



VOICE OF GRACE

Vol. 57 April/May 2026

Triumph!

Triumph over seven deadly sins? Not just seven, but Christ defeated ALL sin, each and every one of them. He even triumphed over our sinful condition. He defeated the tempter of sin (the Devil) as well as the consequence of sin (Eternal Death.) Even better, His triumph is our triumph. He did it all for you. By grace through faith in Him, His victory is yours. Now, sins do not trap you, the devil does not have power over you, and death does not hold you.

How are we so sure of this? EASTER! The fact that Christ rose from the dead proves that He did not have to die. He chose to die. He wanted to defeat the enemy in your place and mine, so He took up all of our sins, suffered and died for them. His Resurrection proves that the Father accepted His sacrifice on our behalf. We've been forgiven all of our sins, released from the consequence of eternal death, AND are now set free to live with power over temptation. Our own victorious resurrection over death awaits us!

There are many truths to consider from the significance of Christ's resurrection, but when it comes to defeating deadly sins, here's a great truth to consider: We're now living on the Easter side of Good Friday. As believers in Christ, we're not fighting for triumph but from it. We fight against temptation based on the victory Christ has already achieved for us. Let the significance of this truth inspire you this Easter season.

With faith in your resurrected Lord, those deadly

sins of pride, envy, greed, wrath, gluttony, lust, and sloth have been replaced with generosity, selflessness, peace, moderation, contentment, and zeal for God. Instead of living to satisfy your flesh's desires and the world's whimsical cravings, you hunger and thirst for the righteousness of God. Your soul pants for the Living Waters of Your Savior as you now live for Him. What does this look like?

It looks like you turning the other cheek when an insult slaps you in the face and responding to harsh words with gentleness. It looks like you forgiving and moving on instead of getting stuck in bitter revenge and being consumed by wrath. It looks like you taking time to listen to a troubled friend and ministering to a hurting soul. It's going the extra mile for others. It's hugging the lonely and feeding the hungry. It occurs when you see a need and are determined, to the glory of God, to meet that need. It's you moving out of your comfort zone and telling someone what Christ has done for you and what He will do for them.

Every time these things happen in your life – that's victory. And it's happening! It's your triumph in Jesus. whose Spirit lives in you! Thanks be to God.

Pastor Charles Reich

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Vacation Bible School is coming!

Join us **June 8 - 12 from 8:30 AM to noon** each day for an exciting week of adventure at Rainforest Falls VBS. Kids will explore the wonders of God's creation while learning how God's love refreshes our hearts like a waterfall in the rainforest. Through Bible stories, music, games, crafts, and snacks, children will discover that God's love is always flowing and never runs dry.

We are also looking for volunteers to help make this week possible. Whether you enjoy leading a group, helping with crafts, serving snacks, decorating, or simply encouraging kids, there is a place for you.

Come be part of a week filled with faith, fun, and growing together in God's love.

Look out for our sign-up on Facebook, Instagram, and in our weekly emails! Email Mrs. Casey at cbillman@glwh.org for more information.

SMALL GROUP SERIES: ONE PAGERS

One Page, One Chapter, One Big Gospel

'One Pagers' is a 5-6 week small group study on the one page books of the Bible. These are: Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, 3 John & Jude.

Small group study will begin the week of April 19th.

