

# TOGETHER IN FAITH

“Bonded in Christ’s love, we teach, preach, and equip God’s people for discipleship here and throughout the world.”  
~Zion Lutheran Church Mission Statement

### Zion Lutheran Church

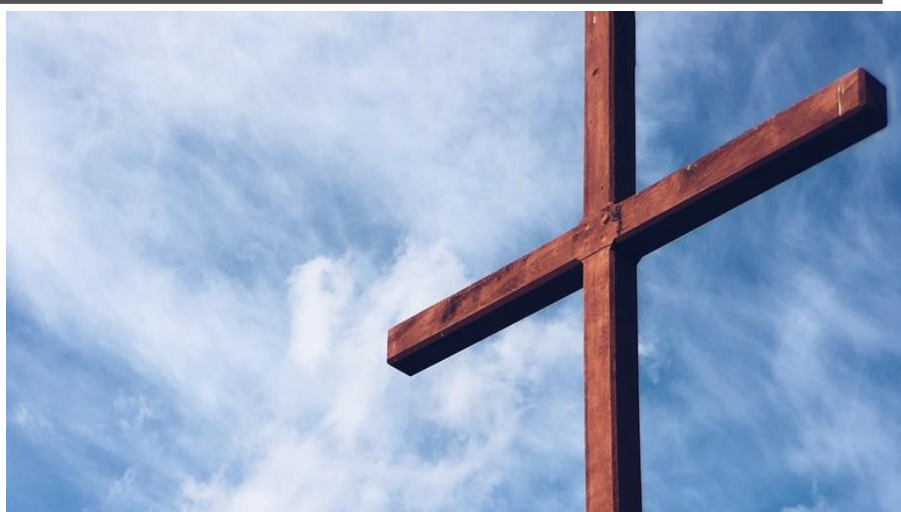
“A place to belong, a place to believe, a place to become.

**Sunday Service 10:00am**

**Interim Pastor –Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler**

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### **A New Year Prayer for you, from Pastor Renae**

Almighty God, bless this newborn year with your brightness. Like a fresh snowfall across the prairie, let 2026 lie before me pure and untraveled, waiting for the footprints of grace that I will leave behind. Bless my eyes with wonder, that I may see you in common places and unlikely faces. Amen

May this new year bring you renewed hope, fresh courage, and the deep assurance that Jesus walks into the future beside you. Thank you for the love, generosity, and faithfulness you share in this community. May 2026 be filled with holy surprises, tender mercies, and moments of joy that take your breath away.

Happy New Year!  
With gratitude and blessing,  
Pastor Renae

### **Contact information for Pastor Renae**

Cell: 402.867.4044  
Email:Renaek7@gmail.com

## **Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting      December 3, 2025**

Meeting was called to order by President DeAnn Oltman.

**Members present:** DeAnn Oltman, Paul Jurgens, Kenny Reed, Jason Wallman, Dennis Remmers, Laurie Wallman, Les Lieneman, Kevin Buhr, Carrye Meints,

**Absent:** Todd Bohlmeyer

Motion made and seconded to accept meeting agenda for 12-3-2025 meeting.

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes from 11-5-2025 meeting.

### **Celebrating God's Work in Progress – Old Business**

- **Outstanding bills associated with the school house repairs.** Noakes and Buhr Electric for the wiring of the AC Unit will need to be paid upon completion. Potentially install a motion detector light on the outside of the school house.
- **Outstanding fellowship repairs** (tile entryway by west door, spot painting, installation of fans & sound panels & install handicap mechanism on the new doors). Would like these items completed before Christmas if possible.
- **Gloo Team Members for 2026-** Michele Kolm, Mary Lenners, & Laurie Wallman
- **Charles Siebert Baptism 12/21/25 (Anna & Konrad Siebert)**-Will be at morning service if possible
- **Snow brigade-** Schedule will be adjusted to accommodate each week to include both Saturdays and Sundays with new week starting on Monday.

