

A message from our Pastor

Dear First Lutheran Family,

As March arrives, so does the holy season of Lent, a season that invites us to slow down, to look honestly at our lives, and to return to the heart of God.

Lent begins with ashes, even when Ash Wednesday is cancelled yet again because of the snow, those humble smudges that tell you, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” It is a stark and tender truth. We are finite. We are fragile. We are not in control. And yet, we are deeply loved.

Lent is not about spiritual self-improvement projects or proving our devotion to God. It is not a six-week guilt trip. It is a journey, one that leads us with Jesus toward Jerusalem, toward the cross, and ultimately toward the empty tomb. It is a season of honesty and hope held together.

Throughout these forty days, we are invited into three historic practices: prayer, fasting, and generosity. These are not meant to make us more impressive Christians, but to make space. Space for repentance. Space for clarity. Space for grace. Prayer reorients our hearts toward God. Fasting loosens our grip on the things that quietly control us. Generosity turns our gaze outward toward our neighbor.

In a noisy and distracted world, Lent gently asks: What needs to fall away so that Christ may be more clearly seen in us? Where have we grown numb? What needs healing? What needs surrender?

If you choose to “give something up” this year, let it be something that creates room for deeper trust in God. If you choose to “take something on,” let it be something that draws you closer to the way of Jesus, perhaps a daily Scripture reading, intentional silence, or a simple act of kindness each day.

Remember: Lent is not about earning Easter. Easter is already promised. Resurrection is already God’s answer. Lent simply prepares our hearts to receive it with fresh wonder. As your pastor, I invite you to walk this road together. Come to worship. Engage in the mid-week gatherings. Sit with the hard texts. Ask your honest questions. Bring your whole self, your doubts, your fatigue, your hope.

The cross stands before us not as a symbol of despair, but as the place where God meets us most fully in our humanity. And beyond it, always beyond it, stands resurrection.

May this be a season of holy returning.
With you on the journey,
Pastor Lance Crevier



Meet our Newest Members

Scott and Kristy Lamers

Hello, we are Scott and Kristy Lamers. Together we have seven children, 5 girls and 2 boys plus 4 grandchildren with another one on the way in April. They keep us very busy and we so enjoy all the time we get to spend with them. We are truly blessed!



John and Patty Decker

We retired to Iron County in April 2024 from Antioch, IL. We moved to our cottage on Camp Lake. As the cottage is seasonal, we winter at our home in Gastra....

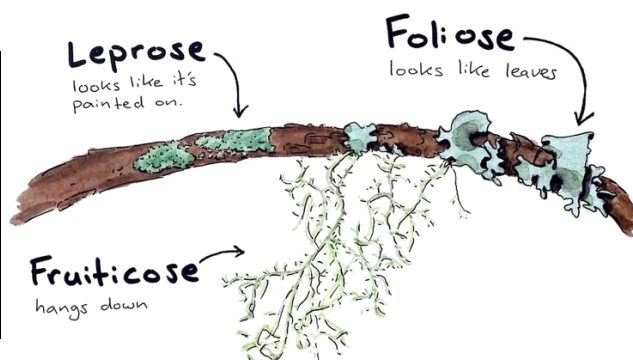
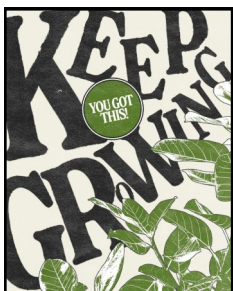
John was born and raised in Kenosha, WI. He worked as a warehouse manager and driver. Patty is from Highland Park, IL. She worked at a paper bag factory purchasing paper and scheduling the machines. (Yes, we made the pizza bags at Riverside).



When not working at Ace

Hardware John enjoys fishing, 4- wheeling and spoiling our two dogs. Patty spends her time quilting, baking and card playing. We have two daughters who live in Tampa, a daughter in Madison and a son in New York City.

We are thrilled with the reception we received from the First Lutheran family and look forward to the fellowship as we get to know everyone.



DID YOU KNOW?

Lichens are sensitive to pollution and thrive only in areas with clean air. Finding abundant, healthy lichens is often a sign that the environment around you is relatively unpolluted.

