

# For All The Saints



*The Epistle of St. Paul Lutheran Church, The Grove, Texas*

*June 2025*

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Dear Fellow Redeemed:

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!! Alleluia!!

As I look out my window writing this, Central Texas is green. The Lord has sent excellent moisture and everything seems to be green and growing, except for the wheat that is turning and getting ready for harvest. The brown colors and trees without leaves, and gloomy skies have been replaced with clear skies today and full sunshine. The gardens are alive and well and squash is producing in its abundance. For that we are most thankful. In short, it is glorious.

Green is also the color of growth in the church. The seed of faith, planted in human hearts in the waters of Holy Baptism (as it was again this morning if you are reading this on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May as we welcomed Warren Lewis Blackburn into the family of faith), grows as it is nurtured through God's Word and in time through the sacrament of Holy Communion. This is the faith that saves us, and it is all God's doing through the working of the Holy Spirit.

To flesh this out a little bit, let's consider some of the words of the hymn "*Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing.*" (LSB 691)

*Fruitful trees, the Spirit's sowing, May we ripen and increase, Fruit to life eternal growing, rich in love and joy and peace.*

These fruitful trees are not planted in us by us. It is the Holy Spirit's work! We do not claim the title "steward." Rather, we are created to be stewards of all that God has made and gifted us with. See for example Genesis 1:28 where He says to us, right after He created us, *Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*

To use the words of Jesus in John 15 (which you will have to look up on your own), we bear much fruit for we are connected by grace through faith, to the vine that is Jesus.

*Laden branches freely bearing Gifts the Giver loves to bless; Here is fruit that grows by sharing, Patience, kindness, gentleness.*

Our stewardship is NOT about what we do. It is about what the Holy Spirit does in and through us. That is the fruit that we bear. His fruit for His purposes.

That fruit though is lived out through us. The world sees the fruit of our stewardship of the Gospel in lives lived connected to Word and Sacrament.

*Rooted deep in Christ our Master, Christ our pattern and our goal, Teach us, as the years fly faster, Goodness, faith, and self-control.*

Stewards have been created and redeemed to reflect the image of Jesus in the world. It is all about Him. Our privilege is to reflect to others around us the Light of the Gospel He has shone on us. This reflection comes when Christ's goodness flows from us to others.

*Fruitful trees, the Spirit's tending, May we grow till harvests cease; Till we taste, in life unending, Heaven's love and joy and peace.*

Just as the Spirit has created us for stewardship of the Gospel, so also does He cause our faithfulness! He calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies and KEEPS us in this faithful stewardship of the Gospel.

The ultimate goal of our faithful stewardship is eternity spent with our Triune God in heaven. That is the goal for us and for our neighbor, e.g. all people, all worked out by the Holy Spirit in their lives and in ours.

Green is the color of the world right now, at least for a week or two in Central Texas. It is also the color of our complete life as a redeemed child of God as we are connected to the vine, Jesus Christ! God grant our continual growth in Him!

In His service and yours,

  
Pastor Heckmann

*<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)*

### **LITTLE DISCIPLES JUNE OUTING**

Little Disciples will meet at Harris Community Splash Pad in Belton at 10:00 a.m. on June 7<sup>th</sup>. We will have a short Bible study then play and have a (bring your own) picnic lunch! Little disciples is a group for toddlers – 4<sup>th</sup> grade. It is meant to foster child and parent relationships with one another and with Jesus. This is not a drop off activity. RSVP or questions: contact Rebekah Munz at 254-913-8047.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SNACKS AND SUCH**

We are asking the congregation to help with the following snack items: milk, canisters of pre-sweetened Kool-Aid, cheese balls and cookies (lots of them). You can bring them to the FAC on any day during the week of VBS, or even the week before. If you have questions, please talk with Barbara Gaskamp. As always, we thank our members for all the support you give our VBS each year. s/Barbara Gaskamp

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Planning has begun for Church Picnic 2025. Here is your reminder, if you have not done so already, to save Sunday, July 20, 2025, as an all-day experience at the Lord's house. The day will begin with our usual Sunday School and Bible Class Hour, followed by our Worship experience, followed by the noon meal of the best BBQ, noodles, beans, etc., this side of heaven. You, your family, and your friends are invited to join us for this meal and for an afternoon of fun, games, visiting, and just hanging out with brothers and sisters in Christ. If you have any questions, please ask. If you would like to help in any way to make this day the best it can be, please let Ryan or Brianna Sohns know of your desires, or let me know and we will plug you in.

