

# The Echoes

August 2019



**Red, White and Blue for the  
4th of July**

*Inside: Vacation Bible School  
MJC Student Project  
Choices: A Poem  
Servant of the Month:  
Sue McCready*

# Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

# Greetings from Pastor Lyn

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Can you believe it? It's already August! The "long green season" (Pentecost) is feeling somehow shorter this year. August signals a wind-down of summer and summer activities and at the same time the rush of a new school year is beginning. I remember people calling August, particularly the end of the month and into September, the "dog days" of summer, meant to imply a laziness or slow down likely due to heat but I wonder, is there such a thing as a truly slow season anymore? Do "dog days" still exist?



Just for fun I Googled "August" and a plethora of information popped up (no surprise). If you were born in August, you likely know some of the salient facts about this late summer month. It's interesting to note that the gemstone for August is the Peridot, a light lime to deep olive green gemstone that symbolizes good fortune but

also means "joy, growth and renewal." These three words indicate movement, action and purpose. They are good spiritual enlightenment words and perhaps words everyone can own not only for the month of August but for the whole year.

August is also a favorite vacation month for many individuals and families. Maybe intentional time away is a way to experience "dog days" although most of us play as hard as we work. No matter how you spend August may it hold much joy, significant growth and meaningful renewal.

Blessings abound!

Pastor Lyn

Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

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pastor@emanuellutheran.org

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Church Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday:  
8 am – 3 pm  
Friday 8 am – 2 pm

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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.

# SAVE THE DATE!!!

## REGISTER NOW!!!

### 2019 13th BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE SPS WOMEN OF THE ELCA!



**BISHOP'S RANCH**

**5297 Westside Rd, Healdsburg, CA 95448**

**September 18-20, 2019**

**(Wednesday to Friday)**

Please speak to Marsha Waggoner about signing up for this event

# VBS

Photos by Sue Wilke

Vacation Bible School this year was for children and adults. The theme, as you know from Sue Wilke's amusing announcements, was Animals in the Bible. Everyone who came had fun with the discussions, songs, and crafts.



# Bunko Night

Photos by Sue Wilke

The Bunko night fundraiser for Day Care was again a fun event. Rue won the baby quilt donated by our Piecemakers and the deserts were beautiful.



