

## Zion's Messenger – July 2026

THIS IS THE  
*Day*  
THE *Lord*  
HAS MADE; LET US  
*Rejoice*  
& BE GLAD IN IT.  
*Psalm 118:24*

Summer is often a season of travel and adventure. Some of us take vacations to familiar places, while others explore somewhere entirely new. Whether we travel across the country or simply spend more time outdoors close to home, summer gives us opportunities to experience new sights, meet new people, and learn new things.

As Christians, we are reminded that God is walking with us wherever our journeys in life take us. The psalmist writes, "The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it" (Psalm 24:1, NRSV). Every place we visit is part of God's creation, filled with reminders of God's beauty, creativity, and care.

The book of Psalms is filled with songs of travelers and pilgrims who trusted God along the way. Psalm 121 begins, "I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth." Whether we are on the road, at home, or facing a new season in life, God walks with us and watches over us.

In late June, we welcomed children to our Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School that was based on Psalms. As they explored the wonders of God's creation through stories, music, crafts, and activities, they discovered that God's love flows abundantly, just like the streams and waterfalls of a rainforest. Vacation Bible School is a wonderful reminder that learning about God's love is an adventure that never ends.

As you enjoy the days of summer, may you find moments to rest, places to explore, and things to learn. Remember to pause to give thanks to God for those opportunities. Wherever your travels lead or whatever you may happen upon in your daily life, may you see signs of God's presence and hear anew the words of the psalmist: "This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

God's blessings on your summer journeys,

*Pastor Stephanie*



## **WELCA Christmas in July** **Purse Project 2026**

This year's Christmas in July ministry outreach is "The Purse Project 2026", through From The Heart Consignment Shop in Sinking Spring.

Each year, From the Heart collects donations of new and gently used purses containing essential self-care items for local non-profits. Last year they donated 465 filled purses to 10 nonprofits in the greater Berks County area including: Salvation Army, Safe Berks, Hannah's Hope Ministries, One Luv Outreach and Safe Berks,

We already have purses that were donated to WELCA for this project. Feel free to take a purse and fill it with all the items from the "Must Have" checklist below, adding any items from the "Optional" items suggested below.

You may also purchase any of the items on the lists below and place them in the box located in the Narthex.

WELCA will then fill as many purses as we can with the donated items.

We will deliver filled purses to From The Heart for their Purse Project 2026 this fall.

**Donation will be accepted throughout the month of July, with a deadline of Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

### MUST HAVES

- Handwritten note to recipient offering hope & encouragement
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Hand Soap
- Body Wash (full size)
- Lip Balm
- Shampoo (full size)
- Conditioner (full size)
- Deodorant
- Body Lotion (full size)
- Comb
- Brush
- Tissues
- Several Snacks & Gum
- Scarf (used to tie purse closed)

### OPTIONAL

Hygiene ~ Hand Sanitizer, Disposable Razor, Mouthwash, Feminine Products, Baby Wipes

Beauty ~ Nail Polish, Blush, Compact Mirror, Lipstick, Hair Accessories, Nail Clippers, Mascara, Nail File, Cotton Swabs, Body Spray

Other Ideas ~ Water, Book, Puzzle, Hat, Sewing Kit, Cough Drops, Gloves/Mittens, First Aid Supplies, Umbrella, Hand Warmers, Washcloth, Flashlight, Pen/Notepad, Jewelry, Small Monetary Gift or Gift Card, Socks, Travel Mug

Printed lists are available on the table in the Narthex



## **Shoe Us the Love**

Make a difference one pair at a time.

Drop off your gently worn or new shoes that are still wearable, with intact soles and laces.

All Shoes, All Sizes are accepted!

Athletic Shoes, Crocs, Boots, Cleats, Heels and Sandals

Collected shoes will benefit Mary's Shelter and some will support micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries, creating opportunities for people to start small businesses.

Ask your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to donate too!

Collection boxes are located in the Narthex and in the vestibule.

Last day of collection is July 26<sup>th</sup>.



