



St. Paul's
Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Disciple's Connection

May 2021

Worship Services

Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study

Adult 8:30am & 10:45am

Children 10:45am

Staff

Paul D. Sundbom, Pastor

Marlyss Sekki, Director of Music

Peggy McDonnell, Admin Assistant

Church Office

250 Bowhall Road

Painesville, OH 44077

(440)354-3000

www.splcpainesville.org
office@splcpainesville.org

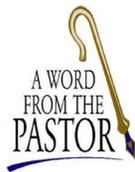
St. Paul's Preschool

Amy Marizek, Director

preschool@splcpainesville.org

www.stpaulspainesville.com

Who's Teaching the Faith?



The topic of teaching the Christian faith has been debated in the Church for Centuries. Throughout her history, the Church has had different ways of looking at & dealing with the topic. In the 14th & 15th Centuries for example, it was widely accepted that the Priests & Bishops were the only ones capable of teaching the faith. They were the ones who were able to read and understand Latin, the language of education in the day. They were the ones the people went to for understanding what the Scriptures said. They were the ones who could read the Bible.

Fast forward a little to the time of Martin Luther, early 16th Century. History brought one major invention that was truly revolutionary: the Printing Press. It gave the ability to print in mass quantities, making reading materials more widely available. Luther then set out to use this technology to print the Bible in a more common, spoken language: German. No longer would people be unable to read the Bible and rely solely on Priests & Bishops to tell them what the Bible said. They could now read it on their own. Luther also put together 2 wonderful teaching tools. As he went around to different congregations, he saw how little, if anything, the people of the congregations, or even the Pastor, knew about the Christian faith. He scolded the Bishops & Pastors for being so lax on their personal learning and teaching of the Christian faith. In 1529, Luther published the Large Catechism and the Small Catechism. Look through both if you want to see the different ways they can be used.

Today, there is a wealth of information and methods for teaching the Christian faith. Whose responsibility is it to teach the Christian faith? Parents? The Church? I believe it is a team effort, parents & Church together. I like to picture the process as a circle that begins in the congregation. As families gather for worship, they hear and read the Scriptures. They hear the Scriptures proclaimed & explained. The family then is able to take what they have seen & heard in the worship & education hours and talk about them in the home. The family then can develop their own way of reading & talking about Scripture the rest of the week. By Sunday, they are ready to return to the worship and education hours to hear more of the Scriptures proclaimed and explained. The circle continues Sunday after Sunday



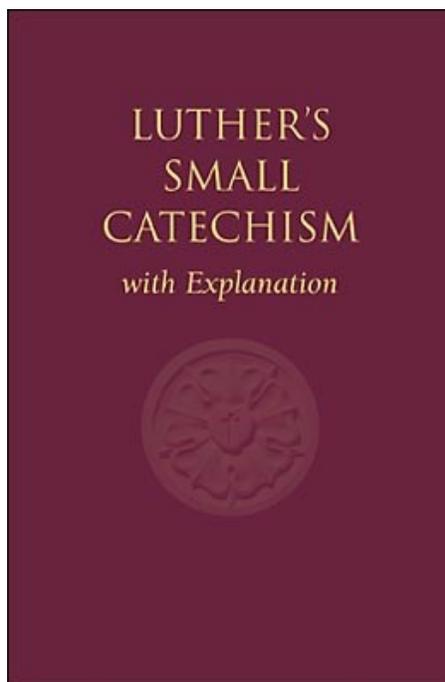
WHO'S TEACHING THE FAITH? continued

To successfully teach the Christian faith, family and congregation need to be in partnership. I want to take time and thank those at St. Paul's who teach the faith, to the young and the seasoned. Our Preschool Teachers, Johanna Sistek, Amy Marizak, Debbie Davis, & Tiina Haller. Our Sunday School teacher of young children, Erin Cardina. Our Sunday School teachers of Jr. High & High School Eric West & Rich Szoradi. Our Sunday School Superintendent, Star Graziadei. Our organizer of the Women's Bible Study, Billie Lelle. These men and women of St. Paul's believe that teaching the faith is important enough to be in the classroom, sharing their knowledge with others. I want to thank each of you and commend your Spirit-led efforts to be part of teaching the faith. I also want to recognize and celebrate the parents, the Fathers & Mothers, the grandparents, who believe in teaching and sharing their faith with their family. It is a true team effort. Parents on the front line of their family, and the Church teaching and supporting the family.

