

The Echoes

January 2020

Inside: Christmas Eve

Day Care Christmas Party

Advent Program

Caroling Party

85
*& forward
in faith*



Emanuel Lutheran Church

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

Thanks from Pastor Lyn

Happy New Year & a Blessed Epiphany!

It came so quickly and was over so fast that it's a little hard to believe Christmas 2019 has passed. By the time you receive this edition of Echoes we will be almost through the Season of Christmas and preparing to celebrate the Epiphany on January 6. This year the Season of Epiphany goes until Transfiguration Sunday on February 23 followed by Ash Wednesday 3 days later and Lent! Is it just me or does time actually speed up a few mph every year?! I do not want more time to pass without saying "thank you" to you as we begin a new year. You may think this is "TMI" (too much information) but please read on.



Before I get to ministry items, a big thank you for the birthday wishes a couple of weeks ago! Probably another reason time feels like it is moving at warp speed is that I'm a year older (perhaps not wiser but definitely more grateful). I enjoyed a wonderful birthday and appreciate the thoughtfulness of so many who acknowledged the day.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas play, The Not-So-Silent-Night. If you missed seeing it, go to the webpage or to Facebook and check it out. It is delightful! Everyone, from the pantomime actors to costumes and technical support, did a fabulous job! From my perspective it was the most stress-free Christmas program ever!

Thank you to those who helped to make Christmas Eve worship meaningful, especially to Barbara and the choir for their outstanding musical offerings. Thank you to the worship and communion assistants, ushers, acolytes, readers, and to those behind-the-scenes faithful helpers that make sure all things move smoothly. Thank you to the Sanctuary Arts Team for making the worship space warm and welcoming throughout Advent and for the lovely Christmas presentation in the Chancel area. Your efforts help to ensure that all people – regular worshippers and visitors – experience a sense of sacredness on the most holy night of the year.

Thank you to Paula Braxton in the office for her patience, perseverance and attention to detail in getting everything organized for Christmas! Paula goes above and beyond in so many ways, all through the year and is a true blessing to the congregation and

Emanuel is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

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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.

Pastor Lyn, continued

community.

Thank you to Maria Ojeda our bookkeeper. Maria also is a true blessing to this community. She keeps on top of all things financial, for both the church and the day care – keeping us accountable, but always with a smile. Thank you to Laura Marquez for the love and direction she provides to the day care and preschool. We will celebrate 20 years of day care ministry January 5 – don't forget to be in church that day and celebrate this important milestone. I am very blessed to work with a staff of such dedicated and committed people. They absolutely put their all into their jobs and actually, I believe, the day-to-day things are more than a job to them – this is their call to ministry and they live it out fully! Laura, Paula, Maria and Barbara certainly make all the difference to the life of the congregation and make my life more manageable!

Thank you to Bob Reuter - our Treasurer extraordinaire! Bob manages the budget, the endowment, the mortgage, savings and investments without missing a beat and he too, does it all with patience and good humor. Thank you to all of you who pledge to the budget and to those who do not pledge but year after year continue to give faithfully. Your selfless giving of time, talent, energy and money is very much appreciated!

The council deserves special praise and thanks for another year of productive and vigorous ministry! This council has received and embraced a plethora of information over the year(s) which will continue to form and inform our ministry as we move forward in faith. Which leads me to another thank you....

Thank you Emanuel, for 84 years of faithful ministry on this corner in the city! 2020 will mark the 85th Anniversary. The charter was signed on January 24, 1935! Over the course of the year look for and please participate in anniversary celebration events, the first of which will be January 19. Invite your friends, family, neighbors and former members to celebrate this milestone with us. I hope everyone will spend some time thinking about what this anniversary means as well as what the future might hold for Emanuel. Thank you to the anniversary planning team! If they ask you to help in some way, please say "yes!" One thing I'd like to see happen is a memory book of anecdotal stories about your shared experience, whether you have been a life-long member or a relatively new worshipper.

This is getting to be a long article and I may have inadvertently left someone or some ministry out. Just in case, thank you to everyone for everything! One last personal note; thank you for the warm Christmas wishes, cards, gifts and prayers for me as your pastor. In case you didn't know this – I love being your pastor! I hope in the coming weeks you will share with me some of your stories, your ponderings, your ideas.

