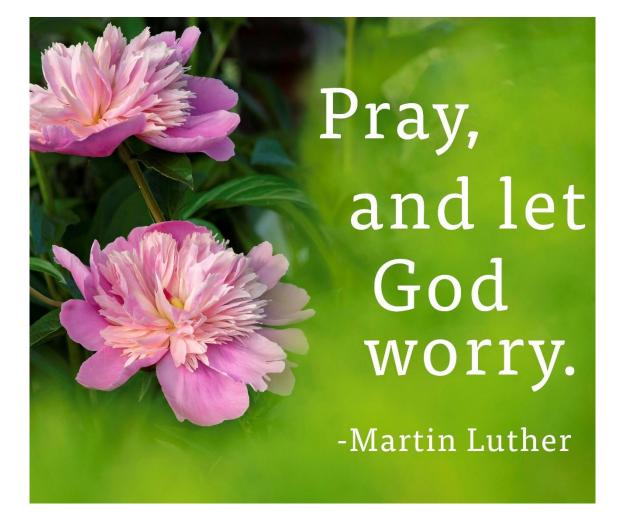
First English Lutheran Church

Wapakoneta, Ohio



Our May 2023 Newsletter

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) 107 W. Mechanic Street, Wapakoneta, OH 45895 (419) 738-3911 FAX: (419) 738-8893 Website: www.myfelc.org E-Mail Address: wapakelc@bright.net

Meet our staff...

Pastor		
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The mission of First English Lutheran Church is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to love one another as He loves us.

Something to Ponder – Vicar Deb



"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father. and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." ..."I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

-John 14:15-21, 25-27

The Holy Spirit, the Advocate, the Spirit of truth – all are names for the Third person of the Trinity. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and upon us so that we might not be alone or afraid of living without Jesus. It had been a little while since Jesus died, was buried and rose again. Jesus had come to them, had eaten with them, had walked with them and was now preparing them for what might come next. I can imagine that they were wondering and maybe a bit afraid of what is to be. Sometimes we find ourselves in that place too. Wondering what might be next for us and for our family or even for our church?

We learned in confirmation that the Holy Spirit calls us to faith, gathers us in, and makes us Holy. The Holy Spirit also guides us and leads us – not as the world gives, but as God does.

Listening for God is not easy. Listening and discerning where God is leading is not easy. We can't ever really hear God or the Holy Spirit as easy as we can hear what our kids, spouse or parents say. We can't really hear God as easy as we can hear what is on the TV or what is on that YouTube channel that we watch.

So, how are we to know where God is leading? It's through prayer and scripture, through prayer and listening to God and to others. It's those nudges that you receive throughout the day. It's the coincidences which happen which make things easier or more difficult.

It's the feeling you might have when you walk into a place. It's all of these things – and sometimes it's none of these things. In John we hear that the world doesn't see or know the Spirit, but you know the Spirit because the Spirit abides with you, in you.

We in the world are use to making decisions and choices based on what we see and what we know – through pro/con lists, and in talking with others. Following God by listening and discerning is not as straightforward and definitely not as the world decides.

So how are we to know where God is leading? Pray. Ponder. Sit in the sunshine or take a walk. Walk in the woods. Go to where you feel closest to God and to God's creation. Just be – Be Still. After a time, take note... What do you notice? What feelings do you have? What questions arise? What are you curious about? This takes time. Sometimes weeks. Sometimes months. Sometimes it's helpful to leave it for awhile. Sometimes it's helpful to talk it over with friends. Sometimes it's helpful to do a project, or exercise... God speaks to us through all these things. God sends the Holy Spirit Upon you – Advocating for you – Guiding you and filling you with Peace – slow down, Listen, practice, receive God's peace. – Vicar Deb.

