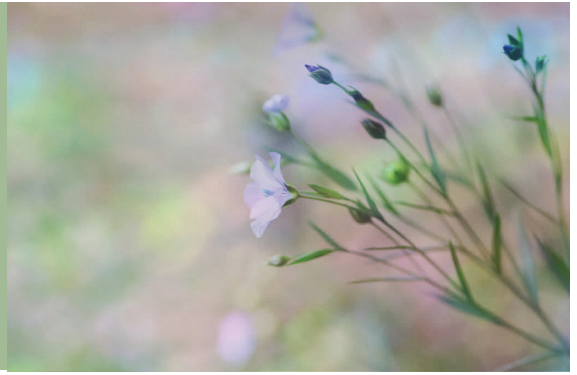


PASTOR'S PARAGRAPHS



We have a forty day journey in Lent to prepare for Calvary and the open tomb. The guiding principle for the pilgrim on his Lenten journey is that of emptying self to provide a place for Jesus to fill, i.e. the more one is full of self, the less room for Jesus! This is very much the attitude of John the Baptizer: "I must decrease so that he may increase." The disciplines of Lent, i.e., repentance, reflection, abstinence, or penance point the pilgrim to Christ's suffering and cross as the result of his life lived in rebellion and self-centeredness. Personally, for my sin Christ died. How beneficial that we have these forty days to take the pilgrim's journey, to set aside those things that cling to us and to which we cling, to become small that Christ might loom ever larger for us. In order to better strive for this decrease of self, we are given the disciplines of Lent to aid us. We control our appetite. We quiet our mind. We renew our hope. And, we anticipate the celebration of the cross and resurrection! The journey with me into Lent.

Suggestion: If you are not in the habit of daily immersion in the Word, choose one of the Gospels and read a chapter each day. When complete, choose another and repeat.

The senseless loss of young lives has splashed across our screens again. This time in Broward County Florida. What an horrific display of unbridled evil. As columnist Peggy Noonan of the Wall Street Journal asserted: It is in the air we breathe! The talking heads have posited solutions ranging from emphasis on gun control to mental health to non-existing families to cultural rot. There are salient points in most of these but what I am not hearing from "the experts" is the downward spiral of a society without a solid foundation and relationship with its Creator and Redeemer. The further God is pushed out of our daily activity as a nation, the more sinful human nature takes the wheel. The results are always disastrous. Just read the headlines, or better yet, read the Scriptures which document the course of human nature. I am not advocating nostalgia for the 50s but a return to walking the way outlined by our Father who knows the end of things. He has watched us over the millennia destroy what he intended and knows the way out. Left unchecked, we will no doubt continue to rot. Knowing that our wants and thoughts are subservient to his will, not ours, rights the ship and changes the direction. That change, brother and sisters, begins with you and me as the catalysts. It starts with a daily renewed relationship with our merciful and gracious Father in our baptism, daily witness based on the Word, regular and steady attendance in Word and Sacrament on Sunday morning, engaging the market place with our Christian presence, serving our neighbor selflessly and acknowledging we are not in charge. We exist as creatures of the Creator. What better time than Lent to repent (*literally: turn back*)!

Easter arrives early in 2018. At the end of March we will once again engage the drama of Holy Week: triumphant entry, teaching, Last Supper, betrayal, trial and crucifixion, burial and, wait for it..., resurrection!! We begin the week of 25 March with Palm/Passion Sunday. These events in the life of Jesus are just what we are now preparing for during these forty days.

CONFIRMATION:

Our annual Confirmation Retreat takes place March 2-4. All of our students and their instructors will spend the weekend at Camp Lone Star outside of LaGrange, TX for a weekend of study, worship, challenge, and fun. This year's theme is: "The Journey." Please pray for our Confirmation students as they prepare to publicly confess the faith we all share in Jesus Christ and take responsibility for their continued growth in the Faith.

