

The King's Messenger

Christ the King Lutheran Church

402-733-3294 · 7308 South 42nd Street (3 blocks south of Harrison)
www.ctlc-bellevue.org Newsletter Email: ctknewsletter@yahoo.com
Growing in Faith Love and Service to the God who loves us

Christ the King Lutheran Church
7308 South 42nd Street
Bellevue, Nebraska 68147
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Rally Sunday is Aug. 9!
Sunday School Resumes
Backpack Blessing
PotLuck after worship

Arrows to Aerospace Parade!
August 15! Come ride on the float!





Women of the ELCA

For more information about events and dates please see Mardelle Gocek.

GOAL MET!

~~School Kits for LWR~~

Thanks to the helping hands of many, our goal for 30 school kits was met!

Upcoming Events

August 18 - Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 am

September 1 - Quilting in the Fellowship Hall at 9am

September 18-20 - Nebraska Synod Women's Organization Convention

It's time to register and reserve your hotel room for this year's NSWOC Convention, to be held in Lincoln.

The theme of the convention is the "Power of M." There are so many "M's" in our Christian life and we will be exploring mini-themes of mission, mentoring, ministry, mercy, miracles, music and meditation, to name a few. And, we will enjoy muffins and M&Ms and share our favorite mugs.

The keynote speaker will be Pastor Brigette Weier, intentional interim pastor at Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church in Centennial, Colorado. The convention chaplain will be Pastor Juliet Hampton. Bishop Brian Maas will be present on Friday evening of the convention for a healing service.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a coffee mug to exchange or simply to share the story of the mug's significance.

September 15 - Quilting in the Fellowship Hall at 9am

Bible Study in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30am

Please continue to save UPCs from "Our Family" products, UPCs from Campbell soups (the entire label) and General mills "Box Tops for Education".

A box for these items is located on the piano in the elevator room.

Grace and Peace!

About two years ago I wrote a newsletter article about the tree in the courtyard garden. I made an observation and had a reflection to share. I figured that would be the last of it, but its not. So some of this may sound similar... if you can remember what I wrote two years ago... but keep reading because there is more... this is not just a recycle because I was running late.

When I came to Christ the King one of the most exciting things for me was our garden. Daniel and Katheryn were five at the time and thought it was the best part of the church. They would go to the garden and walk with God playing Adam and Eve. (Fear not, it was not a clothing-free enactment.) There was a sign that read "God's Garden", but it was really unnecessary... it was very clear to Daniel and Katheryn that God was in that place.

There were bushes to hide behind waiting for God to find them and forgive them. (Yes, I got to play the part of God; a role they do not afford me anymore.) There was, of course, a tree in the garden. This was the most important feature to make it the Garden of Eden for our role play.

I could see this tree from the window of my office. It shared with me what the wind was doing outside. Harriet and I delighted when a robin used it once to build a nest and have a clutch of babies. Though it was the most prominent feature of the garden, the tree had seen better days. Branches had died. These were pruned away but the tree was looking sad, twisted, clinging to a thread of life.

I say, "was" and "could" rather than "is" or "can" because after two church clean-up days Jon Butler and I decided that the tree had met its end. That Saturday the tree was cut down. All that remained was a stump. When the kids saw this they were sad... maybe even a little angry. I reminded them of another story that they loved; Shel Silverstein's "The Giving Tree". They pointed out that I had cut the stump too low for them to sit on. They were not satisfied.

In the spring of 2012 I noticed that some shoots had sprung up from the sides of the stump. I never quite got around to spraying it with stump killer. By the end of that fall it started to look like a bush and that, I thought, wouldn't be a bad thing... another bush in our garden.

But a tree, even one that has become just a stump, is not satisfied with just being a bush. It is called to be much more than that. It is called to grow in the blessings of its Creator. It is to drink the water that rains down and reach up to the light of the sun that gives life.

In May of 2013, the weeds in the garden took over. The weeds of early spring actually looked pretty for a while but eventually they became a mess. After Dan Bratsveen spent hours removing weeds it looked great again. Great, except for the mess that was now growing around the stump. It wasn't really a bush anymore... it was a mess. I looked at it. And looked at it. What to do?