### **PERMANENT LOGIN INFORMATION FOR LIVE STREAMED SERVICES ON VARIOUS PLATFORMS**

**FaceBook Live** at <https://www.facebook.com/St-Paul-Lutheran-Church-The-Grove-109288640704387/> This is an updated address to get you there in case you are not already on FaceBook and want to watch the service without having to sign up for FaceBook.

**YouTube** permanent address <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCXYIcwW-U5ZaF5m2vYn8vw>

**Vimeo on our Website** address <http://www.stpaulthegrove.org> Then click on the Vimeo button, the little "V" at the top right hand corner of the page and you will be hooked up for the live stream of the service. You can also go there to watch archived services from the past as well.

### **ARCHIVED SERMONS ON THE WEB**

Just to remind you, our services and sermons are posted on the web each week. Go to [www.stpaulthegrove.org](http://www.stpaulthegrove.org), click "Connect", click "Vimeo", and then click on the sermon you would like to see. If you have questions, please ask.

## CHURCH PINIC

It is that time of year again...Church Picnic! Our picnic is always held on the third Sunday of July which is July 20<sup>th</sup> this year. Ryan and Brianna Sohns have volunteered to head up this year's picnic. That does not mean they have agreed to do it all, but to make sure that it all gets done with your help.

Down below is a list of the various jobs for the picnic. Typically, we ask for each job to have a main person in charge of that job and then it is up to that "in-charge" person to recruit their helpers. So...initially we are looking for 25 people to head up or be the "in-charge" person for each category on the list.

If you have done any of these jobs in the past, and would like to do them or would be willing to do them again this year, or do something else, we would love for you to let us know.

Please prayerfully consider helping either for the first time (or again this year) as together we make this year's picnic one of the best ever. Please contact Brianna at 254-654-9840 if you want to be the "in-charge" person on any of the 25 positions, if you want to help in any way, or if you have questions of any kind.

We will have our initial planning meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. in the EMS room, off the Parish Hall and next to the church offices.

These are the areas to choose from: Pit Master, BBQ Sauce preparation, Noodle cooking, Pinto Bean cooking, Potato Salad, Chips, Ice Cream, Relish Trays (pickles, peppers, onions), food servers, bagging ice the week before the big event, Outside Games, Guessing Games, 84 Tournament, Bingo, Water Activities, Fishing Pond, Kid's games, hayrides, Concession Stand, Trash removal, Clean-up.

You would not have to do all of this yourself, but you would be in charge of finding others to help you to do these tasks. If you have any questions, please ask. If you are ready to sign up, let Ryan, Brianna or Pastor Heckmann know.



# Meet Bendy-Jesus

Over the past few months we have given away hundreds (almost 1,000) of the “Little Jesus” figurines along with a message of what Jesus means to each of us. As we have done that we have also shared the Gospel with countless people as they have heard the Good News of Jesus Christ spoken by us to them, with them, oftentimes, speaking that Good News to someone else as they tell them about the “Little Jesus” they have received as a reminder of the work Christ Jesus did in our place and theirs on the cross of Calvary winning for us forgiveness of sins and the assurance of eternal life with Him in heaven.

With that said, I will tell you that this summer we are going to give you another opportunity, another tool to use when telling others about Jesus. He is known as Bendy-Jesus and He looks like this.



I do believe we ordered enough Bendy-Jesus' to give one to each of our families. (If you are wondering that would be a few over 125 families.) Next Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup> we will share them with you by putting one in each family's mailbox in the Parish Hall.

The challenge is this: take Bendy-Jesus with you on your outings and trips and excursions and vacations and travels this summer to remind you and your family that Jesus goes with you wherever you go and to give you the opportunity to use this little figurine as a way to start a conversation about Jesus. We **will not** be giving these Bendy Jesus' to the people we meet, but will be taking a picture with Him and sending those to Pastor Heckmann so he can put them on the wall. Our Bendy-Jesus' we will then take with us on our next outing. If you would like, you can take a few “Little Jesus” along with you to hand out to those who might ask why you are taking a picture with “Bendy-Jesus”.

