

Hope's Newsletter

"To Know Christ and to Make Him Known"

Pastor's Message

Are You Expecting?

Cindy and I are! A baby? Yes, and her name is Alice Ann. She is due to arrive sometime in the second half of October. She will be our second grandchild and we are excited!

We know that you are expecting also. We are excited and happy for you! No, it is not a baby you are expecting, but it is a new beginning. It is the birth of a brand new relationship with a pastor (and spouse) that God has sent to you. It is a time of anticipation, of celebration, and getting to know each other.

For two years now, Hope congregation has hoped and prayed that God would send your next full time pastor. Your Call Committee worked hard interviewing candidates and praying that among the good and qualified pastors they interviewed, that God

might lead them to the person who would be the best to be in partnership with Hope congregation. You are forming a team to not only meet the needs of the congregation, but to go into the neighborhood and indeed the world, with the good news that Jesus brings life, life in all of its fullness (John 10:10).

Sometimes the church is pictured as a ship. Lutherans in the United States can certainly relate to this since most of our ancestors came to this country by ship. A few came as first class passengers. More came as people who had scrapped together almost all they had to buy passage. Some regrettably came in chains, on slave ships.

A ship became for early Christians a symbol of the church because a ship is

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Pastor's Message (cont.)

often tossed about by waves, by storms, by unbelief and by persecution. Folks thought of Noah and the ark, or Jesus in the boat with the disciples and calming a severe storm. If you drew a ship, the mast might form a cross and in times of persecution it could be a symbol to other Christians but not detected by persecutors.

(cont. on following page)

I have a picture that I hung in the office where I was a pastor of a wooden ship tossed about in a fierce storm. It reminded me of a saying that goes something like, "A harbor is a safe place for a ship, but that's not the place ships are built for."

Our grandchild who lives in Ocala recently went to pre-school. The days leading up to that were hard for Grandpa. I knew it would be good for her to go but I wanted to protect her. I told my daughter and son-in-law, I was contemplating breaking her out and rescuing her. My

daughter told me that would not be a good thing to do! My granddaughter went to school and loves it!

I picture Hope congregation as getting ready to move into deeper water with new adventures in mission and ministry. You and your new pastor will be a sailing team. Not all the roles of the ship's crew are the same. Nor are you hiring a new pastor to sail the ship alone. Together, (and you will remind one another of this), you will seek God's leading, celebrate God's presence in Word and Sacrament, depend on the wind, the Spirit of God, and set sail into a known and unknown future.

The future is known because you know there is nothing that can separate you from Christ's love (Romans 8). It is unknown, because you will probably be surprised at the exciting adventures God will take you on as you

Council Officers & Members

President
Julia Southard
Finance

Vice President
Larry Casper

Secretary
Steven Northsea
Digital

Treasurer
Deacon Diane Kahler

Financial Secretary
Michel Northsea

Marilyn Butler

Casey Gaylarido
Long Range Planning

Charlene Hicklin
Family Activities

Judy Howe

Victor Kahler
Property

Meredith Press
Outreach

Peggy Schade

Harold Skidmore
Worship & Music
Call Committee

Hans Witter

Message from Bishop Pedro Suarez

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In this first year of my call as your Bishop, I have had the pleasure of meeting representatives from our Companion church relationships in Guyana, Suriname, and Haiti. They attended both my Installation in January and the recent Caribbean Consultation and Synod Assembly in June. I also met with the Acting-President of the United Theological College in Jamaica, the Rev. Dr. Oral Thomas. These relationships, along with the one in Cuba - are precious and important to us as a Synod and as the church, as we reflect on our mission and calling to be "the church together" in the world.

While you may think we are very different from our brothers and sisters in these places - where sometimes even basic necessities of life and resources we take for granted every day are scarce - in my conversations with our Companions, I've discovered we have more in common than not, particularly when it comes to the church. Our Companions in Suriname are developing strategic plans for their congregations - asking the same critical questions our congregations are asking: How are we connected to God? each other? and the world? The church leaders in Guyana continue to seek a path for Leadership Development that would address the declining number of ordained clergy - sound familiar? They also are focused on developing projects involving youth - to attract and identify future leaders of the church.

