preaching, song, prayer and creeds, but especially around the living Word, Jesus Christ. We are not the focus of our worship—God is. Worship is not

GATHERING, WORD, MEAL AND SENDING, Continued

primarily about “me” or about “us.” Worship is not a performance for the community, but an offering directed to God. Jesus promised that when we gather in his name, he is in the midst of us. How would our worship change if we understood literally that Christ is present and we are offering Christ our worship and praise?

We gather for the meal. Gathered around our tables, we are gathered around the one table. We are fed and forgiven, reconciled and released, crucified and raised. In the words of institution, we hear the Jesus story—the story of Jesus, broken and shed, who gives himself completely for the life of the world. If your congregation uses the prayer that surrounds these words, you also hear the history of salvation. While each individual receives God in the sacraments, no individual receives this grace alone apart from the rest of the community.



We are sent. Gathered into one by the Spirit, carrying and bearing the word, never separated from the love of God in Christ Jesus, we are sent into the world. Some of the most important words spoken in the liturgy are “Go in peace. Serve the Lord.” Out we go, serving this world God so loves.

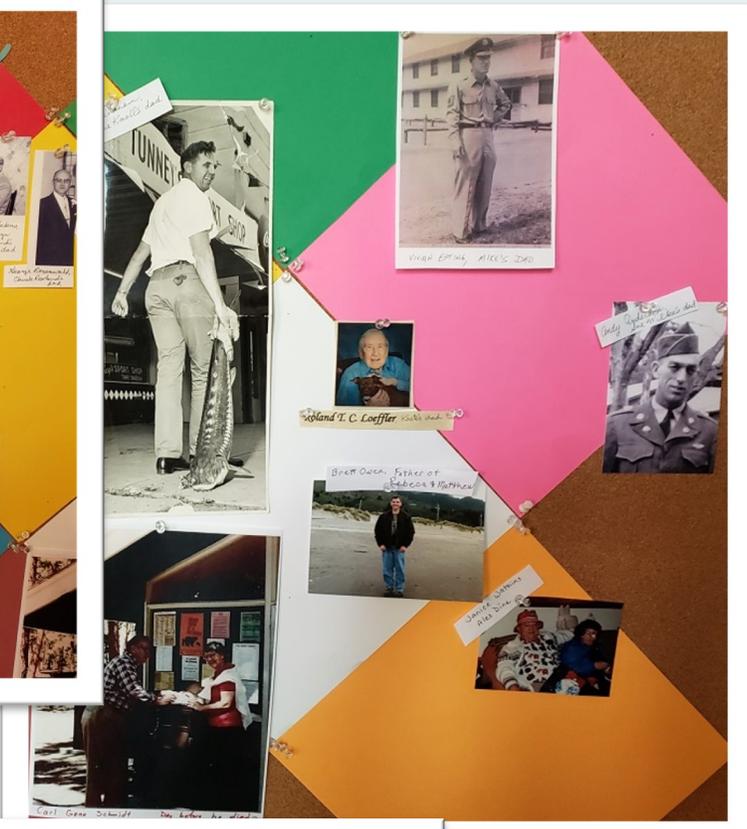
Jesus meets us there—in our struggles, joys, life and death. Then we gather again in worship to be strengthened and restored.



Peasants in France would take a loaf of bread with them into the fields. They would take a bite of bread, throw the loaf down the row, and begin the backbreaking work of hoeing and tending their crops. When they caught up to the bread, they took another bite and threw it down the row again. In this way they could keep on going. So it is with us as we receive the bread of life and serve the world.

[Editor’s note: Bishop Eaton writes a monthly column for “Living Lutheran”, which is now an online magazine. Visit www.livinglutheran.org regularly for updates, including that column. There are a great many interesting things there, and you may see them from time to time in The Echoes.]

Father's Day 2019



Pat Smith, who maintains our bulletin board in Luther Hall, had an inspiration to ask for photos of Dads. They trickled in initially, but soon the flow increased and Pat was able to produce a fitting tribute to our fathers.

Servant of the Month

This man may not be as familiar to you as some of our other Servants. In fact, when Janice brought him to our Earth Day booth, she introduced him as “the mythical Tom Watkins”. He is mythical no more, though, as he has been a vital member of our Katie’s Kitchen team. He is one of the faithful who arrive very early in the morning to help feed our hungry students and others in need.