So, to reiterate, **take Bendy-Jesus with you on your outings this summer!** Whether you're visiting family, or at a ballgame, or having fun at a theme park, or on the beach, or in the mountains, or in some exotic land, or anywhere else the Lord might send you, take a picture with **Bendy-Jesus** while you are on your awesome adventure! You can then send a picture of you and your family and your friends and your **Bendy-Jesus** to Pastor Heckmann (254-760-5274) so we can show our church family where you and **Bendy-Jesus** have been across the state, around the country, and even around the world this summer, as you are reminded, and as you remind others that Jesus is always with you.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please ask. If this is about as clear as mud, let me know that too so that I can try to clarify what I have in mind. I am looking forward to seeing where all y'all go and where all Bendy-Jesus goes with you.

# Donuts with Dad

Please join us Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> 8:15-8:45  
to celebrate Father's Day

# Sunday School News

By: Kathy Smith, Sunday School Superintendent

## Perfect Attendance for April 2025

Benjamin Burrow	Nathaniel Burrow	Julia Morrow	Naomi Bahnsen
Elizabeth Burrow	Asher Boswell	Lydia Morrow	Tabitha Morrow
Taylor Bahnsen	Jozie Symm	Ethan Boswell	

## June Birthdays

Elizabeth Burrow – 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jesse Symm – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Hitt – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Jozie Symm – 19 <sup>th</sup>
Kenna Richter – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Kyra Richter – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Geiger – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Oliver Watson – 22 <sup>nd</sup>
	Claire Kunkel – 30 <sup>th</sup>	Klein Kunkel – 30 <sup>th</sup>	

*Happy Birthday and God's Blessings to you!!!*

## June Baptism Birthdays

Aschua Bell – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stephen Bell – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ethan Boswell – 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Henry Springfield – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Analee Meza – 10 <sup>th</sup>	

*Happy Baptism Birthday and God's Spiritual Blessings to you!!!*

## Memory Work for May

**June 1:** We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

**June 8:** You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

**June 15:** Jesus said to him, "Feed My sheep." John 21:17

**June 22:** Give thanks to the LORD! Psalm 106:1

**June 29:** Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Romans 10:13

## Prayer Partners

We are looking for new adult prayer partners. Please give this prayerful consideration and contact Kathy Smith if you are interested or have questions. For our existing prayer partners, please remember to contact your prayer partner monthly. For questions or concerns, please call or text Kathy Smith, 512-773-4037. **Rejoice always; pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

## Offerings

**April:** You donated \$886.36 to Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana

**May:** So far you have donated \$328.00 to Lutheran Braille Workers

**June:** Concordia Gospel Outreach

**July:** Orphan Grain Train

**We love because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19**

**Thank you for all your love and support with these mission projects!!**

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, June 6:** Confirmation Cookie Reception

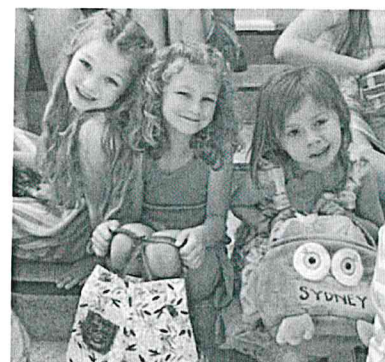
**Sunday, June 15:** Donuts with Dad

**Monday-Friday, June 16-20, 8:00-11:00 am:** VBS – Invite your friends! Registration table in Narthex

**Sunday August 24:** Education Sunday



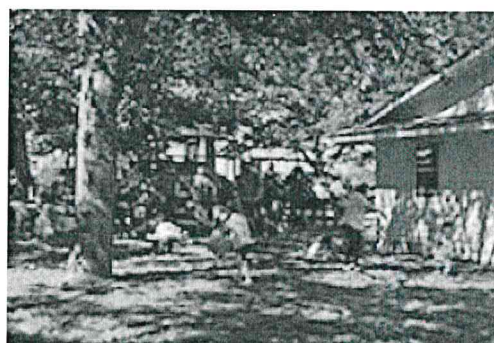
## Recent Event Easter Egg Hunt



Everyone eagerly  
awaiting Pastor's  
message and  
then the hunt!