With gratitude and in wonderment at what God has planned for those who love Him.

Pastor Lyn



Christmas Eve

The church was beautiful, thanks to Martha Strand and the Sanctuary Arts Team. The choir provided wonderful music. Pastor preached a great sermon. Merry Christmas all. And remember, “unto you a child is born!”



Christmas Eve, continued

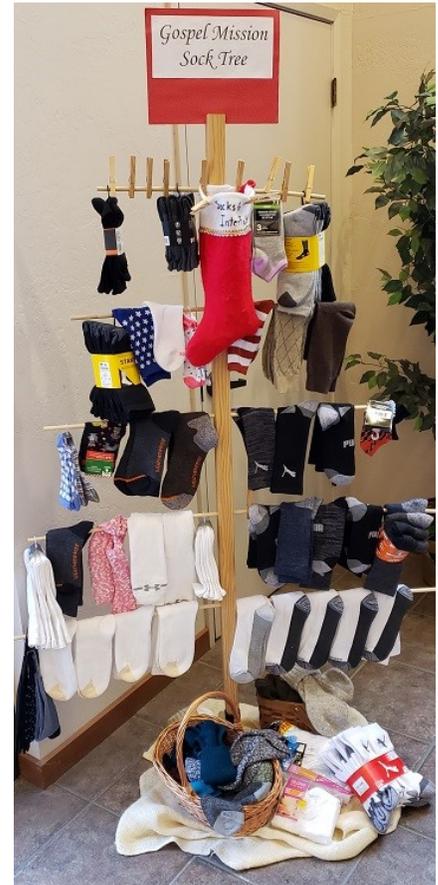


Care Cupboard Christmas and New Year

Happy New Year from the Outreach Ministry! Thank you for your support of our outreach projects this past year. We couldn't do it without you, as illustrated by our full Sock Tree and Giving Tree.

In this New Year of 2020 we plan to continue our work with the Modesto Junior College students. We will be have "Care Cupboard Sunday" on the 1st Sunday of each month. We will add a "Katie's Kitchen Sunday" on the 2nd Sunday of the month. Please check the food items needed for both projects in the Sunday bulletins. We will also have a container for cash donations for "Katie's Kitchen Sunday" as they have a hot breakfast for students every Tuesday and Wednesday during the month and it would be nice to have money to shop for needed items during the month.

Here's to a blessed New Year for all here at Emanuel Lutheran.



We had a first-time acolyte on the last Sunday in Advent. Katie Irvin admitted to being nervous, but she did a fine job.



Science and Faith

Submitted by Robert Reule

Based on what passes for news, Americans have no idea what science *IS*. Of course the definition is in the Bible: Colossians 1:16: God created all things, visible and invisible. If it's visible, it's measurable. Science is measurement. If it's invisible, it's faith and can't be measured.

So what is visible? Galileo perfected the telescope and made the moons of Jupiter visible, making himself visible to the Inquisition in 1633.

Can we see atoms? Yes! In 1989 IBM used a Scanning Tunneling Microscope to move 35 Xenon atoms into an IBM logo 5 atoms tall.

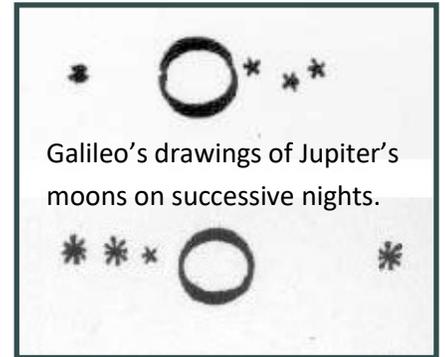
As more instruments are invented, more becomes measurable so science gets better with measurement. We don't change for no reason.

Stephen Hawking said "now I know how the universe works, but I still don't know why."

Measurement and faith. There is no conflict, there is overlap. We need both.

Dr. Bob

Colorful local character



Choosing the stain color for the new font. We almost agree!

We all do agree that it will be beautiful.