The Global Mission Committee has deepened the relationships between the Synod and our multiple Companions through various programs and projects - none of which would be possible without the generous support and faithful participation of individuals, congregations, and conferences in the Florida Bahamas Synod. Your financial gifts so far this year have provided:

A cistern, being built this summer in Savanne-Zombie, Haiti - to provide potable water for a community of 6000

Funding for the renovation of an unused parsonage in New Amsterdam, Guyana into a Community Youth Center

Bringing a youth from Suriname to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston

Currently, we are looking to increase our support for the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program, deepen our relationship with a new Lutheran Church body in Cuba, and fund much needed renovation and technological support for the seminary in Jamaica.

So it is with joy and gratitude for your continued generosity, I share that **Sunday, October 7th is declared as "Global Mission Sunday" within the Florida Bahamas Synod.** As in the past, we are asking that congregations and conferences generously support this important work of the church. Donations will be gratefully accepted in the Synod office for supporting projects and consultations with our companion churches and global relationships. Please send checks made out to "Florida-Bahamas Synod," with "Global Mission Sunday" on the memo line. You can also make an electronic donation through our [web site](#).

What a joy it is to be in partnership with you and with God's people in our companion churches

Hope's Pastors

On August 19, we said goodbye to Pastor Chuck. Pastor Chuck became our interim Pastor in mid-May and since that time, we have listened to many meaningful sermons and spent many warm friendly hours getting to know him and Cindy as they guided us in worship. We wish both of them God's blessings in the future and hope that they might come back and visit us.

On August 16, we welcomed Pastor Steve and his wife Sarah into our family. Pastor Steve comes to us from Grace Lutheran Church in Plainville, CT where he has served as their Pastor since June of 2005. Pastor Steve received a Bachelor's of Science Degree from Farmington State College in Farmington, MA and his first occupation was as a chemist. He was called to become an ordained minister when he was asked by the Pastor of the church where he belonged at that time to lead worship and preach on Sundays when the Pastor was on vacation. Pastor Steve re-

ceived a Master of Divinity in 2001 from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and his

Quotable Quotes

first call was to Concordia Lutheran Church in Kendall, NY. Pastor Steve is the first full-time Pastor Hope has had in many years. We are excited to get to know and work him as he leads us forward in our mission to serve God and our community.

"Many of us spend half of our time wishing for things we could have if we didn't spend half our time wishing." Alexander Woollicott, American critic (1887-1943)

"Freedom of speech and freedom of action are meaningless without freedom to think. And there is no freedom of thought with out doubt." Bergen Baldwin Evans, American author (1904-1978)

"If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things." Rene

Operation Christmas Child

You won't want to miss hearing an inspiring story about a woman getting her shoebox from Samaritan's Purse when she was very young and how it changed her life! Hear how even a toothbrush or one item in that box can affect someone. Often this one box is life-changing, not just for the items but because they learn about the gift of love of Jesus.

Come join us at Hope on September at 4:30PM to hear Yuliya Shubina's story. You will better understand why our shoebox ministry is so important.

Please donate any amount you can to help us ship our boxes this year \$9.00 for each box.....

We hope to fill 100.



Letter to Congregation

Thank you,.

Carole Warden

Bruce Thompson is a longtime friend of our sons. He is now in remission from multi myeloma cancer. He had a bone marrow transplant and chemo. He praises Jesus every chance he gets. And he thanks the congregation for all the prayers. Diane Kahler

Excerpt from his letter as follows:

I wanted to thank you and your congregation for the many prayers for my healing. I am happy to tell you all that I am in remission and my kidneys have recovered.

Council Minutes

Hope Council Special Meeting July 11 2018 Minutes

Attendance: Marilyn Butler _P_; Larry Casper _P_; Casey Gaylardo_P_; Charlene Hicklin _P_; Judy Howe _P_; Diane Kahler* _P_; Victor Kahler _P_; Steve Northsea _P_; Meredith Press _P_; Peggy Schade _P_; Harold Skidmore _P_; Julia Southard _P_; Hans Witter _P

[*non-voting]

The special meeting solely to discuss compensation package for Pastor Stephen Brisson was called to order at 7 p.m. by Julia.

The opening prayer was said by Pastor Chuck who left the room.