May God continue to bless the efforts of family & Church together to teach the faith to each generation!

In Christ

Pastor Sundbom





The Confessional Mirror

By [William Weedon](#)

The Small Catechism lives in the church's public prayers and services. We pray the Lord's Prayer almost every time we gather, and sometimes more than once. The Apostles' Creed lives in Baptism (at least in part) and in Responsive Prayer I and II, and it's also an option in any of our Divine Services. The words of Baptism live in the liturgy of Baptism. The Lord's Supper lives at the heart of any Divine Service.

But what about the first chief part? Where do the Ten Commandments live in the church's liturgical life? Where do the people of God regularly encounter and use them? Or are they largely restricted to the classroom, to catechesis or confirmation instruction, and so left behind as the Christian moves in adulthood?

In the historic Anglican Communion Liturgy, the priest recited the commandments at the beginning of the service, and after each commandment, the people responded: "Lord, have mercy upon us and incline our heart to keep Thy Law."

Ten Commandments for Preparation

Lutherans never put the Ten Commandments in the Divine Service. *Lutheran Service Book* does place them for recitation in the Service of Prayer and Preaching, but the most common historical use among Lutherans has been all but forgotten: preparation to receive the Lord's Supper.

The catechism makes it explicit in two spots. First, under the fifth chief part in the Small Catechism, you find the little section on how to make confession. Before the pastor we should confess the sins we know and feel in our hearts. But "which are these?" the catechism asks. What sins should we know and feel in our hearts, what sins should trouble and disturb us? The answer: "Consider your place in life *according to the Ten Commandments*" (*Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, p. 27, emphasis added).

The person who faithfully and prayerfully spends time with one of these confessional mirrors before communing would scarcely have to be exhorted to go to confession.



THE CONFESSIONAL MIRROR *continued*

The second spot where the commandments are mentioned is “Christian Questions with Their Answers.” These are questions a pastor may use to examine catechumens after instruction, or which a Christian can ask him or herself. Consider:

1. Do you believe that you are a sinner? *Yes, I believe it. I am a sinner.*
2. How do you know this? *From the Ten Commandments, which I have not kept* (pp. 40–41).

Confessional Mirror

Lutherans of yesteryear took this examination of the heart in light of the Ten Commandments with the utmost seriousness. And beyond the catechism, they developed a method to examine one’s heart and conscience in light of God’s will expressed in His commandments. It’s usually called a “confessional mirror”; the German term is *Beichttafel*.

These mirrors consisted of questions a Christian would ask him or herself based on each commandment. Last month, [I mentioned what a treasure trove the *Treasury of Daily Prayer* is](#). One of its little-known features is hidden away; the “Preparation for Confession and Absolution According to the Ten Commandments” serves as a modern confessional mirror (see [Treasury of Daily Prayer](#), pp. 1464–66).

Consider the first commandment: “You shall have no other gods.” The Small Catechism beautifully summarizes the meaning: “We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things” (p. 11). But have you? What questions might help you dig into this? The *Treasury’s Beichttafel* offers some helpful questions:

- What or whom do I fear most?
- In what or whom do I trust most for financial security, physical safety, or emotional support?
- Do I fear God’s wrath and therefore avoid every sin?
- Is my love for God evident in my daily life?

Do I expect only good from God in every situation, or do I worry, doubt, complain, or feel unfairly treated when things go wrong? (*Treasury of Daily Prayer*, p. 1464)

Do you see how that could help you dig a little more deeply into the commandment?

And what you find in the *Treasury* is a good beginning. As helpful as it is, the *Treasury’s* mirror pales a bit beside the confessional mirror found in [Lutheran Prayer Companion Concordia Publishing House, 2018](#)). This mirror provides the most extensive look into each and every commandment, in an exercise called



THE CONFESSIONAL MIRROR continued

“Self-examination from the Ten Commandments.” Here’s the First Commandment:

O holy and righteous God, who see and hear all things: I come before You now to examine carefully the condition of my soul and to learn how I am, and whether I am on the way of destruction. I am far too corrupt, my heart far too false and deceiving, for me to do it myself. Search me Yourself, O God! Try me and know my thoughts, and make me aware of them by Your Word and Spirit.