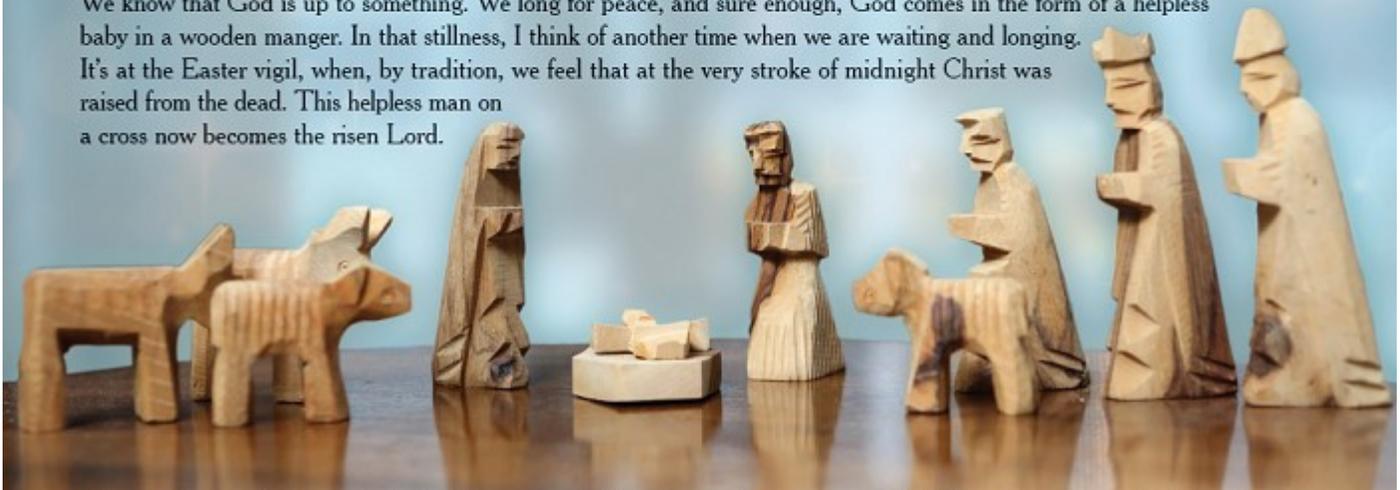


Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message

On Christmas Eve there always comes a time when everything is finally still. After all the preparations and Christmas pageants, after all of the rushing, it's wonderful just to settle into that stillness and have a chance to think about the *miracle of Advent and Christmas*.

For me that came after the 11 o'clock candlelight service and after going home. With my husband and children in bed, I could think and settle into that stillness and marvel at the miracle that had happened.

We know that God is up to something. We long for peace, and sure enough, God comes in the form of a helpless baby in a wooden manger. In that stillness, I think of another time when we are waiting and longing. It's at the Easter vigil, when, by tradition, we feel that at the very stroke of midnight Christ was raised from the dead. This helpless man on a cross now becomes the risen Lord.



I hope and pray, dear church, that in this season of Advent and Christmas you will find time for stillness, find time to sense the expectation and the longing, but also to celebrate the *miracle of God's love* that has come to us in the form of a tiny baby who grows to be a human being who gives his life for us, that we might have life.

Merry Christmas, dear church.

Elizabeth A. Eaton

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Dennis Strand arranged for much-needed professional pruning.



Pastor Lee's Christmas Letter

Submitted by Andrea Olson

Editor's note: Many of you have fond memories of Roger. His sister-in-law Andrea shared this with me to share with all of you. Also, Andrea announced in church on December 29 that Roger's surgery went very well and he is pain-free and walking already.

Christmas 2019

Dear Friends and Family:

Holiday greetings to you all. I love to read all your cards & notes.

I am very happy & settled with daughter, Cyndie & son-in-law, Dave Long here in Kelso, Washington. They take such good care of Xander & me. Be sure to use this Christmas season to say "thanks" to all your care givers, teachers, pastors, loved ones, helpers all. I'm really feeling thankful for mine & for all of you this year.