A compensation package of \$42,000 base salary, \$14,00 housing allowance, \$4284 SSI for a total before personal and other benefits including health insurance, life insurance, retirement and disability added up to \$60,284. Those benefits were an additional \$26,465 for a total compensation package of \$86,749 which will be presented to the congregation as part of the cal motion on July 29 following the 10 am service. The amount was approved by the synod, approved by Pastor Steve. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the compensation package and send it to the congregation.

The special meeting was closed at 7:12 p.m. with a closing prayer by Steve.

Hope Council Regular Meeting July 11, 2018 Minutes

1. Call to order at 7:15 p.m. by Julia

2. Roll call by Steve

Pastor Chuck Erzkus _P_; Marilyn Butler _P_; Larry Casper _P_; Casey Gaylardo_P_; Charlene Hicklin _P_; Judy Howe _P_; Diane Kahler* _P_; Victor Kahler _P_; Steve Northsea _P_; Meredith Press _P_; Peggy Schade _P_; Harold Skidmore _P_; Julia Southard _P_; Hans Witter _P

[*non-voting]

Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Chuck

There were no visitors.

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adopt the June 13, 2018 Agenda

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to secretary reports (minutes) of the June 11, 2018 Regular Meeting

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to secretary reports (minutes) of the July 10, 2018 Special Meeting

The June 2018 Report of the Treasurer was discussed and filed for audit.

There was a notation of items previously approved by e-mail vote of council including

- a. Operation Christmas Child speaker 4:30 service Saturday September 22.
- b. Vandalism damage roof repair \$600.00

Report of Pastor was read and discussed (see packet)

Reports of Council Liaisons were read and discussed.

A. Outreach Committee (Liaison - Meredith) See packet. A motion out of committee to approve the visitor's packet passed unanimously.

B. Finance Committee (Liaison - Julia) no meeting

C. Property (Liaison - Vic) See packet.

D. Social Service Committee (Liaison - Larry) See packet.

E. Education Committee Report (Liaison - Judy) See packet.

F. Personnel Committee Report (Diane) no meeting

G. Civic Association Reports

1. Citrus Springs (Meredith) See packet. Also Meredith reported we should provide articles about new pastor when formally called, etc. to the Citrus Springs Villager.

2. Pine Ridge (Judy /Marilyn) Pine Ridge is not meeting during summer but Marilyn reported a Pine Ridge magazine is being published now and we need to submit an article about Hope to it.

H. Stephen Ministry Report (Steve) See packet.

Old Business

- a. Revision of Handbook to reflect current committee organization update is at a standstill until all commit-

Minutes (cont.)

tees act.

- b. Directory update - There are still 7 people who have not filled out the form, They will be contacted.
- c. Outside security - After lengthy discussion Harold and Steve were appointed to meet with the Citrus county Sheriff's Department to determine (a) what the department could do to help us and (b) to determine department recommendations on how to help ourselves. A letter from Julia as president to the neighborhood about helping us was read and approved for mailing.

New Business

- a. Novus request for Luther Camp donation - There was a motion to put it in file . There was no second. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to place an announcement of the need in the newsletter requesting individual contributions from the congregation.

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the consent agenda which included the following items:

- a. Citrus Springs Surveillance Unit Banquet Luther Hall 8:30 - 2:00 PM November 14, 2018

Council Highlights

- b. Special Congregation Meeting to call pastor and approve compensation package July 29, 2018 following 10 am service.
- c. Change of vacation for Susan Collins from July 15 to August 12. Betsy Collins will play.

Meeting Highlights for Newsletter and Bulletin were suggested. They are:

1. Discussed the vandalism and security concerns on the Hope property. Approved sending of letter to our neighbors asking for help and sending two representatives to meet with the Citrus County Sheriff to request additional night time presence in the neighborhood.
2. Approved a new visitor's packet created by the outreach committee and will soon have 25 packets completed and available for guests.
3. Approved the Fall Session of Children's Sunday School with welcoming/registration Sundays on August 19th and August 26th and formal classes by age group starting September 2nd.
4. Approved a special speaker at the end of the Saturday 4:30 PM service on September 22. The speaker will be an actual child who has received one of the shoeboxes explaining the impact on her life.
5. Approved a Special Congregational Meeting at 11:30 am following the 10 am service on Sunday July 29, 2018 with the business being a congregation vote on call of full time Pastor Stephen Brisson.