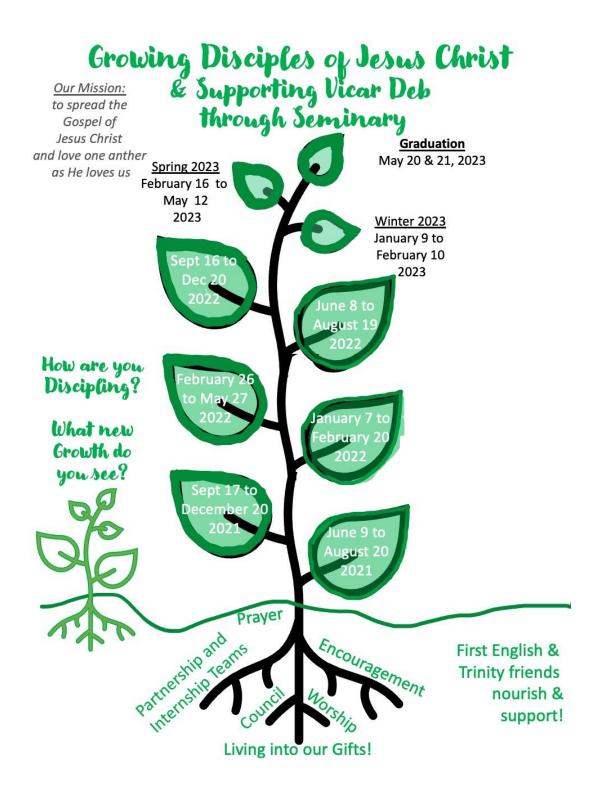
Vicar Deb's Seminary Experience:

Thank you all for supporting me and praying for me as I attend Seminary. I'm almost FINISHED!! YAY! Thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

Graduation aka Commencement will be held in two events: A Baccalaureate Ceremony will be held on May 20 at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN and A Commencement Ceremony will be held on May 21, 2023 in Minneapolis, MN at Central Lutheran Church. You may watch it live, or afterwards.

Check out this link for more details: <u>https://www.luthersem.edu/commencement/</u>

I will be taking time off from May 17 through May 31 to prepare and to celebrate – Thank you for your prayers and for your encouragement!



FELC Committees, Chairpersons, Council Liaisons

Committee

Building & Property Christian Education/Youth Evangelism Finance Life & Fellowship Social Ministry Staff Support Stewardship Worship & Music

Chairperson

Brenda Shoffstall Rebecca Van Meter Rebecca Van Meter Cari Frame Brenda Shoffstall Rebecca Van Meter Cari Frame Meets with Finance Darla Frame

Liaison

Jeff Ritchie Rebecca Van Meter Denise Kantner Dave Clift Darla Frame Teresa Fisher Jon Schmidt Brenda Shoffstall Georgeann Stienecker

Our Prayer Corner

Those who would love a visit or a card...

Auglaize AcresDennis McCormickThe ManorJim ReinhartOtterbein at CridersvilleSharon Billiter, Rex Lippincott, Betty LietzOtterbein at St. MarysDorothy DickmanThe GardensBetty Hague, Dale Thomas

We especially remember in our prayers...

Tracy Anderson, Don Cole, Dominic Cousins, Jacob Cox, Janice Etzkorn, Connie Kantner, Bryan Katterhenry, Wayne & Judy Kentner, Rex Lippincott, Lynne Loebach, Sasha Maslov, Cathy & Desmond Miller, Nici Rapp, Sue Schoonover, Pam Schulz, Adam Schulze, Alex Shirey, Donna Stowell Dague, Seth Thuman, Dale & Mary Ann Thomas, Eddie Whetstone, Hannah Wood, Angela, and Paul.

We remember in our prayers our military serving at home and abroad, under represented and oppressed people, EMTs, firefighters, police officers, healthcare workers, and our veterans.

If we are missing anyone in our prayer corner, please call or email the office and let us know. If there is anyone who wishes to be removed, please do the same.