# Modesto Pride

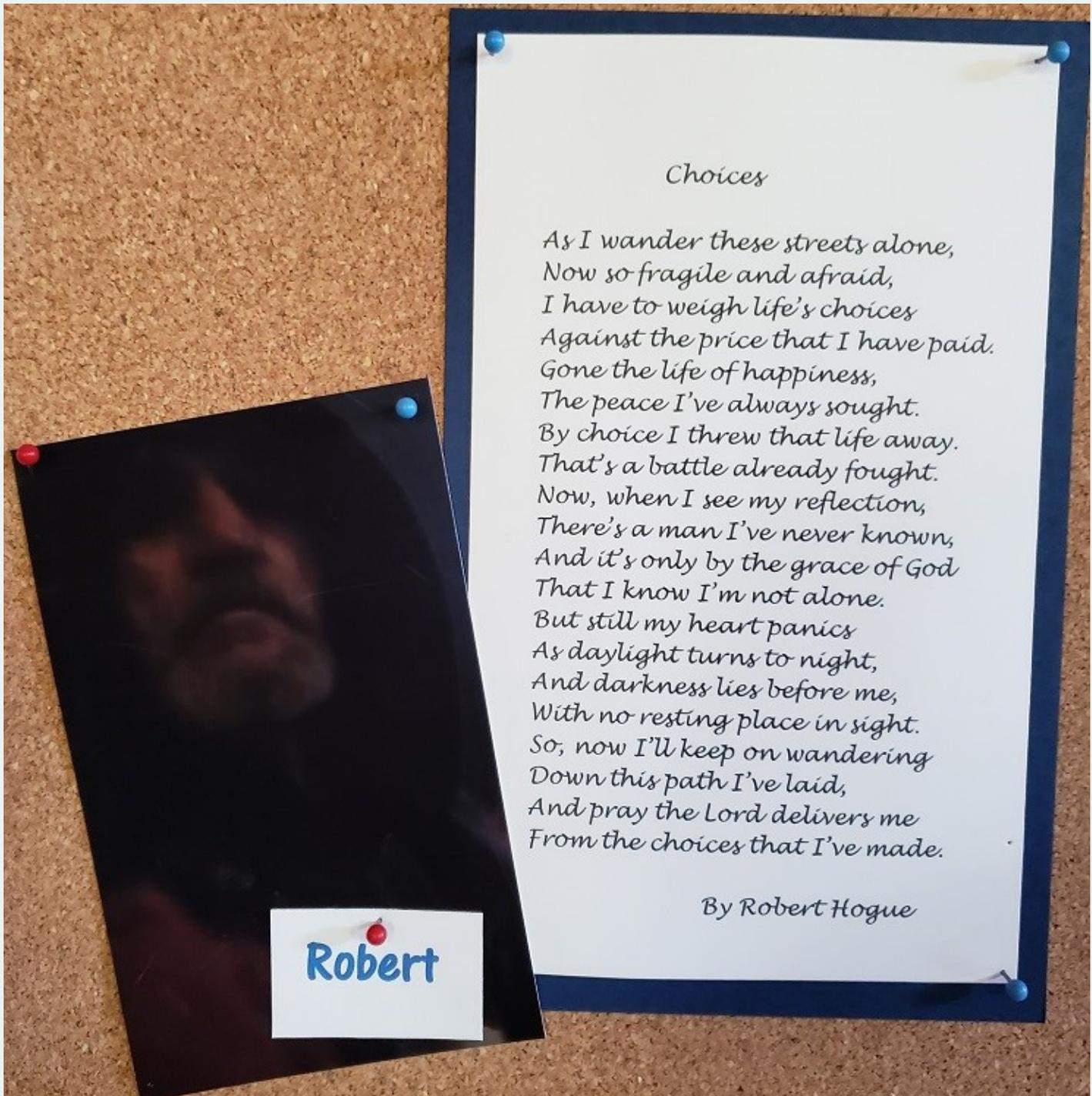


Our Outreach Committee was prepared to staff a table at Pride Day in September, but that event has been cancelled because of funding problems. The Piecemakers had already completed this Rainbow Quilt for a free raffle, but have instead decided to donate to the Pride organization for them to use as they wish.

# Choices

Poem by Robert Hogue

This poem was handed to Sue Wilke one morning by a Katie's Kitchen client. It beautifully captures his feelings about homelessness and fear.



# Most People Are Good

**Editor's Note:**

I recently received this email from Elaine Ixcot. She is referring to the "This Old House" Epilogue, but the song she found is far more inspiring. I've included the lyrics here, but you can watch the "official" video of the song on YouTube.

Good evening Mike,

Thanks to your article in the Echoes this month.... I have to share this with you.... One of the songs that we need to listen to the words carefully and take to heart is... "I Believe Most People are Good" by Luke Bryan....

It is a good tune to have going around in our heads.... I love it !! 😊

Elaine



I believe kids oughta stay kids as long as they can  
 Turn off the screen, go climb a tree, get dirt on their hands  
 I believe we gotta forgive and make amends  
 'Cause nobody gets a second chance to make new old friends  
 I believe in working hard for what you've got  
 Even if it don't add up to a hell of a lot  
 I believe most people are good

And most mama's oughta qualify for sainthood  
 I believe most Friday nights look better under neon or stadium lights  
 I believe you love who you love  
 Ain't nothing you should ever be ashamed of  
 I believe this world ain't half as bad as it looks  
 I believe most people are good

I believe them streets of gold are worth the work  
 But I still wanna go even if they were paved in dirt  
 I believe that youth is spent well on the young  
 'Cause wisdom in your teens would be a lot less fun  
 I believe if you just go by the nightly news  
 Your faith in all mankind would be the first thing you lose  
 I believe most people are good

And most mama's oughta qualify for sainthood  
 I believe most Friday nights look better under neon or stadium lights  
 I believe you love who you love  
 Ain't nothing you should ever be ashamed of  
 I believe this world ain't half as bad as it looks  
 I believe most people are good

I believe that days go slow and years go fast  
 And every breath's a gift, the first one to the last  
 I believe most people are good

And most mama's oughta qualify for sainthood  
 I believe most Friday nights look better under neon or stadium lights  
 I believe you love who you love  
 Ain't nothing you should ever be ashamed of  
 I believe this world ain't half as bad as it looks  
 I believe most people are good

# Cover to Cover

by Paula Barton

Late last summer, for some reason it dawned on me that for all the passion I have for our Lord, and for all I think I know about theology, plus claiming faithful membership of this congregation since before my birth, I have never actually read all the way through the entire Bible. I had attempted it several times, but never made it alllllll the way. This struck me as just not okay.