West Iron County Middle/ High School Honor Roll 2025-2026 Semester 1

A Honor Roll

12th Grade: Dominick Brunswick, Elizabeth Chernach, Lilyanna DeSousa, Gatlin Gillaspie, Laurel Johnson, Aubrey Richardson, Catharina Rypstra

11th Grade: Marlee Benson, Chloe Clements, Kali Flood, Isaac Maki, Lacey Mattson, Emmett Strom, Jennavecia Sunn

10th Grade: Haden Bunes, Zoe Donati, Madelyn Dye, Kinsley Economy, Alexzander Ghiggia, Lakota Hunborg, Isabella Jochem, Calyn Jukkala, Haleigh LaMay, Joel McWethy, Seth Oberlin, Gabrielle Porier, Adeline Rummelhoff, Harmony Scott, Eriana Sucholl

9th Grade: Dakota Autio, Anastasiia Dudiak, Lucy Farley, Bryan Gill, Natalie Gray, Rory Jacobson, Shane Lucht, Liam Meske, Dominic Mottes, Kelilah Myers, Ashlynn Nichols, Willow Nichols, Eli Oberlander, Audra Oberlin, Sophie Rhino, Jacob Schindler, Wessyn Soderbloom, Eduel Spencer, Ella Swanson, Baine Truse, Jaden Wallschlaeger, Alice Wartick

8th Grade: Adrianna Dallavalle, Trinity Dye, Brieanna Gill, Morgan Hansen, Hadley Heissner, Amelia LaMay, Noah Luckey, Mycah McNamee, Lillian Morgan, Nevin Porier, Samuel Rummelhoff, Thor Rypstra, Hannah Schandel, Emma Simpson-Sabotta, Magnolia Spencer, Megan Thomas, Sophia Thoune, Marlaina Woodard, Jaxson Wright

7th Grade: Lara Bofinger, Kadence Detterbeck, Audry Jacobson, Calla Johnson, Leina Lenz, Kristy Marchildon, Maribelle McNamee, Brielle Mottes, Anya Oberlin, Emerson Osterlund, Kanne Pelkola

6th Grade: Alayah Baake, James Babcock, Xavier Boster, Makayla Caswell, Jude Cheney, Jordi Chernach, Lucy Christensen, Blake Clements, Logan Cronkright-Bryan, Carmine Dallavalle, Brooklyn Davis, Elise Driessen, Lauren Fales, Landon Jacobs, Ashtyn LaMay, Hunter Leonoff, Merci Luckey, Daniel Maki, Nala Meske, Stella Mottes, Ayla Mylchreest, Khloe Nichols, Colin Porier, Kaitlyn Robles, Delilah Spencer, Teagan Stapleton, Joy Strom, Addisyn Zimmerman

B Honor Roll

12th Grade: Elliana Dutcher, Colton Dye, Taylor Economy, Emma Goldbach, Riley Hamel, Peyton Hill, Elizabeth Holm, Kaycee Ingram, Annika Johnson, Saul Kobussen, Erin Kolbas, Olivia LaMay, Destiny Lemery, Caiden Lewis, Titus Schroder, Lacey Shamion, Kloe Thunander, Nickolas Turner, Myriah Verhagen, Roy Waters, Julianna White, Khyra White

11th Grade: Cami Alexa, Ethan Bofiner, Kylee Devore, Kyla Erickson, Katelynn Flood, Vivian Holm, Grace Holm, Cash Koski, Avery Osterlund, Madysen Rivard, Dane Ryan, Matthew Swenski, Wynter Weeks, Donte White, Aubrey Willis

10th Grade: Carson Aldegarie, Addison Bortolameolli, Ryan Dallavalle, Dantae Droese, Tyanna Fonder, Colin Fritz, Jessi Makuck, Emery Mattson, Leah Nordstrom, Nickalas Perlono, Carson Schmit, Bristol Shamion, Grace Smith, Seth Verhagen

9th Grade: Reese Ahola, Violet Allen, Sean Battye, Chevy Carlson, Braylee Chernach, Nicholas Featherly, Krissalynn Jines, Jaxson Leonoff, Arian Lewis, Parker Lutes, Chaselynn Olson, Brodi Pelkola, Genesis Robles, Lexxi Schandel, Hanna Skoglund, Tessa Stapleton

