

As We Gather

Elijah – what a powerful prophet of God he was! He did powerful miracles in the name of God, even raising a boy from the dead! And in our Old Testament reading today we hear again the amazing story of one prophet of God vs. 450 prophets of Baal – and the prophet of God, who serves the only true God – is victorious! Soon after, though, Elijah is “down and out,” on the run from a wicked, powerful queen who promises to find him and kill him. It takes God’s love and reassuring presence to shake Elijah out of his depression and remind him that God will always take care of him. In the same way, when we are doing great things for God, or when we are down and out and depressed, God is always with us. He is the “still, small voice” that comforts, reassures and saves!

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

OPENING HYMN

“Glory Be to Jesus”

Hymn #433

THE INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One prophet of God, Elijah, stood against 450 prophets of the false god Baal.

Pleading with a god that did not exist, the false prophets failed.

Elijah prayed to the one true God and God demonstrated His great power, shaming the idolaters and turning the hearts of His people back to Him.

Elijah’s faith gave him the courage to trust in God alone.

But soon, under threats, Elijah’s courage turned to fear as his trust in God’s protection faded.

Like Elijah, we pray to a God that we know loves and protects us. But in times of difficulty or challenge we, too, let our fears take over and *our* trust in God also fades.

We trust in ourselves to find solutions to our difficulties and challenges.

Our efforts to find our own solutions are as fruitless as the prayers of the prophets of Baal. We fail. We sin.

Let us now confess our sins to God our Father.

(Please kneel)

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for His sake God forgives all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen. Turn our hearts back to You again, O Lord. With Your people of old let us say,
"The Lord – He is God! The Lord – He is God!"**

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"The First Song of Isaiah"

The congregation joins the choir in singing the refrain.

Refrain:

**Surely it is God who saves me
I will trust in Him and not be afraid
For the Lord is my stronghold and
My sure defense and
He will be my Savior.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, by the suffering and death of Your Son You redeemed this fallen world. Grant eternal joy to Your faithful people, whom You have delivered from everlasting death; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(please be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: 1 Kings 18:22-40,19:1-3a, 13b-18 *(The story of Elijah)*

²² Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD's prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³ Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴ Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire--he is God."

Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

²⁵ Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." ²⁶ So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷ At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened."

²⁸ So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹ Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰ Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins. ³¹ Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." ³² With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³ He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

³⁴ "Do it again," he said, and they did it again.

"Do it a third time," he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵ The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶ At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷ Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again."

³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

³⁹ When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, "The LORD--he is God! The LORD--he is God!"

⁴⁰ Then Elijah commanded them, "Seize the prophets of Baal. Don't let anyone get away!" They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

¹ Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

³ Elijah was afraid and ran for his life.

Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

¹⁵ The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. ¹⁷ Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. ¹⁸ Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel--all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

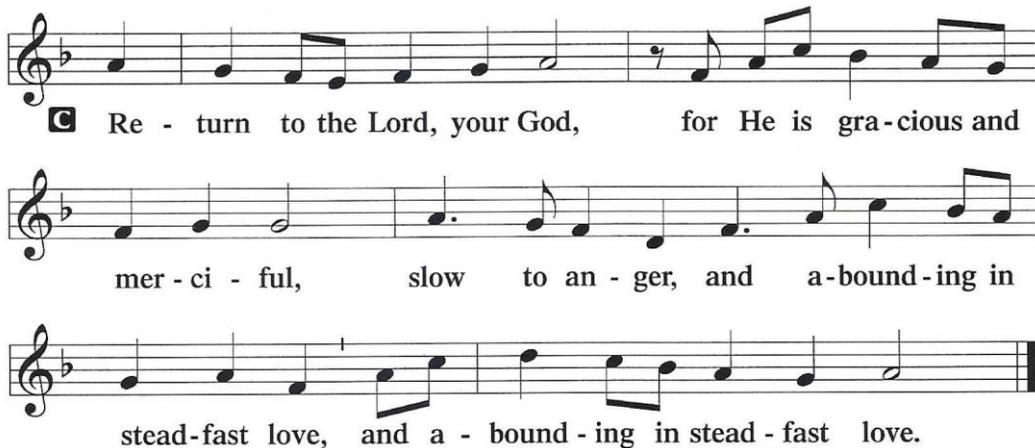
THE EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 5:7–10 (*"The source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him."*)

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹ and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him ¹⁰ and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

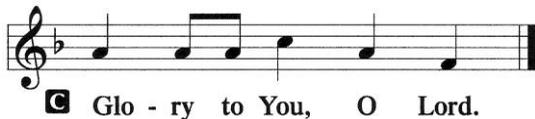
THE LENTEN VERSE: "Return to the Lord"



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra-cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in
stead-fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

The Holy Gospel according to St Mark the tenth chapter.



Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 10:32–34 (*Jesus predicts His betrayal, death and resurrection.*)

³² They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

Pete LeBoriosis
Director of Christian Education

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"* **Hymn #722**

THE MESSAGE: **"Elijah: So Faithful, So Fearful"** Pastor Brighton

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

After His Baptism, Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. During those forty days, Jesus resisted every temptation. During this Lenten journey, let us rededicate ourselves to saying "No!" to Satan's temptations as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

"No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (1 Cor 10:13)

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE MITE-Y NOISY CAN COLLECTION

(The "noisy" offering of coins is received on months when there is a fifth Sunday. This offering makes a lot of "noise" in the mission work of our Lutheran Women's Missionary League that it helps to support!)

OFFERTORY HYMN: *"Take My Life and Let It Be"*

**Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, "*Lord in Your mercy,*" and the congregation will respond, "***Hear our prayer.***"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN:

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

Hymn #733

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Brothers & Sisters of Mount Calvary, May 18 will mark 35 years since the first church service of the newly organized Mount Calvary Lutheran Church was held in the Christopher-Smith Funeral Home at 132 S. Houston Road! Our Voter's Assembly has set aside some funds to help in planning a celebration of this 35th year, and Council is looking to put together a committee to develop opportunities for fellowship and community outreach to recognize and commemorate it. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact any Council member (board chairman, church staff, or church officer) for further details. Thank you! - Dave Radcliff, Congregation President

This week's Altar Flowers were provided by Doug & Deb Fingles, in honor of their wedding anniversary and Deb's birthday; and by Riley hood in memory of Mary's March 5th birthday.

A Great Service Opportunity – For the past several years, Judy Parrott has taken the altar flowers after worship each weekend and given them to some of our folks who are hospitalized or shut-in. The recipients of the flowers have been MOST appreciative! Judy is retiring from this task and we thank Judy for her service! Now we need someone new to step into this important service position. Is that person you? If so, please contact Pastor Brighton at the office (922-1418).

Mount Calvary has received a donation in memory of Kevin Tuttle from the Grube families.

Members of the Week – Craig & Stella Nuckels: Stella was born in Nebraska, then moved to Virginia, Illinois, and back to Nebraska. She did her undergraduate work at Concordia University, Seward, and graduate level work at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, where she got her Ph.D. in Computational Chemistry in 2009. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Middle Georgia State College in Cochran. Craig is originally from Florida, and moved around with his family all over the south, and as far west as New Mexico. Craig wound up living in Fayetteville where he attended University of Arkansas and then worked in the area, where he met Stella. He currently works for a local defense contractor performing IT related tasks and projects. One of Stella's good friends and one of Craig's good friends were waiting in line to get the first iPhone. After hanging out for a while, the two friends conspired to introduce them. By the next year, he had taken her to Disney World and proposed. They were married in Nebraska in 2009. Last year, Craig and Stella welcomed a sweet baby boy, Michael, to their family. He had his acting debut as baby Jesus in "Rough Wood and Rusty Nails" this past Christmas. He is an active boy, loves to jump, and is trying desperately to learn how to walk. He loves music and his two puppies.

A Service to Commemorate the Entrance into Heaven of Harry Felt will take place on **Saturday, April 4 at 10:30 am** at Christ Lutheran Church, 208 Langston Road in Perry. Harry was called out of this earthly life on February 23, 2015 in Richmond, Virginia at the age of 66. He served as Treasurer, Choir Member, and on various Boards of Mt. Calvary, before serving as President of Mt. Calvary's daughter congregation, Christ Lutheran. Cindy, and daughters Samantha and Jessica, chose to have the service for Harry in this area, which was their long-time home prior to relocating to Virginia. A luncheon will be served after the service.

