Celebrate May Birthdays

MAY 1 **Brittley Braithwait** Shirley Loseke

MAY 2 Barb Bohaty Charlie Kershaw

MAY 3 Dvlan Petermann

MAY 4

Eliiah Mackie Kevin Gregory McKinzie Lehr Steven Oberg Trent Crumley

MAY 5

Hunter Schilling John Olson Lori Hodtwalker Zeth Gerkensmeyer

MAY 6

Craig Brestel Katelyn Lantis Morgan Hitz

MAY 7 Jean Slizoski Stacy Westfall

MAY 8 Lois Streblow

MAY 9 Aimee Luce

MAY 10 Ben Hellbusch Justin Seipel

MAY 12 Coleene Gellermann

MAY 13 Betty Berends Joyce Kimmel Megan Hitz Sandy Krings

MAY 14 Jeni Snyder LaDonna Groothuis Lilly Plantenga

MAY 15 Aubrey Stuthman Curt Behnken Ken Holmberg

MAY 16 McKenna Wellner **MAY 17**

Cayla Campbell Harper Wemhoff MacKenzie Ewert Nicky Sloma Wendy Force

MAY 18

Ashlev Rhein Claudia Blaser Emma Vopalensky Joni Konwinski Rvlee Muller Sondra Boulton Todd Wyatt

MAY 19 Riyah Weil

MAY 20 Dave Rich Kortlin Gustafson Paula Aldrich

MAY 21 Jerry Crilly

MAY 22 Shirley Lange

MAY 23 Lori Gregory

MAY 24 Judy Franzen-Whetstone

MAY 25 Gary Olson Josh Loontier Joshua York

MAY 26 Timothy Lambrecht Tom Hartman VonDell Mohlman

MAY 27 Gary Hellbusch Hope Freshour

MAY 28 Alexus Hitz Crystal Halvorsen Doug Brackhan Eastyn Wagoner Nikki Mead Nikki Wagoner

MAY 29

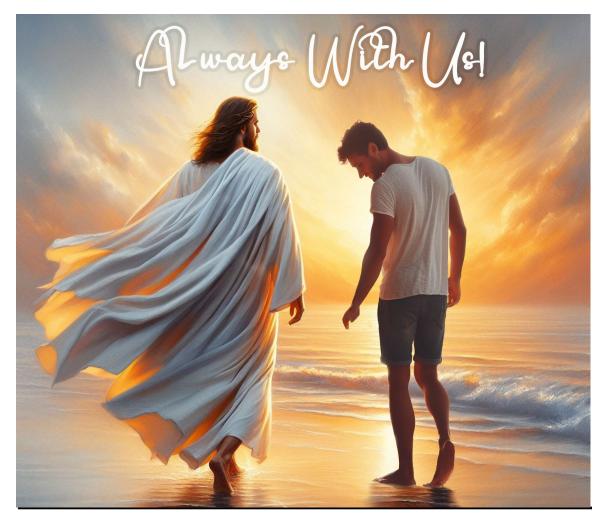
Asher Connelly Catherine Ewert David Hellbusch Heath Aldrich Misty Shuster Owen Wagoner

MAY 30 Cameron Neemeyer Dana Udev Helen Logan Matt Wesch Mike Shuster

It's YOUR Birthday! l'm so

excited!!!





Connections

May 2024

A FAMILY ENCOURAGED • A COMMUNITY EMBRACED • EVERYONE SAVED



2720 28th St Columbus, Nebraska 68601 (402)564-8311 www.peacecolumbus.ora FaceBook: Peace Lutheran Church Instagram: @peace.columbus

YouTube.com/c/peacecolumbus



NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Some Great News!

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Matthew 9:36-37

Our church body, like most others, is facing a crisis of sorts. Fewer young people are pursuing church work careers. That means fewer pastors to fill vacancies, not nearly enough synodically trained Lutheran School Teachers (LST), too few Directors of Christian Education to lead the church education programs in ways that best connect to the people, and not enough Directors of Parish Music (DPM) to guide the music ministry in our churches.

Wait a minute. That sounds like bad news. Wasn't this to be about some GREAT news?