LENT PHOTO CHALLENGE:

Remember the Advent Photo challenge? We are going to try the same thing again for Lent with a few changes. Instead of one each day, we have a theme for each week. There will be a handout with each week's theme in the Narthex every Sunday morning in Lent. Post your photo challenge pictures to your social media accounts using the hashtags: #hopelutheranfwd and #lentenhope. Not a hashtag fan or social media user? Email your photos to Krista or Robin. kbeken@hopelutheran.org or robing@hope-lutheran.org. We are planning to display our member photos on campus during Lent.

Notes from Pastor Jon

WITNESS:

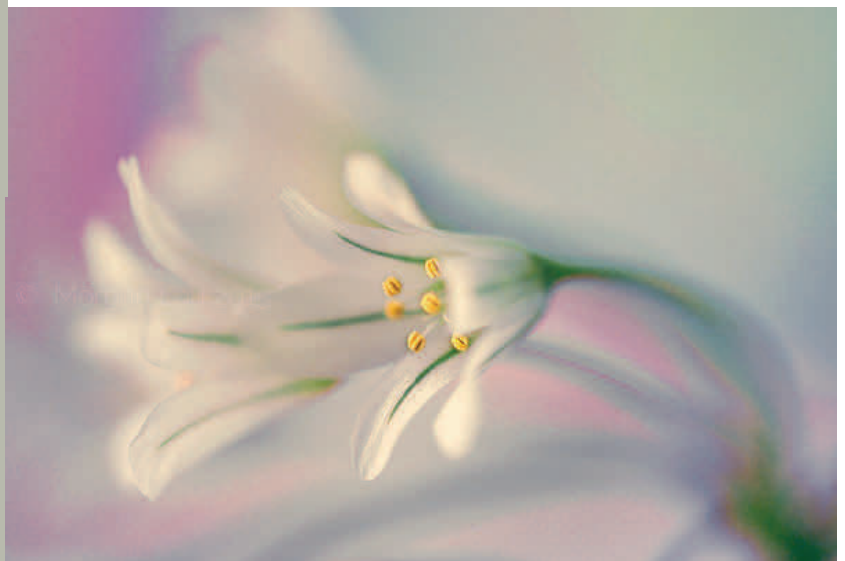
Our first Every One His Witness workshop was held last month. Honestly, I was hoping to get two, maybe four people to participate. And 19 signed up! Thank you so much to all of those who signed up and participated. A comment from a workshop participant:

"Every day we go into the marketplace working on something that is a challenge with people who are not always doing God's will. And at the end of the day, the work isn't meaningful. (In the workshop) you learn to execute The Great Commission, for someone you love but is broken and has no source of hope in their life...It's incredible and learning some methods is so important."

The workshop doesn't give you a script, a couple of Bible verses, and then send you door-to-door. The goal is to instill in you a witness mindset and then give you a methodology - framework to guide your process of witnessing to unchurched and de-churched people you already know. Think of all the people you know at work, at school, on your team, in your neighborhood, or even in your own family who don't know of the love God has for them through His Son Jesus Christ! You can be a witness to them. We plan to have more workshops in the future in order to begin to equip more of you to be Christ's witnesses in the world.

His Peace Be with You,

Pastor Jon





Music Ministry

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I, that for my sake,
My Lord should take frail flesh and die?

The season of Lent is upon us. It is time to reflect on the Christ's sacrifice for us with His death upon the cross. As you journey through Lent, please come and join us for Lenten worship on Wednesdays at 7:00pm. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer as our order of worship.

The end of our Lenten journey will bring us to the Festival of the Resurrection on April 1st. We are looking for singers for the Easter worship services for the Hallelujah Chorus and Festival Alleluia. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday nights at 7:45pm. Please join us!

May God Bless Your Lenten Journey,
Stephanie Poyner
Director of Music

March 4th
Celebration Bells

March 11th
Adult Choir, Orchestra, Jubilate Bells

March 18th
Guitar Solo (Happy Birthday Bach!)