And they are off!  
I think everyone  
had a great time  
and enjoyed lots  
of goodies.





# Confirmation, Graduation, New Member Dinner

By Janell Winkler

You are invited to join us for dinner on Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, at noon, as we celebrate and honor our confirmands and graduates for 2025 and welcome our new members for the past year. Those being honored this year are:

**Confirmand:      High School Graduates:      College Graduates:**

Sydney Golden      Aidain Dalton      Daniel Sharp      Mary Witty  
Alaynah Wrisk      Braydon Cemper  
Paige Falkenberg

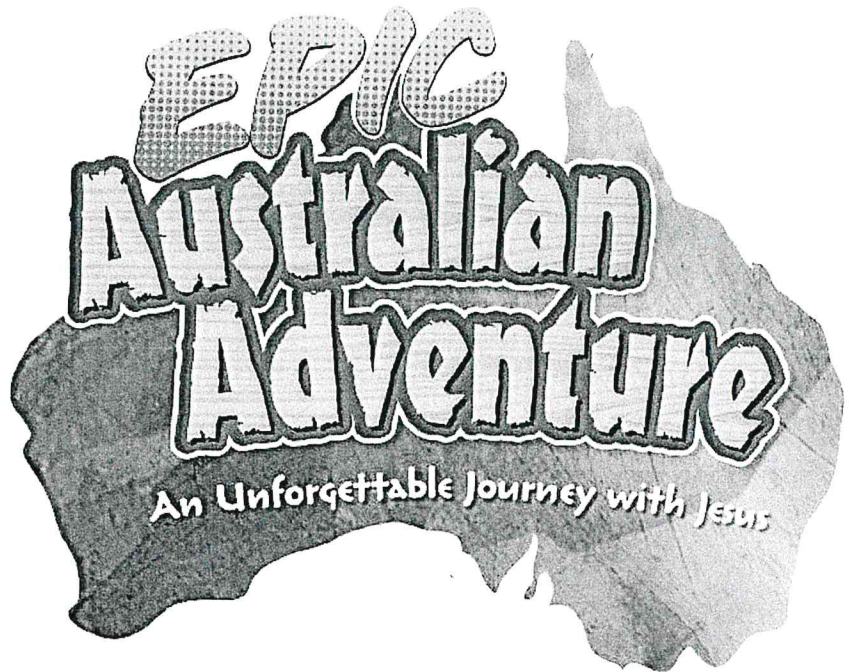
**New Members:**

Stacy Clady      Kristen Clady      Kae Hitt      Richard and Jill Lorenz  
Lois Mills      Mary Rosenbaum      Doug, Dawn, and Kyle Schenk  
John, Rachael, and Mary Witty

(If we have missed someone, please let Deb Heckmann, our church secretary, know.)

The meal will be a Mexican stack up, watermelon, and dessert. If you will be able to join us, please sign up on the sheet of paper on the table in the Narthex by May 25<sup>th</sup> so that our LWML will know how many to plan for on this special day.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
JUNE 16-20  
8A-11A



REGISTER ONLINE NOW  
OR  
AFTER CHURCH ON MAY 25, JUNE 1, OR JUNE 8

QUESTIONS?  
INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?  
CALL/TEXT/EMAIL  
ASHLEYWINKLERDVM@GMAIL.COM  
254-366-1632





# C.L.A.S.S.I.C.S.

*(morning Bible study held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month)*

By: Sherry Hartgrove

With nineteen saints in attendance, The CLASSICS gathered for Bible study and fellowship on Thursday, May 15, 2025, to continue reading The Great Sending.

Pastor Heckmann shared four studies with the group: Fields Ripe for Harvest and Finding the Lost One, by Rev. Dr. Stoterau, and The Seeking God and Prayer Drives the Mission, by Rev. Dr. Robert Newton. Members then discussed the questions at the end of each study.