### **Discerning God's Will- New Business**

- **Candlelight Service 12/7/25 at 6:00 pm-** Todd Bohlmeyer will be reading scriptures and youth lighting candles- balcony will be open
- **Audit of general church accounts** - the Auditing Committee would like to establish some general parameters to follow when auditing the church books. The goal is to have the books audited prior to the printing of the annual report. The annual report will be available January 18th and the annual meeting will be held on January 25th.
- **Property & Management checking account** - it was agreed to discontinue the use of a separate checking account for Property & Management & have all bills paid directly from the General checking account in 2026. The Sunday School will retain its own account.
- **Time and Talent Sheets-** encourage members to complete sheets and turn them in to council members or the offering plates.
- **Coverage for Christmas Program practices** - discussed who would be present to cover practices on the 10th, 17th & 21st.
- **Budget Meeting on 12/10/25 at 7:00 pm** -DeAnn Oltman's House
- **Dismantle Christmas Tree after Church on 1/4/26**-Ask Todd Bohlmeyer if this will work to bring lift?
- **Committees have year-end reports completed by 1/9/26-** Annual reports will be available on 1/18/26
- **Update on Church Nominees for 2026**
- **December Services** - discussed coverage for all the services throughout the month of December.
- **Christmas Day Service** - Council will lead the service. Pastor Renae will prepare the order of service & leader guide.
- **Approval of November mileage** - 392 miles were approved for Pastor.

**Ministry Team Report as of December 3, 2025**

- Financial-General Fund Balance on hand - 11/1/2025- \$90,849.51
- Income - \$30,939.04
- Balance on hand – 11/30/2025 \$91,016.85
- Sinking Fund - \$60,859.77
- Seminary Fund - \$61,408.42
- Thrivent Mutual Fund - \$3,164.85
- Open Savings - \$39,921.83

**CHURCH STATISTICS**

**Sunday, Nov 30**

Attendance: 101/ SS 57  
Offering: \$1,881.00/SS \$79.16

**Sunday, Dec 7**

Attendance: 150/SS 53  
Offering: \$22,633.04/SS \$86.60

**Dec 7 Candlelight**

Attendance: 190  
Offering: \$1,558.73

**Sunday Dec 14**

Attendance: 175/SS 69  
Offering: \$9,238.39/SS \$131.25

**Sunday, Dec 21**

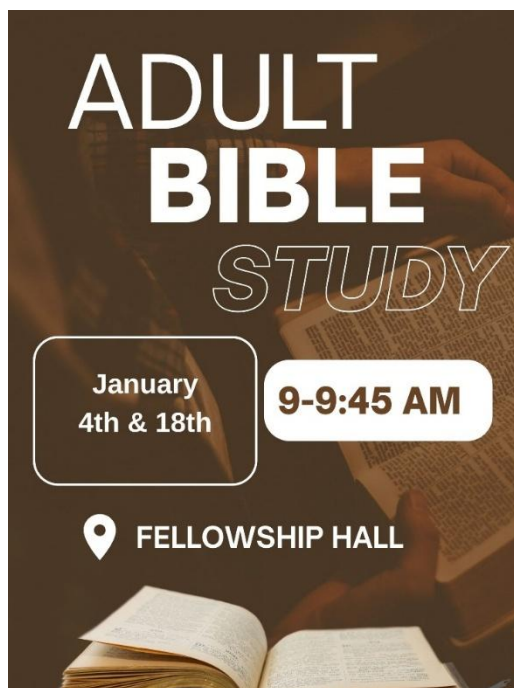
Attendance: 182/34  
Offering: \$3,033.00/SS \$6.00

**Christmas Eve**

Attendance: 448  
Offering: \$3,171.00

**Christmas Day**

Attendance: 43  
Offering: \$881.00



**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

\*\*\*All are invited to attend.

**Class Topic: How we got the Bible**

Join Pastor Renae and learn the age of each of the books of the bible, who wrote them, who decided what books and order of books to put into the Bible and why.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE:** Did not meet.

**HOSPITALITY:** Did not meet.

**MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:** Did not meet.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC:** Did not meet.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Did not meet.