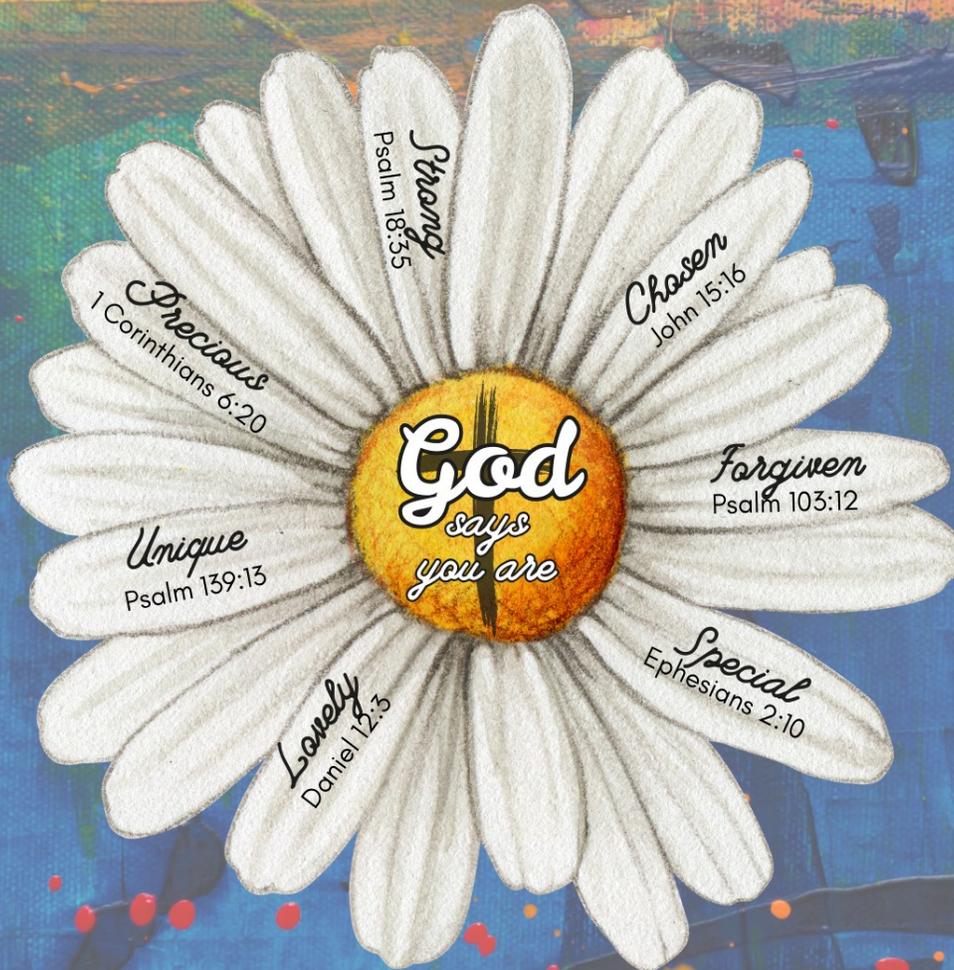
If you are new to our small group ministry or need a new meeting day/time please sign up by scanning the QR code.



Calling Jedi, Sith, Mandalorians, and Wookies alike! Come join Grace Lutheran Church and School on Tuesday, May 5, in Trinity Hall for a special Revenge of the Fifth Star Wars Party! There will be "cantina" snacks and awesome crafts while we watch "Star Wars: A New Hope"! Dress up as your favorite character, bring your friends, and let's celebrate 49 years of Star Wars!



God Says You are...



Mini Retreat at
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Saturday, April 18, 2026
Trinity Hall
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
\$10 (Includes lunch)
Guest Speaker: Donna Vasher
Hosted by Grace's
Women's Ministry Martha Circle



We would again like to thank you (our generous congregation) for supporting our February Bake Sale. The success of this event allows us to continue supporting our various mission projects and our two seminarian students.

We all enjoyed "Quilt Sunday" recently with all the beautiful quilts displayed throughout the sanctuary. Our quilting ladies this year had 196 quilts displayed and then later that week shipped along with other Lutheran churches throughout the country for Lutheran World Relief to distribute to various countries. People living in warm climate countries will use them as sleeping mats (beds), while those in colder climates use them for warmth. The donations you generously gave in the envelopes fastened to the back of the pews were used toward shipping costs and materials for future quilts, already underway by our ladies. Thank you for your support.

Please mark your calendars to attend our ladies retreat **Saturday, April 18, from 9 AM til 3 PM**. Our speaker will be Donna Vasher on the topic "God Says You Are..!" All ladies are invited, and you're welcome to bring a friend or neighbor with you. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served at a cost of \$10 per person.

Hope to see a large group of ladies that day!