March 25th Palm/Passion Sunday
Adult Choir with Children's Choir &
Celebration Bells



Youth Ministry

By the time you read this there is a good chance the hype will have died down again, the headlines and 24 hour news feeds will have moved on and we will have settled back into the safety of routine again. The patrol cars in the high school parking lots will return to their regular numbers though somewhere, in the background of our consciousness, there will continue a static buzz of awareness that safety remains a concern. I won't wax political on gun control or get on my soap box over the sad state of mental health care options—there are already plenty of people not listening on either side of those fences. The critical thing for each of us walking the daily routine is listening—just listening. As parents of teens it can be frustrating—there often seems nothing to listen to, only grunts, mhms and sighs but persistence is important and being available when they are ready (even though it's not your ideal time) can be critical. Clinical psychologist, Dr. Ruth Peters shares, "Getting your kids to confide in you is tricky business, but if you are sensitive and patient, they'll learn to trust your heart and your judgement." Tap into the resources on your school campus and within your faith family to create a support network around your kids. Perhaps too, you'll find along your path, someone with no one to listen and maybe you can pause and open your heart to that one too—how might we change the world with a few more pauses?

Parents of graduating seniors! Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 13 during the 11:00am service when we will bring our young people forward for a time of blessing. Families will be welcome to create a table in the great room to share more about their graduate and enjoy a reception among their faith family.

Have ideas for summer service projects? We are pinning down the projects for our Sunday summer serve dates, July 8, 15, and 22—we'd love to hear your ideas and help YOU plan a project to lead!



Do you have a Thrivent account? Do you know about Thrivent Action Teams? As a Thrivent member you are empowered to create service projects through Hope and in the community. Many have already tapped into this resource for projects like Hopefest, quilts for Camp Hope, youth fund raising, music ministry, aid to Harvey victims and more. Come and learn more in a Thrivent Action Team workshop, Sunday March 25th at 12:15.

What is Lent?

How do we explain the idea and meaning of Lent to the children around us? There are soup suppers at the church on Wednesday nights, the color on the altar is purple, and sometimes people give up special foods or things for Lent, but why?

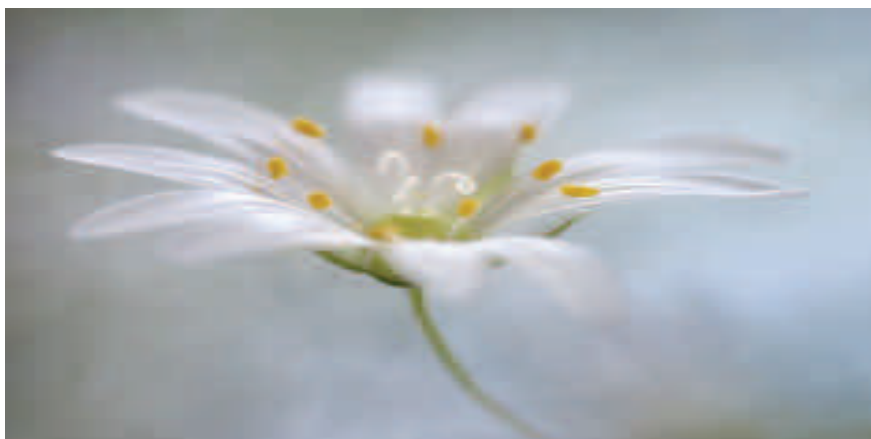
Lent is the time to help us prepare for the joy of Easter that comes because Christ rose from the dead. We take time to think about why Jesus had to die on the cross for us, and we remember that Jesus loves us SO MUCH that He was willing to do just that – die on that cross to save us from our sins.

Soup suppers on Wednesday nights are a wonderful fellowship opportunity before our special Lenten services. The paraments are purple as a sign that we are sorry for our sins and also for royalty – that we should bow penitently before the King. Giving up food or special things during Lent is a personal choice. If giving something up helps someone feel closer to the Lord, or helps him or her better understand Christ's suffering, then that is a private choice for that person.

During Lent, take time to talk with your children about Christ's suffering and why it had to be, remembering to emphasize that because of that suffering, we are forgiven, and that on Easter, Jesus rose and is alive. Perhaps seek out a Lenten devotional to share as a family, or come to the soup suppers and Wednesday night services. Help your children understand and appreciate this season of the church, and your Easter celebration may be more joyful than ever this year.