## Church Council

Church Council met on Tuesday, June 9, at 7:00pm. The meeting began with a devotion focused on serving one another humbly in love and how even small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

The Youth Room renovation project continues to move forward. Plans include updating the décor to create a more relaxed, welcoming, and inviting space for our youth.

Save the Date:

- September 6: Outdoor Worship Service
- September 13: Church Picnic and return to our regular worship time of 10:30 a.m.

Council also received an update from Synod Assembly. The Rev. Jennifer Dee, currently serving at Trinity Lutheran Church in Robesonia, has been elected as our new Bishop. She will begin serving in this role later this year following a transition period.

In addition, Council approved the replacement of the church's Automated External Defibrillator (AED). A grant has been awarded to help offset the cost of the new unit. The church's first aid kits have also been restocked and updated to help ensure the safety and well-being of our congregation and visitors.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Heather Gring



## Financial Report

We finished the month of May \$ 5,024.31  
in the red (monthly income over expenses).

Monthly – Income for May	\$16,075.55
Monthly – Expenses for May	\$21,099.86

The General Offering	\$12,465.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,772.55
Loose Change	\$ 124.00
Other Income	\$ 1,714.00
Subtotal	\$16,075.55

**Thank you for your continued support!**

**Consider online giving**

visit <http://zionslutheran.org/donate/>



## Prayer Corner for Our Community of Faith

### Immediate Concerns:

Dan Adams, Darren Barto, Isabella Crespo,  
Hazel Gough, Bill Gundrum, Jim Jones,  
Dean Lawrence, Jared Palubinski, Roy Sousley

### Ongoing Concerns:

Colson and Courtney Dougherty,  
Matthew Anderson, John Persons,  
Tracy Schaeffer, Don Roth

### Shut-Ins and Nursing Home/

### Personal Care Residents:

Ruth Bensing, Jean Daub, Mabel Fry,  
Helen James, Grace Ketner, Kathrine Reinhart,  
Christine Ryan, Carl Sechler, David Seidel,  
Barbara Shafer, Shirley Sohon, Lester Wessner

### Family and Friends

### Grieving Recent Losses:

Amanda Gallagher & Family



## Pondering & Prayer with Pastor

Join us in the outdoor chapel area for morning  
devotions and sharing prayer concerns.

July 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>  
at 9:30 am.

Feel free to bring your morning beverage.

You may use the benches or bring your own chair.

*In case of inclement weather, we will meet inside*



## Reminder

With the arrival of the summer season, we look  
forward to a full calendar of events and activities.

To help us share all upcoming plans, please submit  
any group updates to the office by Tuesday for  
inclusion in the weekly bulletin.



## Crochet Group

We will be taking the summer off to enjoy the great outdoors. Please join us again in September.



## Fellowship Time

A big thank you for the kitchen help and food donations for our Fellowship Time this year. We will resume our monthly gatherings in September.

*The Fellowship Committee*



## Bike Rides

On Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup> we will head to the Ironton Rail-Trail, Coplay.

We will meet at Zion's at 9am and carpool/caravan to the Trail.

Bring your bike, water, and also a snack to share for some fellowship time at the end of the ride.

Questions? More info? Contact John Smith or Eileen Puglia.



## Knotters Group

Please consider joining us in the Gold Room at 9:00 am Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.

We always need helpers to sew quilt patches together for our knotted quilts.

Patches are available in the church office.

For any questions contact – Eleanor Dietrich at 484-824-4388.



## Senior Group

Our next Senior Group will meet

**Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
in the Fellowship Hall,  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm.**

Please bring a side dish to share for lunch and a friend to play board games and cards.

All ages welcome to join.

Hope to see you there!



## Garden News

*"The farmer has to be an optimist or he wouldn't still be a farmer." ~ Will Rogers*

The days are longer and warmer, and the Garden is doing great. Feel free to come out and watch our cabbages grow fuller, our tomatoes and peppers slowly developing, the cucumbers vining, and more beans than you can imagine!

Volunteers continue to be needed to tend to the growing harvest. You are invited to help out with this ministry – once a week, once a month, or even just once!