If you haven't heard, I am scheduled for left hip replacement surgery on Dec 26. I'm looking forward to less pain & more mobility. Xander is doing just great. 3rd grade is a real growth time. He enjoys school & his grades are good. His cousin, Triston, is also doing great. He lives with us every other week & his mother the alternate weeks. Son, Tim & daughter-in-law, Mo are well & happy in Visalia, CA. Their son, Regan, is in his freshman year at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, OK & is majoring in engineering & "Imagineering" with computers. His sister, Reiley is a junior in high school & excels academically as well as athletically.

I wish you all a wonderful 2020 year. Speaking of 2020 I invite you all to join me as I have pledged to make 2020 a year of perfect vision. 2020 vision, get it? I'm going to try to see others more perfectly, as God sees them. I want to see all & meet as one of God's precious children, deserving of my love, my help, & if necessary, my forgiveness. I'm asking God for an eye exam.

So I send my love to you all, with Xander & Cyndie & Dave. I pray you will all be well.

Roger

Christmas 2019

Dear Friends and Family:

Holiday greetings to you all. I love to read all your cards & notes.

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So I send my love to you all, with Xander & Cyndie & Dave. I pray you will all be well.

Roger

Caroling Party

David Holtz hosted a caroling party on December 14. Everyone at Emanuel was invited. We who came enjoyed a lovely soup dinner prepared by David. Then we practiced (very briefly!) and serenaded his neighbors. Many of them came out to share a “Merry Christmas” and some joined us in song. The weather cooperated and it was a joyful evening for all involved. What a ministry, David!



Day Care Christmas Party

The annual Day Care Christmas party was on Friday, December 20. (Almost) everyone had a great time! David Holtz led the children in song and Santa was there, too!



Christmas Pageant

As Pastor Lyn said in her article this month, the Christmas Pageant was really fun. If you don't routinely use Facebook, you can still watch the video by going to our website and clicking/touching the Facebook link on the homepage.



Christmas Pageant, continued



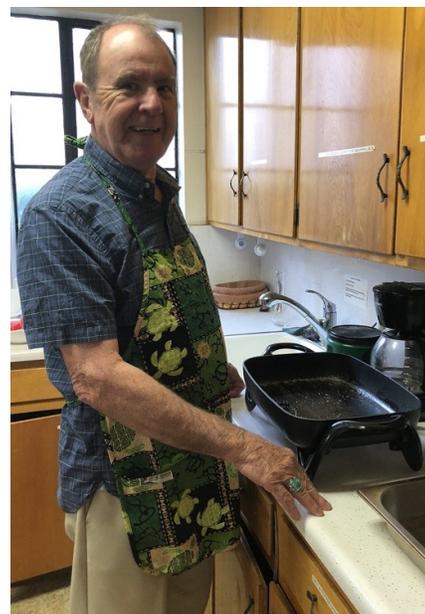
Thank You from Katie's Kitchen

Submitted by Sue Wilke

Katie's Kitchen would like to thank everyone who contributed both dollar donations and food donations to the Kitchen this past year. It is because of your generosity that the Kitchen has been able to serve a hot, nutritious breakfast two days per week to MJC students. We have been part of the Outreach Ministry for the past two years. We have served more than 4000 meals over the last five semesters.

SAVE THE DATE! On February 21, 2020, we are going to have a Bunco Night Fund Raiser for the Kitchen. There will also be a Raffle Table. Please plan on joining us in order to support this important ministry.

Thanks, Katie's Krew



Advent Suppers and Worship

This year we shared baked potato bars in place of the traditional soup and enjoyed this novelty. The educational portion of the program was based on a DVD: "Light of the World" by Amy-Jill Levine. Professor Levine shared a unique perspective and insights into the story of Jesus's birth. (The Thursday Bible Study group read the accompanying book of the same name). Worship was once again based on "Holden Evening Prayer" with its beautiful music.



November Council Notes



Council met on December 8 at 11 am. Pastor Lyn introduced an ELCA report about the future of our denomination and the church in general. The report encouraged us to go back to basics, offer participatory spirituality and listen to our own members.

Bob Reuter reported on our budgets. Day Care is planning for a surplus next year. Emanuel's General Fund budget will have a deficit of \$22K. Bob presented a plan to fund parking lot repairs. Council voted to accept this plan, which did cause a change in the Building Mortgage Fund portion of the budget. Council ultimately approved all the budgets. Bob also pointed out that we had a general fund surplus for the month of November, which is very encouraging.