Luckily, there is an app for that. I have had the YouVersion Bible on my phone for some time and use it regularly. I like it because you can switch between several different versions of the Bible easily - and The Message is one of those versions. (It's a slight drawback that when you highlight a verse in one version it doesn't carry over to a new version, but that's a minor issue for a future programmer to address.)



I researched the plans for just this purpose available through YouVersion. There are Bible studies and devotionals written by teachers and scholars from all over the world. Fascinating - it's a virtual bookstore of options. But I settled on a plan produced by the Michigan District of LCMS for the 500th Reformation celebration. It promised to take me from cover to cover in one year. Perfect.

The beauty of this plan was that if I forgot to set aside enough time in the morning, I could at any time of the day catch up using my smart phone. That alone has probably been the biggest hang up in previous attempts as I didn't lug my Bible with me wherever I went. And as much as I have tried to 'fix' me, I admit to remaining a scatterbrained, passionate, and messy (as well as a grateful & beloved) child of God. This method for addressing my perceived shortcoming of not having read the Bible checked all the boxes.

So off I went through all of the joys and tribulations of the tribes of Israel interspersed with selections from the New Testament, with a day of wisdom and praise from Proverbs and Psalms, and a day to rest and review. Whew!

I have rediscovered stories I knew, found new insights into stories I thought I knew, and made connections that surprised me. Mostly I have just enjoyed the journey. Because I chose The Message as the version for this endeavor, it has been so engaging. Some days it's like I'm reading a 21st century blog instead of an ancient manuscript. How can this be? How POWERFUL this is! As I wander with the Israelites, I feel their pain and identify with their foibles. The poetry of the Psalms resonates with my heart. The rawness of Paul's letters are as pointed as if written this century. This lovely book is becoming meaningful for me in new ways I never could have imagined. Is this how folks felt when the Gutenberg press made Luther's Bible so accessible? To be able to pick up the Bible at any time and read a little more, for comfort or guidance, for study or worship?

I'll be completing this endeavor soon. And I think I'll start it again.

# Food Insecurity



On July 2nd and 3rd, two different groups of MJC students came to Katie's Kitchen and worked hard as servers and cleaning crew. Both groups were working on class projects and we were pleased to have their help and their cheerful demeanors in the kitchen.

One group has posted their "final report" on YouTube and you can see it here: <https://youtu.be/7oe4PWHpvOo>

We are mentioned prominently in their video:

Information for MJC college students on Food Insecurity and where to get help

There are places where only MJC students can personally go with their MJC card and current sticker these places are....

- The Care Cupboard (every other Mondays) and Katie's Kitchen (Tuesday and Wednesday) which are at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 324 College Ave, Modesto, CA 95350.
- MJC's Food Pantry **Fall and Spring** is on Thursdays alternating campuses, but you can only receive one per month. On East Campus it is in front of the Student Center and starts 9 a.m. On West Campus it is in the Yosemite Hall in room A106 at 10 a.m.



# Memorial Wall Fountain

Arie Kroeze announced a few Sundays ago that our Memorial Wall Fountain had been badly damaged by vandalism. After briefly considering attempting to repair it himself, Arie called Robert Patch of Bob’s Custom Fountain Works, who built the fountain originally. Bob came over and, working an incredibly complicated 3D jigsaw puzzle, restored the fountain to as-new condition. Thank you, Bob.

One plaque, honoring Virginia Dall, was slightly damaged as well. Arie immediately after making the announcement received ample donations for replacing that plaque.



## Servant of the Month

Suzanne McCready retired from her day job a few months ago and has really stepped up her activity level in service of Emanuel and our neighbors. She has been especially involved in our Outreach committee and its projects. The bottom photo here shows her with the group preparing for Earth Day. Susan also represented us at our booth that day.

She is helping with both Katie's Kitchen and the Care Cupboard.

Suzanne has also been coordinating Leah Circle meetings and has volunteered on many and varied projects at Emanuel.

Thank you, Suzanne!



# THANK YOU!

The flowers on the altar on June 30 were given by Mike & Jeanine Clarke in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary, and in honor of long-time friend, Father William Treacy's 100th birthday.

Congratulations, Mike and Jeanine and thank you for everything you do for Emanuel.