Please listen for Sunday announcements or check Zion's Facebook page for news of our workdays. If you want to be put on the Garden volunteer contact list, please email us at [communitygarden@zionslutheran.org](mailto:communitygarden@zionslutheran.org) or contact Lori at 610-401-1186.



## Opportunity House 2026

We are always looking for additional volunteers to assist with the food service at Opportunity House.

Please let me know if you are willing to either captain a team or assist with the food service. My email address is [whoherchak@gmail.com](mailto:whoherchak@gmail.com) or my phone number is 570-778-8403.

Thank you, Wanda Hoherchak.

### **2026 Schedule:**

July 17 November 20



The next WELCA meeting will be held on  
**Tuesday, August 11th at 6:00pm.**  
 All women of Zion's are welcomed to attend.  
 Hope to see you there!



### Youth Room Update

The Youth Room is getting a fresh new upgrade!  
 We want to create a welcoming space where our  
 youth feel comfortable, connected, and at home.

As part of this project, we are looking for donations  
 of the following items:

- Lamps — one floor lamp and a few small table lamps
- Small Sofa Table with Shelves (black and wood grain)

If you have any of the listed items that you would  
 be willing to donate, please send a picture  
 and dimensions of the item to the church office  
 to aid us in planning the design for the room.

Stop in the office to see the picture of our vision  
 for the youth room.

If you have other ideas or items that  
 may help improve the Youth Room,  
 please let the office know.

Thank you for helping to create a great space for  
 our youth!



### Zion's Cemetery Co., Inc.

**Our Monthly Board Meeting will be held on  
 Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.**

Meetings are held at Zion's Church (formerly  
 Zion's UCC Church) in Meeting Room 201.

Single or multiple grave lots are available for sale.

Please contact David Geschwindt, Cemetery  
 Manager, 610-562-7421



### Zion's Library

Is Prayer your steering wheel or spare tire?

When the devil brings up your past,  
 bring up his future!

#### Library Additions:

*The Secret to Complete Contentment*  
 by Jack Countryman (Inspiration)

*The Fiddler*  
 by Beverly Lewis (Fiction)

*Psalms*  
 by Guidepost (Bible Study)

*To Heaven and Back*  
 by Mary C. Neal, M.D. (B10)

*Understanding Biblical Prophecy*  
 by Dr. David Jeremiah (Evangelist)



### Faith Night at the Movies

#### Hamburg Strand Theatre

July 14, 2026 Rocky

Aug. 11, 2026 When the Game Stands Tall

Sept. 8, 2026 Unsung Hero

Oct. 13, 2026 Beautiful Mind

All movies start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10.00 at  
 the door and include a popcorn & medium soda.



### Bulletin Items

Bulletin items should be submitted to the church  
 office no later than close of business  
 the Tuesday of the week of desired publishing.

### Newsletter Items

Newsletter items should be submitted to the church  
 office no later than the Monday following the  
 council meeting in the month publishing is desired.



## **2026 Flower & Bulletin Sponsors**

Sign-up sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

The cost of bulletins is \$13.00 and flowers are \$40.00.



## **\*\* SUMMER SCHEDULE \*\***

**Sunday School will return in the fall.**

**Our summer hours will be in effect from Sunday, June 7th through Labor Day weekend. During this time, worship will begin at 9:00 am.**



## **Safety Updates at Zion's**

We have officially updated our two church first aid kits and replaced our AED unit to ensure everyone using our facilities stays safe.

We are approved for a grant toward the cost of a new AED thru Heartstart by Philips.

If you want to contribute toward the remaining cost of the new AED and supplies. put your donation in an envelope labeled "AED Replacement" and place it in the offering plate or send your donation to the church.

Thank-you for helping to ensure the health and safety of those who worship and meet at Zions's!



## **Historic Dreibelbis Farm**

Sunday Open Houses  
July 19<sup>th</sup> from 2pm – 4pm

Guided tours will be hosted at the farm's 1868 farmhouse

July 19<sup>th</sup> we'll display and explain antique farm wagons and equipment.