Krista Beken
Director of Children's Ministries

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6



Internet Connection:

Robin, Pastor Ralph, and I had the opportunity to attend the D6 Conference in Dallas this past Fall. One of the speakers I most enjoyed was Christina Embree. She is the Director of Children and Family Ministries at a church in Kentucky, and her presentation stuck with me throughout the conference and even after we returned. I searched and found a blog that she writes, and I am sharing the link to one of her blog entries here:

<https://refocusministry.org/2018/02/15/what-do-i-remind-you-of/>

I encourage you to read her thoughts, think about your families "We always" moments, and consider ways you can include your faith in those moments.

Mark your Calendars -

SWAT is on a Lenten break

Watch the bulletin, Facebook, and your e-mail for information on the date we'll resume in April.

Vacation Bible School

Shipwrecked ... Rescued by Jesus
June 18th – 22nd, 2018, 9am – Noon

*Children's
Ministries*

Columbarium Committee Update

Columbarium Background:

A Columbarium is an arrangement of niches into which an urn or urns containing the cremated remains of a deceased loved one is placed for permanent inurnment. The cremated remains of the body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came. Reverent disposition of the cremated remains in accordance to the Lutheran Church means remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or Columbarium. The Hope Lutheran Columbarium niches are designed to hold two vase or box style urns, so up to two people can be inurned in a single niche.

Construction:

Construction of the Hope Lutheran Columbarium is continuing. The location between the CFD and Sanctuary has been raised to get it above the 500 year flood plain. The foundation has been completed and the paver walkway, pad, and stone benches have been installed. The landscaping, final grading, installation of sod, and modification of the irrigation system should be completed in March. The contract has been let for fabrication of the Columbarium and it is expected to be delivered and installed in June.

Construction Sale Continuing:

Thank you again to those members who have already purchased niches – this has allowed us to proceed with construction. Until construction is completed the sale of the niches at the pre-construction price of \$ 3,000 per niche will continue. The Columbarium Committee has decided to offer an initial operation price of \$ 3,500 per niche from July 1 through December 31, 2018, at which time the price will increase to \$ 4,000 per niche.

If you are interested in purchase of a Columbarium niche or have questions related to the Columbarium Ministry please contact the Church office or one of the Committee members; Harold Benson, Margie Riley, Katherine Kohn, or Bruce Hunter.

Women of Hope

Save the Date! Our third biannual Women's Retreat is scheduled for the weekend of February 8-10, 2019 at the beautiful Camp Allen in Navasota.

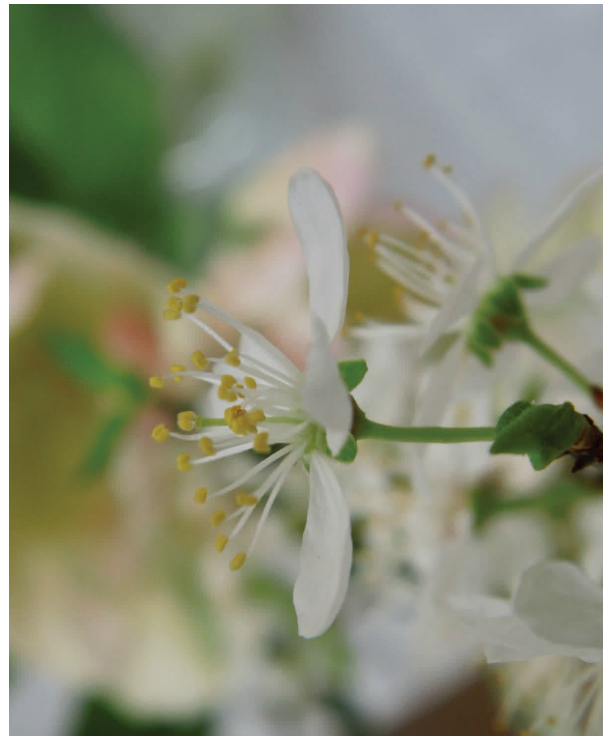
More details will be coming, but for now, mark your calendar and save a weekend for yourself to be treated, rested, refreshed and inspired. We anticipate opening registration in April.