8th Grade: Isabelle Benson, Shayleigh Brozak, Addison Brzoznowski, Riley Cronkright, Karter Erickson, Lily Hawke, Mikayla Kunick, Isabella Laird, Wyatt Makuck, Cali Reed, Ethan Rivard, Bryce Shamion, Rebel Tousignant, Khloe Woodard, Kinsley Zimmerman

7th Grade: Autumn Anderson, Alixzander Babcock, Camden Benson, Darren Clisch, Wyatt Cohran, Kendra Cole, Anna Collison, Beau Handley, Cali Holm, Donovan Jarvi, Emma Kyllonen, Ariana Parker, Amelia Rummelhoff, Daemian Sanchez, Jamison Shovald, Levi Stapleton, Owen Swanson

6th Grade: Cameron Aldegarie, Ethan Anderson, Jackson Anderson, Ellie Brzoznowski, Xena Cohran, Donovan Economy, Kurtis Fraser, Annabelle Gill, Jaxson Hansen, Bentley Knowlton, Dimitri Kuchar, Selena Lombardi, Kayden Luckey, Jase McWethy, Ellianna Olson, Ella Orchard, Colt Polich, Louis Post, Jonathan Rypstra, Genesis Stockero, Dakota Strickland, Isabella Taff, Jocelyn Taylor, Audrina Villeneuve, Kenzi Webber, Sophia Zelinski



Finance

We hope your January was joyful. Monthly financial results were mixed. While we received good income for the month it did include annual donations which will not be repeated monthly. Because of that, we will report on income on an accrued basis for comparative reasons. Income for the month was \$9,323 while expenses were \$7896. Expenses were below a budget of \$10,917. Next month we will be getting a rather large annual expense which we will accrue forward for comparative purposes. For budgeting purposes, we will report budgeted income at the same level as budgeted expenditure.

Before we get too deep into the year, as discussed in our annual meeting, our approved budget exceeds last year's income by nearly \$18,000. We need your help to address this 16% deficit. Please consider how we may be able to meet this need without having to deplete our savings. Thank you for generosity and continued support.

March Birthdays

1 Pastor Lance Crevier
2 Naomi Barry
11 Sydnie Mazurek
14 Lynn Peterson
15 Nevin Porier
16 Jason Marcell
17 Kay Barry
Daniel Grubbs
18 Braydon Nelson
19 Haden Bunes
20 Audrey Ridolphi
21 Holly Rybicki
30 Jill Poulos

**YOUR MIND
IS A GARDEN.
YOUR
THOUGHTS
ARE THE SEEDS.
YOU CAN GROW
FLOWERS,
OR YOU CAN GROW
WEEDS.**

Holden Evening Prayer Service

Every Wednesday
through Lent at
6:00pm
(after Soup Supper)

Join us for our
beautiful, musical
evening service
each Wednesday
after Soup Supper.

Bowling News

CRYSTAL BOWLERETTES 2/5
STANDINGS: 1. Idlewild Farm 9½-2½; 2. Logan's Place 9-3; 3. Elvoy Girls 7-5; 4. Snoopy's Strikers 6-6; 5. Amsoil 5-7; 6. Crystal View 5-7; 7. Marla Shamion State Farm 3½-8½; 8. Loud Acres 3-9
HIGH SCORES OF THE WEEK:

HTG: 1. Logan's Place 531; HTM: Logan's Place 1539; HIG: 1. Lisa Masnova 168; 2. Char Sikora 162; 3. Sherry Rajala 156; HIM: 1. Lisa Masnova 441; Char Sikora 433; Anita Berno 424
SPLITS: Ruth Raymond 9-10 and Anita Berno 5-7.

“Imperfect action beats perfect inaction every time.”

Harry S Truman (1884-1972)

WELCA

There will be no WELCA meeting in March.
Next WELCA meeting will be
April 13th at 10:00AM

NMU announces Dean's List Winter 2025 semester

MARQUETTE — Several Iron County students qualified for the Northern Michigan University (NMU) Dean's List.