It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

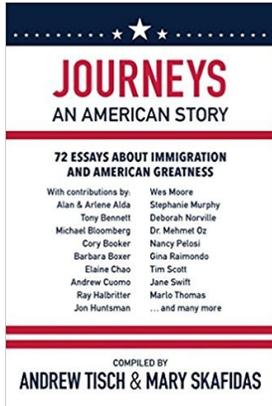
Pastor Chuck led a closing prayer ending with the Lord's Prayer.

Council Meeting Highlights August 8, 2018



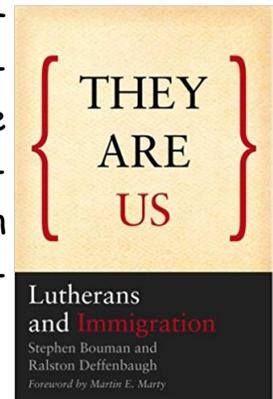
1. Met with the Citrus County Sheriff's Department regarding all of the vandalism at the church. Discussed what we could do to curtail it and how the Sheriff's Department might help us.

TWO BOOKS



In a sermon a few weeks ago, Pastor Chuck quoted from a book which told the story of a family, saved by the U.S. Navy after they fled South Vietnam, and then helped by Lutheran congregations, to come to the United States. Since then, he has had requests for the title of the book. The title is: "JOURNEYS - AN AMERICAN STORY -72 Essays about Immigration and American Greatness", compiled by Andrew Tisch and Mary Skafidas.

Pastor Chuck also recommends the book, "They Are Us - Lutherans and Immigration", by Stephen Bouman and Ralston Deffenbaugh. Rev. Bouman is a former Bishop of the Metro New York Synod of the ELCA and Ralston Deffenbaugh is former president of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS). This book is a 2009 publication by Augsburg Fortress Press



Dollars and Sense from the Treasurer's Desk

July 2018

Communion

Regular Offering	4:30PM	8:00AM	10:00AM	Total
7/1 \$2918	12	8	49	69
7/8 \$3102	17	15	54	86
7/15 \$2905	15	13	55	83
7/22 \$2902	17	4	54	75
7/29 \$2927	14	13	61	88



Hope's Folks

Homebound Members
of Hope are:

Joan Layton

Joyce Inlow at Cypress Cove



Citrus County Blessings

Just a note to let everyone know that Hope will begin its packing season for Citrus County Blessings on Wednesday, September 12 at 9:00Am in CR 4/6-Luther Hall.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for this monthly event so if you would like to assist please sign-up. Deacon John Chiappetta leads this event and the new packing date is announced every month on the narthex board.

Blessings is an all-volunteer network of individuals, businesses, organizations, and faith communities