The harvest field includes everyone we come in contact with daily. We all have the opportunity to go out and show love for others and share God's Word. God equips us to search for and bring back those who are lost. The author reminds us that as we enter the Harvest field, we don't enter it alone. A segment of Rev. Dr. Stoterau's closing prayer was as follows: "Give me eyes to see the harvest of people who still need to know that love of Jesus, and give me the wisdom to share Jesus with them."

The group discussed the Parable of the Prodigal Son. We have all been "prodigal" in some sense when we misuse our spiritual inheritance and ignore God, but God provides the assurance of forgiveness toward sinners who repent and return to Him. As stated in Luke 15:10: "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Following Bible study, the group celebrated the members who had May, June, and July birthdays and sang the traditional Birthday Song. May birthdays included Trina Munz, Janell Winkler, Sherry Hartgrove, and Pastor Heckmann. The June birthday included Janice Dake, and the July birthday celebration was for Sy Hartgrove, Pam Hebert, and Carl. We send birthday greetings to Darlene Riske, Deb Heckmann, and Frances Hohle, who could not attend our meeting today. God's Blessings to all of you, and may you have many more Happy Birthdays! Those in attendance enjoyed a delicious "Potluck Salad" meal, desserts, and fellowship.

The CLASSICS Bible study group does not meet during June and July. Following the summer break, the next Bible study date will be **August 21, 2025**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Multiple Purpose Room. The group will provide a "Picnic" themed lunch. **MARK** this date on your calendar! I encourage you to join us in studying God's Word, having lunch, and participating in fellowship.





### **June Bible Study and Meeting**

The next LWML Bible study and social will be May 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Multipurpose Room of the FAC. The Bible study will be “Free to Serve” by Shari Miller in the Spring LWML Quarterly 2025. In this study we will learn about Christ setting us free from sin.

*For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.  
Romans 8:2*

### **June Mission Project**

For the month of June, we are collecting water and Gatorade for the Flat and Moffat VFD. Let's keep our volunteer firefighters hydrated this summer by donating water and Gatorade. There will be a box at the back of the parish hall to collect donations.

### **May Servant Event**

The annual LWML Servant Event was held May 10<sup>th</sup> at Fortress Lutheran Church in Harker Heights. We had about 50 people come from 4 different churches. We collected 52 baby wipes, 27 packs of diapers, 19 baby shampoos, 20 blankets, 13 quilts, and much more at the servant event to serve women with unplanned pregnancies. We also collected dozens of cookies to support our local firefighters, policemen, and prison guards. Everyone split up into groups to serve Creekside Terrace Rehabilitation, Hope Pregnancy Center, Friends in Crisis homeless shelter, deliver cookies to firefighters, policemen, and prison guards, and tied quilts for Orphan Grain Train. Thank you to everyone who helped!

# JUNE 2025

## ***Birthdays***

1 Monty VanWinkle	14 Donald Laxson
2 Ted Winkler	14 Brad Winkler
3 Lydia Draeger	18 Betty Tatge
4 Jimmy Peebles	18 Paige Falkenberg
4 Amanda Winkler	19 Linda Rachut
4 Arieanna Reigle	20 Frances Hohle
5 Elizabeth Burrow	20 Karen Lary
6 Alan Abel	20 Kenna Richter
6 Joe Bland	20 Kyra Richter
6 Janice Dake	21 Hannah Geiger
6 Shea Winkler	22 Oliver Watson
9 Henry Springfield	22 Michael Winkler
10 Madilyn Alsup	23 Katy Hill
10 Aimee Green	24 Paula VanWinkle
10 Cody Terrell	24 Janice Michalk
10 Marlena Watson	24 Emily Thoe
11 Doris Reigle	26 Garrett Penny
12 Andrea Mendez	26 Susanna Symm
12 Greg McFerrin	27 Michael Rogge
12 John Terrell	28 Richard Lary
12 Ashley Winkler	28 Sheila Symm
12 Abby Penny	30 Claire Kunkel
13 Paul Lee Hitt	30 Klein Kunkel