Tom has taken over the task of caring for many of our roses. He has become much more present on Sundays of late also. When you see him, please thank him for his service to us and our community.



THANK YOU!

Our Sanctuary is brighter thanks to Dave Salonen and his workers. They brought in this amazing machine and rebulbed all of our normally unreachable lights. They also generally fixed things up in the sanctuary and in Luther Hall.



June Council Notes



Council met on June 9 at 11 am. Pastor Lyn led us in a devotional based on the Holy Spirit. Much of our meeting time dealt with a report from the Sanctuary Arts Team. In a nutshell, the contractor’s estimate for the proposed work was unaffordable. The cost was more than three times the available funds from the memorial gift. We also discussed the comment cards

that were turned in after the congregational forums on the proposed project. While these were mostly opposed to the overall project for various reasons, we received a favorable response to the new baptismal font. There was also discussion of a possible congregational vote on the project, but since this was now moot, no action was taken.

The SAT will continue to work on ways to enhance our worship experience and will continue to research the cost and practicality of placing a new font at the entrance of the sanctuary.

Council had previously approved the lighting project via an email vote, but we formally approved this activity by unanimous voice vote. The project includes rebulbing sanctuary lights, cleaning the fixtures, and adding lights in Luther Hall, as well as making needed repairs.

Pastor Lyn reported that she has been formally invited to participate in the Stanislaus County Interfaith Council as an “at-large” member representing the ELCA. She has agreed to do so.

Outreach continues to be active. We received a thank you card from the city for our participation in Earth Day. Our Piecemakers group has moved their project space to the former library/meditation area behind the Care Cupboard.

Outreach has decided not to participate in 2nd Harvest because they required aid recipients to be identified by name and the overall paperwork requirements are enormous.

MoPride will be in downtown Modesto this year and we again plan to have a booth.

	May Income	May Expenses	May Gain/Loss
General Fund	16,056	(18,473)	(2,417)
Building Fund	5,838	(6,929)	(1,091)
Day Care	27,686	(29,679)	(1,993)
TOTALS	49,580	(55,081)	(5,501)

July Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is July 21

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

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 7/2 Connie Petersen | 7/12 Yvonne Troedson | 7/22 John Turner |
| 7/4 Mercy Maya | 7/13 Alice Hoaglund | 7/23 Peter Cousins |
| 7/6 Debra Van Diepen | 7/14 John Wilson | 7/24 Barbara Vukich |
| 7/8 Janice Watkins | 7/16 Barbara Bauman | 7/26 Michael Epting |
| 7/10 Linda Nelson | 7/19 Patricia Smith | 7/27 Remus Hunwardsen |
| 7/12 Arie Kroeze | 7/21 Karryn Salonen | 7/27 William Reinheimer |
| | | 7/29 Elena Wilson |
| | | 7/31 Tamera Gierhan |



Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

I was driving and listening to an Oldies station the other day when they played Rosemary Clooney's "This Ole House". Though I had heard it many times as a child, this time the words snuck past my ears to my brain. I said to Rose, "This isn't really a happy song, is it?" She seemed a little surprised, too. Clooney sings it as a celebration, but the words don't exactly match the tone:

*"Ain't a-gonna need this house no longer
Ain't a-gonna need this house no more
Ain't got time to fix the shingles
Ain't got time to fix the floor
Ain't got time to oil the hinges
Nor to mend the windowpane
Ain't a-gonna need this house no longer
He's a-gettin' ready to meet the saints."*

Later, I did some digging and learned that the song was written in 1954 by a country singer named Stuart Hamblen. He and John Wayne were horseback riding in the High Sierra when they found a partially demolished cabin. A

starving dog was on the porch so they investigated and discovered the body of a man in the back room. Wayne suggested that he write a song about all this. Hamblen said: "This old house, the ones made of wood and steel, shall all come down. And this one of mine, made of clay, it's got to go too — but there's a big difference...the soul inside shall, in God's own good time, be gathered with the saints."