Nine students qualified with a 4.0 grade point average: Rayven Jacobson of Amasa; Devon Basirico and Leah Feldhausen of Crystal Falls; Hailee Bradshaw and Julia Swenski of Gaastra; Haiden Gill, Hannah Guzowski, Kaitlyn Smith and Seanna Stine of Iron River.

Twelve students qualified with a grade point average of 3.50-3.99: Sadie Donati of Caspian; Allen Dobson, Jessie Murray and Jackson Post of Crystal Falls; Bailey Hoffart of Gaastra; Oz Benjamin, Rowyn Fiszer, Reed Jubie, Devin LaMay, Laycee Parson, Estella Ramirez and Ariella Stafford of Iron River.

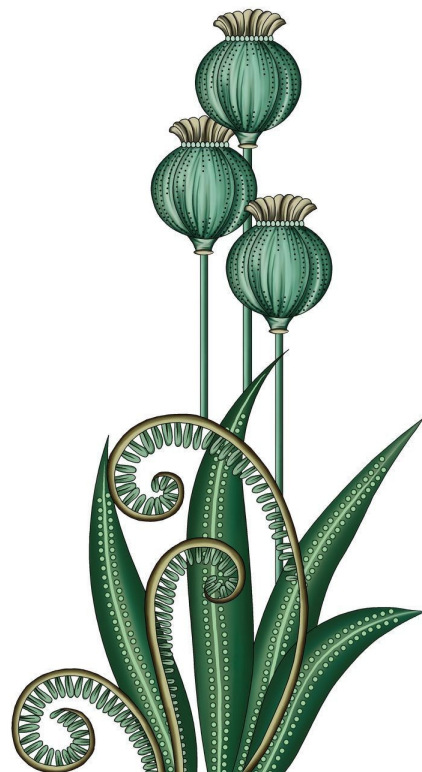
Soup Supper

Every Wednesday
through Lent
5:30 pm

March 4
March 11
March 18
March 25

GREEN

*Associated with self-acceptance, love,
and emotional wellness.
It enhances love, peace, and inner
balance.
It's the color of growth.*



President's Message

The church Council met on February 10 with new and current members. At that meeting, all of the other Council members asked me to lead as President in the new term. I humbly accepted the nomination and put my faith in God that I will live up to everyone's expectations. Also nominated and accepted were Marla Busakowski for Vice President, Donna Ahlberg for Secretary and Curt Poulos for Treasurer. Thank you to each of these individuals for your willingness to serve!

We welcomed new Council members, Donna Lord and Denise Spelgatti. Other members of the Council include Lois Brozak, Deb Sitkoski, and of course, Pastor Lance. Departing the Council are Karen Kallio, Tracy Nelson and Tom Karvala. Words cannot express how much an impact each of these individuals have contributed to First Lutheran. Thank you all for your past service. You may be off Council but we still have your phone number!

The first Council meeting with the new group was a lengthy session as there was much to cover and various assignments that needed to be designated and just setting the direction for the next several months. You will be hearing much more about these in the coming months but one priority will be First Lutheran hosting the Synod Assembly on May 16. This will be a hybrid meeting with several in-person (expect 30-50) and a Zoom conversation across the UP. Pastor Lance and I are part of the planning task force and we will be asking each of you to help out. It will take several individuals from greeters to IT skills to pull this off which I am confident we can do. Stay tuned for an update next month and how you can participate in the Synod Assembly.

Another important role that we will need to fill is that of Accounts Payable Clerk. Dale Holm has served in that role for about 10 years from what I'm told but has decided to step back effective at the end of April. Thank you Dale on behalf of the entire congregation for a job well done over the years! If anyone is interested in stepping into this position then please let myself or Pastor Lance know.

There are several other committee roles that we'd like to re-vitalize so please give prayerful consideration to volunteering your time to bring each of these back. These committees are described in our Constitution and are vital to having a healthy church. Watch for Pastor Lance's message talking about these committees in our newsletter.

I've worked in regulated industries for most of my career. By regulated, I mean industries that are governed by oversight from the EPA and FDA. Inspectors from those agencies would visit my facilities to ensure we're following the necessary regulations and our own internal procedures. My employers were required to have their own written procedures stating how certain tasks were performed. These written procedures helped to guide all employees to perform a specific task the same way. They also ensure continuity when staff members were promoted or may have departed to another company leaving a potential void in the knowledge. Written procedures were vital to prevent any gap in how a process was to be completed. I am endeavoring on a similar process for First Lutheran. In the two years that Sandee and I have been members of First Lutheran,

Continued on page 6...