- Have I remembered You often, great Maker and Sustainer, Redeemer and Sanctifier?
- Have I used Your will and Your commandments as my guidepost in what I do and do not, and have I always asked myself: “Is this in line with God’s commandment?”
- Have I entertained any detestable thoughts, such as, “There is no God”?
- Have I not honored many idols and thought of myself highly, followed only my own will, and sought only my own glory and satisfaction?
- Have I not feared other men more than God, revered their presence more than God’s presence, and made a greater effort to gain their favor than God’s grace, and done more in love toward them than I would do in love to God?
- Have I not put my trust in great benefactors and in the favor of men?
- Has my heart found its rest, etc., in temporal things such as money, goods, honor, and an easy life, instead of seeking its only delight and joy in the eternal good from which all others come?
- Have I perhaps sought the help of Satan and his sorcerers rather than the help of God and feared their power more than the strength of God?
- Have I had a proper conception of God’s power, omnipresence, righteousness, and grace in order to move myself to childlike fear?
- Has my fear of God also borne true fruit, such as obedience, hatred of evil, remorse for sin, humility, patience, vigilance, and the like?
- Have I sought to know God as the highest good and to love Him above all things?
- Have I to that end diligently sought God’s perfection, majesty, goodness, mercy, power, wealth, and benefits?
- Has my love arisen merely for the sake of those benefits and temporal happiness?
- Have I also detected in myself the fruits of true and genuine love of God, such as hatred of sin, contempt for the world, long-suffering, desire for greater union with God, praise, thanksgiving, and joy?
- What form has my trust toward God taken? Is it a well-founded and childlike trust?
- Have I founded it on God’s goodness, truth, omnipotence, and promise?
- Has this trust worked true fruit in me, such as hope, serenity, courage, and constancy?



THE CONFESSIONAL MIRROR *continued*

- Likewise, what form has my knowledge of God taken? Is it a living or dead knowledge? And do I seek to increase that knowledge? Do I earnestly guard myself against all errors?

Are all, or even most of, my desires centered on God and His grace? (*Lutheran Prayer Companion*, pp. 157–58)

It provides questions for each of the commandments, but I want to give the closing prayer as well:

O my God, search me Yourself! Try me and know my thoughts! See if I am on the just way, and lead me in the way everlasting. You alone can understand the heart, which is deceitful and desperately wicked, and uncover all the guile of narcissism. Oh, how much good I have omitted, and how much evil I have committed! What good I find is only external. Rarely is there a true, good intention and good basis of true virtue. Therefore, O mighty and jealous God, make me to hear the thunder of Your holy and immutable Law, to be terrified by the curse and wrath which I have earned, and to turn in penitence to Your grace in Christ! (*Lutheran Prayer Companion*, p. 161)

Fruitful Meditation

Imagine the fruit of such careful meditation on the Ten Commandments. And think how pious Lutherans regularly meditated before approaching the Supper. This is how they examined themselves in light of St. Paul's exhortation in 1 Corinthians 11 to "let a person examine himself, then, and so eat..." Or with the similar admonition in 2 Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves."

The loss of this piety of self-examination via the Ten Commandments explains, at least in part, why we have come to neglect private absolution. The person who faithfully and prayerfully spends time with one of these confessional mirrors before communing would scarcely have to be exhorted to go to confession. Considering one's place in life according to the Ten Commandments will drive us that way on its own; just typing this out makes me long to hear my confessor's absolution ring in my ear again. With the confessional mirror as a tool and preparation for receiving Communion as the occasion, the Ten Commandments find their spot again in the church's liturgical life.



Life Quotes for May

May 2 “We pray in our services for ‘the race of man’ not the races of man. There is only one race. All else are ethnic, national, cultural, or other differences. We’ve past histories to trouble us to be sure—like the Irish and the English, the Jew and the Christian, the Greek and the Ottoman Turk, and the slave and the slave owner—but there is no place from which a genuine reconciliation can emerge today, except in Christ. The goal is fellowship, brotherhood in Christ.” *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