**PARK BOARD:** Did not meet.

**PUBLICITY:** Did not meet.

### **PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT:**

Present: Luke Ideus, Connor Mason, Jordan Busboom, Mike Detert, Kevin Buhr, and Kenny Reed

#### Old Business:

- School House Project: Buhr Electric will be working to finish getting power to outside a/c unit.
- Noakes will finish up the a/c when Buhr has completed the electrical. They will also finish the dehumidifier system once all parts are in.
- Parsonage: Noakes waiting on parts to finish install of dehumidifier system.
- Trees along west side of Parish Hall have been removed. Looking to find someone with a stump grinder to remove stumps.
- We will be removing the dead fruit trees just south of the Parsonage soon.
- Looking to have fellowship hall finished before the end of the year. Possibly before Christmas.
- Heat tape for gutters and downspouts have been turned on (plugged in) and working.

#### New Business:

- Replaced light bulb in Parsonage by the back door over the basement steps.
- Jordan replaced outside lights on the Fellowship Hall along south, north and east elevations. Alan Folkerts replaced the lights at both the north and south entrances to the Fellowship Hall.
- Need to replace bulb in the North Bell Tower stair way. We have a lamp at the top of stairs temporarily.
- Blake Meints is looking into replacement doors for the East entrance to Parish Hall.

**WILLIE & ANNA MEINTS ENDOWMENT:**

**Date:** 12/3/2025

**Members present:** Committee did not meet

**Treasurer’s Report:**

<b>Balance on hand as of 10/31/25</b>	\$360,865.87
<b>Balance on hand as of 11/28/25</b>	\$362,437.43

**Old Business:**

Three youth were reimbursed 75% of the total confirmation camp costs they attended from July 27<sup>th</sup> to August 1, 2025. Total reimbursement was \$931.42. No other youth applications were received for attending Christian based camps during the year.

**New Business:**

Reminders will be placed in the weekly bulletins & the January & February newsletters, reminding college students to complete the Scholarship application, upon completion of the 2025 Fall semester. A copy of their grades is required when submitting the application. Students entering college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years. Applications are located on the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall & must be received by February 15, 2026. Applications received after the deadline, will not be considered.

**YOUTH:**



**PARISH ED:****Date: 12/3/25****Members Present:** Heather Hippen (Chair), Courtney Schlake (Secretary), Kari Parks (Treasurer), Alyssa Lieneman, Lanette Nelson**Members Absent:****Treasurer's Report:****Balance:** \$892.64**New Business:**

- New Stable
  - Built by Dennis Remmers, Alan Wiese & Terry Wiese
  - Will need to be painted/decorated
- Updated Sunday School Schedule
  - Program Practice during Sunday School on Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>
  - No Sunday School on December 28<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup>

**Old Business:**

- Sunday School Curriculum
  - Lanette ordered
- Christmas Goodie Bags
  - 125 bags
  - Candy – Cindy Lieneman
  - FFA Fruit – purchased from Tavin Lieneman
    - 75 apples & 50 oranges
  - Donation for Popcorn Balls – Cindy Jurgens donated in the past
- Christmas Program Props
  - New Stable/Manger/Baby Jesus
  - Backdrops have been cleaned
- 2026 New Paris Ed Members
  - Ross Eickhoff
  - Jordan Freeman will replace Heather Hippen
  - Brooke Jensen will replace Lanette Nelson

**GRACE CIRCLE:**

Grace Circle met on Dec. 10 at 11:00 at The Villa. We enjoyed learning “Which Christmas came First,” before having our meal from Subway. Elnora Lenners provided a delicious dessert. 12 members and 2 guests, Pastor Renae and Bev Daubendiek, were present. It was decided to give this year’s monthly offerings to a family in financial need for Christmas. Next month’s General Meeting will be held Jan. 25 after church. We will have 2 lessons in February out of the Sept-Nov Gather magazine. An appreciation gift was given to Pastor Renae. We then had secret sister reveal and gift opening and drew for new secret sisters. Fun was had by all.

The WELCA General Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18th in the fellowship hall following Worship. Please plan to attend as will vote on the budget and information for the upcoming year.

**ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE:**

# ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

2026



<b>JAN/JULY</b>	<b>FEB/AUG</b>	<b>MARCH/SEPT</b>
RHONDA FOSSLER LINDA IDEUS DEANN OLTMAN ANNETTE WIESE	PATTI BEHRENS LYNETTE JURGENS CAROLINE IDEUS SUSAN BUSS	LINDA BLACKWELL DENISE IDEUS CHERYL FOLKERTS DANELLE EVERS CARRYE MEINTS
<b>APRIL/OCT</b>	<b>MAY/NOV</b>	<b>JUNE/DEC</b>
CAROL YOUNG SANDY MEINTS MARCELLA RADEMACHER SUSAN NEWMAN	KARLA HOLLAND RHONDA DORN LYNETTE DORN DOREEN BUSBOOM KELLY LENNERS CHRISTY BUHR	JANET HARMS PEGGY JOHNSON ROSE GRONWOLD CINDY JURGENS CARRIE REED

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**THANK YOU** - A huge thank you to Kent and Jen Mahler and Alyssa Lieneman for all your help making the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Service Action experience run smoothly, and to Stan and Mary Lenners for writing the Thrivent grant that made this all possible. We are so grateful for your support and hearts for service! Our 5th grade class had an incredible shopping experience as they helped shop for two families in need in Beatrice. What an amazing opportunity for them to learn generosity, compassion, and the joy of giving back!

**THANK YOU** - To the generosity of Stan & Mary Lenners and a Thrivent Action Grant, the Beatrice Community Food Pantry received a donation of 27 – 4-pound hams to distribute to those in need!

**THANK YOU** - Blessings all those who contributed to the November Food Pantry Drive! The third grade Sunday school class packed up 176 items + a \$40 cash donation! Groceries were also purchased thanks to a \$250 Thrivent Action Grant written by Dorothy Trauernicht!

**THANK YOU** - A special thanks to the Council for putting up the tree and all who helped decorate the church & fellowship hall for the Sundays leading up to Thanksgiving and Christmas. The church is beautiful! Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!

**THANK YOU** - Thank you so much for your generous donation to the community Food Pantry. Your donation goes a long way in helping feed those who are struggling with food insecurity. We couldn't do what we do without people like you. Thank you! ~Community Pantry

**THANK YOU** - Thanks to Zion 3rd Grade Sunday School class & Parish Ed for collecting over 120+ of their "favorite things" for the community food pantry this Christmas season! God Bless you one & all!

**THANK YOU** - Thank you for your generous gift of \$500 to Bridges to Hope. Your kindness makes a meaningful difference and directly furthers our mission of serving the underserved. We're especially excited to let you know that we have broken ground & begun construction for Hope Village! This new community will offer safe, affordable & stable housing for individuals & small families who often encounter barriers to finding a home due to their past. Because of YOU, second chances are possible. Thank you for being a valued part of the Bridges to Hope family! With Gratitude, Valerie Dahlke - Office Manager

**THANK YOU** - Thank you Zion Lutheran Church for your donation to Mother to Mother Ministry of the Beatrice area. Your gift is very much appreciated! It will help us reach even more families in the area. Thank you, Lori Thimm – Treasurer

**THANK YOU!**

**WELCOME** to our newest member in Christ Charles Otto Siebert. Son of Konrad and Anna (Jurgens) Siebert born on July 11, 2025. The sponsors are Charlie Sidels and Tommy & Heidi Crane. Grandparents are Paul & Cindy Jurgens and Eric & Peggy Siebert. Great Grandmother is Lorene Wallman.

### **WILLIE AND ANNA MEINTS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP**

Students attending college can apply for the scholarship for up to 4 years, following the start of the first college semester. Applications are located on the Welcome Center in the Fellowship Hall. **Deadline to submit the application is February 15, 2026.** Please make sure to read the qualifications listed on the application.

Committee members: DeAnn Oltman, Steve Oltman & Laura Fikar

### **ANNUAL MEETING - January 25, 2026**

The Annual Meeting is right around the corner. Please take note of the following dates & submit your year-end annual reports to the Church Secretary no later than Friday, January 9th. Reports can be submitted via email at: [zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com](mailto:zionlutheranchurchpickrell@gmail.com)

- **Friday, January 9, 2026** - Year-end reports are due from all committees
- **Sunday, January 18, 2026** - Annual Report will be available for members to review
- **Sunday, January 25, 2026** - Annual meeting immediately after church

**GRACE CIRCLE** pictured below with some of the shoeboxes they filled for Samaritan's Purse project. Seventeen boxes for Operation Christmas were shipped out. Thank you again to all who made a child's life a little brighter this holiday season.