Weekly Attendance and Offerings								
Date	Views Attendance Current Giving NWOS Benevolence							
04/02/2023	22	115	\$4,095.00	\$44.00				
04/09/2023	17	133	\$3,565.00	\$93.00				
04/16/2023	8	75	\$1,635.99	\$153.00				
04/23/2023	16	73	\$1,222.00	\$3.00				
04/30/2023	14	67	\$1,540.00	\$0.00				

2023 current budgeted expenses are \$210,480.66, or \$4,047.71 per week.

FELC can now accept online donations through the church website thanks to our partnership with Tithe.ly online giving. Just visit myfelc.org or scan the QR code to the right. From the church website click on the green GIVE button and follow the prompts. Thank you for your support!



	2023 Noisy Offerings	
Month	Recipient	Amount Collected
January	Luke Kline Eagle Scout Project	\$1,741.43
February	Tanzanian Lutheran Church	\$1,000.00
March	Turkey Earthquake Victims	\$567.67
April	Morgan's Place	\$751.76
May	Wapak Area Tornado Relief	
June		

Flowers and Candles

Altar Flowers for the month of May:

May 7 ^{tt}	Tracy Ar	derson
May 14	L th Chuck C	urry
May 21	stavailab	le
May 28	th Van Met	er Family & Cari Frame

Altar Candles for the month of May:

The Altar Candles are given to the Glory of God by the people of God.

Ministries in Action

	May 7 th	May 14 th	May 21 st	May 28 th
Acolyte	Harrison Anderson	Doris Fisher	Makenzie Schneider	Deven Whetstone
Lector	Sandy Brading	Makayla Frame	Jon Schmidt	Marsha Jackson
Ushers	Ken Frame & Bruce Monnin	Dave Krites & Brian Van Meter	Ken Frame & Jon Schmidt	Clayton Fisher & Luke Kline
Worship Assistant	Darla Frame	Jon Schmidt	Deanna Ronan	Susan Miller
Musician	Karen Luginbuhl	Darla Frame	Darla Frame	Darla Frame
Preacher	Vicar Deb Monnin	Vicar Deb Monnin	Pastor Melodi Hagen	Pastor Doug Meyer
Greeter	Volunteer Needed	Brenda Shoffstall	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed

Altar Guild for May: Darla Frame and Deanna Wisener Fellowship Cleanup for May: Darla Frame and Brenda Shoffstall

The Word of God

These are the lessons and gospel readings for the next two months. We provide them for you: to prepare your hearts for worship, and to learn about God's action in the world.

Sunday	1 st Reading	Psalm	2 nd Reading	Gospel
May 7 th	Acts 2:42-47	Psalm 23	1 Peter 2:19-25	John 10:1-10
May 14 th	Acts 17:22-31	Psalm 66:8-20	1 Peter 3:13-22	John 14:15-21
May 21 st	Acts 1:6-14	Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	John 17:1-11
May 28 th	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13	John 20:19-23
June 4 th	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Psalm 8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
June 11 th	Hosea 5:15-6:6	Psalm 50:7-15	Romans 4:13-25	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 18 th	Exodus 19:2-8a	Psalm100	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8[9-23]
June 25 th	Jeremiah 20:7-13	Psalm 69:7-10 [11-15]16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39

FELC News and Events...

Personal contact information...if there has been a change in your family's contact information, please contact the church office by email at wapakelc@bright.net or by calling the office at 419-738-3911.

Education/Worship Schedule:

9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
9:15 & 11:15 a.m.	Youth Sunday School
9:45 a.m.	Youth Choir
10:00 a.m.	Worship in person and online at www.myfelc.org

Middle-School and High School Sunday School will be meeting in the basement each Sunday morning at 9:15. Vicar Deb, or her occasional substitute, would love for you to join in the conversation! **Sunday School will meet May 14th and 21st.**

Preschool-Elementary School Sunday School has begun. There are two options to participate, at 9:15am and immediately following worship. Each session will take place in the large Sunday School room and last about 30 minutes. Both sessions will have the same lesson taught. **Sunday School will meet May 14th and 21st.**

Youth Choir has returned and is open to all youth who would like to participate. Practice will take place every Sunday from 9:45-9:55 in the large Sunday School room. Youth choir will rehearse and perform on May 14th.