# July Council Notes



Council met on July 14 at 11 am. Pastor Lyn led us in a devotional; we discussed Emanuel's non-material assets. Pastor will be away on July 21, caring for her son after a surgical procedure.

Day Care continues to do well financially and has high attendance for summer. We learned that Modesto city schools will soon be offering free all-day kindergarten and after school care, which likely will affect our Day Care. We may be able to expand our infant and 2-year old offerings to compensate for the loss of older children. We do currently have a waiting list for younger children.

Bob Reuter reported that while we performed well against our budget, we continue to have a shortfall of income versus expense. Pastor reported that in general people are keeping up with their pledged giving. Bob also reported that our Endowment Fund has returned about \$67K in income since it was first funded about 8 years ago. Our property committee had a contractor check our parking lot and we learned that it needs repairs and resealing within the next year, at an estimated cost of \$12K. The SAT received three bids for chancel painting (the rocks will not be painted!) and recommended one to perform the work. They also are getting bids for a copper bowl for the new baptismal font that will be constructed by Skip Hoover. Council voted to approve the current plan, which is much-simplified from that presented previously.

Outreach reported that both Katie's Kitchen and the Care Cupboard will continue during the summer sessions of MJC. Social Media reported that the sermon videos are getting a lot of Facebook "views", but the YouTube posts are not being watched. The latter may be discontinued, but we will work on enhancing the Facebook versions.

	June Income	June Expenses	June Gain/Loss
<b>General Fund</b>	19,732	(21,367)	(1,635)
<b>Building Fund</b>	16,646	(6,929)	9,717
<b>Day Care</b>	31,088	(29,088)	(2,000)
<b>TOTALS</b>	67,466	(57,384)	10,082

## August Birthdays

**Birthday Blessing Sunday is August 18**



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

8/1 Christine Paulsen	8/10 Joyce Bachmann	8/19 David Salonen
8/4 Jeanine Clarke	8/10 Barbara Norquist	8/20 Xander Gireth
8/5 Meridith Yeoman	8/12 Susan Hayes	8/23 Jaycen Salonen
8/7 Roger Lee	8/13 Ila Reinheimer	8/28 Derek Salonen
8/8 Peter Kroeze	8/14 David Kraft	8/29 Susan McCready
8/9 Gretchen Lile	8/16 Tim Wheeler	8/30 Karen Retford

# Epilogue

*(You may safely skip this...)*

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

During coffee hour on Trinity Sunday (June 16), Bob Ruele told me that, as a physicist, he had no difficulty understanding and accepting the concept of the Holy Trinity. He explained that various demonstrations of wave/particle duality present a seemingly contradictory set of truths. These, unlike some other theories of modern physics, are no-nonsense, no-doubt proofs that the way we view things changes the essence of their reality.

Albert Einstein was one of the first to weigh in on this apparent paradox. The history of theories about light records a series of mind-changes about its nature. Newton thought it was particles, echoing the thoughts of an 11th century Arabic scientist. Rene Descartes espoused the wave theory, as did Hooke, Huygens, and Fresnel. James Clerk Maxwell also "proved" the wave theory, leading to the single most difficult course I took in college, Field Theory, where on one

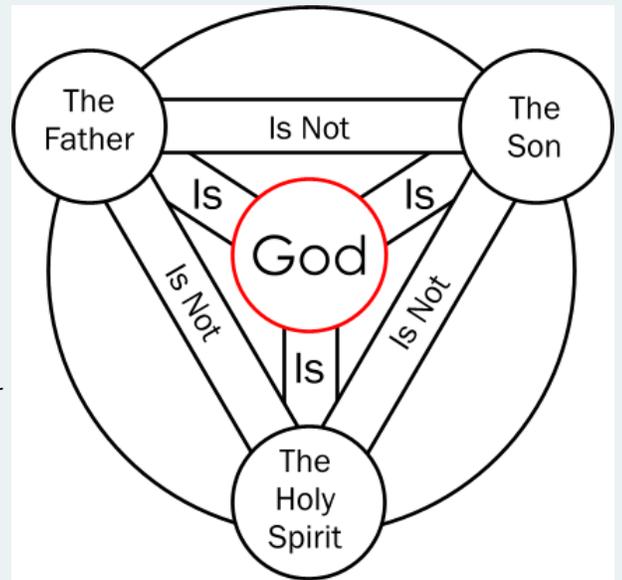
of my hour exams, a 36% score was a solid "A".