...Continued from page 5.

I've learned that we have a tremendous amount of knowledge in how some tasks (e.g., usher, altar, pasty making). Some are written but may be obsolete (I just updated the usher duties) while much of the knowledge may exist in the minds of those closest to the task. I want to capture all of that information and put it into writing so it will offer as a guide to those who are new or simply less familiar. These will all be combined into a master binder and displayed in appropriate areas so we're all working on the same page. It will also aid Council on how some tasks are accomplished (e.g., who to contact for snow removal). If you are aware of a written document of a process then send me a copy, take a photo, etc. Use my email address of bikayak3@gmail.com or shoot me a photo to my cell (231-342-1394). Please let me know who the sender is in case I don't have you as a contact so I may follow-up with questions. We are approaching another pasty sale. If there is no document on a process then take notes on how a task is completed (e.g., running the potato chopper, dough maker, oven). Send me the notes and I'll put it into a format and let you review for accuracy. Don't worry about perfection. That comes with time and subsequent revisions. This project will take some time but eventually I hope to have a lot of our institutional knowledge on paper and ready to share with others.

We are in Lent now – a time for reflection. Thanks Marla for spearheading the Lenten Devotional. Please pick up a copy in the Narthex if you don't already have one.

In Christ,
Dave Schumacher



GEI gives back



Pictured are, GEI employees, Micah Wegner, Will Toivonen, Kurtis Kytta, Brian Schiavo, Nathaniel Kudwa, Brad Anderson, Rob Ward, Robb Anderson; and Locker Lunch volunteers Deb Bomaster, Sue Petersen, Marla Busakowski, Jeff Ofsdahl, Chris Shamion, Bob Buzakowski, Lauri Oberlin, Jane Bal and Sue Fritz. *Submitted photo*

Colcannon

4.7 | 59 Reviews

Yield: 12 servings

Prep: 25 min

Cook: 35 min

Ingredients

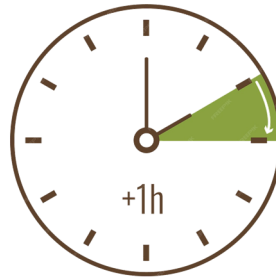
1 medium head cabbage
(about 2 pounds), shredded
4 pounds medium potatoes
(about 8), peeled and quartered
2 cups whole milk
1 cup chopped green onions
1-1/2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup butter, melted
Minced fresh parsley
Crumbled cooked bacon

Directions

Place cabbage and 2 cups water in a large saucepan; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, covered, until cabbage is tender, about 10 minutes. Drain, reserving cooking liquid; keep cabbage warm in a separate dish. In same pan, combine potatoes and reserved cooking liquid. Add additional water to cover potatoes; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cook, uncovered, until potatoes are tender, 15-20 minutes. Meanwhile, place milk, green onions, salt and pepper in a small saucepan; bring just to a boil and remove from heat. Drain potatoes; place in a large bowl and mash. Add milk mixture; beat just until blended. Stir in cabbage. To serve, drizzle with butter; top with parsley and bacon.

Nutrition Facts

1 cup: 168 calories, 5g fat (3g saturated fat), 14mg cholesterol, 361mg sodium, 27g carbohydrate (6g sugars, 4g fiber), 4g protein. Diabetic Exchanges: 2 starch, 1 fat.



Spring forward
set clocks one hour ahead

Daylight Savings Time

March 8, 2026



Installation of our new Council members

Council President: Dave Schumacher

Vice President: Marla Busakowski

Treasurer: Curt Poulos (not pictured)

Secretary: Donna Ahlberg (not pictured)

Representatives: Denise Spelgatti,
Deb Sitkoski, (Lois Brozak and Donna Lord
not pictured)



The IAHF Student Leadership Team

Did you know that Mental Health can affect the way you think, feel, and act?