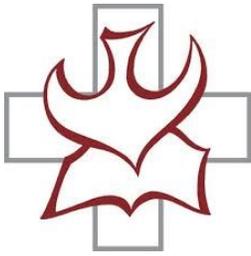
May 9 “Little though you can see it now, God intends to do wonderful things with you. If He is taking it slowly, that’s no surprise; He did it the first time, too. Nothing the devil can do will stop the Lord from finishing His work in you. After all, He has already laid down His life to make you His own.” *Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

May 16 “William Shakespeare once reasoned, ‘Love sought is good, but given unsought is better.’ How do you know that God loves you? While you and I were yet wandering, Christ was wandering after us, pursuing us, even by way of the cross: love seeking the lost in human flesh. It is this sacrifice that stands as the greatest marker in all time.” *Ravi Zacharias, evangelist – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org

May 23 “[W]e demand an end to the injustice of abortion. We demand an end to the injustice of human trafficking, pornography, slavery, and the separation of children from their parents. But we do so as confessors. We confess that we are sinners, great sinners, with the culture of death flowing in our veins and pulsing through our corrupted brains. And we confess that only in Jesus is the life we need.” *Rev. Christopher Esget, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life* • lutheransforlife.org



Congratulations Confirmands!! Welcome to the St. Paul's Family



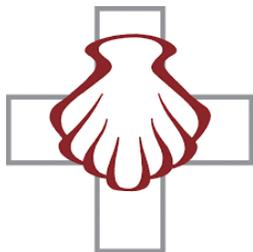
Gabriella [Gabby] Marie Bennington

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments, to a thousand generations.

(Deuteronomy 7:9)

Audrey [Ruby] Rose Pealer

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. (Isaiah 43:2)

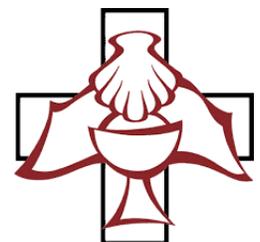


Olivia [Lilly] Lee Pealer

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. (Proverbs 8:17)

Leah Marie Shutic

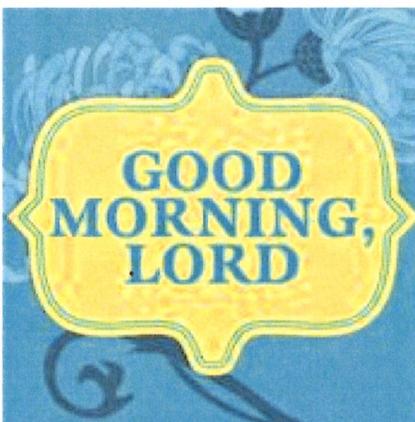
See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. (1 John 3:1)





Announcements

"But I will sing of your strength; I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning. For you have been to me a fortress and a refuge in the day of my distress".
Psalm 59:16



Available online beginning at
9:55 on May 8

<https://youtu.be/kI2T9AzJDxA>

LWML Ohio District NORTHEAST ZONE

Spring Rally

May 8, 2021 - 10AM

Faith Lutheran Church - 8125 Mentor Avenue, Mentor

In-person and live streaming available

Speaker: Billie Lelle
Business Meeting

No registration is required – no food will be served – masks are required and safe distancing will be practiced.

Ingathering will be breakfast items for Project Hope for the Homeless

- Breakfast bars
- Pop Tarts
- Cereal Bowls, Spoons, Napkins
- 12 oz coffee cups with lids
- Juice
- Tang mix
- Cereal
- Coffee (regular or decaf)



Project Hope
for the Homeless
Restoring Hope. Renewing Lives.



Women's Bible Study

Are you looking to a women's bible study group? Join the women of St. Paul's and deepen your faith. They meet May 12 and May 26 from 6:60pm to 8:00pm at St. Paul's



Go on an expedition this
summer at
Camp Lutherhaven!

Register online at lutherhaven.org/program/summer

*Check out the website to see how Camp Lutherhaven has been impacted by,
and is responding to, COVID-19*



Learn to Communicate
with Your *Spouse*
in a Whole New Way!