**BULLETIN SPONSORS:**

December 7: None

December 14th: Kevin Buhr in honor of his grandfather Carl Buhr, grandmother Emma Buhr, and father Kenneth Buhr who were all baptized at Zion 110, 100, and 80 years ago.

December 21st: Karla Holland in memory of David Holland's birthday December 15th.

December 28th: None

**IF INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A WEEKLY BULLETIN**, you may do so by contacting the Church secretary and making a check out to Zion Church for \$75.00.



**Snow Brigade:**

**January 5<sup>th</sup> - Jeff Wiese (Captain),** Les Lieneman (Tractor), David Meints (Tractor), Jason Lovitt, Matt Meints, Gary Wiese, Andy Schoen, Perry Jurgens, Kenny Jurgens, Josh Nelson

**January 12<sup>th</sup> - Kyle Schlake (Captain),** Eric Parde (Tractor), Chris Fossler, Steve Oltman, Jordan Busboom, Greg Robinson, Hunter Blackwell, Keith Parde, Taiten Harms

**January 19<sup>th</sup> - Josh Gronewold (Captain),** Alan Wiese (Tractor), AJ Wiese, Kenny Newman, Paul Jurgens, Gerald Ideus, Todd Bohlmeyer, Brian Garton

**January 26<sup>th</sup> – Luke Ideus (Captain),** Gary Gronewold (Tractor), Stan Lenner (Tractor), Justin Hippen, Mark Buhr, James Lenner, Billy Harms, Larry Gronewold, Dale Zimmerman







**Poinsettia List for 2025**

**Eddie & Lynette Dorn & James & Kelly Lenner's & Families** in Memory of Ernest & Emma Meints and Dennis & Terry Meints

**Keith, Arlan, Jeanette, Carol, Nancy and families** in Memory of Arnold & Lois Buhr

**Betty, Carol, Connie** & families in Memory of Walt & Angeline Johnson, Roger Daubendiek, Roger Keller, & Dean Thornburg

**Karen Buhr & family** in Memory of Leonard & Bruce Buhr

**Lynette Jurgens & family** in Memory of Ernest & Anna Jobman, Sarah Jurgens, & Marilyn Folkerts

**Alvera Bade** in Memory of Victor Bade, Emila & Margaret Wallman, and Ralph & Neva Bade

**Karla, Lexi, Macy & Faith Holland** in Memory of Dave Holland

**Marilyn Robinson & family** in Memory of Kenneth Robinson

**Kent & Jennifer Mahler & family** in Memory of Cliff & Idella Mahler, Keith Mahler, & Lowell Rahe

**Dennis & Rhonda Fossler, Justin & Heather Hippen, and Matt & Kelsey Fossler and families** in Memory of Ernest, Marilyn, & Rodney Zimmerman and Harvey Fossler

**Patty, Jermey, Brittany Thomas & Doyle Scott & Larry and Macy Gronewold in** Memory of Lawrence & Shirley Gronewold, George & Eleanor Wolken, Will & Ester Gronewold

**Doug, Cindy, Lauren, Ashley & Trevor Parde** in Memory of Edward & Bernice Parde

**Devonna Primavera, Betty Schoen, and families** in Memory of Elmer & Leona Trauernicht

**Karla Carstens & family** in Memory of Susie & Tayten Buhr and Gary & Judy Carstens  
**Tracy & Brooklyn Lidolph** in Memory of Wayne & Dorothy Lidolph, Larry White & family

**Caroline Ideus, Laurie, Craig & Jess and grandkids** in Memory of Gary Ideus

**Dorothy Trauernicht & family** in Memory of Wayne and loved ones

**Mark & Cerice Cornelius & family** in Memory of Ron, Adeline, & Diane Cornelius

**Chris & Renae Mason** in Memory of George & Velma Ideus and boys & Louis and Tena Schoen

**Betty Schoen, Devonna Primavera & families** in Memory of Elmer & Leona Trauernicht

## WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

### January 4th - 10:00am

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler  
 Organist: Alnora Daubendiek  
 Acolytes: Nolan Buhr  
                   Hunter Grone  
 Lector: Cindy Parde  
 Greeters: Doug & Rhonda Dorn  
                   Karla Holland  
 Special Music: Men’s Choir