I resolved to do what I should've done some time ago: kill the stump. But before I applied my stump killer I figure I should cut down all the shoots. It would be easier to get at the stump and besides; I'd have to remove them eventually anyway. I took my pruners to the stump and started clipping. Some of the shoots were actually growing sideways. They wound around each other and were over crowded... there was no way that this was ever going to be a nice, pretty bush.

I was clipping and pulling and I noticed two shoots about four feet tall that were actually fairly straight growing out of the same base. I wondered. Could this old stump have new life? I pruned more carefully and these two little shoots gradually resembled something deliberate.

I thought to myself in late May of 2013, "This is truly God's garden". And in the mess God was singing again the song of creation... and re-creation. When we take the time to stop and look and listen we have the opportunity to hear the song. Too often in our lives, and even in the life of the congregation, we get over

crowded and it takes a deliberate action to clear out the clutter. When we take the time to clear things, take stock of what we have, we often discover God has something special just for us... a message of new life.



And that is a good reflection in and of itself, but God is never done working in his garden. He is always doing the work of creation and re-creation. Early this June I noticed something new; the tree had begun to flower. It wasn't a lot; just a few branches. I was a bit busy getting ready for VBS and didn't have time to think about it, but I thought that was cool. It had been a flowering crabapple tree before and now it was coming back after two years of being a sapling.

And then it happened. I was walking through the entryway and noticed ...fruit. Wait?!?! What?!?! It never had fruit before. It was an ornamental tree... I don't even remember it getting the little crabapples. This tree that grew from the stump truly is a new creation. It is something entirely different than it was before.

I don't remember where I heard it, but I understand that many times a tree that you buy will have a different rootstock than the tree itself. Tree farms graft a shoot onto a heartier rootstock to increase its chance of survival in harsher climates like Nebraska. Master Gardener Dick Lindauer confirmed my understanding, but I was always under the impression that the rootstock that was used was a crabapple tree that was more like a weed that was hard to kill but no one wanted. It was good for rootstock, but that's it.

I'm no expert, but these look like eating apples. So God, what's up?

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that grow into this weed that people can't get rid of and no one seems to want, but when left to do its thing, provides a home for many birds. But more than that, how often do we try to graft something we think is "better" onto our faith. We Americanize our faith, or make it a social event, or have it become like cream to our coffee or chocolate syrup on ice cream.

Sure, it has Jesus as its root, but the flowery topping that we have grafted to him is not what he intends for us. More over that flowery top isn't as hearty as what can grow from his roots if we let it. When life gets hard, when things fall apart, when we are broken and crushed, we realize that we need something more than a flowery top... we need him.

As I was sitting in worship on Sunday listening to Paul Dawkins give a witness of his faith, the message of the tree in God's Garden came to me. When we let go of what we think our relationship with him should be like, we give ourselves over to the surprising new reality that God's kingdom has in store for us. And given time... we will produce fruit.

Do not neglect your spiritual life; do not neglect your relationship with God. Take the deliberate action to clear out the spiritual clutter by coming to worship, praising God, hearing his word, praying and fellowshiping with your brothers and sisters at Christ the King. Listen to what God has in store for you. Quiet yourself long enough to let him show you what he is doing in your life.

In Christ YOU are a new creation. He desires to prune you, shape you, and grow you... so that you may bear fruit. Stop, look, and listen for the song of your Creator. It is a love song he sings just for you.



Lutheran Immigration
and Refugee Service

It's time to think about our next refugee family!

It's been almost a year since we welcomed the seven members of the Pah Wah family to Omaha. We have made a commitment to Lutheran Refugee Services to help welcome a new family from a Thai Refugee Camp in October. Just to review, Lutheran Refugee Services is a program of Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc. The agency provides services to refugees before, during and after their arrival.