The nominating committee reported that Josh Hollinger and Fanney Bjargardottir have agreed to run for council in January. It would be good to identify one or two additional candidates. A constitutional revision has been issued by ELCA. Council approved our modified congregational constitution for a vote at the Annual Meeting. Pastor read a very nice thank you letter from the Stanislaus Interfaith Council for us hosting this year's Thanksgiving event.

Dennis Strand reported on the many activities of the Property Ministry. They accomplished many maintenance chores and are working on several future projects. Elaine Ixcot reported that the Emanuel Calling Cards were distributed and well-received. She also reported on the successful Thanksgiving activities of the Care Cupboard. We also discussed funding of Katie's Kitchen and agreed to have a fundraiser evening and a monthly Coffee Hour similar to our Care Cupboard Sunday.

Fellowship has a busy year planned for 2020, beginning with a high-energy January. Day Care will celebrate their 20th anniversary on January 5 and we will celebrate Emanuel's 75th anniversary on January 19. We will have additional anniversary events in spring, summer, and fall. Bishop Mark will be visiting us on February 9.

| | November Income | November Expenses | November Gain/Loss |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | 20,885 | (19,426) | 1,459 |
| Building Fund | 6,373 | (6,929) | (556) |
| Day Care | 26,067 | (25,717) | 350 |
| TOTALS | 53,325 | (52,072) | 1,253 |

January Birthdays

Birthday Blessing Sunday is January 20

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

| | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1/11 | Steve Walker | 1/20 | Mary Lou Dieterich |
| 1/12 | Julia Poston | 1/24 | Sebastian Thompson |
| 1/15 | Carolyn Crenwelge | 1/29 | Gerry Castleberry |
| 1/17 | Eric Obermeyer | | |



Servant of the Month

It's a new year and a good time to look back. Here are all the people who have appeared here since Alice Hoagland suggested this feature back in September of 2014. Each of them has served us well and many continue to go beyond reasonable expectations. However, it is also fair to say that many deserving folks have not yet been recognized on this page. In the coming year, we'll thank another dozen people who serve Emanuel in many ways.

| Year/ Month | 2019 | 2018 | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| January | Barbara Crawford | Retrospective | Pat Smith | Lois Owen | Kathleen Reuter | |
| February | Rose Epting | Jack Smith | Dave Salonen | Paula Kroeze | Barbara Vukich | |
| March | Kaete Loeffler | Connie Petersen | Bill Reinheimer | Richard Norquist | Suzanne Wilke | |
| April | Dennis Strand | Alice Hoagland | Laura Marquez | Jeanne Hardin | Mike Epting | |
| May | Janice Watkins | Sam Gierhan | Chris Schmidt | Tom Hardin | Bob Reuter | |
| June | Linda Nelson | Marsha Waggoner | Robert Daley | Mike Clarke | The Call Committee | |
| July | Tom Watkins | Karl Williams | Yvonne Troedson | Elaine Ixcot | Rue Knoll | |
| August | Suzanne McReady | Bill & Ila Reinheimer | Dan Johnson | Susan Hall | Pat Norquist | |
| September | Paula Braxton | Peter Cousins | Sheri Delvin | Pastor Lyn Crase | Joyce Bachmann | |
| October | Maria Ojeda | Lois Silva-Tollefson | Fanney Bjargardottir | Esther Johnson | Jeanine Clarke | Debbie Van Diepen |
| November | Marilyn Rowland | Skip Hoover | Rick Unruh | Jim Barton | Arie Kroeze | Pastor Roger Lee |
| December | Karryn Salonen | Mary Lou Dieterich | Jeri Johnson | Paula Barton | Kristine Kraft | David Holtz |

Epilogue

(You may safely skip this...)

by Mike Epting, Echoes Editor

2020 may be a year of change. Rose recently offered up the fact that she has always liked change. She and I share that attitude; new things are also exciting for me. I realize that we may not be typical; as we age, many changes are for the worse. It's easy to become bitter about the way our bodies betray us and to hate it when the things we have been comfortable with are taken away. Dreading change may be the norm these days.