### January 11th - 10:00am

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler  
 Organist: Shirley Gronewold  
 Acolytes: Grayson Borgman  
                   Korbin Busboom  
 Lector: Jordan Freeman  
 Greeters: Eddie & Lynette Dorn  
                   Jordan & Bob Freeman  
 Special Music: Kids of the  
                   Kingdom

### January 18 - 10:00am

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler  
 Piano: Janelle Ideus  
 Guitar: Deric Bloom  
 Acolytes: Cash Harwood  
                   Millie Garton  
 Lector: Lynette Jurgens  
 Greeters: Tony & Kristin Hoffman  
                   Lynette Jurgens  
 Special Music: Endless Hallelujah

### January 25 - 10:00am

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Renae Koehler  
 Organist: Alnora Daubendiek  
 Acolytes: Tavin Lieneman  
                   Alexis Folkerts  
 Lector: Peggy Johnson  
 Greeters: Alex & Beth Buhr  
                   Art & Sharon Schuster  
 Special Music: Amigos

**January Altar Guild:** Rhonda Fossler, Linda Ideus, DeAnn Oltman, and Annette Wiese

**January Table Troop:** John Gronewold (Leader), Paul & Shellie Remmers, Les & Mert Rademacher, Linda & Robert Ideus





## January

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 Andi Brandert   | 11 Mickey Larkins<br>Nichelle Schuster           | 23 Brock Robinson<br>Nolan Robinson<br>Kelsey Murphy<br>Kylee Brown |
| 2 Scott Johnson<br>Sheryl Wiese<br>Finn Sturek<br>Hayden Frost<br>Hannah Hrenchir | 13 Shirleen Miller<br>Bella Burr                 | 24 Connie Jurgens   |
| 4 Linda Hooper  | 14 Steve Martin                                  | 25 Deric Bloom<br>Brogan Ideus<br>Everlee Mae Glynn                 |
| 5 Larry Miller  | 16 Ashley Parde                                  | 26 Rory Detert  |
| 6 Gary Gronewold<br>Tavin Lieneman  | 17 Chesleigh Ideus<br>Reagan Rinne               | 27 Lisa Riha  |
| 7 Gary Hooper<br>Trevor Parde<br>Jacob Behrends                                   | 19 Addison Dorn<br>David Meints<br>Sydney Brauer | 28 Chelsea Leners   |
| 9 Kade Wiese  | 20 Lisa Hostetler<br>Jeremy Thomas               | 29 Katelyn Bohlmeyer<br>Brandon Hofstetter                          |
| 10 Lauren Parde<br>Sadie Fehringer<br>Callahan Mason                              | 21 Patti Busboom<br>Rose Gronewold               | 30 Lindsay Detert   |
|   |  | 31 Zachary Meints<br>Sandy Parks<br>Chloe Remmers                   |



# JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 8:45 am SS 9 am BKF Club/Adult Bible Study/Endless Hallelujah practice 10am Worship/Communion/Men's Choir <b>*Council/WELCA (the word WELCA is misspelled) volunteers taking down tree &amp; decorations</b>	5 7pm Men's Choir Practice	6	7 6pm - 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation 7pm - Committee meetings 7:30 - Council Meeting	8	9 <b>**Year-end annual reports due**</b>	10
11 8:45 am SS 9 am BKF Club 10am Worship/Kids of the Kingdom 11:45 Private Baptism	12 7pm Men's Choir Practice	13	14 6pm - 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	15 Ladies Aide	16	17
18 8:45 am SS 9 am BKF Club/Adult Bible Study/Endless Hallelujah practice 10am Worship/Communion/Endless Hallelujah <b>WELCA General Mtg following worship</b>	19 7pm Men's Choir Practice	20	21 6pm - 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	22	23 <b>*Printing Annual Reports</b>	24
25 8:45 am SS 9 am BKF Club 10am Worship/Amigos <b>ANNUAL MEETING following worship</b>	26 7pm Men's Choir Practice <b>**Newsletter Printing Day!!!</b>	27	28 6pm - 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation	29 Ladies Aide	30	31