How *sweet* this will be! Please plan to join us and bring a friend or three!



Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, March 25	
Palm Sunday	8:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday	11:00 a.m.
Thursday, March 29	
Seder Meal	6:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service / Stripping of the Altar	7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 30	
Good Friday Tenebrae	7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 31	
Vigil of Easter	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 1	
Sunrise Service	6:00 a.m.
Easter Service	8:00 a.m.
Easter Service	9:30 a.m.
Easter Service	11:00 a.m.



Passover Seder / Maundy Thursday Worship

Come and celebrate the Passover Seder with us on Thursday, March 29th at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center (gym). As an integral part of our Maundy Thursday Holy Week Worship Service, the Altar Guild will be hosting a Symbolic Seder Meal for our members and guests. This elaborate service, led by Pastor Ralph, is a wonderful teaching and learning experience that will allow the gathered community to participate symbolically in the story of salvation.

Of special note: The Seder Meal service will be followed by the Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service, and concluded with the ceremonial "Stripping of the Altar" by the Altar Guild in the Sanctuary. We hope that your worship experience during the Passover Seder and Maundy Thursday Worship is a blessed one.

The Altar Guild

 **Family Promise**

Transforming the lives of
homeless families in the
Clear Lake area!

Open House
Celebrating Our 1st Year!
Sunday, March 18th
1:00pm - 5:00pm

Family Promise Day Center
1101 S. Egret Bay Blvd.
League City, TX 77573

We will be collecting lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet
paper, paper towels, hand soap, 409 cleaner, Windex,
and Lysol Wipes. Thank you for your support!

Fund raiser

The 2019 Women's Retreat Planning Committee will be sponsoring a ham/turkey fund raiser through Honeybaked Hams. This is an excellent time to begin planning your special Easter dinner while helping the committee raise funds to offset some of the retreat expenses.

You may order a ham, turkey breast or gift card (\$25 or \$50) and they will be delivered to Hope a few days before Easter. No standing in line at Honeybaked Hams! We will begin taking orders in March (after both services). Pick-up times will be announced in the bulletin at a later date.

Call Gail Akins (281-992-3477) for details.

Easter Lilies / Hydrangeas

The Altar Guild will be accepting flower orders from those wishing to help decorate our Chancel and Nave for Easter. We will be offering decoratively wrapped 6.5-inch Easter Lilies (\$7.00/eh) and 8-inch Hydrangeas 5+blooms (\$14.00). An Easter Flower Donor List will be published in the Worship Bulletins on Resurrection Sunday. ***Look for ordering details in the upcoming Sunday Bulletins.***



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- Kay Warren
Saddleback Church

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- Los Angeles Times

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Sundays: 10am - 7pm

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	ANNUAL PLAN	Y-T-D PLAN	Y-T-D ACTUAL	% OF PLAN
Operating Receipts	\$1,046,393.00	\$875,632.67	\$748,060.10	85.43%
Early Childhood Tithe	\$45,000.00	\$36,750.00	\$36,750.00	100.00%
Total Receipts	\$1,091,393.00	\$912,382.67	\$784,810.10	86.02%
Outreach	\$74,268.00	\$61,427.20	\$36,556.98	59.51%
Education	\$8,850.00	\$5,617.07	\$3,824.00	68.08%
Children	\$2,300.00	\$786.18	\$643.00	81.79%
Youth	\$13,200.00	\$9,439.35	\$8,224.95	87.13%
Music	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,953.54	99.23%
Assimilation	\$500.00	\$125.64	\$22.48	17.89%
Misc. Ministries	\$10,050.00	\$6,780.26	\$4,290.25	63.28%
Personnel	\$637,288.00	\$518,570.42	\$512,946.87	98.92%
Finance	\$62,187.00	\$51,822.50	\$31,354.06	60.50%
Facilities	\$227,150.00	\$161,299.14	\$124,941.00	77.46%
Office & Worship	\$40,600.00	\$32,570.83	\$25,317.09	77.73%
Omnibus	\$9,000.00	\$4,980.00	\$4,517.69	90.72%
Total Expenditures	\$1,091,393.00	\$859,418.59	\$758,591.91	88.27%
Income Less Expenses		\$52,964.08	\$26,218.19	