Adult Sunday School is meeting in the parlor at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. We would love for everyone to join our discussion and fellowship. Please contact Rebecca Van Meter if you are interested in joining us via Zoom or Facetime. All are welcome!

Quilting Group meets on third Wednesday of the month, from 10am-12noon in the parlor. If you would like to join this group or have questions, please contact Darla Frame.

Wapak Loaves & Fishes Meals need to be reserved by calling 567-204-6708 and can be picked up in the alley behind the Fellowship Hall from 4:30 to 5:30 pm. Please remain in your vehicle and the meals will be brought to you.

Wednesday prayer You are welcome to join us as we pray together on Wednesdays. Pastor Melodi and others pray at Trinity, Moulton at noon and Vicar Deb will be praying at First English at 5:00pm.

Noisy Offering for the month of MAY: Wapakoneta Area Tornado Disaster Relief Offering pans are located in the chapel and at the back of the church. Donations are accepted during the entire month. **Movie Night May 5th at 5:30pm** FELC is hosting a Movie Night in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm on Friday, May 5th. The adult movie is *Jesus Revolution*. The kids movie is *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*. The Fellowship Committee will be providing pizza and popcorn, but please bring your own beverages.

Vacation Bible School Donations FELC is accepting donations of supplies and snacks for Vacation Bible School (June 5-9) until June 4th. A full list of needed items is located in the church library. If you are willing to donate any of these needed items, please sign your name next to the item so that we know that it has been taken care of. Donations can be placed in the Church Library. Thank you so much for helping to provide our youth a wonderful VBS experience!

Postal Service Food Drive May 13th USPS food drive to benefit God's Storehouse and Mercy Unlimited will be held on Saturday, May 13th. If you wish to participate, please leave bags containing donated items under your mailbox. Items needed include; hygiene items, shampoo, canned meat, boxed cereals, bottled juices, and laundry and dish detergent. Please check the expiration date on cans. Thank you for helping us to help those in need!

Men's Night is scheduled for Thursday, May 11th at 6:00pm at La Neta in Wapakoneta.

Ladies' Night is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23rd at 6:00pm at The Side Rail. Please come out for some great fellowship!

Hygiene Kits Service Project Update With your help the Youth of First English packaged <u>57 hygiene kits</u> for the housing insecure individuals at **Lutheran Social Services' Faith Mission** in Columbus. Each kit contains basic hygiene items such as body wash and deodorant and toothpaste The assembled kits will be delivered to the LSS Faith Mission in Columbus in the coming weeks. Thank you to everyone who donated items and thank you to our middle school and high school youth for packing the kits.

Honoring the Class of 2023 We would like to recognize and honor all of our 2023 graduates in worship on June 4, 2023. If you or a loved one have graduated from high school, trade school, or college this year, please contact Chuck at the church office with the name of the graduate and their contact information. We'd like to invite them to share their accomplishments and dreams in worship and in our newsletter.

Please mark your calendars on June 4 where we will honor and celebrate with our recent graduates in worship and in the fellowship time after worship.

Alive Music Festival The high school youth group (current 8th-12th graders) will be attending the Alive Music Festival in Mineral City, Ohio. We will be leaving July 12th and returning very late on July 15th. If you are interested in attending please talk to Rebecca.

Peder & Allison Eide Concert May 31st We heard them at Youth Quake and now Peder and Allison Eide are coming to Jackson Center, Wednesday May 31st from 5:30-9:30pm. Eric and Anna Hagen (Pastor Melodi's husband and oldest daughter) have worked hard to bring Peder and Allison to the first ever Community Faith Night at the Jackson Center Community Days celebration. All youth, families, and friends are encouraged to attend this **free event**. If you are interested in carpooling, please contact Rebecca Van Meter.