Hi, we're Brie Porier and Lily DeSousa, members of the Iron Area Health Foundation Leadership Team. With poor Mental Health your life can feel like a struggle. It's always important to recognize the signs of Mental Health because then you can help prevent the symptoms from happening as often. Some of the signs of Mental Health issues include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders, and addictive behaviors. If you are struggling with any of these symptoms, consider talking to your doctor. It's also good to know Mental Health struggles aren't something to be ashamed of, many people struggle with them. Being aware of some of the signs of Mental Health, it's good to help people to make them feel less alone and encourage more to reach out for help. If you want to know more about the Iron Area Health Foundation or our Student Leadership Team and our initiatives, visit ironareahealthfoundation.com or follow us on social media.

Submitted by: West Iron County and Forest Park Students



Lenten Devotionals

2026 Devotionals are now available in the Narthex. Devotions are also posted each day on Facebook.

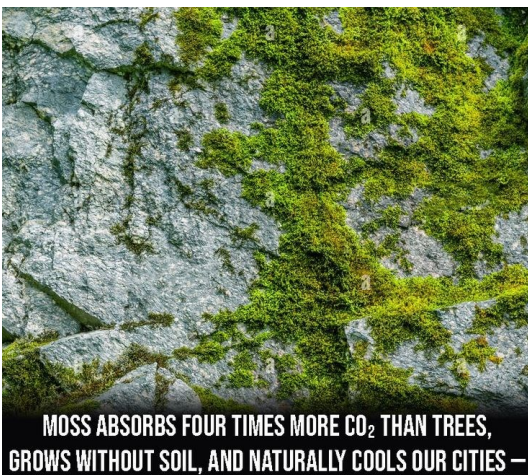
THANK YOU to everyone who contributed their thoughts, stories, prayers and insights.



Automatons celebrate 2026 FIRST Robotics Dean's List nominees



Pictured are Abigail Davis (junior Homeschooled student) and Brie Porier (WIC sophomore). Submitted photo



MOSS ABSORBS FOUR TIMES MORE CO₂ THAN TREES, GROWS WITHOUT SOIL, AND NATURALLY COOLS OUR CITIES —

HOW TO MAKE MOSS GRAFFITI! BY YUMI SAKUGAWA

YOU WILL NEED

- MOSS
- 1/2 TEASPOON SUGAR
- PAINBRUSH
- BLENDER
- CONTAINER
- BUTTERMILK (CAN BE REPLACED WITH YOGURT)
- WATER (CAN BE REPLACED WITH BEER)

STEP 1 GATHER ABOUT A SMALL HANDFUL OF MOSS.

STEP 2 CAREFULLY WASH DIRT OFF THE ROOTS OF THE MOSS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

STEP 3 BREAK UP MOSS INTO SMALL CHUNKS AND PLACE IN BLENDER.

STEP 4 ADD 2 CUPS OF BUTTERMILK/YOGURT, 2 CUPS WATER/BEER, 1/2 TEASPOON OF SUGAR AND BLEND UNTIL COMPLETELY SMOOTH.

ADD CORN SYRUP IF NECESSARY TO ADD MORE THICKNESS.

STEP 5 PAINT YOUR GRAFFITI!

ALL DONE!

- SPRAY WATER OR APPLY MORE MOSS PAINT TO KEEP ALIVE.
- MOSS GROWS BEST ON POROUS SURFACES LIKE BRICK AND STONES.
- YOUR GRAFFITI AREA SHOULD RECEIVE A MODERATE AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT AND MOISTURE.
- SPRING AND FALL ARE THE BEST SEASONS FOR APPLYING MOSS GRAFFITI.
- TO KILL THE MOSS GRAFFITI, SPRAY IT WITH LIME JUICE.

2013 YUMI SAKUGAWA

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	2	3 9:00 Quilting	4 10:00 Bible Study 11:00 W&M Mtg. 3:00 Conf. 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Service	5	6	7
8 Daylight Savings 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	9	10 9:00 Quilting	11 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Conf. 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Service	12	13	14
15 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Noisy Offering	16	17 9:00 Quilting	18 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Conf. 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Service	19	20 8:30 Men's Group	21
22 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service	23	24 9:00 Quilting	25 10:00 Bible Study 3:00 Conf. 5:30 Soup Supper 6:00 Service	26	27	28
29 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Coffee 10:00 Service Palm Sunday	30	31 9:00 Quilting				