Debt: \$1,115,468.68

**Fiscal Year (04/01/17 - 03/31/18)
As of January 2018**



Lyzdeanna Cox	3/1	Liana Yarborough	3/14	Andrew & Haley Eaves	3/3
Lori Grosse	3/1	Paul Kroesen	3/15	Steve & Jean Tubbs	3/7
Jacob Johnson	3/1	Elaine Schroeder	3/15	Richard & Cheryl Wilson Jr.	3/8
Roy Weiland	3/1	Lane Kroesen	3/16	Michael & Diane Matthijetz	3/14
Gregory Williams	3/1	David Mustain	3/16	Daniel & Veronica Matula	3/14
Michael Heinlein	3/2	Dale Jorgenson	3/17	Boyd & Becky White	3/15
John Mankowski	3/3	Kurt Rathjen	3/18	Stephen & Joan Sikes	3/21
Sven Bors-Koefoed	3/5	Norma Ross	3/18	Matthew & Nova Chauvin	3/22
Jonathan Cox	3/5	Mitchell Ahrens	3/19	Shawn & Christine Birch	3/28
Collin Rhodes	3/5	Alisa Russo	3/19	Paul & Karen Newhoff	3/31
Travis Rhodes	3/5	Olivia Beken	3/20	James & Linda Rebstock	3/31
Carolyn Ricaldi	3/5	Linda Davis	3/20		
Harold Benson	3/6	Roger Hibbs	3/20		
Brian Chapin	3/6	Dwain Akins	3/21		
Ezekiel Eckeberger	3/6	Dorrie Tomayko	3/22		
Robin Hall	3/6	Patricia Jensen	3/23		
Sheri Petering	3/6	Brian Tomayko	3/23		
LilaJan Hibbs	3/7	Kyle King	3/24		
Betty Johnson	3/7	Niels Aalund	3/25		
Luke Van Chau	3/7	Kendra Kaderka	3/25		
Margie Riley	3/8	Shawn Merrell	3/25		
Dick Castille	3/9	Isaac Hedgecock	3/27		
Jonathan Hawkins	3/9	Bryce Hovorka	3/27		
Riley Heinlein	3/9	Bill Frank	3/28		
Sandra McHone	3/9	Brandon Matthijetz	3/28		
Nathan Jensen	3/10	Kayla Petersen	3/28		
Brady Mittendorf	3/10	Stephanie Poyner	3/28		
Michele Albrecht	3/12	Bruce Hunter	3/30		
Meadow Gette	3/12	Lisa Muniz	3/30		
Katherine Harclerode	3/13	Bailey Dippel	3/31		
Arthur Klein	3/13	Jenna White	3/31		