Family Life Center Walk for Life is June 3rd Help the Family Life Center reach out with a message of help and hope to at-risk women. Please sign up to be a Walker in this year's Walk for Life! Join us at the Walk for Life on Saturday, June 3rd from 9:30 AM- 11:30 AM at the Wapak Track on 400 W. Harrison Street in Wapakoneta.

Vacation Bible School Registration Has Begun! VBS is June 5-9. The registration form is attached and printed copies are available at the church and in the church office for both kids and volunteers. Completed registrations are due by May 22nd to guarantee that your child receives a shirt. We can't wait to spend a stellar week together shining Jesus' light!

Wedding Dress Donation for Morgan's Place On Sunday, March 19 our members heard a Temple Talk by Mollie Verdier telling us about **Morgan's Place Cemetery**, whose mission is to assist bereaved families throughout the grieving process when experiencing the loss of a baby. A part of their mission involves making burial outfits for the babies from used wedding gowns. We would like to invite anyone who has a gown they no longer need or want to store to consider donating it to Morgan's Place for this very important mission. The dresses can be brought to the church and we will see they get to Mollie and her volunteer seamstresses to use. Our Quilting Group will be making blankets for donation to <u>Morgan's Place</u> as well.

Summer Camp Please consider sending your child(ren) to HopeWood Camp this summer. HopeWood, formerly Lutheran Memorial Camp, is one of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry in Ohio (LOMO) camps. Camp Mowana was also a part of the LOMO camps. There are many weeks to choose from. This is a great opportunity to grow your child's faith in an amazing setting. FELC has always strongly supported our youth attending LOMO camps. FELC will pay the majority of our active youth to attend camp, leaving you to pay just \$100 for your first child attending, and just \$50 for each youth after that. Please let Rebecca know if you are registering your child for camp and are using one of the following codes.

To register go to:

https://www.lomocamps.org/ And use the appropriate codes: WAPANEW – for new campers to Hopewood WAPARETURN – for Makayla, Carlee, or Izzy



Flat Jesus is back!! This summer I hope you have a chance to get out an adventure. Your adventures may keep you close to home or may allow you to travel far way, no matter where your adventures lead, know that Jesus is always with you!

About 10 years ago at Synod Assembly I learned of a fun idea from our neighbors at Trinity Moulton, they were using Flat Jesus to remind themselves and others that Jesus is always with them. For a few summers FELC carried Flat Jesus around with us, he has joined us at the ocean, at the park, and he even went to Germany with some of our members in the summer of 2017, and now he is back.

This summer I invite you, young and old, to color and cut out your Flat Jesus and then take him with you everywhere you go. I invite you to share your adventures with the congregation, snap a picture of you and Flat Jesus, and email or text them back to me, <u>rgvanmeter@yahoo.com</u> or 419.230.4979. I will share your pictures with FELC's Facebook and Sunday morning screen announcements. While I am sharing your pictures I invite you to use your Flat Jesus to remind those around you and the little ones in your life the Jesus is always with you! Flat Jesus is a great way to share Jesus.

Sometimes our adventures lead us to the park, or the store, or to the doctor's office right here at home and sometimes they lead us to national parks or the ocean or to visit family far away, no matter where you go, remember **Jesus is always with you!**

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the hygiene kits service project to benefit the housing insecure individuals at Lutheran Social Services' Faith Mission in Columbus. With your help the Youth of First English packaged 57 hygiene kits. Each kit contains basic hygiene items such as body wash and deodorant and toothpaste and will be delivered to the LSS Faith Mission in Columbus in the coming weeks. A huge thank you also goes out to the middle school and high school youth who packaged the kits during the youth retreat in late April.

This project simply would not have been possible without our wonderful youth and generous congregation. You're all amazing!