There is a \$6 tour fee with free on-site parking

*Thank You*

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Patricia Buzzard of Reading for her generous donation of nine quilt racks.

These beautiful racks were custom made for Patricia many years ago by a family friend. As she prepares to relocate, she found she no longer had a need for them. Upon learning about our Knotters Group, Patricia reached out in hopes that the racks could continue to be used and appreciated by others.

After receiving the racks, we realized that while they would be a wonderful addition to our ministry, we would not be able to use all nine. Around that same time, Mark Dreibelbis contacted us to ask if some of the racks might be used at the Dreibelbis Farm. We were pleased to share them and gladly donated several for use there.

The racks were displayed during the Quilt Blessing held on June 7, where many had the opportunity to admire both their craftsmanship and their history. We are deeply grateful for Patricia's thoughtful gift and are thankful that these racks will continue to serve our Knotters Group and the Dreibelbis Farm for many years to come.

Thank you, Patricia, for your generosity and support.



## **Emergency Contact Form**

To help ensure the safety and well-being of all members, we are updating our membership records to include an emergency contact.

Having accurate emergency contact information on file helps us respond in a timely manner if we need to reach someone on your behalf.

This information will only be used if an emergency or unexpected situation occurs. Please complete a form and place it in the box in the narthex or email your emergency contact information to the church office.



As we continue to give thanks for God's blessings and the many ways He provides for our community and congregation, we invite everyone to take part in our special July offering opportunities. Your generous gifts help sustain our ministry, care for those in need, and keep our church a warm and welcoming place for all.

### **Local Outreach – Opportunity House Envelope**

The Opportunity House Envelope offering helps to support our food service ministry to Opportunity House. Your gifts enable us to continue several times per year to prepare and serve meals and share God's love with our neighbors in need at Opportunity House.

### **World Hunger Envelope**

Through the World Hunger Envelope, we join together with the ELCA World Hunger program to reach out beyond our walls, supporting efforts to feed the hungry and combat poverty both locally and around the world. Every gift—big or small—helps bring hope and nourishment to those in need.

Every envelope, every gift, and every offering helps us share God's love in word and deed. Together, we can continue to build a vibrant, caring church community—rooted in faith and reaching out with compassion.



## **2026 SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT**

We had an opportunity to represent Zion's at the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly in the Poconos in June. Our Synod is comprised of 235 congregations. This was the year to elect a bishop for a 6-year term which requires a 2 day, in-person assembly. Voting for ELCA bishop is a process much like choosing a Pope and very different from our political elections. There is no campaigning, and there are no prepared speeches.

At the first session Friday evening, every delegate has a blank slate and writes down a pastor to be considered for bishop. There is a large list of candidates who have until the morning to decline or accept. The next morning there were about 12 candidates left. After the second vote, the top 7 continue onto the ballot. There were then break-out sessions where previously selected questions were asked of each candidate. There was a third vote and the top 3 candidates were selected. Additional questions were asked of each. After the fourth vote, the top 2 were selected. The final vote elected Pastor Jennifer Dee who will begin serving as Bishop later this fall.

It truly felt that the Holy Spirit was guiding the process as each candidate wrestled with what he or she felt called to do. A final candidate became apparent as the process unfolded. Bishop Christopher DeForest was acknowledged for his 6 years of service.

The other main take away was how much our Synod does and how many organizations they support. The Synod is active in working with a lay ministry program to help with the shortage of pastors. The first combined congregation model in our synod is in Reading – 6 churches, 2 pastors, 6 lay leaders, 1 deacon. Synod Ministry Teams develop and support programs to further the synod's mission and priorities. Each team focuses on a specific area of ministry and may form task groups to carry out initiatives, encourage coordination, and respond to emerging needs. These teams include racial, environmental, LGBTQ, immigration, youth and non-traditional ministries, and many social outreach programs. Our Synod also supports the ELCA at large.

You can read more about the Synod activities at [nepasynod.org](http://nepasynod.org).

We were pleased to represent our congregation at the assembly and appreciated the opportunity to participate.  
Mark and Janine Dreibelbis



## **Grab-A-Tab Outreach**

We are excited to announce that we will continue to collect  
**soda can tabs**  
to go to Hamburg Area School District for the  
“Grab-A-Tab” program.