September Celebrations

Birthdays

5 Vic Kahler

7 Harold Schaller

8 Joyce Davis

20 Bob Schade

26 Volena

Van Gunst

27 Michel

Northsea



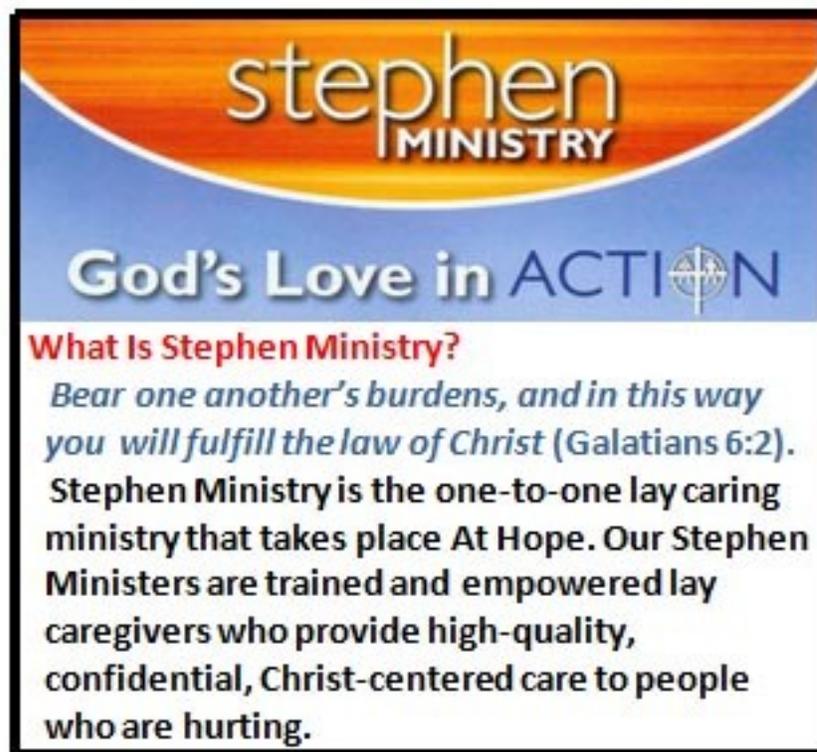
A Few Words from Pastor Steve

Anniversaries

11 Steve & Judy Thomason Kasco
(25)

As most of you know, Sarah and I have just gone through two fairly major transitions - one from a home in the great white north to, at present, a 'loaner home' in Florida - and second from a congregation that I served for 13 years to a congregation that I will be serving for years to come. I wanted to claim a bit of space in this newsletter to say that Sarah and I are so very appreciative for the very many ways that the people of Hope have supported us through this transition, not only since our arrival but in the weeks and months leading up to it - and also that we are

Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry Note

We will be offering the Stephen Minister Course in mid-October through December. Contact Steve Northsea at 352-586-8751 or northsea@usa.net if you would like to become a Stephen Minister at Hope by taking this course. Stephen Minister training teaches principles and skills that equip you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care to others. Stephen Minister training is an engaging, energizing experience that includes

Stephen Ministry Story

A Stephen Ministry Story

A STEADY REMINDER OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Mark and I had been married 26 years. Our sons were 18 and 20. We loved being parents, but with our younger son graduating high school, we were eagerly anticipating the empty nest and having more time for each other. In the fall, when our younger son started college, Mark began having stomach issues and back pain, which would linger for a few days and then disappear, only to reappear later. He also developed a cough. When his doctor ordered an MRI, the results were devastating—Stage IV pancreatic cancer, already in his liver and both lungs. Mark was only 53.

Our lives were turned upside down. I suddenly found myself trying to provide emotional support to Mark and our sons during the worst experience any of us had ever endured. I wanted and needed to keep myself together to focus on caring for Mark, but I was emotionally drained—full of sadness and terrified of what the future held. I had always been a “take responsibility for everything myself” kind of person. However, I knew I couldn't do this alone. I talked to my pastor about it, and she suggested matching me with a Stephen Minister. I agreed, and less than two weeks after Mark was

diagnosed, my Stephen Minister came for the first of her weekly visits.

It's difficult to convey how important this Stephen Ministry relationship was for me. Our pastor was wonderful, and we had an amazing amount of support from many other people, but the time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me. My Stephen Minister let me know that, while she was very concerned for Mark, her role was to be my support—to listen and help me process what I was feeling and going through, without giving advice or telling me what to do. The consistency of our Stephen Ministry relationship was crucial in helping me cope. Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God's presence, helping me know I was never alone.

Although Mark and I chose to talk publicly about his condition, my Stephen Ministry relationship was completely confidential. I knew I could share anything with her, and that's where it would stay. Mark's illness progressed rapidly—ten weeks of treatment, followed by six weeks of hospice, and then his passing. My needs changed as I went from being a wife to being a caregiver to being a grieving widow and dealing with everything that the loss of a spouse entails.

Through it all, my Stephen Minister's love and support continued. She was there for me at every stage of my journey. It was never easy, but my Stephen Minister helped me through the most difficult moments of my life. I really can't say enough about how much I

Hope's Prayer List

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer for the whole body of Christ is important. Names will be listed so that prayer can be offered to God on their behalf. Please be aware that situations and conditions change but God knows the need as you bring the individuals to God in prayer.

MEMBER SHUT-INS AND THOSE IN RECOVERY

Joan Layton and Joyce Inlow

Please pray for:

• For comfort and grief:

For Marlene Collins and family on the passing of her husband Charles Collins. For the families of all those who have passed away recently.