Caring Solutions 31st Annual Fundraising Benefit – This year, Caring Solutions is proud to announce that Josh Duggar of TLC's "19 Kids and Counting" will be the featured speaker on April 9, 2015 at Ingleside Baptist Church in Macon. Tickets are just \$10 per person, which includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and the program with John Duggar in the Ingleside Auditorium. Call 755-1343 or visit www.FriendsofCaringSolutions.com to reserve your tickets!

ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES to adorn our sanctuary on Easter morning. You will find a lavender form in your bulletin. Cost is \$12 for one, or \$10 each if ordering more than one! Please make sure your check/cash accompanies your form, and put it on Jack's (the secretary) desk or in the offering plate.

NEEDED - Acrylic yarn to finish off the 146 Project Linus blankets that we need to crochet around the edges. If you have extra yarn you could donate, contact Vivian Stilley or Nancy Branscom.

Thank You to all who donated items to the Lutheran Village Peaches to Beaches Yard Sale last weekend. Over \$2,400 was raised, which was above and beyond our expectations. Thank you for your support and prayers, as we continue our work towards making a Lutheran Senior Living Community a reality in Central Georgia. To add your e-mail address to our e-news list, just send a note to lutheranvillage@gmail.com.

Smoked Boston Butts are being made available for sale for your Easter dinner by Lutheran Village. They are 8 pounds each, and cost \$30, payable at pick-up on Friday, April 3, from 5-7 pm at Christ Lutheran, 208 Langston Road, Perry. Our smokers have a capacity of 50, and we have already sold 37. If you would like to order, please see the sign-up sheet on the information desk. Ordering deadline is Monday, March 23. Questions? Call or text Hutch at (478) 335-3737.

Newsletter Deadline: Please have all articles in for the April Newsletter no later than Wednesday, March 25.

Covenant Care Adoption Services will host its annual "Ladies' Night Out" on Thursday, March 26, at 7:00 pm at Shirley Hills Baptist Church in Warner Robins. This year, the evening will feature Jane Jenkins Herlong, followed by a fabulous dessert fellowship! Tickets are \$20 and must be purchased in advance! *(Call 475-4990 or visit AdoptGeorgia.com)*

Trivia Night: TRIVIA NIGHT for our young adults (30ish & younger) is THIS FRIDAY, March 27th, from 5-7 pm (Please note the date change from the March newsletter). There will be a tip jar to help cover expenses but the event is free, sponsored by the SLDT. Childcare will be provided!

High School Outreach Party: The next Outreach Party for High School Youth is Saturday, March 28th, from 7-10 pm in the Annex. Join us for an evening of food, fun, and Christ-centered fellowship! The cost is \$5/person (There are coupons available for friends/guests to be able to come for free.)

Easter Breakfast! Mark your family calendar to join us Easter Morning (April 5th) between 7:30 & 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Easter Breakfast Fund-raiser. 100% of the profits from this year's breakfast go toward lowering the cost of this summer's mission trip to Nashville. Breakfast will include scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, biscuits & gravy, muffins, fresh fruit, coffee and OJ. We hope you can join us for a time of celebration and fellowship Easter morning!

Golf Tournament: The annual Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Golf Tournament fund-raiser is scheduled for Sunday, April 26th. Lunch will be served at 1:00 and tee-off is at 2:00. The cost is \$45/player which includes lunch, driving range balls, and an 18-hole scramble tournament. Scoring aids are available at check-in (mulligans-3/\$5, red-bombs-\$5, & free throws-\$10). This fund-raiser benefits the Youth Ministry program of our church. Sign-Up/Registration will open on April 12th!

Mission Trip Registration Is Open: Registration for "Linked" The 2015 High School Mission Trip to Nashville, TN is open to all youth in grades 8-12. The cost for the week is \$240/person and includes everything but Sunday's lunch. The price will go down based on funds raised, so a \$100 deposit is all you need to register.