The details are complex, as with many things, but simply, refraction (think prism) proves that light is a wave, while photocells prove that it consists of a stream of particles (photons). Here's another terrific Einstein quote:

*"It seems as though we must use sometimes the one theory and sometimes the other, while at times we may use either. We are faced with a new kind of difficulty. We have two contradictory pictures of reality; separately neither of them fully explains the phenomena of light, but together they do."*

As Bob pointed out, once we learn about the paradoxical nature of God's creation, it is no problem to extend that to embrace a seemingly paradoxical view of God himself/herself. (While we are about it, we may as well embrace the male/female duality also!).

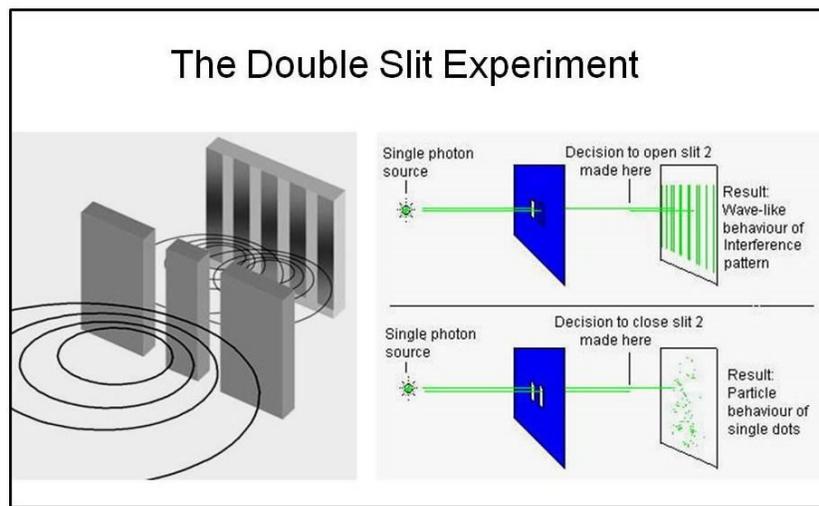
Light is a particle when it needs to be and a wave when that is what it



needs to be. Perhaps God is like that, too. God the creator/father when we need to have someone competent in charge of the universe and our individual lives. God the Son when we need an Advocate and Councilor to help us through a difficult time. God the Holy Spirit when our souls are dry and parched. God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

This Trinity thing is the most misunderstood aspect of Christianity. Some other religions think we are polytheistic. Pastor Lyn, in fact, refused to explain the Trinity on Trinity Sunday. I don't blame her. The same applies to physics. When I researched wave/particle duality, I found articles that attempted to explain it away. It's too bad that we still live in a world where the ignorant have such an ability to "teach" us.

The Trinity concept was a critical argument during the first centuries of our faith, but I think we can now safely consider the matter settled and move on, as did Pastor Lyn on Trinity Sunday.



# Emanuel Calendar of Events

## August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> 9:30 am 11:00 am <b>CARE CUPBOARD SUNDAY</b> Worship Service Ministry Mtg.	<b>5</b> 3:00 pm Lydia Circle	<b>6</b> 7:00 am 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	<b>7</b> 7:00 am 10:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:30 am 5:00 pm 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study Day Care Board Mtg. LEAH CIRCLE - on break until September	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>11</b> 9:30 am 11:00 am <b>HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY</b> Worship Service COUNCIL Mtg.	<b>12</b> 1:00 pm 7:00 pm Care Cupboard Women's Bible Study	<b>13</b> 7:00 am 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	<b>14</b> 7:00 am 10:00 am 11:30 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting NO-Multi Faith Leadership Meeting	<b>15</b> 9:30 am 1:30 pm Adult Bible Study REBECCA CIRCLE- Katie's Room	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>18</b> 9:30 am 11:00 am <b>BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY</b> Worship Service WELCA Steering Committee Mtg.	<b>19</b> 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study	<b>20</b> 7:00 am 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	<b>21</b> 7:00 am 10:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting	<b>22</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:00 am Organ practice
<b>25</b> 9:30 am <b>INTER-FAITH SUNDAY</b> Worship Service	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm <b>Echoes Deadline</b> Women's Bible Study	<b>27</b> 7:00 am 12:00 pm Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Text Study	<b>28</b> 7:00 am 10:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen Weekly Staff Meeting	<b>29</b> 9:30 am Adult Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00 am 10:00 am Quilting Bee Organ practice