Churches like Christ the King are asked to offer their prayers and friendship as well as helping provide furnishings, clothing and food. Here's how you can get involved:

- Starting Sunday, September 6, you will find a fancy lamp at the entry to the church. Please have a look at the tags decorating the lamp, to see what is needed to set-up the family's apartment before they arrive in October. Please take a tag, or two, and return it with your donation, by Sunday, September 20.
- Please also check out the list of furniture needed.
- We'll need a team of strong helpers to get the furnishings in the apartment a few days before the family arrives. Last year this turned out to be a fun and rewarding few hours of working together as Jesus would want us to do in helping those who need us. We can't be sure of the date just yet, but it will probably be the last weekend of September or the first weekend of October.
- If you would like to join us in visiting the family as they are getting settled, please let us know. The Karen we've gotten to know are gentle people, with a strong emphasis on family and very motivated to work toward the American dream we take for granted.

Ann and Dave Jordan are again coordinating this project. Please call them if you have any questions, ideas, or items to be picked up. You may call or text 402-932-5056

God has given each of us so much, sometimes even more than we can use ourselves. How much has God blessed you? How much is he asking you to give so that those with such basic needs can also be blessed?"

Youth Sunday is September 27, 2015

Kids lead worship. We'll be assigning parts so be sure to let your child's teacher know that you'll be here. Let family know too. It would be a great opportunity to invite people in your family to worship with you.



From the Finance Committee...

We are at the mid-point of the year and it is a good time to look at how we are doing financially. As noted below, we began the year with the expectation of being a little short on income (-\$9912) to cover our expenses. The month-by-month progress indeed confirms that our expenses are exceeding envelope income. We are \$2049 under water. Please note that the Feb actual expense includes a full year payment (\$4000) on our church insurance. Also, the June actual expenses include paying for an unplanned failure of an air conditioner (\$900). Otherwise, all actual expense and actual income is coming in very close to projections. We will need a little help on the income side to end the year 2015 in a balanced cash flow position.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Budget Expense	10580	10580	10580	10580	10580	10580	10580	10580	10580	10580	10580	10580	126960
Budget Income	9754	9754	9754	9754	9754	9754	9754	9754	9754	9754	9754	9754	117048
													-9912

Actual Expense	10553	14544	10684	10230	9999	11063
Actual Income	9811	10413	12605	11224	11098	9873

Monthly Difference	-742	-4131	1921	994	1099	-1190
Cumulative Difference	-742	-4873	-2952	-1958	-859	-2049

WE'RE IN THE PARADE!
August 15, 2015
Ride on the float
and represent Christ the King



We would like as many people as possible to ride on the float.
 We will be lining up at 9:30am beside Lincoln Rd.
 The parade starts at 10am. This is a fun and easy thing for kids to do.

		= = = = =		
		DON AND MILLIE'S		
		FELLOWSHIP LUNCH		
		August 30th!		
		Immediately following worship		
		= = = = =		

Join us for a Fellowship Lunch at Don and Millie's after worship. We get a portion of the receipts to put toward the Capital Fund, so tell all your friends to go to Don and Millie's and say, "I'm with Christ the King!"

Rally Sunday is August 9 and **WOW!** will it be **FUN!**

School is just around the corner. Kids are excited about starting a new grade, new teachers, new backpacks.... Christ the King is kicking off the program year with a BANG!

Sunday School is back in session

Students go to their SANCTUARY at 9am for opening! Please be on time. Parents are always welcome to stay with their little ones, come to the Adult Study downstairs, or hang out for coffee and conversation in the Entryway.

After Church Potluck!

After worship, we will have the bounce house set up along with the beanbag toss. Bring a dish to share and let's get the program year rolling!



Backpack Blessing

Here at Christ the King we want to celebrate and bless the beginning of another

school year.

Anyone committed to learning, be it in a school, home or workplace, bring your backpacks or lunch boxes, briefcases or laptops to worship at 10:00. Pastor Bryan is even bringing his backpack for Seminary! We will lift up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's glory as we begin a new school year.

A new school year or a new year for work, we ask that God would use our supplies, our equipment, our hands and our feet to help the world; and that we would keep God in the center in all that we do and learn.

Confirmation starts August 8th at 10am

Yes, That is a Saturday.

This year we take a walk all the way through the Bible. A year of prayer and discovery, learning and growing, a year together. For ALL families involved in Christ the King's Confirmation Ministry! If you've got someone going into sixth or seventh grade or you were in confirmation last year, that's you! Parents are welcome to stay. Interested in a little refresher? Why not Join us?