Yes, it is. And here is that GREAT news. Over the last 8 years, we have had 8 members of our

congregation pursue church work! That's right, EIGHT!

Courtney Burma Limmer – DCE 2016

Allison Mackie - DPM 2019

Paige Stadler Esser - LST 2019

Grant Stadler - LST 2022

Allison Story Wagner – DCE 2023

Michelle Hernandez – DCE Fall 2024

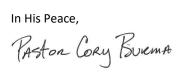
Joel Ripke – SMP Pastor – Ordination Spring 2025

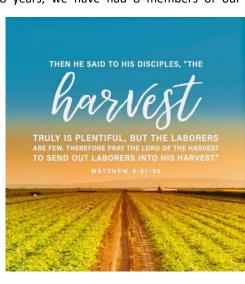
Jacob Morse – Pre-Seminary – Estimated Ordination 2028

We thank God for these workers in His harvest, for their parents and teachers, and for this congregation for the support they have shown and continue to show!

And to the young people of our congregation: I encourage you to consider being a church worker, whether a Pastor, DCE, DPM, Teacher, Deaconess, or some other position in the church. It is a wonderful calling!

To God be the glory today and forever more!









to all

Moms Grandmas & Aunts

We Praise God For You! Where Would We Be Without You?



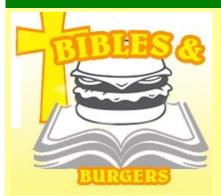


* My Prayer for today

Lord, help me to remember that you are always with me. Help me to invite you into my every situation by seeking you first before I try and figure out problems on my own wits. You are worthy of my trust, because you have never failed me.

In Jesus Name, Amen

COMMUNITY



David – A Man after **God's Own Heart**

Men's Study • Thursdays in May

 Wednesdays starting in June 6:30 pm **HWY 14 Brewing CO** Columbus

During the summer, men (and young men) are invited to Hwy 14 for our Bibles, Burgers, and Beer study. We meet for food at about 6:30 followed by Bible study every Thursday evening in May (Wednesday evenings starting in June). This study looks at the life of David, in 1 &2 Samuel, and connects it to how we might live as men after God's own heart. Burgers and beer are optional, but make sure you bring your Bible. For more information, contact Pastor Cory at cburma@peacecolumbus.org. There will be no BBB study on May 9th!

Thursday Noon Connect Group

will be studying "Mark's Gospel in 8 Weeks"

April 4 - May 23 • NOON Thursdays

Conference Room

CONNECT GROUPS BEGIN AGAIN IN JUNE





PROCEEDS WILL GO TO



Columbus, Nebraska



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NOTES FROM THE STAFF

Official Acts - MAR 2024

| Membership | 1172 |
|----------------|----------|
| Baptisms: | 0 |
| Confirmations: | 0 |
| Transfers in: | 0 |
| Deaths: | 2 |
| Transfers out: | 2 (2 Coi |

nfirmed)

Releases: Conf. Members: 919 1172 Bapt. Members:

Funerals: Kathy Schmidt, (d) 3/7/2024, (f) 3/12/2024 Greg Brahmstedt, (d) 3/13/2024, (f) 4/20/2024

Transfers Out: Dillon and Kara (Dierman Herout), 3/13/2024, to Our Redeemer, Cohasset, MN

| Official Acts – MAR 2024 | 2024 TOTAL | 2024 Avg/Wk | 2023 | 2023 AVG |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------|------|-----------------|
| MAR In-Person: (5 wks) | 1790 | 358 | 1148 | 287 (4wks) |
| Care Cntr Worship | 26 | | 21 | |
| On-Line Views: (5 wks) | 244 | 49 | 230 | 57 (4wks) |
| YTD Avg Weekly | 291 | | 265 | |
| Lent Services: (3 wks) | 287 | 96 | 284 | 95 (last 3 wks) |
| Holy Week | 344 | 172 | 323 | 162 |



PEACE STAFF

Church Office: Jovce Peterson

402-564-8311 • church@peacecolumbus.org Lead Pastor: Rev. Cory W. Burma

402-860-0443 • cburma@peacecolumbus.org

Director of Discipleship: Cami Hamer

chamer@peacecolumbus.org

Vicar Joel Ripke

iripke@peacecolumbus.org

Daycare Director: Lisa Thomas

firststeps@peacecolumbus.org **Business Manager: Linda Schmidt**

business@peacecolumbus.org

Communications Coordinator: Tracy Buzynski

communications@peacecolumbus.org

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM Livestreamed

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CHURCH BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