Birthdays and Anniversaries

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
March 2018						
3/4/2018	3/5/2018	3/6/2018	3/7/2018	3/8/2018	3/9/2018	3/10/2018
CONFIRMATION RETREAT						
Eucharist 8:00 AM BUILD 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM High School Small Groups 9:45 AM History of Christianity 9:45 AM Men's Ministry 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video Discussion Group 9:45 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM Evangelism Workshop 12:30 PM Basketball (Haverty) 5:00 PM Small Group (Butler) 5:00 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:00 AM TT Parent Study 12:00 PM Hope Woodwinds 8:00 AM Hope Brass 10:00 AM Jubilate Bells 3:30 PM Volleyball 4:00 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:00 AM TT Parent Study 12:00 PM Hope Woodwinds 8:00 AM Hope Brass 10:00 AM Jubilate Bells 3:30 PM Volleyball 4:00 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 10:00 AM Small Group (Ericksen) 6:30 PM Children's Chorus 7:00 PM Soup Supper Basketball (Haverty) 6:30 PM Celebration Bells 7:00 PM Lent Worship Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:00 AM Lakeview Quilt Guild 9:30 AM Small Group (Women's) 7:00 PM	8:22/2018 Upward Practice 6:00 PM Small Group (Hinga) 7:00 PM	8:22/2018 CONFIRMATION RETREAT 6:00 PM Upward Games 8:00 AM
3/11/2018	3/12/2018	3/13/2018	3/14/2018	3/15/2018	3/16/2018	3/17/2018
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS						
RAD WOMEN						
Eucharist 8:00 AM BUILD 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM Confirmation 9:45 AM High School Small Groups 9:45 AM History of Christianity 9:45 AM Men's Ministry 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video Discussion Group 9:45 AM Women's Study Group 9:45 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM	9:00 AM Quilting 9:15 AM Staff Meeting 9:45 AM Volleyball 4:30 PM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM	9:00 AM Hope Woodwinds 9:00 AM Ladies Guild 4:30 PM Hope Brass 7:00 PM Jubilate Bells 7:00 PM	6:30 PM Basketball (Haverty) 6:30 PM Celebration Bells 7:00 PM Lent Worship 7:30 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM	Small Group (Hinga) 7:00 PM	Small Group (Petersen) 6:30 PM	<i>Newsletter Deadline</i>
3/18/2018	3/19/2018	3/20/2018	3/21/2018	3/22/2018	3/23/2018	3/24/2018
Eucharist 8:00 AM BUILD 9:15 AM Visitors' Assembly Meeting 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM Confirmation 9:45 AM High School Small Groups 9:45 AM History of Christianity 9:45 AM Men's Ministry 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video Discussion Group 9:45 AM Women's Study Group 9:45 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM Basketball (Haverty) 5:00 PM Small Group (Butler) 5:00 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:00 AM Staff Meeting 9:45 AM Small Group (Henderson) 9:45 AM Girl Scouts 3:30 PM Volleyball 4:30 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:00 AM TT Parent Study 12:00 PM Hope Woodwinds 8:00 PM Hope Brass 10:00 AM Jubilate Bells 3:30 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 10:00 AM Small Group (Ericksen) 6:30 PM Children's Chorus 7:00 PM Soup Supper Basketball (Haverty) 6:30 PM Celebration Bells 7:00 PM Lent Worship Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:00 AM Study Group Series 9:30 AM Falm Branch Parade 1:10 PM Board of Directors' Meeting 7:00 PM Small Group (Women's) 7:00 PM	Altar Guild Breakfast Mtg. 9:00 AM Altar Guild Workshop 9:00 AM	
3/25/2018	3/26/2018	3/27/2018	3/28/2018	3/29/2018	3/30/2018	3/31/2018
Eucharist 8:00 AM BUILD 9:15 AM Adult Bible Study 9:45 AM Confirmation 9:45 AM High School Small Groups 9:45 AM History of Christianity 9:45 AM Men's Ministry 9:45 AM Sunday School 9:45 AM Together with Jesus 9:45 AM Video Discussion Group 9:45 AM Women's Study Group 9:45 AM Eucharist 11:00 AM First Communion Class 12:30 PM Trivert Meeting 12:30 PM Basketball (Haverty) 5:00 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:00 AM Quilting 9:45 AM Staff Meeting 9:45 AM Stephen Ministry 7:00 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:00 AM TT Parent Study 12:00 PM Hope Woodwinds 8:00 PM Hope Brass 10:00 AM Jubilate Bells 3:30 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 10:00 AM Children's Chorus 6:30 PM Celebration Bells 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir 7:30 PM	9:00 AM Preschool / MDO 9:00 AM Sealer Meal 6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30 PM Stripping of the Altar 7:30 PM	Good Friday Tenebrae 7:30 PM	Vigil of Easter 7:30 PM



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Jonathan E. Petering, Associate Pastor