Please remember we have our packs of note cards in Trinity Hall, 8 cards for \$5. These have beautiful pictures on the front and are blank inside for your personal message. These are for various occasions.

Martha Circle will not meet in July and August for our summer break. The quilting ministry continues meeting every Thursday during the summer. Martha Circle resumes in September the second Thursday of the month; we invite all Grace ladies to join us for Bible study, great discussion, and fellowship.

Grace Bytes

Second Tuesday each Month at 5:30 PM

If you are interested in learning about the Bible and Lutheran theology, please join us for Grace Bytes on the second Tuesday of each month starting in the sanctuary for a short time of prayer at 5:30 PM. We will then go to the Mary-Martha room for pizza, learning, and discussions led by Vicar Stephen Moore and Pastor Charles Reich. Bring a friend, your questions, and join us!

Tuesday, April 14 - 5:30 PM - Meet in the Sanctuary

February's Topic: **Salvation Grounded in History: The Exodus** - Led by Vicar Stephen Moore

Tuesday, May 12 - 5:30 PM - Meet in the Sanctuary

February's Topic: **Christ Ascended to Heaven. What Does this Mean?** - Led by Pastor Charles Reich

If you have any questions, please call the church office and speak to Michelle at 863.293.8447, or email mreddick@glwh.org. Looking forward to seeing you there.

MUSIC NOTES

LSB 458 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

- 3 Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down,
His people to deliver;
Destroying sin, He took the crown
From death's pale brow forever:
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
An empty form alone remains;
Its sting is lost forever.
Alleluia!
- 5 Here our true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree—
So strong His love—to save us.
See, His blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us.
Alleluia!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.

God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to save it and not to condemn it (John 3:16-17). This we celebrate most prominently in the Festival of Easter every year, yet it is the truth we proclaim every day. Martin Luther, in his Easter hymn, writes with great imagery, showing how Christ came and destroyed sin through the image of one king taking the crown away from another. Death has died; its sting is lost forever. Luther continues in another part of the hymn using the idea of the Passover event (found in Genesis 12). The Lamb's blood marks our door as redeemed; Satan cannot harm us! For all this we say - Alleluia!

Thomas Schulteis
Dir. of Worship Arts (Organist)

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry at Grace is an extension of the pastoral offices which brings one-on-one ministry by trained, caring members who extend Christ's healing love to those who are lonely, grieving, ill or experiencing other crises or stresses in life.

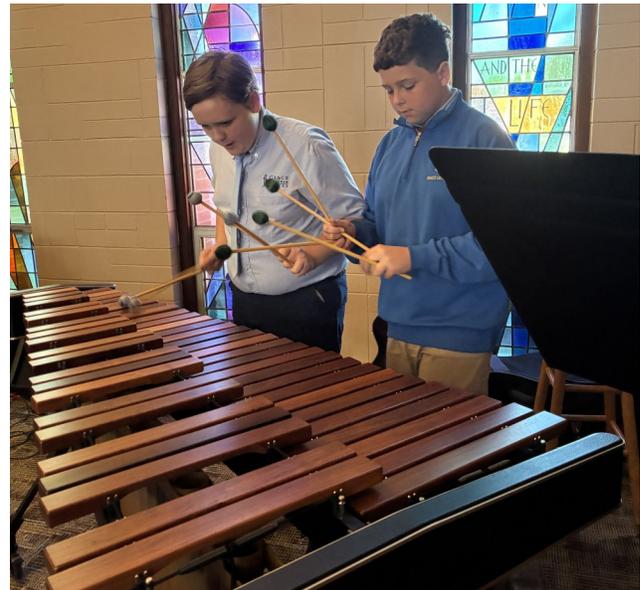


Stephen Ministers are there:

- **after** the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- **after** the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.
- **after** the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.
- **after** the doctors says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."
- **after** the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- **after** the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away - and the house suddenly seems empty.
- **after** the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.
- **after** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.
- **after** you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.
- **after** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Since 1979, Grace Lutheran Church has trained over 200 Stephen Ministers and they, in turn, have helped over 800 hurting souls. Please contact Sharon Wilson at 863-293-8447.

Grace Lutheran's "School of Rock!"



This spring, one group of 7th graders is attending the School of Rock! Well, maybe they are learning more than Rock...actually they are learning about the wonders of all types of musical instruments! Our Musical Instrument Survey class is providing the students with the opportunity to journey through six different families of instruments: Keyboards, Strings, Percussion, Woodwinds, Brass, and Electronics. During the study of each instrument family, students are schooled on the variety of instruments that comprises the family and the mechanics behind them. Here at Grace, we are blessed with so many musicians who love our students. Each unit of classroom learning is accompanied by live demonstrations from our gifted Grace staff or friends! At the start of the semester, we studied the Keyboard family and were blessed by live demonstrations of the keyboard and piano given by Diane Lambert of our Fine Arts School; our own Thomas Schulteis gave a full presentation on the Organ as well! For our second unit, the Strings Family, students had the chance to see a variety of guitars and bass played and presented by our long-time bass player and guitar teacher, Jay Nerove. On the classical side of strings, the class was serenaded by our beloved Associate Pastor Steve Braun! As of spring break, the students are working on the Percussion family with visits from both Gene Ennis and Peter Carrerou, drummers from our Contemporary Service. Mr. Ennis gave each student new drum sticks during a lesson on the drum kit, and Mr. Carrerou showed the students what the timpani can do in our beautiful sanctuary along with other concert percussion! Coming soon will be the final three units featuring more Grace family like Mr. Jon Peterson on the saxophone! One of the goals in Lutheran education is to create a well-rounded child. What better way to spark interest in something new than to see it (and touch it) first-hand! We are so grateful to have the support of so many people in bringing high-quality, fun learning to the children God has placed in our care. Thank you, Grace family! If you have a gift you'd like to share with our students (musical or not) let me know! We would love to have you in class!



Grace Lutheran Church Sunshine Club News



April 9 (2nd Thursday due to Holy Week) “Christ Unlimited” musical group entertains us this month. Gathering time 11-11:30 AM, lunch at noon and program at 12:30. Bring a pot luck dish or dessert to share. Fried chicken provided. A thank offering is collected. Join us in Trinity Hall for food and fellowship.



Thursday, May 7 - 10:00 AM - Movie and Brown Bag lunch (Bring your own lunch). Join us in the Mary/Martha room for the movie, “Soul on Fire,” a biographical drama about John O’Leary, a St Louis native who survived severe burns from a childhood accident. It’s a faith-based story about resilience, courage, and finding purpose after trauma. A truly inspirational story. Root beer and coke ice cream floats will be provided.

One of the most active groups (1961-present) in our church community, Sunshine club focuses on individuals and couples, providing social interaction, support and spiritual growth. Join us the first Thursday of the month for food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

VOTERS'

Meeting

SUNDAY, MAY 17
TRINITY HALL | 9:45 AM

Treasurer's Report for the Eight Months Ending February 28, 2025

	Current Month Actual	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance
Church				
Income	\$ 107,396.81	\$ 984,016.35	\$ 997,733.28	\$ (13,716.93)
Expenses	\$ 100,697.88	\$ 903,356.83	\$ 953,561.78	\$ (50,204.95)
Total Net Income (Loss) Church	\$ 6,698.93	\$ 80,659.52	\$ 44,171.50	\$ 36,488.02
School				
Income	\$ 766,595.85	\$ 3,263,458.79	\$ 3,335,846.36	\$ (72,387.57)
Expenses	\$ 391,185.46	\$ 3,187,808.97	\$ 3,008,326.45	\$ 179,482.52
Designated (In/Out Accounts)	\$ 1,992.70	\$ (12,769.54)		
Total Net Income (Loss) School	\$ 373,417.69	\$ 88,419.36	\$ 327,519.91	\$ (251,870.09)
Investment Assets				
School Endowment Fund	\$ 402,297.56			
Bernthal Endowment Scholarship Fund	\$ 145,018.54			
All Other Scholarships/Investments	\$ 23,819.09			



Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Chandler Gavin Ingram – 02/25/2026
Khole Edward Maynard – 03/06/2026

Marriage

Daniel Smith & Starla Stenzel
03/13/2026

Deaths

Roger Schultz – 02/01/2026
Joel McLachlan – 02/17/2026
Susanne Ellett – 02/23/2026
Erik Johansson – 02/28/2026
Owen Sear - 03/11/2026

Call Day this year is April 28, 2026. Assignments and calls will be announced and celebrated during two worship services in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus: **Assignment of Vicarages and Deaconess Internships** at 4 PM (EDT) and **Assignment of Calls** at 8 PM (EDT). Join us via [livestream](#), [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#).



Thanks to the incredible success of our recent Book Fair, the library has placed an order for **267 brand-new books** for both our elementary and middle school collections! We are so excited to continue growing our shelves with fresh titles for our students to enjoy.

We are also thrilled to share that **Dairy Queen** has once again generously agreed to sponsor lunch for all students who participate in our 100-Point AR Celebration later this year. We are incredibly thankful for their continued partnership and support of our readers.

Music

There has been much going on with the music program over the past several months. On Sunday, February 22, Grace Choristers, students in grades 3-5 performed at the 10:45 AM service. On Friday, February 27, Grace Choristers travelled to St. Luke's Lutheran School for the Florida-Georgia Music Festival and received a rating of Excellent for their performance. Congratulations!



This spring, we started a new music club called "Grace Ringers" where students from grades 3 and 4 are learning the basics of handbells and learning how to work together to ring for the glory of God!

On March 11, our 2nd Grade classes traveled to Titusville, FL for the Veterans of the Cross Gathering to perform several songs that are patriotic to celebrate 250 years of our country and remember that 25 years ago was 9/11. Students performed four songs that highlight trusting in God and remembering "the joy of the Lord is our strength."

Middle School



Our 8th graders headed to Washington, D.C., the week of March 2nd for an unforgettable trip! Beyond diving deep into our nation's history, several students got to experience the magic of seeing and playing in snow for the very first time. It was a fantastic adventure for everyone involved.

Athletics

The varsity girls' basketball team concluded their season with a 5-10 record and did not attend the State tournament. Meanwhile, the varsity boys' basketball team finished their regular season at 11-4. Although they narrowly lost to Trinity Del Ray 41-39 in the opening round of the FLAA State tournament at St. Luke's Oviedo, the boys showed great resilience on Saturday. They bounced back with three consecutive victories to secure the Consolation bracket title.



Artists of the Month

Kennedy
1st Grade (Bunny)

Xavier
2nd grade (Hungry Hamster)

Fischer
5th grade (Happy Dog)



SCHOOL CALENDAR

April

- 2: Maundy Thursday
- 3: Good Friday
Early Release
- 6: Easter Monday
No School
- 8: Middle School Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00PM
- 9: \$2 N.U.T. Day (Grades K - 5)
- 10: CFLAA Track Meet (St. John's, Ocala)
Muffins with Mom (Hosted by P.A.C.E.) 7:30 - 8:00AM
- 13 - 17: MAP Testing (Grades K - 3)
- 15: P.A.C.E. Coffee Talk 8:15AM
- 20 - 24: MAP Testing (Grades 4 - 8)
- 22: Middle School Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00PM
- 24: Middle School Glow Dance 6:00 - 9:00PM
- 28: N.U.T. Day (Grades K - 5)

May

- 4 - 8 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 7: N.U.T. Day (Grades K - 5)
- 8: No School (Parent/Teacher Conferences)
CFLAA Varsity Flag Football and Girls' Soccer Tournament (Grace, St. Pete)
Polk County Fine Arts Showcase (Florida Southern College) 7:00PM
- 13: Middle School Youth Group 6:30 - 8:00PM
- 14: \$2 N.U.T. Day (Grades K - 5)
8th Grade Banquet (Hosted by P.A.C.E.) 6:00PM
- 20: P.A.C.E. Coffee Talk 8:15AM
- 21: Preschool Last Day of School
- 22: K - 8 Last Day of School
End of 4th Quarter
5th Grade Clap Out
Early Release
Spirit Day: Cain's Snowballs
- 24: 8th Grade Graduation at 8:30AM Service



THE MISSION STATEMENT OF GLS: The mission of Grace Lutheran School is to provide its students and their families with a strong spiritual and academic foundation so that they know and understand God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ and are also able to live lives appropriate to their positions in their families, churches, community, and country.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:30 PM WM Board Mtg. 6:30 PM HS Youth	Maundy Thursday 2 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Worship	Good Friday 3 10 AM Bible Study - MM 12 PM Good Friday Worship 6:30 PM Tenebrae Worship	4 6:30 PM Easter Vigil Worship Svc
Easter Sunday 5 6:30 AM Sunrise Worship 7 AM Easter Breakfast 8:30 AM Worship 10:45 AM Worship	Easter Monday 6 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	7 7:30 AM Staff Devos 7:45 AM Grace Choristers 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Prayer Svc 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	8 6:30 PM MS Youth	9 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 11 AM Sunshine Club 1 PM Martha Circle 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	10 10 AM Bible Study - MM	11 5 PM Worship Svc
12 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship	13 7:30 AM Staff Devos 7:45 AM Kingdom Ringers	14 7:45 AM Grace Choristers 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Grace Bytes 6 PM Stephen Ministry 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	15 6:30 PM HS Youth	16 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6 PM AHG/TL 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	17 10 AM Bible Study - MM	18 5 PM Worship Svc
19 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship	20 7:30 AM Staff Devos 7:45 AM Kingdom Ringers	21 7:45 AM Grace Choristers 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Prayer Svc 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	22 6:30 PM MS Youth	23 7:45 AM Kingdom Ringers 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 1 PM Adult Game Day 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	24 10 AM Bible Study - MM	25 5 PM Worship Svc
26 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 9:45 AM Confirmation 10:45 AM Worship	27 7:30 AM Staff Devos 7:45 AM Kingdom Ringers 5:30 PM Bus Mgmt. 6:30 PM BOD	28 7:45 AM Grace Choristers 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Prayer Svc 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	29	30 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6 PM AHG/TL 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	MAY 1 10 AM Bible Study - MM	2 5 PM Worship Svc
3 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship 12 PM FITP	4 7:30 AM Staff Devos 7:45 AM Kingdom Ringers 6:30 PM Elder Meeting	5 7:45 AM Grace Choristers 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Prayer Svc 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	6 1:30 PM WM Board Mtg. 6:30 PM MS Youth	7 7:45 AM Kingdom Ringers 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 11 AM Sunshine Club 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	8 10 AM Bible Study - MM	9 5 PM Worship Svc
10 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship	11 7:30 AM Staff Devos 7:45 AM Kingdom Ringers 6 PM School Bd. Mtg.	12 7:45 AM Grace Choristers 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Grace Bytes 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	13 6:30 PM HS Youth	14 7:45 AM Kingdom Ringers 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 1 PM Martha Circle 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	15 10 AM Bible Study - MM	16 5 PM Worship Svc
17 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Voters' Mtg 10:45 AM Worship	18 7:30 AM Staff Devos	19 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Prayer Svc 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	20 6 PM Stephen Ministry 6:30 PM MS Youth	21 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	22 10 AM Bible Study - MM	23 5 PM Worship Svc
24 8:30 AM Worship 8th Grade Graduation 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship	25 5:30 PM Bus Mgmt. 6:30 PM BOD	26 10 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Church Staff 5:30 PM Prayer Svc 7 PM Praise Rehearsal	27 6:30 PM HS Youth	28 9:30 AM LWR Quilters 1 PM Adult Game Day 5:30 PM Trinity Bells 6:30 PM Grace Chorale	29 10 AM Bible Study - MM	30 5 PM Worship Svc
31 8:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Bible Study & Sunday School 10:45 AM Worship						



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