Robbin Cutsor (402) 270-3305

robbincutsor@yahoo.com

Amber Kohl (402) 276-4304

amberikohl@omail.com

Jim Kramer (402) 270-3151 drjim@bettertrick.com

Jeff Luebbe (402) 276-3156 ijluebbel@gmail.com

Troy Urkoski (402) 613-0140

trovmu22@hotmail.com

Tyson Wagoner (402) 630-5229

tvsonwags@hotmail.com Darcy Wisehart (402) 910-8467

dawiseh@gmail.com

March 2024 Financials

Peace Lutheran Church

| Income | Actuals | Budget |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Offerings | \$57 <i>,</i> 687 | \$54,815 |
| Other | \$982 | \$3,109 |
| Total Income | \$58,668 | \$57,924 |
| Expenses | | |
| Personnel | \$26,454 | \$27,334 |
| Ministry | \$16,241 | \$18,992 |
| Facil./Adm. | \$9,994 | \$9,627 |
| Total Expenses | \$52,689 | \$55,953 |
| Net Gain/(Loss) | \$5,979 | \$1,971 |
| First Steps Day- | | |
| care | Actuals | Budget |
| Income | \$25,516 | \$27,820 |
| Grant* | \$5,000 | \$- |
| Expenses | \$25,191 | \$29,013 |
| Net Gain/(Loss) | \$5,325 | \$(1,193) |
| Combined Net | | |
| Gain/(Loss) | \$11,304 | \$779 |
| YTD Church | \$(11,304) | \$6,503 |
| YTD Daycare** | \$(16,632) | \$(10,737) |
| YTD Overall | \$(27,937) | \$(4,234) |

*Inflation Remittance Stabilization Grant NE
Dept Health & Human Services Child Care Grant
**This year's daycare budget deficit of up to
\$23,101 will be covered by Reserve Funds
carried over from the daycare surplus in the
2021/2022 fiscal year.

A Psalm to Encourage You

By Tracy Buzynski

I opened my Bible to this Psalm today...

"With dread deeds and awesome power You will defend us from our enemies, O God who saves us. You are the only hope of all mankind throughout the world and far away upon the sea.

He formed the mountains by His mighty strength. He quiets the raging oceans and all the world's clamor. In the farthest corners of the earth the glorious acts of God shall startle everyone. The dawn and sunset shout for joy!" Psalm 65:5-8

My thoughts to God

How did I forget again, that You made the mountains? That You quiet the raging seas? You will defend us from all the storms of life. I just need to invite You into my situation.

There is a clear pattern of Your help, when I look back on my life, even when I wasn't a I w a y s listening. You are always with me. I get encouraged reading how all creation is shouting for Joy for YOU!







Comfort Dog Ministry What's happening...

In the past month, Team Eden has been very busy with requests for special visits to an assortment of situations. On April 3rd, Team Eden was asked to attend a site visit to Our Savior Lutheran Church in O'Dell, NE for the funeral service of one of its members. Teams Katie, Phinehaus, Nico, and Joanne were also present to offer comfort and to be a presence for the family and community. The next event, on April 5th was a special presentation made to a group of seniors for the United Methodist Church at the Senior Center. An explanation of the Comfort Dog ministry was made and followed by a question and answer session with the group. The busy month continued on April 6th with Team Eden traveling to Lincoln to visit with members of the 155th unit of the Air National Guard. Time was spent with both enlisted members and officers.

The next week began on April 8th, with a visit to St. Bon's Daycare School. Eden and her team visited four classrooms and interacted with their students and teachers. We explained Eden's job in our community along with her daily care. Everyone was excited to hear Eden's story and pet her.

On April 18th, the James Rickert family invited Team Eden to be present for Jim's funeral service. The grand-children and great grandchild were comforted by Eden's presence.

Finally, on Saturday, April 20th, Team Eden was invited to the YMCA for their Healthy Kids Day. Eden was able to meet many children and their parents at this event.