• Prayer for serious health concerns:

For Kathy Dalka, sister of a friend of Ann Schuchart. For Martha Chisari. For Diane, niece of Bill and Pat Kessel. For Fay Hatton. For Bruce Thompson friend of Victor Kahler. For Marlene Collins. For Dave Bessing, friend of Manley Benmark. For Peggy and Bob Schade's 5 year old grandson, Nate who has been hospitalized for tests.

• For healing and recovery

For Larry Casper. For Joann Mura, friend of Diane Kahler. For Russ Telfer. For June

THRIVENT

Towner and Joyce Davis. For Nancy Miller. For Bettyann Tabor, and for Casey Gaylardo and Harold Schaller. For Constance DeTuerk. For Kay Schaller and for Renate Wilms-Rovin. For Vivian Matthews. For J.W. Inlow. For Ron Press. For the total healing of Yvonne Popke and Bobby O'Donnell. For Linda, who is ill and Doug- both of whom need the Lord to help them through this.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thrivent, our Lutheran insurance company, has a program in which eligible members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. In the month of July the following member has designated Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church as beneficiary of his Thrivent Choice dollars:

Those who will assist at the 10:00AM Worship Service in September

Communion Assistants and Acolytes

2 Judy Howe/Ron Press
9 Renate Wilms-Rovin/Tyler Thompson
16 Dee Forsyth/Edith Regan
23 Deacon John Chiappetta/Margarita Chiappetta
30 Renate Wilms-Rovin/Judy Howe

Altar Guild

Margarita Chiappetta
Casey Gaylaro
Diane Kahler
Judy Howe
Jane Skidmore

Nursery

Please see an usher for assistance

Lay Readers

2 Hal Butler
9 Jackie Dean
16 Ron Press
23 Bob Schade
30 Renate Wilms-Rovin

Ushers for the Month

David Doyle
Luis Diaz

Assisting Minister

2 Deacon John Chiappetta
9 Renate Wilms-Rovin
16 Ron Press
23 Deacon Diane Kahler
30 Renate Wilms-Rovin

Guest Greeter

Pat Kessel

Greeters

Alice Doyle
Aida Diaz



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		SEPTEMBER 2018					1 4:30p Informal Worship
2 Communion 8:00a Sp. Worship 9:00a Sunday School CR2 9:15a Children's Sunday School 10:00a Worship	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning 9:30a Quilters Luther h 7:00p Outreach Committee	5 7:00p Digital Committee	6 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	7 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30 Altar Guild 6a-11:30a Luther	8 4:30p Informal Worship	
9 Communion 8:00a Spoken Worship 9:00a Sunday School 9:15a Ch. Sunday School 10:00a Worship/ 11:15a Fellowship	10 Luther Hall cleaning- 6:00a-12p 1:00p Social Ministry parlor 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p Celebrate Re-	11 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning	12 9a Citrus County Blessings Cr6 7:00p Council Meeting	13 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	14 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30a Altar Guild 6a-11:30a	15 4:30p Informal Worship Healing	
16 Communion 8:00a Sp. Worship/Healing 9:00a Sunday School 9:15a Ch. Sun. Sch. 10:00a Worship// Healing	17 Luther Hall cleaning- 6a-12p 630p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts 7:00p Celebrate Re-	18 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning 9:30a Quilters Luther Hall	19 11:00a Stephen Ministry Supervisory Group parlor	20 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	21 8:00a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30a Altar Guild	22 4:30p Informal Worship /Operation Christmas Child Speaker	
23 Communion 8:00a Sp. Worship 9:00a Sunday School 9:15a Ch Sun School 10:00a Worship 11:15a Fellowship	24 Luther Hall cleaning- 6a-12p 1:00p Social Ministry parlor 6:30p Junior Troop 6:30p Boy Scouts	25 6a-9a- Luther Hall cleaning	26	27 6:30p Cub Scouts 7:00p Choir Rehearsal	28 800a-12p Property Workday 9:30a- 11:30a Altar Guild	29 9:30a Pinelands Conference Wildwood 4:30a Informal Worship	
30 Communion 8:00a Sp. Worship 9:00a Sunday School 9:15a Ch Sun School 10:00a Worship				EVENTS	SUBJECT	TO CHANGE	