One big change for me (and Rose) is that, after serving six years, I'll be leaving Emanuel's council. That means I'll also no longer be council secretary. I'm not excited about *this* change; I will miss the deep immersion in the workings of our church. I love Emanuel and I get great joy from participating in activities that contribute to our church family's health and energy.

Rose and I will soon make a big lifestyle change when we move into a Senior Independent Living community. We have been preparing for this change for much of 2019, getting rid of *things*. Our common goal is to simplify our lives but I'll admit that we are both attached to our belongings. It has been hard to decide what to keep and what to

eliminate. It's also a great leap to see a positive in not owning a house. We are together on this, though, and are excited about our prospects going forward. There's still plenty of room in our lives for new experiences.

Pastor Lyn has been trying to coax all of us into accepting and even advocating for changes at Emanuel. She is devoted to our church and the ELCA and wants to see both thrive. This may be an uphill struggle. The status quo is not going to be sufficient. It's easy for me to say that I love novelty and am always up for something new, but the truth is that I chose Emanuel just the way it was the day I walked in the door.

What sort of changes do we need to make? We've already seen some of them, thanks to our Sanctuary Arts Team. We'll see a new baptismal font at the sanctuary entrance soon. You've seen The Echoes change this year. I hope you are OK with this becoming a chronicler of our lives rather than a source for news. Paula Braxton's new announcements page has quite effectively filled that need.

This year our Social Media ministry has been recording videos of Pastor's sermons and posting them on Facebook. I

hope that's something that is not only new, but positive.

Here's a somewhat controversial issue: I believe we need a video system in the sanctuary. That wouldn't be easy or cheap, but I suspect some visitors regard us as severely lacking. Projecting hymn lyrics would allow us to be head's up when singing instead of looking down. It would also open up our choices for music, which might be important going forward. Unfortunately, we have neither the money nor the expertise for a good video projection system. (You might regard that as a good thing).

Since I'm leaving the council, I won't be directly involved in some of these issues, but I know the new council will be thinking and talking about positive change all year. I don't think we're talking revolutionary change, but gentle nudges like those we have seen so far. Pastor says "there's always something good coming".

I'm excited about 2020. I pray that good changes will happen for us.



Emanuel Calendar of Events

January 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 1 ELDC CLOSED through Jan 1st HAPPY NEW YEAR! | 2 The Joyful Singers | 3 9:00 am Quilting | 4 10:00 am Organ practice |
| 5 CARE CUPBOARD SUNDAY Day Care Anniversary Celebration Worship Service 11:00 am Ministry/Council Mtg. | 6 3:00 pm Lydia Circle 4:30 pm MSYC Rehearsal | 7 10:30 am Outreach Committee Mtg. 12:00 pm Text Study | 8 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting 11:30 am Multi-Faith Leadership Meeting (M-Link) | 9 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm LEAH CIRCLE | 10 9:00 am Quilting | 11 10:00 am Organ practice 12:00 pm Girl Scout Cookie Rally |
| 12 HEALING PRAYER SUNDAY KATIE'S KITCHEN SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Annual Meeting after the service | 13 4:30 pm MSYC Rehearsal 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study | 14 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study | 15 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting | 16 9:30 am Adult Bible Study 1:30 pm REBECCA CIRCLE 4:00 pm Day Care Board Mtg. | 17 9:00 am Quilting | 18 10:00 am Organ practice |
| 19 BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Confirmation Class 11:00 am ELC 85th Anniversary Celebration | 20 OFFICE CLOSED 4:30 pm MSYC Rehearsal - MLK Holiday Break 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study | 21 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study | 22 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting | 23 9:30 am Adult Bible Study | 24 9:00 am Quilting | 25 Family Promise Set- Up 10:00 am Organ practice |
| 26 Family Promise INTER-FAITH SUNDAY 9:30 am Worship Service | 27 Echoes Deadline Family Promise 4:30 pm MSYC Rehearsal 7:00 pm Women's Bible Study | 28 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 12:00 pm Text Study | 29 7:00 am Breakfast in Katie's Kitchen 10:00 am Weekly Staff Meeting | 30 9:30 am Adult Bible Study | 31 9:00 am Family Promise Quilting | |