Eden's regular monthly visits were also completed to the Immanuel Lutheran School, Brookestone Acres, Emerald Care, Real Life, Cottonwood, Prairie Village, and Columbus Community Hospital.

Blessings, Warren Hellbusch and Team Eden

Our next Comfort Dog meeting will be

Tuesday, April 14th • 7:00 pm
In the Peace Chapel

MISSION OF THE MONTH

W Habitat for Humanity®

of Columbus, NE

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.

The members and friends of Peace Lutheran have the opportunity to help Loree and her four children own a home. Our build day for House 16 is just around the corner on June 1st.



Prayerfully consider joining us this year. No technical or building skills are needed. You are put to work at your own skill level. There is a sign-up sheet on the information table or you can call or email the church office for more information or to sign-up. This is a wonderful time of working together to accomplish much. Thank you in advance for helping this family in our community.





Come build with us!
Peace Lutheran's
Build Day is on
June 1st.
Mark your calendars
and plan to join us.

Habitat for Humanity

P.O. Box 1792 Columbus NE 68602-1792 (402) 564-HOME (4663) info@hfhcolumbusne.org hfhcolumbusne.org

All Mission donations received in May will go to Habitat for Humanity.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP

ANNUAL VOTER'S >

WED, May 29 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall

A quorum of 30 people is required by our constitution to be able to conduct business. Please attend this important meeting to show your support for your congregation!

- Election of 3 board members
- Extend a call to Allison Wagner to serve as a teacher at Immanuel Lutheran School
- Extend a call to Joel Ripke as a Specific Ministry
 Pastor upon the completion of his 9th class in early
 2025.
- Approval of the Immanuel / Peace School Agreement
- Approval of the 2024-25 Budget
- Staff Reports

Lutheran Laymen's League News

A meeting of the active LLL members was held Monday, March 18, 2024. In attendance were Chopper Sieh, Rich Aerni, Virg Gellermann, Steve Mackie and Ron Cattau.

The reason for the meeting was to discuss the future of the LLL here at Peace. Because of the low number of members, we cannot function as a club in planning and carrying out activities as before. Do we dissolve the club or keep the club open and support LHM in any way we can, such as the pamphlet ministry and the Orphan Grain Train collection? It was decided on the latter option. In the future, unless we get more participation from the congregation with new members, we will be limited in what we can do.

Therefore, we are going to sponsor the Orphan Grain Train collection trailer on the weekend of May 11th and 12th. We will need to ask for help in manning the trailer. Available shifts are: Saturday, May11th – 9am-11am (filled), 11am-1pm, 1pm-3pm, and 3pm-5pm. Sunday, May 12th – 10am-11-am, 11am-1pm, 1pm-3pm, and 3pm-5pm (filled). Please contact Chopper Sieh or Ron Cattau if you can help.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP

MAY WORSHIP SERIES

As the Resurrected Jesus was preparing to ascend into heaven, He told the disciples, "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." During the month of May our services and sermons will be exploring how Jesus was with the disciples as He was using them to form His church, and how He is STILL with us always, amidst our doubts, during our highs and lows, sharing His hope, or standing strong in the faith. We hope to see you each week!



May 4-5 – With Us Always In the Midst of Doubts

May 11-12 – With Us Always

During Change and

Uncertainty

May 18-19 – With Us Always
Through the
Spirit's Strength

May 25-26 – With Us Always
To Stand Strong
in the Faith

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WORSHIP In May

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

Fellowship Time
Following 9:00 am service





LIFT UP THE WORD LIGHT UP THE WORLD

2 Samuel 22:29-31

Thursday MAY 2nd

2024

Frankfort Square Columbus, NE

10:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Immanuel Lutheran —— 10:00 - 10:45

Connection —— 10:45 - 11:30

Victory Christian —— 11:30 - 12:15 Word of Life Spanish —— 12:15 - 1:00

Prayer In The Square Walk —— 1:00 - 1:45

Peace Lutheran —— 1:45 - 2:30 Word of Life —— 2:30 - 3:15

1C --- 3:15 - 4:00

Trinity Lutheran —— 4:00 - 4:45

Palabra de Vida —— 4:45 - 5:15

IN THE FIELD



Cundiff Family Update

Working to expand English offerings in Rīga

Dear friends in Christ, Greetings to you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ! We were grateful for the chance to gather with the other missionary families and some other English-speaking guests for the Easter service at St. John's in Riga.