-Vicar Deb Monnin and Rebecca Van Meter



Congratulations to our Confirmands!

Makenzie Faith Schneider and Matthew Joseph Kline



Matthew Joseph Kline

Matthew is the son of the late Jason Kline and Jennie and Jason Grundey. Matthew is an eighth grader at Wapakoneta High School. Matthew loves football and has played for the Redskins for the past two years. He is also on the track team and is a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Octagon Club.

Matthew enjoys watching college and professional football, collecting football cards, playing sports, hanging out with friends and family, camping, boating, and playing chess. Matthew sees God on nice days and when people do small but kind favors for him.

Makenzie Faith Schneider

Makenzie is the daughter of Ryan and Kara Schneider. Makenzie is an eighth grader at Wapakoneta High School. Kenzie participates in cross country, swimming, track, soccer, choir, Octagon Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and 4-H.

Kenzie enjoys reading, running, swimming, baking, singing, constructing Lego sets, and spending time with her family and friends. Kenzie feels that she experiences God's presence while she's volunteering and helping others, when she spends time with her family, and while she runs.











Announcements from Council

The council met on April 16, 2023, and we went through the business of the church listening to the finance reports and Vicar Deb's report.

We discussed the committee reports and dates of upcoming meetings and events from fellowship committee. Property items were discussed with getting bids for several jobs needing done such as cleaning windows, fixing fascia on our bell tower that was damaged in the tornado and exterior painting. Nitro roofing came in March and repaired leak from fellowship hall area and small hallway that wasn't part of our roof project.

Other highlights of the meeting were approving Paula Anderson as Chad Sterner's replacement as bookkeeper. Chuck will be taking over some added duties as well.

We also approved Vicar Deb's recommendation of Makenzie Schneider and Matthew Kline for confirmation.

We discussed at great lengths the intense but important joint meetings with the Internship Committee and Council and synod. We all would like to continue these meetings that are helping us to move forward together.

Vicar Deb graduates on May 20 and will be on vacation from May 17- 30th. On May 21 Pastor Melodi will be preaching and on May 28th Pastor Doug Meyer will be preaching.

We approved new members Michael and Hilary Roeger and family to First English. Welcome them when you see them!

We are always available to listen to any of your concerns and please know we are all committed to keeping First English here for many years, but it also takes commitment from everyone.

Thank you everyone! -Church Council

May 2023 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2	3 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir	4 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	5	6	
7 5 th Sunday of Easter Sunday School 9:00am Adult Worship @ 10am	8 6:30pm Worship & Music Committee	9	10 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	11 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ TBD	12	13	
14 6 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am	15	16	17 10am Quilting 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir	18 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	19	20 Vicar Deb's Baccalaureate	
21 7 th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Adult 9:15 & 11:15am Youth 9:45am Youth Choir Worship @ 10am Vicar Deb's Commencement Council Meeting after worship	22	23 6:00pm Ladies' Night @ Side Rail	24 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	25 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	26	27	
28 Pentecost Sunday Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am	29 Happy Memorial Day!	30	31 Peder & Allison Eide Jackson Center Community Days Community Faith Night 5:30-9:30pm				

June 2023 ~							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	2	3	
4 Trinity Sunday Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Honor Graduates	5 VBS 9am-noon	6 VBS 9am-noon	VBS 9am-noon 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts	8 VBS 9am-noon 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes 6pm Men's Night @ TBD	9 VBS 9am-noon	10	
11 2 nd Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am VBS Presentation	12	13	14 12:00pm Prayer @Trinity 5:00pm Prayer @FELC Girl Scouts 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Choir	15 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	16	17	
18 ^{3rd Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am}	19	20 6:00pm Ladies' Night @TBD	12:00pm	22 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	23	24	
25 4 th Sunday of Pentecost Adult Sunday School @ 9am Worship @ 10am Council Meeting after worship	26	27	28	29 4:30pm Community Loaves & Fishes	30		