The “Grab-a-Tab” program is a community friendly fund-raising program that allows people of all ages to join the effort to provide a “Home-Away-from-Home” to children with cancer and other serious illnesses and their families.



## **Time to Dream about summer and going to Bear Creek Camp!**

Classic camp is Sunday through Friday with 3 sessions of try camp from Sunday to Wednesday for those who have completed grades 1-3. Jr. and Sr. high program include a rafting trip and an expanded high ropes course.

**Last session of camp is August 9-14.**

WELCA strongly believes in the value of the outdoor Christian education of Bear Creek camp. Therefore, they offer scholarships for Zion’s members and Zion’s Sunday school attendees.

Try Camp - \$300

Classic Camp - \$425

Family Camp - \$300 (Family camp is July 5-10)

Check the website [bearcreekcamp.org](http://bearcreekcamp.org) for details about camp, dates, forms and FAQ. For details about how to access Zion’s WELCA scholarships, contact Carol Rothermel - [chipmunk\\_hill@comcast.net](mailto:chipmunk_hill@comcast.net) or 610-562-7620.



## **Fill the Truck Event**

**On Saturday, October 10 from 11am ~ 1pm**

Donate gently used furniture, clothing, and household items to help families get back on their feet after experiencing homelessness.

**Please donate only items in good, usable condition.**

### **Items accepted:**

- Furniture
- Clothing
- Household items

### **Items not accepted:**

- Electronics
- Baby furniture

Your generosity can make a meaningful difference in helping families create a fresh start.  
Thank you for your support!



## **Food Pantry**

Our local food pantry is **always** in need of donations. Some items that are needed:

### **Canned Vegetables**

And of course, **any shelf stable item** would be appreciated.

**\*\*If you have tote bags to donate, they are also needed by Northern Berks Food Pantry (Hamburg). Please put them in the shopping cart in the Narthex. You can even put your food donations in a tote bag!**

For monetary donations, checks can be made out to **Northern Berks Food Pantry** and mailed to:

Hamburg Area Middle School

711 Windsor St.

Hamburg, PA 19526

*Thank you for helping members of our community to make ends meet!*

### **Food Pantry Distribution:**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, at 9:00 am at the Lutheran Church of Holy Trinity, Leesport

The next **Northern Berks Food Pantry** distribution is currently scheduled for

**Tues., July 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6 pm to 7 pm.**

\*For monthly and weather-related updates, the Northern Berks Food Pantry line is 610-562-8250



## **Danielle Cares for Chairs**

We are collecting

### **BREAD TAGS**

What is Danielle Cares for Chairs?

\*Non-Profit

\*Run by kids

\*Collect bread tags + bring them to recycling plant =get proceeds for mobility products.

How to help?

\*Collect bread tags bring them to school.

Where are bread tags found?

\*Loaves of bread

\*Fruits

\*Vegetables

\*Hamburger/Hotdog Buns

\*Paper towels

3 million collected thus far 6 products given.

Teaches about sustainability and to give back to others.

Collection bin on table in Narthex.



## **July Birthdays**

1st Michael Lopez  
 2nd Joseph Leone  
     Tami Taddeo  
 3rd Sheri Hoffert  
     Susan Miller  
 4th Ruth Bensing  
     Christina Mazaika  
     Daniel Schaeffer  
 5th Parker Hancik  
     Heather Mengel  
     Hope Resuta  
 7th Dean Heckman  
 8th Alice Brieske  
     Russell Clark  
 9th Lee Gehringer  
     Ellie Noecker  
 10th Julia Doklan  
 12th Matthew Noecker  
     David Seidel  
 14th Deborah Hoffert  
     Shirley Sohon  
 16th Thea Wilson  
 17th Travis Hoshauer  
     Sylvia Noecker  
 20th Troy Epting  
     John Smith  
     Travis Swavely  
     Brayden Turner  
 22nd Katelyn Schumaker  
 23rd Reed Auchenbach  
 24th Jocelyn Heckman  
     Gary Wilhelm  
 25th Faye Miller  
     Brian Moroney  
     Kyle Schumaker  
 31st Kasandra Brown  
     Zoey Dreibelbis  
     Kyle Reitenauer  
     Pastor Stephanie Roth

Would you like your birthday listed  
in the newsletter?