Hamblen's original recording (and Rosemary Clooney's, also) is on YouTube. The original, like Clooney's cover, is disturbingly upbeat. Apparently Hamblen wanted a slower tempo, but RCA Victor insisted he play it faster and Clooney did the same.

Many people do understand the double meaning of the song. It has been played at memorial services, where the upbeat style probably serves well to counterbalance the solemnity of the lyrics.

Rose and I are preparing to sell our house. We "ain't a gonna need this house no longer". It's a strange concept, not owning a home, but we both realized that it's true. We don't need the aggravation and we want to save our children a lot of trouble when the time come for us to leave the other "ole house".

As for that, there is no denying that the shingles, floors, and windowpanes of those old (clay) houses are also showing a lot of wear and tear. A lot of us at Emanuel can relate to that. We are getting ready to meet the saints, maybe not tomorrow, but we know we aren't going to live forever. We have aches and pains that

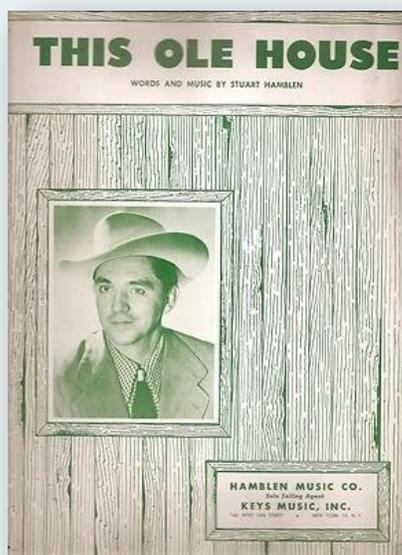


underscore our mortality.

*"This ole house is a-gettin' shaky
This ole house is a-gettin' old
This ole house lets in the rain
This ole house lets in the cold
Oh my knees are gettin' chilly
But I feel no fear or pain
'Cause I see an angel peekin'
Through a broken window pane."*

At council last month, Pastor Lyn asked the question: Are Emanuel's buildings assets or liabilities? They are both. They are assets because they provide a wonderful place for worship and celebration. They also enable a lot of service to ourselves and our community. We love our buildings.

They are also liabilities, though. They require time and energy to "fix the shingles, fix the floor, and oil the hinges". They require a lot of money. A big chunk of our budget goes to paying our mortgage. We can cut other expenses, but the mortgage seems inexorable. We don't want to think about it, but it's not impossible that the time could come when we might need to sing "We ain't a-gonna need this house no longer." If that were to come to pass, would the church survive? The one body that we cannot afford to lose is the body of Christ: the real church. We could survive all other losses, I hope.



Emanuel Calendar of Events

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am Day Care Chapel 1:00 pm Care Cupboard 3:00 pm Lydia Circle	2 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study	3 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting	4 July 4th Holiday - Office & Day Care Closed	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 10:00 am Organ practice 5:30 pm SAT. EVENING WORSHIP	
7 CARE CUPBOARD SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Ministry Mtg.	8 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	9 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study	10 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting 11:30 am NO-Multi Faith Leadership Meeting	11 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 5:00 pm Day Care Board Mtg. 7:00 pm LEAH CIRCLE - on break until September	12 Life Line Screening - Facility Use	13 10:00 am Organ practice
14 HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service 9:35 am Guest Speaker, Jim Hinman 11:00 am COUNCIL Mtg.	15 10:00 am Day Care Chapel 1:00 pm Care Cupboard 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	16 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study	17 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting	18 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 1:30 pm REBECCA CIRCLE- Katie's Room	19 5:00 pm MJC 23rd Annual Summer Sonata 5:30 pm Bunco Night! Day Care Fundraiser	20 Set Up for Family Promise 10:00 am Organ practice
21 BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY Family Promise 9:30 am Worship Service	22 Echoes Deadline Family Promise 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	23 7:00 am Family Promise 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	24 7:00 am Family Promise 10:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting	25 9:30 am Family Promise Adult Bible Study	26 Family Promise	27 9:00 am Family Promise 10:00 am Quilting Bee Organ practice
28 INTER-FAITH SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service	29 10:00 am Day Care Chapel 1:00 pm Care Cupboard 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	30 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study 7:30 pm Gospel Mission Ministry	31 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting			
30 9:30 am Worship Service						