Thank you dear friends at Mt. Calvary for responding to my request for prayers as I was having surgery. Our dear Lord blessed me with successful surgery and smooth sailing to this point in my recovery! Your phone calls and cards have been delightfully received---particularly as my running about has been greatly curtailed. You are a blessing to me! - Peggy Barkley

Middle School Bowling: Middle School Youth will be bowling this coming Saturday, March 28th, from Noon-3pm. The cost is \$10/person and covers lunch, bowling, and shoe rental.

Photo Directory! We will be having "Life Touch" Family Photography coming in to take members pictures April 16-18 and May 14-16 for our 35th Anniversary Photo Directory. Come and have your picture taken for the directory and receive a free 8x10 portrait. Watch for more details coming soon!

PRAYER CONCERNS

The family of Angie Carros, Carol Felderman's aunt, who died March 12th.

Terri Snow, Ray & Doris' daughter, who was hospitalized this past week.

John Hoar, who was hospitalized this past week.

Peggy Rodriguez, who is hospitalized.

Carol Quednow, who is hospitalized with a serious infection.

Angleen Trasmer, who is having an "at risk" pregnancy.

Doris Snow, who is hospitalized.

Keep In Your Prayers

Molly Keister, Peggy Barkley, Carl Brighton (Pastor's father), Jimmy Martin, Sr. (Jimmy's father), Ray Wachter (Marcia Brighton's uncle), Johanna Wachter (Marcia Brighton's aunt), Carol Quednow, Joyce Boone (our former Wednesday Night cook), John Hunter, Connie Kinsey, Antonio Kong (Evy Keyes' father), Josie Kong (Evy Keyes' mother), Pastor Ed Meyer & Karen Johnson.

(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Those battling cancer: Paula Babcock, Kathy Grube, Chet Branscom, Jace Cumbie (son of Amanda McVay's boyfriend), Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom), Doris Helmes (Bill Zeuner's sister), Margaret Frazier, Dwight Hulse (friend of Roger & Gina Peterson), Bruce Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father), Scott Stanley (friend of Pedro & Kathy Camejo), Gary Jennings (Margaret Jennings' son), Elaine Mead (Jeannie Hawkins' aunt), Fred Diehl, John Hoar and Dana (Stroud) Stewart (Valerie Koehler's daughter).

Those Serving in the Military in Dangerous Areas

Christopher Dierking, Christopher Mittuch, Thomas Kaiser Guilford, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Michael Welch, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Vicar Kevin Thomson. **ELDERS:** Laird Van Gorder (Sun 8 am) and Bill Gragg (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Carolyn Harper (8 am) & Breanna Cook (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Laird Van Gorder, Brent Durbin, Dick Kesler & Kent Hansen. Late – Cameron Mastenbrook, Caleb Nelson, Austin Burnette, Sean Palmer & Brandon Bodony. **ALTAR GUILD:** Lois Harter, Melinda Hopf, Ruth Miller, Suzanne O’Daniel & Maureen Young. **LAY READERS:** Kathy Robinson (8 am) and Barbara Mabee (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Gary Webb. **PROJECTIONISTS:** Open (8 am) and Open (10:45 am).

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: John Hunter (Wed 7 pm), Bob Gerstenberger (Sat 6 pm), Bob Yeager (Sun 8 am) and Adam Beecher (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Caroline Harper (Wed 7 pm), Christopher Crawford (Sat 6 pm), Andrew LeBorious (Sun 8 am) and Zoe Bowden (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Carol Felderman, Anita McIntyre, Jo Ann Smith & Arleen Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Bill Bohm (7 pm), Keith Dierking (Sat 6 pm), Judy Van Gorder (Sun 8 am) and John Hunter (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Pat Stetzler (Sun 8 am) and Riley Hood (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK’S READINGS

Esther 4:4-16, 5:1-3, 7:3-6 and 9-10, 8:7-8, 9:1-4 and Philippians 2:5-11

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday – 56 Early – 92 Late – 134 Total – 282
Wednesday - 106

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting
Monday	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women’s Small Group
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
	7:15 pm	Bell Choir
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Dinner
	7:00 pm	Worship (Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal afterwards)
Thursday	9:30 am	Mom’s Play Group
	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Friday	5 – 7 pm	Trivia Night
Saturday	8:00 am	Men’s Breakfast
	12 – 3 pm	Middle School Bowling
	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
Next Sunday	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting