

Portalight



the monthly Newsletter of West Portal Lutheran Church and School

MARCH 2024

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West Portal Lutheran Church Website:

westportallutheran.org

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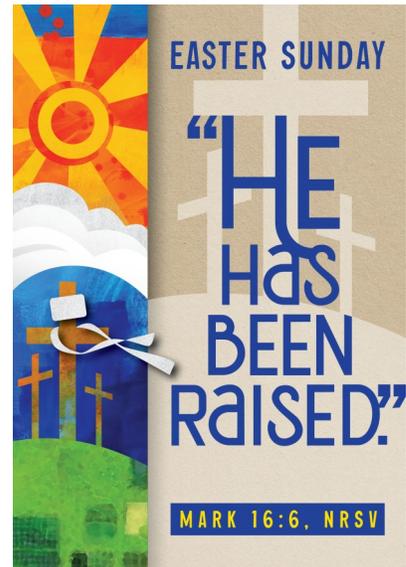
From Pastor Binz

Christ Crucified and Risen

“And it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him read, ‘The King of the Jews’” Mark 16:25-26.

Three days later when the Sabbath had passed, *“they saw that the stone had been rolled back-it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. And he said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen he is not here’” Mark 16:4-6.*

Both the crucifixion and the resurrection go hand in hand. To preach Christ crucified without the resurrection you’re missing the final victory on Easter morning. I remember as a child watching a football game and with two minutes left in the game the network started a movie, “Heidi” and I missed one of the greatest comebacks in history. But



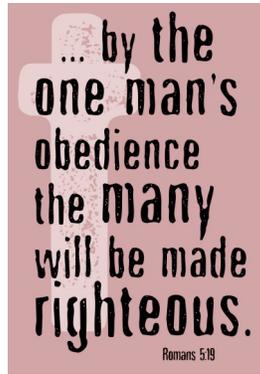
on the other hand to only preach only the resurrection you miss the true sacrifice that Jesus undertook on our behalf. *“Stricken, smitten and afflicted, wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace” Isaiah 53:4-5.*

The pinnacle of the Christian faith occurs on Good Friday and on Easter morning. It is the center of our faith, what Jesus has done for us. Through his precious blood we are saved and by rising on the third day this victory becomes ours

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through faith. "For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous"
Romans 5:19.



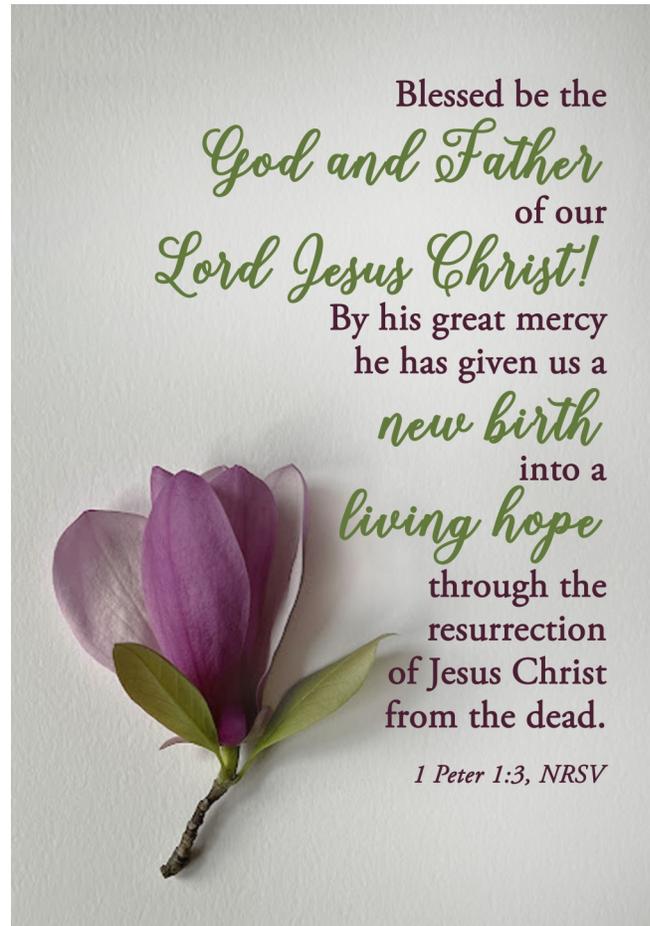
We are made righteous by the very work of Jesus both on Good Friday and Easter morning. "Suffered under Pontius Pilate was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead" Apostles' Creed- Second Article. This confession of faith does not leave out Good Friday or Easter morning, they are both confessions of faith.

May this historical event that happened on our behalf give you faith, hope and peace as we rejoice in all that God has done for us through his Son our Savior Jesus Christ. May we testify to this truth like the centurion did as he saw Jesus take his last breath, "Truly this man was the Son of God!" Mark 15:39. or the women at the empty tomb,

"Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles."

Luke 24:10.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Binz



Portal ght is the monthly Newsletter of West Portal Lutheran Church and School

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www.westportallutheran.org

Rev. Curtis Binz, Senior Pastor
May Luu, Administrative Assistant
Angie Holt, Church Secretary, PortalLight Editor
Ms. Sherise Lee, Principal
Ms. Amy Kao, Music Director

Worship Schedule

5:00 PM Saturday Worship Service-Lord's Supper
9:00 AM Sunday School - Sanctuary
9:00 AM Sunday Adult Bible Study - Parish Hall
10:00 AM Sunday Worship Service-Lord's Supper

West Portal Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 14th *THEME: "A Call to Return"*

About the Theme

In this worship series for Lent, "we take a look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us through the sacrifice of His Son for us on the cross. Jesus helps us to see and experience the richness of God's mercy in His life, death and resurrection.. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for Him, displaying our commitment to Him in word and deed."



Midweek Services

You and your family are invited to each of the midweek Services. The Services are about 50 minutes in length at **7:00 PM**. The midweek devotions are titled, "A Call to Return" and the themes we will be following are:

Lenten Midweek 3, March 6 at 7PM

"Return from False Witness"

Matthew 26:57-68

Lenten Midweek 4, March 13 at 7PM

"Return from Denial"

Luke 22:54-62

Lenten Midweek 5, March 20 at 7PM

"Return to the Kingdom of God!"

John 18:28-38

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It began as a preparatory time for Easter. Lent consists of 40 days (except Sundays). In observing Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for a time of spiritual reflection.

Lent shows us God's great love in the sacrifice of His Son at the Cross. It shows our Savior's undying love in the ransoming each of us from sin, death and hell.

Lent invites us to draw closer to be nurtured on Jesus Christ and His Word.

We pray that this year's **Wednesday Lenten Services** will bless you in your love for and being loved by Jesus Christ. God grant that these Services will give you renewed Christian faith and courage.

Pastor Curtis Binz



West Portal Lutheran Church Event

Rhelda Elyse Evans-Latimore

February 6, 1955—January 30, 2024



Rhelda Elyse Evans-Latimore was born on February 6, 1955 to Katherine Rhone and Readie Evans in Berkeley, CA and the older sister to Ramona Rhone-Eaglesmith.

She attended local schools: Glen Park Elementary, James Denman Jr. High and Lowell High School and a was member of the West Portal Lutheran Church since 1971, faithfully serving in the food service and fellowship, becoming a Fellowship Director. For many years she was an active member of the West Portal Lutheran Church Altar Guild, sang in the choir, and helped in Vacation Bible School taking care of treats and as a nurse taking care of injuries. She will surely be missed at West Portal Lutheran Church.

Rhelda devoted her life to church, her career, and her family. She is survived by her sons, Keith Michael Latimore (Eliza) and Daniel Anthony Latimore, and her daughter, Estara Elaine Latimore and her children.

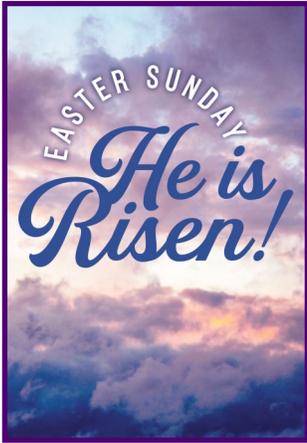
The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to Susie Marzolf, Sutter at Home Hospice team, and to Blue Oaks Cremation. A beautiful memorial service was held at West Portal Lutheran Church on February 24, 2024 followed by a reception.



Choir in 1998



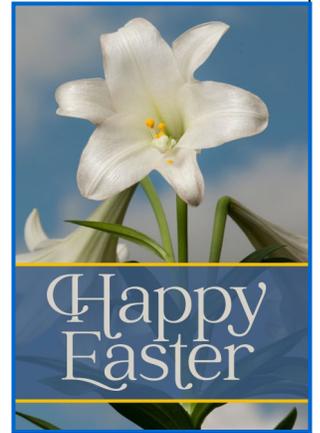
Rhelda Evans & Keith & Daniel Latimore



Celebrate Easter Sunday with Us!

at

West Portal Lutheran Church and School
200 Sloat Blvd. San Francisco, CA. 94132



Come join us Easter Sunday, March 31st, 2024
as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ in worship and fellowship.

+ **Easter Sunday Service** with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

+ **Easter Brunch** following the Easter Sunday Service

+ **Easter Egg Hunt** will follow after the 10:00a.m. Easter Sunday Service. It will be located on the church lawn and will feature our special guest, "The Easter Bunny"
For children ages up to 10 years old.

If attending the Easter Brunch and/or Egg Hunt, please kindly RSVP by Saturday, March 24th with the names and number of people attending to Helen Bok at helentombok@gmail.com or text or leave a voicemail message at 415-307-1536.

(Each child should bring his/her own personal Easter Basket)



Easter Egg Hunt



Special guest: Easter Bunny

Easter Brunch

For children ages up to 10 years old

Following the Church service at the Church Fellowship Hall

West Portal Lutheran Church and School

Communication from Pastor Darren Harbaugh to the Call Committee

Greetings in the name of our Crucified and Risen Lord!

A blessed Lenten season to you. It is a great honor to receive the call to serve as associate pastor of West Portal Lutheran Church. Please pray for me and my family and our congregations. I now have two divine calls – one to West Portal and one to Faith. I will spend time in prayer and conversation with members, friends, colleagues, and family as I consider these calls.

Let us commend ourselves, one another, and this entire process into the hands of Christ our Lord. He indeed is the Lord of the church. He has kept his promises to his people of old. He has kept his promises to you and to me. He will continue to keep his promises. We simply need to look to the cross of Jesus and the empty tomb to be reminded of this.

I look forward to visiting with you soon. The peace of Christ be with you all.

In the name of Jesus,

Pastor Darren Harbaugh
 Faith Lutheran Church
 Seaside, CA
 415-676-9043
faithseaside.org

Trinity Lutheran High School 2024 Choir



TLHS 2024 CHOIR TOUR
 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

TRINITY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL BEND, OREGON
 CHORAL PROGRAM SPRING TOUR
 ITINERARY

MARCH 13
 PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
 7:00 PM WORSHIP FOLLOWED BY CONCERT

MARCH 14
 PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN SCHOOL
 8:30 AM CONCERT
 WEST PORTAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL
 1:00 PM CONCERT
 GRACE CATHEDRAL
 3:00 PM CONCERT

MARCH 15
 REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL
 8:30AM CONCERT

MARCH 17
 REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
 9:30 AM WORSHIP

West Portal Lutheran School Alumni Event



Virtual Panel - Recent WPL Alumni Perspectives

Seven WPL High School Alumni Panelists virtually spoke via WPLS Live YouTube Channel on Leap Day evening, February 29 for a panel discussion to share their perspectives on their current high school experiences with our current WPLS Middle Schoolers! **Lick Wilmerding** - Gabriel Wong - 10th Grade, **Lincoln**- Allison Chen - 10th Grade, **Lowell**, Laila Wang -10th Grade, **Archbishop Riordan High School**, Daniel Cheung 11th & Karen Ngan 9th Grades, **Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory**, Mabel Tan - 11th Grade, and **St. Ignatius College Preparatory**, Selina Rong - 12th Grade.

This was a great opportunity for middle school students and their families to gain insight and ask questions about what to expect as they transition to high school. Our current WPL 8th Graders will receive their acceptance/rejection letters from the various High Schools they applied to on March 15!

To view and listen to the panel discussion, please visit this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/live/jeG4QBIC1E?si=p9Y2BdhxWB50JSS5>

Sponsored by the WPLS Alumni Committee: Ron Wong (WPL 1990 Alumni, Panel Moderator, and father of Alyssa, 6th, Tobin, 3rd & Gavin 2nd grades), Judy Zhu (mother of Frank Ouyang, 8th grade), and Beatrice Ammann Priest (WPL 1990 Alumni, WPLS Alumni Outreach Coordinator & mother of Evelyn, 6th grade).



Virtual Panel - Recent WPL Alumni Perspectives

WPL Faculty & Staff are praying for our WPL 8th Graders and their parents as they decide which High School is the best fit. Kristen Lee, West Portal Lutheran School alumna offers her lovely prayer for West Portal Lutheran Church & School:

Lord God, we worship and praise You for who You are, the Creator of the universe and everything within it.

We come before You this day, thanking You for Your provision for all of us, including those connected to West Portal Lutheran Church and School as pastors, faculty, staff, students, and their parents and other family members.

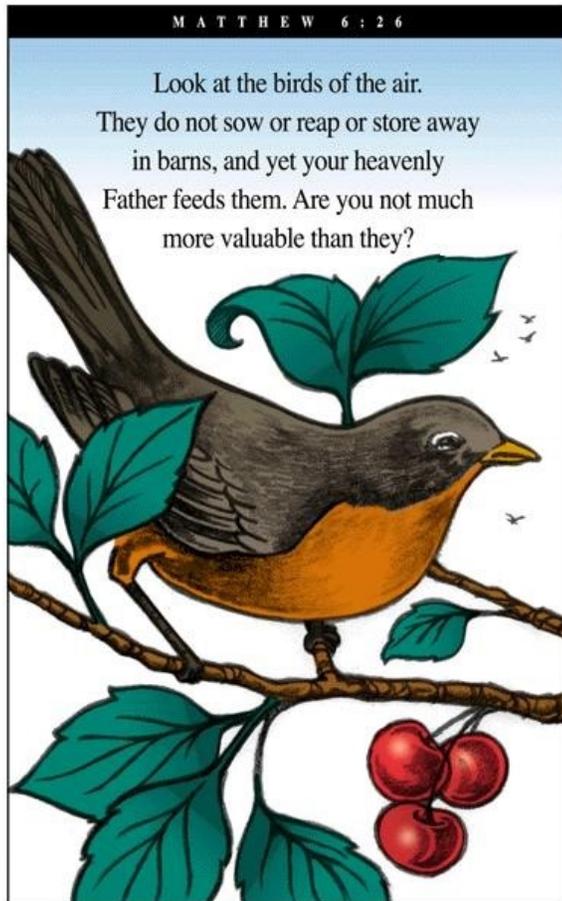
We thank You also for those who often work behind the scenes, such as the person giving a student a ride to and from school, or a parent offering words of encouragement to a teacher or church worker.

During this week, we pause to reflect on all that You are and that You do for us, Lord. With thankful hearts, let us seek to honor You and each other in what we think, say, and do. Let there be a spirit of cooperation, not one of contention, whether it be in the classroom, at work, in church, or at home. May Your love abound and offer the solution to strife. Embolden us to shine brightly in a dark world, so it can learn of Your glory and experience Your grace.

Draw us closer to You each day. For those who do not yet know You, let them begin walking with You for the first time. Let this be so especially for those in the West Portal community- people from the past, present, and yet to come.

We glorify you this day, Lord. All these things we pray in Your precious Name, Amen.

West Portal Lutheran School: *News from the Principal's Desk*



Dear West Portal Family of Faith:

Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? (Matthew 6:26)

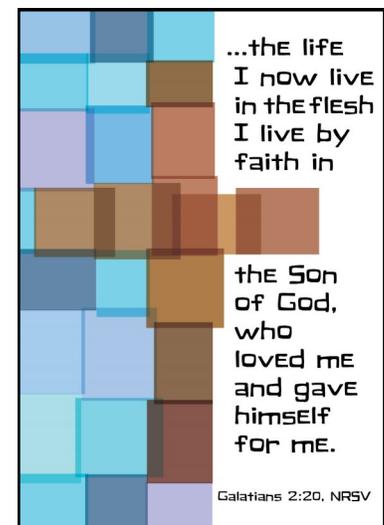
The phrase “keep calm and carry on” seems like wonderful motivation, but never quite meets with reality (and even harder as I learned its origins were in reference to WWII). I used to think I was a pretty calm person until becoming a principal - the heavy cares and worries find me restless and anxious.

The “O you of little faith?” often refers to me as I toil to work things out in my own understanding. Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount has 9 verses that address our penchant to worry. My spirit is at rest when I hear Jesus say that we have value and that our heavenly Father cares for us and knows what we need.

In this month of March as we continue through the Lenten season, our focus as a school will be on self-worth. Sometimes, like me, our students seek worth in their productivity and performance. Unless we understand that God so loved the world that He gave us His only Son, do we know the freedom of living lives that are not our own. That is, the surrender of faith comes only when knowing that God has secured for us an eternity through Christ as stated so wonderfully by the Apostle Paul - “the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20) Pray with us that our students would know this transforming work of a Savior!

Blessings in Christ,

Sherise Lee
Principal



West Portal Lutheran School Activities



(Left to right, top to bottom) 1st graders enjoy the "fruits" of their labor in cooking class (yummy spam musubi), kindergarten showing what they know during MAP testing, 5th grade handbells playing "A Mighty Fortress is Our God," and some fruit hanging on our vine at Sunset Campus - come and see what the students expressed they want to bear fruit in!



(Left to right, top to bottom) Kindergarten enjoying a moment together, Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes, CYO 8A and 6A boys' championship games, 4th grade at Sanchez Adobe, 5th grade Valentine's party silliness, and 3rd grade birthday popsicles!



(Left to right, top to bottom) Our Lunar New Year Assembly at the Sunset Campus with festive ribbons, the start of boys' volleyball season, our SPCA Animal Assisted Therapy visit with Turbo, the Power Up Hut at our home volleyball games, and Kindergarten goes to CuriOdyssey.

Our Lunar New Year Assembly at the Sloat Campus



Master Leo with the ribbon dance

Our Lunar New Year Assembly at the Sloat Campus



Teachers got to hold up the dragon



Students got to hold up the dragon

Our Lunar New Year Assembly at the Sunset Campus



Master Leo with the mask.



Our Lunar New Year Assembly at the Sunset Campus



3rd grader Anjuli Chang performed Chinese dance.



Students got to hold up the dragon

Altar Flowers

Flower Charts for the year 2024 are now posted in the Narthex. This is a very special way to help decorate the Altar, and to commemorate events or to remember loved ones. Flowers may be taken home or are delivered to our sick and shut-in members. Please call May Luu or Angie Holt in the church office, 415-661-0242, if you have any questions. The cost of a floral arrangement is \$55.00 through Mystic Garden on Ocean Ave. We encourage you to sign up for the new Flower Chart.



Daylight Saving Time Begins March 10th
 Don't forget to turn your clocks FORWARD one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9th. You don't want to be late for church!!

Easter Flowers

As we look forward to the celebration of Easter, the Altar Guild is again planning to have special floral arrangements around the Altar area. If you would like to help by donating to the flower fund, please complete this form and return it to the Church office by Sunday, March 24th. The suggested minimum donation is \$14.00. Please make the check payable to:



Altar Guild-West Portal Lutheran Church.

Name of person(s) donating flowers

Name of person(s) honored or remembered.

If you have any Calla Lilies growing in your garden and would like to share some with us, please bring them on Maundy Thursday or on Good Friday. There will be containers in the kitchen. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



LET US PRAY TO THE LORD GOD for those who are ill, homebound, or recovering from recent hospitalization: Vincent Ammann, Beatrice Priest's father; Elfriede Bonfert; Paul Brase; Charlene Bruggemann-Wong; William Chen; Angie Cheung, Helen Bok's sister-in-law; Bill Eves, Virginia Ferry's cousin; Jimmy Fong, Evelyn Fong's father; Karen Goeglien, Bob Bok's cousin; Ted Jones; Annissa Ma, Julia Tom's dear friend; Jan Lundquist; Susie Marzolf; George Mogyorossy, Gilbert Mogyorossy's father; Sigrid Rogge; Art Spleiss, Ruth Stresow; Lisa Westermann; Cheryl Wong; Marilyn Wong; Franklin Yee.