## ***Anniversaries***

2 Stacy and Aimee Green  
3 Garrett and Abby Penny  
3 Monty and Paula VanWinkle  
5 (Philip) and Debi Scott  
5 Steve and Shea Winkler  
6 Bill and Trish Rogge  
7 Carl and Barbie Symm  
12 Bob and Betty Winkler  
13 Curtis and Helen Domel  
14 Elmer and Pam Winkler  
16 Kevin and Melissa Houchin  
17 Wayne and Betty Tatge  
22 Travis and Kathy Smith



*(If your birth date or anniversary date is listed incorrectly, please let the church office know.  
If it is not included here, please share that information as well.)*

## **SERVING IN JUNE**

### **FLOWERS FOR MONTH**

1. Doug and Mellissa Boswell  
8. Confirmation  
15. Curtis and Helen Domel  
22. Shawn and Mary Thoe  
29. Karl Reigle

### **GREETERS**

### **USHERS**

\*Michael Hohle, Andrew Peebles, Jimmy Peebles,  
Brad Winkler, Carl Symm

### **ELDER OF THE MONTH**

Jeremy Munz

### **ORGANIST**

Miriam Winkler

### **MONEY COUNTER & HELPER**

Amy Velasquez and Diana Lockhart

### **CEMETERY CARETAKERS**

The John Winkler Family

### **HISTORICAL CEMETERY**

The John Winkler Family

### **ALTAR GUILD**

Rebekah Munz and Candice Bahnsen

### **ACOLYTES**

1. Andreas Reigle  
8. Anna Whisenant  
15. Cory Roberts  
22. Sydney Golden  
29. Andreas Reigle

# JUNE 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Easter</b> Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion 10:15 <b>Church Council Meeting – EMS</b> <b>11:30 a.m.</b>	2	3 Quilting Bee 9:00 a.m. – Noon	4	5 Texas District LCMS Convention	6 Texas District LCMS Convention	7 Texas District LCMS Convention Little Disciples to Belton Splash Pad 10:00 a.m.
<b>New Member, Graduation, Confirmation Dinner Noon</b>		Board of Education 5:30 p.m. Board of Elders Meeting 7:00 p.m.	Midweek Religion Classes 6:30-8:00 pm Ladies' Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Men's Evening Bible Study 6:30 p.m.		Confirmation Class Questioning 7:00 p.m. Cookie Reception to follow. Everyone is invited.	
<b>8 The Day of Pentecost</b> Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship Service/Confirmation/ Holy Communion 10:15 a.m. PICNIC PLANNING MTG 11:30 Carl and Barbie Symm Cell Group in MPR 5:00 p.m.	9	10 Worship Service at The Meadows 10:00 a.m. Worship Service at Hillside Nursing Home 11:00 a.m. Voters' Meeting 7:00 p.m.	11	12	13	14 LYF Meeting and Set- up for Father's Day Banquet 9:00 a.m.
<b>15 Holy Trinity Sunday</b> <b>Donuts with Dad 8:15 a.m.</b> Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion 10:15 am Commissioning of VBS Staff	16 Vacation Bible School 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	17 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b> <b>Vacation Bible School</b> <b>8:00 - 11:00 a.m.</b> Artesian Ministries Board meeting 10:00	18 Vacation Bible School 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	19 Vacation Bible School 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.	20 Vacation Bible School 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. VBS Closing Service 6:00 p.m.	21
VBS Staff Meeting in MPR 11:30 <b>Father's Day Banquet 11:45 a.m.</b>		LWML Meeting and Bible Study at the FAC 6:30 p.m.				
<b>22 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:15 a.m.	23	24 <b>Quilting Bee</b> <b>9:00 a.m. – Noon</b> Book of Daniel Small Group Bible Study – James and Faye Morrow's home 6:00 p.m.	25 LWML National Convention – Omaha, Nebraska	26 LWML National Convention – Omaha, Nebraska	27 LWML National Convention – Omaha, Nebraska	28 LWML National Convention – Omaha, Nebraska
Bob and Paula Bangsund Cell Group – MPR – 5:00 p.m. <b>29 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Youth Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Adult Bible Classes 9:00 a.m. Worship w/Communion 10:15 am	30					
<b>"The Baptismal River" Small</b> <b>Group Bible Study – MPR –</b> <b>5:00 p.m.</b>						

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