What happened to Wednesdays? Meeting on Saturdays really makes a difference. No more tired minds and bodies at 7pm, dark in the winter. Don't Miss It! August 8th at 10am!

Sunday School BIG PICTURE

It's that time again! It's that wonderful time of year when deepening your child's relationship with God begins all over again! Christ the King Lutheran Church is a wonderful, nurturing environment where your children can explore their relationship with God. Our caring and energetic teachers provide the children with memorable experiences and a sense of security as they learn different ways to see and know God.

Come join us on Rally Sunday, August 9th, as we kick off a new Sunday School year filled with exciting activities. Remember, it is the parent who ultimately makes the decision about whether or not their child will be at Sunday School. Do not deprive your child of the chance to build meaningful relationships with friends and teachers as well as God. Make the choice to commit to your child's spiritual needs. Don't forget to bring a friend or neighbor to one of the events below!

Misty Lett, Christian Education Chair

Date	Event	Event Description
Sunday, August 09, 2015	Rally Sunday - Sunday School Begins	Sunday School Resumes! Back Pack Blessing in Worship!
Saturday, August 15, 2015	Arrows To Aerospace Parade - Ride on the Float!	Parade – ride, smile, and wave!
Sunday, September 27, 2015	Youth Sunday - Kids lead worship Hotdogs and Ice Cream afterwards	Worship
Saturday, October 03, 2015	Little Shepherds Party – 10am	Bring your favorite stuffed animal and we will learn about St. Francis.
Sunday, October 04, 2015	Pet Blessing – 2pm	Bring your pet to church for a blessing!
Friday, November 13, 2015	Campfire – 6pm	This is a fun night for all ages. Hot dogs and s'mores. Families with younger kids might want to just come for the campfire. Older kids are welcome to stay for the movie, games, and lock-in.
Saturday, December 05, 2015	Saint Nicholas Party – 10am	Have some fun with church friends celebrating Advent.
Sunday, December 13, 2015	Christmas Program	Worship
Saturday, December 19, 2015	Christmas Caroling – 10am	An outreach to homebound members. We go sing and they are always appreciative. Chili at the church afterwards.
Sunday, January 31, 2016	Kids sing in worship	Kids sing in worship
Saturday, January 30, 2016	Communion Event	This is an event for 2 nd – 5 th graders particularly for those preparing for 1st communion, but it will be fun for all.
Saturday, March 19, 2016	Spring Fling – 10am	Have some fun with church friends at the beginning of Spring.
Sunday, March 27, 2016	Kids sing at 10:00 Easter service	Kids sing in worship on Easter
Saturday, April 02, 2016	Esther Tea Party	Sorry boys, this one is just for the girls. Moms and daughters come join the Girlfriends! Of CtK for a tea and a girls only devotional.
Sunday, May 22, 2016	Sunday School Year End Celebration	Last day of Sunday School for summer. Kids will sing their favorite songs in worship.

girlfriends
@Christ the King

Salad Luncheon
September 19, 2014
11:00am – Fellowship Hall

At Christ the King we value our relationships. Girlfriends has been about lunch and prayer and this Fall we start up again. And who doesn't like a good salad? Our gardens should be bursting with cucumbers and tomatoes and all sorts of good things. And even if you don't have a garden or if the abundance of bunnies has decimated yours, the grocery stores will have a good selection. I'm bringing a chicken salad – no we didn't raise chickens – I'd love to have a bunch of people help me eat it. Whether you have been with us in the past or not, we invite all women looking for some "girlfriend time" to join us for our Fall Gathering.

Girlfriends! Night on the Town

*Go to see Dirty Dancing and then do dinner in the Old Market
Sunday, November 22, 2015 (Show is at 1:30pm)*

I am the worst about letting life get filled up with tasks that take up all my time and leave me too tired to get together with friends. But I know God did not create me to be a human "doing".

I am a human being and part of that means "being" with my girlfriends.

So, the Girlfriends here at CtK have done a couple of road trips in the fall which have been great, but there are some things to do right here in Omaha too.