The missionaries here in Riga are

moving forward with plans to bolster the English language mission work going on in the city. We have previously been—holding services twice a month, but we have added a 5th Sundays now and are looking to expand further. In order to truly plant a congregation, consistency is key. The difficulty that we face is that the Lawsons are currently on home service, and when they get back, we will be going on home service, and the Rajeks will be heading back to the US as Rev. Dr. Rajek moves into his new position as Executive Director of the Office of International Mission. This means that we will be a bit shorthanded while trying to fulfill our larger responsibilities with the Academy. As such, we will start weekly English services in August when everyone has returned to Riga.

I recently heard from a young man earlier this year who had stopped in for worship while he was traveling; he went home and has become more engaged with our faith and has gotten involved in a mission effort that the LCMS is starting in his home country as well. Further, after our Easter Sunday service, I was approached by a young man who is here for medical school asking to learn more about our faith and desiring to grow as he is able to worship with us in English. One never knows the impact that a single conversation or a few minutes of interaction can have! Of course, we desire more than just a few moments and hope to connect all people with our Lord through Word and Sacrament ministry! Please continue to pray for the outreach of the mission here in Riga, not only with our students at the Academy, but also through the English services as well.

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In Christ's Service, Pastor Cundiff

The Cundiff's serve the Lord through LCMS in Riga, Latvia

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP

SUNDAY MORNING STUDY

Paul, an Apostle Abnormally Called

SUNDAYS

10:30 AM

Fellowship Hall Following Fellowship Time Join Pastor Cory on Sunday mornings starting May 19th at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall for a study on the Apostle Paul. This study will focus mainly on the book of Acts, with some time spent on his Epistles, and will explore God's gracious work in and through Paul and connect to His gracious work in and through us as well. This study is open to anyone,

from beginners to Bible study veterans, for ages 10 to 110, families, couples, and singles!

Are you going to be on vacation for a few weeks this summer? No problem! Simply make the classes when you can, and pastor will email you the lesson you missed so you can keep up if you want. What is important is staying connected to God's Word and His people during the summer!

A farewell for

Jacob and Grace Morse

is planned for

Sunday, May 19th

at the 9:00 am service and following.

Please join the family of Peace as we pray God's blessings to be with them as Jacob begins at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to become a pastor.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Communication Update Texting & More...

Technology has changed how we connect with others, and where we get our information. 30 years ago, the main way to communicate information to the church was through a paper newsletter and bulletin. With the changes of the last few decades, we now have a website, texting, email, Facebook and Instagram posts.



Over the next few months, much of our communications will move to electronic means. However, you will still be able to get paper copies if you want!

Over the past couple weeks, we have started sending texts out through a designated text number from Peace – 833-273-1654 – please add this to your Peace Lutheran contact on your phone. There will always be an opportunity to stop receiving texts simply by replying "STOP" when you receive a message. We promise that we are not trying to overload you with texts, simply letting you know about things coming up. We will also be more easily able to send texts to a specific group of people, such as ReFUEL parents.

If you did not receive any texts from us and would like to, simple text us your name and number to 833-273-1654, and we will get you set up!

In the future, you will also see changes to how we email, our bulletins, our website, and our newsletter all to be able to better communicate with the people of Peace in the most effective way possible.

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Also, please mark your calendars for May 5th after the 9:00 am service, and May 11th after the 5:00 pm service to learn more about the technologies that are offered at Peace, from the website, to the online church directory, to online giving, we will have people there to help you get connected in what every way you wish!

AFTER SERVICE

Sunday, May 5th — 9:00 am

Saturday, May 11th — 5:00 pm

FELLOWSHIP HALL

YOUTH



prayer for us in prayer for the PINK team: pray as the high schoolers begin learning the curriculum, the Norris students finish up the school year, and for the team to be open to where God leads

We could "shore" use your help at VBS!