June 11 - 13, 2021

on a
Lutheran Marriage Encounter
Virtual Experience

Participate Together Wherever
Your Privacy as a Couple Can Be Assured

Pre-Register Now or Learn More at
GodLovesMarriage.org

GodLoves
MARRIAGE

Questions?
Contact Us at Info@GodLovesMarriage.org



April Meeting Notes

- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor made 48 calls and 4 shut-in visits in Feb. & Mar. and officiated 1 baptism. Pastor will be gone April 19-21 and is planning a trip to Minnesota in early June. He also mentioned he was encouraged by the attendance of the Easter services.
- 2) President's Report: Aaron has spoken with the Elders about replacing John Doeing and maybe adding another. Also, he was glad to see good Easter attendance and a few old faces.
- 3) Vice President's Report: Eric reported that the Our Shepherd Golf Outing will be July 10 at Painesville CC, and that St. Paul's will sponsor the lunch.
- 4) Treasurer's Report: Finances continue to be fair despite lower contributions in March.
- 5) Education Report: Attendance for Sunday school and Adult Bible classes are fairly steady: 5 in K-7, 3 in High school, 7 in 8:30 Adult, and 10 in 10:45 Adult classes. Star also, Sunday school will hand make cards for women for Mother's Day.
- 6) Preschool Report: Kathy reported that most of the staff attended virtual training as part of required 10 hours of training each year. She also said Fire Dept provided CPR training; parent-teacher conferences were held; class Easter parties will be held; a recent visit by the state found a few minor deficiencies that Amy is working towards. Kathy reported that 33 students have registered for next year, and that a teacher and additional assistants are needed and a board member. Kathy also suggested the congregation have a staff appreciation gift for Amy & staff.
- 7) Elder's Report: Aaron said Elders will meet April 14 to re-staff and regroup.
- 8) Stewardship Report: Matt suggested creating a sign up for members to Adopt-a-flower bed to water flowers, pull weeds, trim bushes a couple of times per month. He also is seeking to add awareness to fundraising for replacing old air conditioners as they break down (currently \$1300 is raised. Working with Outreach in getting a better social media presence.



CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES continued

- 9) Outreach Report: Kristi reports in May groups will distribute dog tags and perform garbage pickup in several nearby neighborhoods. Also, movie nights will resume, maybe every other month; group to make wooden toys for LCMS missionaries; looking into partnering with Samaritan's purse to provide children's shoeboxes with supplies and toys for 3rd world underprivileged children; looking into partnering with Morley Library where members volunteer to read stories to young children; looking into creating a cookbook fundraiser; looking into getting a puppet stage and puppets for shows for Preschool classes.
- 10) Building & Grounds Report: Joe reported several bulb replacements, rewired failed lamps, and installed digital media presenter on new screen. Joe also reported he will soon finalize this year's mowing schedule, that the vacuum cleaner needs to be replaced (cost \$299), siding and shingles replaced as weather allows, AED needs new pads and batteries (cost under \$300). Ken Chaffe beginning project to replace sand stone at front entry. Cleanup scheduled for 1st Saturday of May.
- 11) Contribution Secretary Report: Dennis reports contributions are about the same as last year. 2022 offering envelopes are ordered and received and mailboxes are reorganized.

Old Business:

- 1) Synod Proposal ballot was received and motion passed delaying District and Synod conventions 1 year each. Congregations can amend nominations before conventions.

New Business:

- 1) Star made motion to have St. Paul's sponsor OSLS Golf Outing. Joe 2nd. Motion passed.
- 2) Annual Meeting: May 16 after Sunday morning service. Reports, budget, and 3rd reading of By-Law on agenda, as well as election of officers (President, Vice President, Elders, Education, Outreach, Financial Secretary, Building & Grounds, 3 Preschool Board).
- 3) Nominating Committee: Eric, Jenn, and Matt have volunteered to seek nominees.

Next Meeting: Next meeting is May 5 @ 6:30pm.



From the Preschool



Preschool Teacher Needed

St. Paul's Preschool is currently looking for a teacher to work part-time morning from 8:30 to 12:00 with 4 and 5 year olds. For further information please contact the Preschool Director, Amy Marizek at 440-354-3000.



Registration for Our Shepherd Lutheran School is now open for the 2021-2022 school year for new and returning students.

To register go to oslpainesville.org, click on Admissions and follow the appropriate link.

Scholarships are available through the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program. To see if you qualify visit www.schoio.org and click on EdChoice Scholarship.

If you have any questions please email the admissions department at admissions@oslpainesville.org.



May Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Keith Krueger | 5th | Kaylee Szoradi | 17th |
| Laura Vosicky | 7th | Pat Shutic | 19th |
| Matthew West | 8th | Frank McVan | 19th |
| Alex Horvath | 8th | Eric Drake | 21st |
| Diane Wayner | 9th | Dave Murphy | 29th |
| Laura Harris | 17th | Heather Bennington | 29th |
| Scott Shaw | 17th | Jeff Salminen | 31st |



May Anniversaries

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Craig & Kristi McConnell | 31 years on May 19 |
| Dale & Judith Kerver | 45 years on May 22 |
| Stephen & Sue Snodgrass | 49 years on May 27 |



Altar Flowers



Do you have a special someone, date, or event you would like to celebrate, honor or remember? Do it with Altar Flowers! The Altar Flower Chart is posted on the wall next to the double doors leading out of the sanctuary. All you have to do is sign up next to the appropriate weekend. Be sure to print clearly what occasion is being honored and who the flowers are given by. Altar flowers are \$30.00. This can be placed in an envelope labeled "Altar Flowers" and the date of the weekend, then place in the collection plate.



Those Who Serve

ELDERS:

| | | |
|--------|----------|-----------------------|
| 6:00 P | Saturday | Aaron Lindrose |
| 9:30 A | Sunday | Dale Kerver/Eric West |

LECTORS:

| | | | |
|----------|--------|----------|------------------|
| 05-01-21 | 6:00 P | Saturday | Pastor Sundbom |
| 05-02-21 | 9:30 A | Sunday | Jack Lelle |
| 05-08-21 | 6:00 P | Saturday | Frank McVan |
| 05-09-21 | 9:30 A | Sunday | Eric West |
| 05-15-21 | 6:00 P | Saturday | Pastor Sundbom |
| 05-16-21 | 9:30 A | Sunday | Kathleen Pennell |
| 05-22-21 | 6:00 P | Saturday | Frank McVan |
| 05-23-21 | 9:30 A | Sunday | Ken Chaffe |
| 02-29-21 | 6:00 P | Saturday | Pastor Sundbom |
| 05-30-21 | 9:30 A | Sunday | Terry Wakelee |

COUNTERS:

Ken Chaffe, Matt Chaffe

GREETERS:

| | |
|--------|----------|
| 6:00 P | Saturday |
| 9:30 A | Sunday |

SIGN UP IN MAY TO WAVE YOUR
GREETING TO YOUR FELLOW DISCIPLES.

Sign-up sheet located on the double
doors at the back of the Sanctuary.

May 2021



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|
|  <p>COMMUNION SERVICE</p> | | <p>WORSHIP SCHEDULE Saturdays - 6:00pm Sundays - 9:30am Sunday School - 10:45am Adult Bible Study—8:30am & 10:45am</p> | | <p>Bulletin Announcements Due Wednesdays</p> <p>May Birth Stone: Emerald</p> | <p>Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-2:00pm</p> <p>May Flower: Lilly of the Valley & Hawthorn</p> | <p>National Bike Month National Mental Health Awareness</p> <p>1 Kentucky Derby May Day</p> |
| 2  <p>Confirmation Sunday w/ Communion</p> | 3 <p>Chapel with Pastor</p> | 4 <p>Chapel with Pastor National Teachers Day Star Wars Day 7pm Choir Practice</p> | 5  <p>6:30pm Council Meeting</p> | 6  <p>7pm Virtual Bible Study</p> | 7 | 8  |
| 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 <p>6:30pm Elder's Meeting 6:30pm Women's Bible Study</p> | 13 <p>Ascension 7pm Virtual Bible Study</p> | 14 | 15 <p>Armed Forces Day</p> |
| 16 <p>Congregational Meeting</p>  <p>10:45am Annual Congregation Meeting</p> | 17 <p>7pm Outreach Meeting</p> | 18 | 19 <p>Last Day of School for 3's Class</p> | 20 <p>Last Day of School for Mixed and Pre-K Classes 7pm Virtual Bible Study</p> | 21 <p>June Newsletter Articles Due</p> | 22  |
| 23  <p>Pentecost</p> | 24 | 25 | 26 <p>6:30pm Women's Bible Study</p> | 27 <p>7pm Virtual Bible Study</p> | 28 <p>National Berger Day</p> | 29 |
| 30  <p>Trinity Sunday</p> | 31  <p>Office Closed</p> | | | | | |