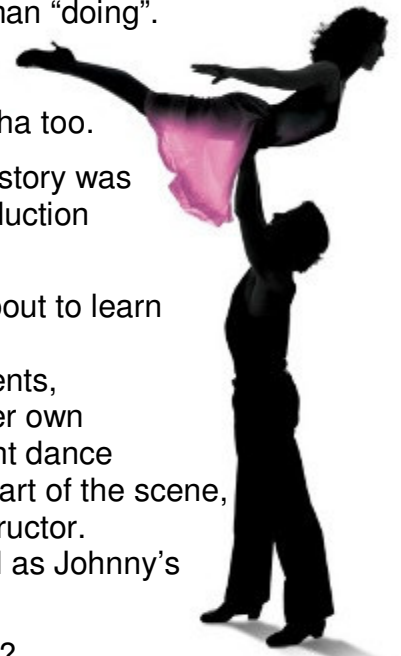
In 1987 the movie "Dirty Dancing" came out. I was in high school and the story was made for a girlfriend's night out. Well, the movie has become a stage production and is coming to Omaha! If you don't remember it, here's the gist:

It's the summer of 1963, and 17 year- old Frances 'Baby' Houseman is about to learn some major lessons in life as well as a thing or two about dancing.

On holiday in New York's Catskill Mountains with her older sister and parents, 'Baby' shows little interest in the resort activities, and instead discovers her own entertainment when she stumbles upon the staff quarters when an all-night dance party is in full swing. Mesmerized by the dancing, 'Baby' can't wait to be part of the scene, especially when she catches sight of Johnny Castle; the resort dance instructor. 'Baby's' life is about to change forever as she is thrown in at the deep end as Johnny's leading lady both on-stage and off.

Would you like to catch a show and dinner with some girlfriends at church?

Get with me if you're interested so we can coordinate tickets and such. 402-676-3495



Sheli Rice –Coordinator



September Anniversaries

- 1 Ronald & Sharon Rice
- 3 Ron & Judy Taylor
- 7 Jon & Marge Butler
- 9 Paul & Sharon Bernier

August Anniversaries

- 8 Jeff & Kathryn Heldt
- 21 Jeff & Lori Kiesel
- 22 Leonard & Colleen Schwalm

September Birthdays

- 8 Mark Dyer
- 9 April Marx
- 9 Joy Woita
- 12 Angie Wicklander
- 13 Elena Melendez
- 15 Judy Fink
- 17 Bryce Kennon
- 18 Kyle Johnson
- 21 Carson Max Taylor
- 25 Jedd Taylor
- 27 Aimee Robalik
- 27 Brandon Robalik
- 27 Zach Kiesel
- 30 Erik Junker
- 30 Barb Velazquez

August Birthdays

- 3 Tra Harris
- 7 Kathryn Heldt
- 9 Alayna Marie Kennon
- 10 Julie Junker
- 25 Frances Jirka
- 26 Paul Dawkins
- 26 Sharon Rice
- 26 Mary Hall
- 27 Lee Fideline
- 29 Kelly Rice

Attention, Choir Members Old and New

For this program year, we have selected 4 anthems to sing in worship. We will sing during worship on October 25, December 20, January 24, and March 20. We have scheduled rehearsals so that they do not conflict with other after worship events. Rehearsals have been scheduled for each anthem and there are either four or five weeks of rehearsals before we sing each anthem.

Please keep these dates on your calendar, and look at the calendar printed in the newsletter each month for the dates and times of rehearsals... typically Sunday after worship, but there is one at 9:30.

We welcome any new members that would like to share their talents as well. We are not a professional group by any means, so if you like to sing, please join us. If you wish to offer a musical offering please talk to Muffy.

We will need volunteers to help set up the altar as well through out the year.

In Christian love and fellowship,
Muffy Bratsveen, Worship and Music Chair





Carpet Update!

On May 3, 2015 at a Special Meeting of the Congregation, the Council was authorized to oversee the installation of carpeting in the Sanctuary and adjacent areas (Phase I) and spend \$12,000 to make this happen. Some people had already made contributions for this project and, with funding from other efforts such as the Fish Frys, at the time we had approximately \$6,600 in the Capital Fund. After the Special Meeting, the Finance Committee made several personal appeals for funding and raised an additional \$12,653 for the Capital Fund.