Help needed for many different areassome behind the scenes and some hands on during the week of VBS (June 9-13)

To see what help is needed, take a look at www.peacecolumbus.org/vbs





Join Us for ReFUEL!

Wednesdays ● 6:00—7:00 pm

LAST regular ReFUEL is May 1st Join us for Year End BASH May 8th! ReFUEL will return in August.

- ReFUEL is a weekly educational opportunity for children to learn more about their faith, God, and the Bible.
- ReFUEL is open to Pre K 3 year olds who are potty trained through 6th grade.
- Check-in is from 5:50—6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall ReFUEL meets 6:00—7:00 pm.
- Check out is from 7:00—7:10 pm
- Sign up by going to

www.peacecolumbus.org/children



Last Class on May 1st 7th & 8th Grade 6:00 — 7:00 pm • Fellowship Hall



All are invited to the YEAR OF END BASH!

ReFUEL Confirmation Classes Middle School Youth High School Youth

Please join us for a
FUN TIME
celebrating the end of the
year and the beginning of
SUMMER!





Anisten Barnett Connor Wright Dylan Crumley Griffin Micek Hannah Dahlke Heath Dahlke Kaden Brownlow Kaylee Lehr Makenna Jaeger

Trey Svatora
Tanner Podany
Taylon Traub
Taylor Helms
Taylor Loontjer
Wyatt Spragg
Zandyr Kohl







A FAMILY ENCOURAGED A COMMUNITY EMBRACED EVERYONE SAVED

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--|------------------|---|
| Communion will be served at all services on the 1st and 3rd weekends. | | | 1 First Steps Chapel 11:00 am ReFUEL 6:00 pm Confirmation 6:00 pm | Ruth's Circle 9:00 am Women's Creative Connection 9:00 am Bible's & Burgers Men's Group PRAYER 6:30 | 3 Office Closed | 4 Worship 5:00 pm |
| Worship 9:00 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Communication Update Family Connect Group 10:30 am | 6 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm | 7 Morning Bible Study 7:00 am Pastors Circuit Meeting 9:00 am Brookestone 3:00 pm Men's Chorus 5:30 pm Women's Connect 6:30 pm | 8 First Steps Chapel 11:00 am ReFUEL End of Year Bash 5:45 pm | 9 Women's Creative Connection 9:00 am Thurs Noon Connect Group 12:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:00 pm | 10 Office Closed | 11 Orphan Grain Train Donation Trailer 9-5 Worship 5:00 pm Communication Update 6:00 pm |
| Worship 9:00 am Orphan Grain Train Donation Trailer 10-5 Fellowship Time 10:00 am Family Connect 10:30 am | 13Esther Circle 9:00 am Lydia Circle 5:30 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Compassionate Friends 7:00 pm | 14 Primary Election 6:00 am Morning Bible Study 7:00 am Real Life 10:30 am Men's Chorus 5:30 pm Comfort Dog Meeting 7:00 pm | 15 First Steps Chapel 11:00 am Meridian Garden 2:00 pm | 16 Women's Creative Connection 9:00 am Thurs Noon Connect Group 12:00 pm Bible's & Burgers Men's Group 6:30 | 17 Office Closed | 18 Private Graduation Party 12:00 pm Worship 5:00 pm |
| 19 Worship 9:00 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Family Connect Group 10:30 am | 20 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm | 21 Morning Bible Study 7:00 am Prairie Village 2:30 pm Men's Chorus 5:30 pm Church Board Meeting 7:00 pm | 22 First Steps Chapel 11:00 am | 23 Women's Creative Connection 9:00 am Thurs Noon Connect Group 12:00 pm Cub Scouts 6:00 pm Bible's & Burgers Men's Group 6:30 | 24 Office Closed | 25 Worship 5:00 pm |
| 26 Worship 9:00 am Fellowship Time 10:00 am Bible Study 10:30 am Family Connect Group 10:30 am | 27 Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Office Closed ***** MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR | 28 Morning Bible Study 7:00 am | 29 First Steps Chapel 11:00 am Voters Meeting 7:00 pm | 30 Women's Creative Connection 9:00 am Thurs Noon Connect Group 12:00 pm Bible's & Burgers Men's Group 6:30 | 31 Office Closed | |