Please contact the Church Office  
at 610-562-3112 or  
[churchoffice@zionslutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org)



## **Shut-in Mailing List**

Jean Daub  
1020 Railroad Rd.  
Dauberville, PA 19533

Mabel Fry  
65 Fry Lane  
Auburn, Pa 17922

Helen James  
668 North 5th Street  
Hamburg PA 19526

Grace Ketner  
1801 Tulpehocken Rd, Apt. 1  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Kathrine Reinhart  
Grandview Manor  
129 Houck Road  
Fleetwood, PA 19522

Christine Ryan  
Laurel Center  
125 Holly Rd.  
Hamburg, PA 19526

Carl Sechler  
Laurel Center  
125 Holly Rd.  
Hamburg, PA 19526

David Seidel  
Grand View Manor  
129 Houck Rd  
Fleetwood, PA 19522

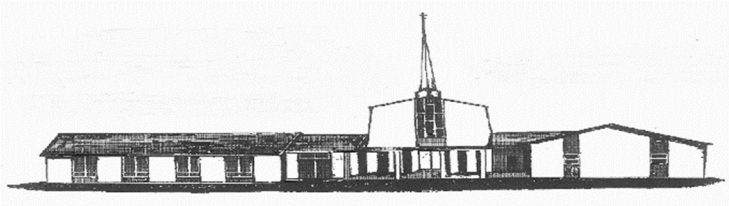
Barbara Shafer  
21 East Noble  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

Lester Wessner  
350 Witchcraft Rd  
Hamburg, PA 19526

If there is anyone you know who is unable to get  
out and would like to be added to our list, please  
contact the church office.

# Zion's Messenger

Sunday Worship: 9:00 am, Holy Communion,  
Indoor recorded service



## July 2026

Church Phone: 610-562-3112

Church Email: [churchoffice@zionslutheran.org](mailto:churchoffice@zionslutheran.org)

Church Website: [www.zionslutheran.org](http://www.zionslutheran.org)

**Pastor: Pastor Stephanie Roth**

Pastor's Office Phone: 610-562-6731

Pastor's Email:

[pastorstephanie@zionslutheran.org](mailto:pastorstephanie@zionslutheran.org)

### *Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church **Purpose Statement:***

*God's Purpose for Zion's is to welcome and empower people to grow in faithfulness and service to His mission through the Gospel. † Jesus is Lord & Savior † † Honest & open communication † † Create and sustain healthy relationships † † Share your faith through our daily life † † Recognize and encourage people's spiritual gifts † Perseverance † † A congregation united in Christ making Zion's a destination, not an obligation †*

Zion's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
354 Zion's Church Road  
Shoemakersville, PA 19555

# July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>** Services will be recorded and posted on the church's website and Facebook page every Sunday</b>	<b>** Watch for service info in bulletins, calendars &amp; online</b>		1	2	3	4
<b>5</b> 9 am Worship 6:30pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> Office Closed	<b>7</b> 7 pm A.A. Meeting	8	<b>9</b> 9:30 am Ponder & Prayer w/Pastor	10	11
<b>12</b> 9 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> Office Closed	<b>14</b> 9 am Knotters 7 pm Council Meeting 7 pm A.A. Meeting	15	<b>16</b> 9:30 am Ponder & Prayer w/Pastor 11 am Senior Group 7 pm Property Meeting	17	18
<b>19</b> 9 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> Office Closed August 2026 Newsletter Deadline	<b>21</b> 7 pm A.A. Meeting	22	<b>23</b> 9:30 am Ponder & Prayer w/Pastor	24	25
<b>26</b> 9 am Worship 6:30 pm Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> Office Closed	<b>28</b> 9 am Knotters 7 pm A.A. Meeting	29	30	31	