On May 29, 2015 the Council purchased a lot of 16 rolls of 12' X60' 30 oz carpet that was surplus from the City of Ralston for \$5,000.00; Pizzazz Style, Sassy Brass pattern made by Bolyü. On July 20, 2015 Harvey Brothers Flooring began the installation and it was completed July 24. About a third of the carpet purchased was used, and approximately \$11,100 was spent.

Phase II of carpeting will include the Balcony and upper level of the Education Wing. At this time there is no bid for that work, but we feel it is reasonable to estimate that another third of carpet purchased will be used. This will mean that about a third of the carpet will not be used in our facility. After we determine exactly how much carpet will be used in our facility, we would like to find a buyer for the remainder.

If a bid for Phase II of carpeting comes in below the \$5000 threshold stipulated in our constitution, there will not need to be another Special Meeting of the Congregation before this work can begin. At the Special Meeting on May 3, future use for the remaining carpeting was discussed, so this should not be a surprise. It is possible that this work could be done before the Annual Meeting in January 2016; perhaps after Thanksgiving.

The new carpeting is good news itself, but it is also good to mention that the response toward funding the project has been phenomenal. Thank You! The response has made doing Phase II sooner than some of us thought possible. It also does not drain all of the Capital Fund, making pew pad reupholstering (a project raised at the 2015 Annual Meeting) something very possible in 2016.

Thank you to all of you who have contributed funds and time to this project. Do know that contributions to the Capital Fund can happen at any time and help us have some place to start when we begin project planning. This is great news for Christ the King and we should celebrate it!

Breakfast at LUMS!
NEW DAY! FRIDAYS!
Aug. 7 and Sept. 4
at 8am!

Men's Breakfast 
August 8 and Sept. 12
8:00am

Men's Breakfast meets the second Saturday of every month at 8:00 a.m. where men of Christ the King unite in fellowship, dialogue and service to others. Come yourself and bring a friend!

August and September 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9am Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship Sunday School Teachers Mtg.	3 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	4	5 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	6 6pm Fitness Club 6pm CC Essentials Boot Camp	7 8am LUMS	8 8am Men's Breakfast 10am Confirmation
9 Rally Sunday 9am Sunday School Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	10 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club 7pm Mosaic	11 7pm CC Foundations Informational Meeting	12 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	13 6pm Fitness Club	14	15 Arrows to Aerospace Parade Line up at 9:30am
16 9am Sunday School Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Council	17 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	18 11:30am WELCA 7pm CC Foundations Open House	19 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	20 6pm Fitness Club	21	22
23 9am Sunday School Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	24 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	25	26 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	27 6pm Fitness Club	28	29 10am Confirmation
30 9am Sunday School Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	31 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	1 9am Quilting 9am CC Foundations 1pm CC Essentials 4:30pm Arts for All	2 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	3 6pm Fitness Club	4 8am LUMS	5
6 9am Sunday School Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship	7 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	8 9am CC Foundations 1pm CC Essentials 4:30pm Arts for All	9 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	10 6pm Fitness Club	11	12 8am Men's Breakfast 10am Confirmation
13 9am Sunday School Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Council	14 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	15 9am Quilting 9am CC Foundations 11:30am WELCA 1pm CC Essentials 4:30pm Arts for All	16 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	17 6pm Fitness Club	18	19 10am <i>Girlfriends!</i> <i>Salad Luncheon</i>
20 9am Sunday School Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir Endowment Com.	21 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	22 9am CC Foundations 1pm CC Essentials 4:30pm Arts for All	23 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon	24 6pm Fitness Club	25	26 10am Confirmation
27 Kids Sing Youth Sunday 9am Sunday School Adult Study 10am Worship 11:15am Fellowship 11:30am Choir	28 5:30pm T.O.P.S. 6pm Fitness Club	29 9am CC Foundations 1pm CC Essentials 4:30pm Arts for All	30 6pm Fitness Club 7:30pm AIAnon			