- 1 Dave Garrett
- 3 Alexis Chin
- 4 Jennifer Ohmura
- 5 Margaret Finley
- 5 Chris Brase
- 7 LaSaundra Gutter
- 8 Phuong Cooc
- 8 Nami Shiozaki
- 8 Karen Street
- 9 Dan Wang
- 10 Naomi Ray
- 11 Matthew Wong
- 11 Michele Wong
- 14 Gail Frey
- 15 Betty Moss

- 15 Alex Nulph
- 15 Iddhikorn Hutachinda
- 16 Steven Wood
- 16 Sio "Cathy" Chan
- 17 Milton Lau
- 17 Fernando Robleto
- 17 Dorothy Bridgeman
- 19 Garrett Wong
- 20 Yugin Lam
- 21 Amir Parnian
- 24 Melissa Fung
- 24 Thomas Gonsalves
- 24 Zachary Concepcion
- 25 Patrick Rostrata
- 25 Abraham Go
- 26 Rajan Edwards
- 28 Carole Leung
- 29 Stacey Binz
- 30 Beverly Presley-Nelson
- 30 Alexandra Wu



- 3 Tim & Cortney Shadel
- 10 Franklin & Lonnie Yee
- 12 Ping-Yee & Judy Law
- 27 August & Sarah Stofferahn

"Pray for one another" (James 5:16)

Let us follow this command of God's Word. Use the birthdays and anniversaries list each month to hold up one another to the Lord in prayer. You may wish to keep this list on your refrigerator, in your Bible, in your Portals of Prayer, or in some convenient place. What strength we receive from Almighty God when we sincerely pray for one another! And in these "interesting times," a call to a member wishing him/her birthday or anniversary greetings would probably be appreciated. It's particularly important that we keep in contact with each other when we're unable to meet in person.





Saturday, 3/2	10:00 AM Quilt Class-Fellowship Hall
Saturday, 3/2	5:00 PM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 3/3	9:00 AM Sunday School-Sanctuary
Sunday, 3/3	9:00 AM Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 3/3	10:00 AM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Wednesday, 3/6	11:00 AM Midweek Bible Class
Wednesday, 3/6	7:00 PM Lenten Midweek service
Saturday, 3/9	5:00 PM Worship Service
Sunday, 3/10	9:00 AM Sunday School-Sanctuary
Sunday, 3/10	9:00 AM Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 3/10	10:00 AM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Wednesday, 3/13	11:00 AM Midweek Bible Class
Wednesday, 3/13	7:00 PM Lenten Midweek service
Saturday, 3/16	5:00 PM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 3/17	9:00 AM Sunday School-Sanctuary
Sunday, 3/17	9:00 AM Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 3/17	10:00 AM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 3/17	11:15 AM Voters' Assembly
Wednesday, 3/20	10:00 AM Lenten Midweek service
Wednesday, 3/20	11:00 AM Midweek Bible Class
Wednesday, 3/20	7:00 PM Lenten Midweek service
Saturday, 3/23	5:00 PM Worship Service-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 3/24	9:00 AM Sunday School-Sanctuary
Sunday, 3/24	9:00 AM Adult Bible Study-Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 3/24	10:00 AM Worship Service-Lord's Supper—Palm Sunday
Wednesday, 3/27	11:00 AM Midweek Bible Class
Thursday, 3/28	7:00 PM Maundy Thursday-Lord's Supper
Friday, 3/29	11:15 AM Good Friday Service/Chapel
Friday, 3/29	7:00 PM Good Friday Service
Saturday, 3/30	No Service
Sunday, 3/31	10:00 AM Easter Sunday-Lord's Supper
Sunday, 3/31	Easter Egg Hunting following the Easter Sunday Service
Sunday, 3/31	Easter Brunch following the Easter Sunday Service