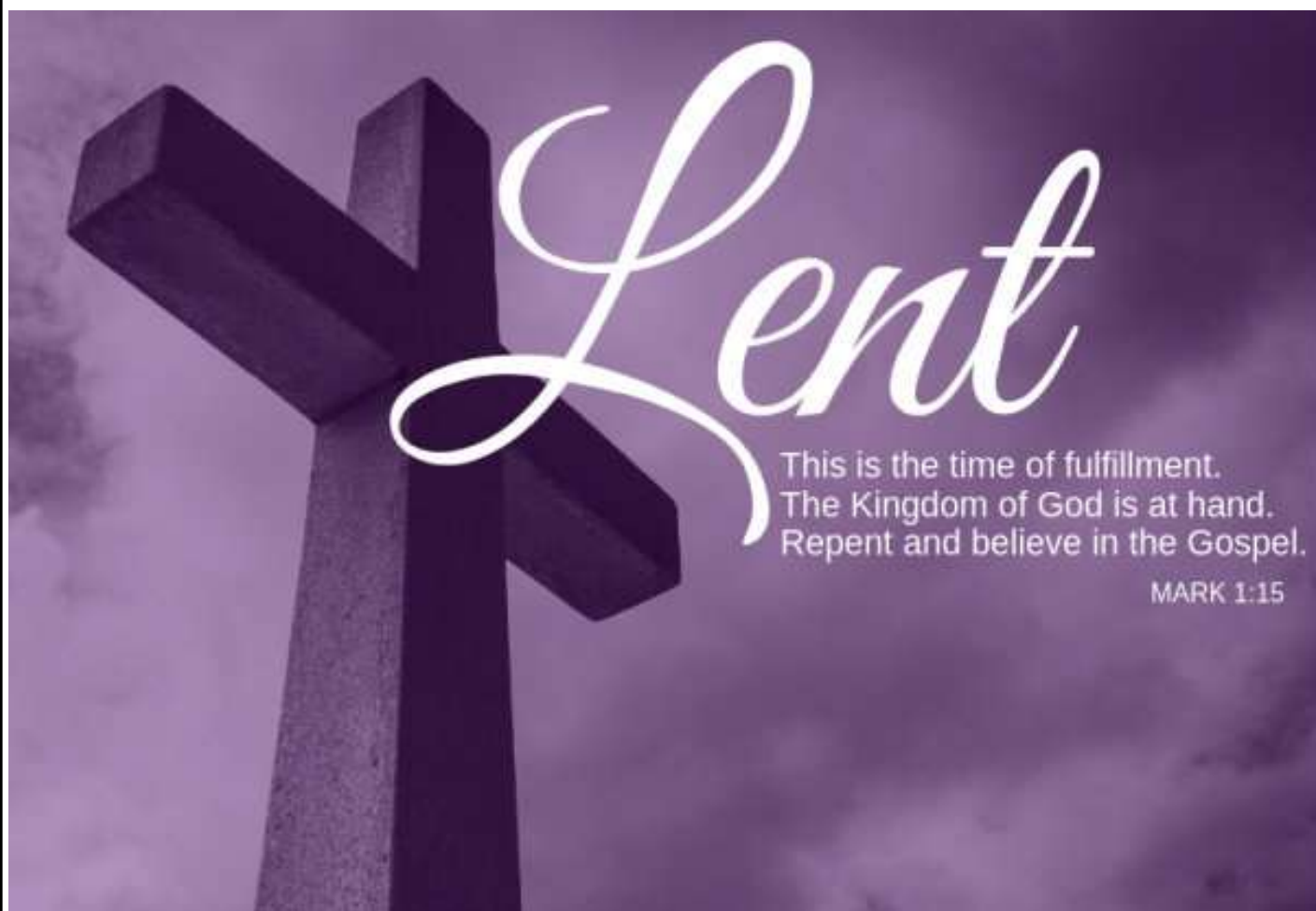




ASCENSION

LUTHERAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD, ONE ANOTHER, AND THE COMMUNITY.



This is the time of fulfillment.
The Kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent and believe in the Gospel.

MARK 1:15

March 2025

7607 Garden Gate Drive
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
(916) 723-5223 luthchurch.org

Pastor Scott Jones



What's the Story?

Robin and I have just returned from a long weekend in Chicago. It was cold while we were there, which we anticipated when we made plans to go there in February. However, the weather didn't keep us from having a great trip! I attended a two-day symposium at the seminary I attended, on Biblical Hospitality and Immigration. We listened to six professors present papers on the topic from different perspectives; Old Testament, New Testament, Theological, Political Science and Ministry. Each of the papers was then responded to by a different professor. Then the rest of us were given time to ask questions.

We were also able to connect with some "old" friends (this summer it will be 20 years ago that we moved to Chicago to attend seminary), as well as some family. My dad's aunt raised her family in a suburb of Chicago and five of his six cousins still live there. We told a lot of

stories while we visited with them. Some of the stories were about our memories of the time that we lived in Chicago and were able to spend time with my dad's cousins. And other stories were older, family stories about our grandparents, great-grandparents and great great-grandparents. It soon became obvious that we can't remember all of the details of the family stories that we have heard. Names and places have been forgotten but, more importantly, the stories of our relatives have become less accurate with the passing of each generation.

Stories will be our focus this Lent, both God's Story and Our Story. We will explore God's story each Sunday as we read and hear some of Jesus' parables, as told in Luke, preached about during worship. Our daily devotional and a daily video will also focus upon God's Story. And in our small group gatherings we will read and hear stories from Scripture, as well as the stories of the authors and contributors to our small group curriculum. We will also hear parts of each person in our small group's story. Our hope is that we will become more comfortable telling stories about how God's story intersects with each of our stories, throughout the Lenten season.

Then, during Holy Week we will hear Peter's story about the passion of Jesus, which will be sung and spoken by our Easter choir.

I invite you to make Lent at Ascension a part of your story this year.

Pr. Scott

Preschool News—March 2025

We will celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday this month. Every child will bring a book to read and we will be sending new books home to everyone. It is also National Read Along Month, and March 2 is National read across America Day. Please share this and read to someone or have someone read to you

We will be watching for that crazy leprechaun who messes up our classrooms. We will try to catch him this year on March 17. Have you ever seen a leprechaun before? Good Luck!



Wednesday, March 5

We will have two services this day, both with the imposition of ashes and holy communion.

12:00 pm in-person only
7:00 pm in-person & live streamed



Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9

Set a reminder for yourselves to set your clock forward before you go to bed the night of March 8th. Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday March 9th, at 2:00 am.

Women's Breakfast

ALL Women of Ascension are invited to a breakfast gathering at 10 am on Thursday, April 3, at CH Café & Grill, located at 6215 Sunrise Blvd. (at the NW corner of Sunrise and Greenback). This will be a time to share food and fellowship with other women. Watch for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please see Cynthia Green or Lois Bacchi with any questions.



Holy Week at Ascension

Palm Sunday—April 13
Worship 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday—April 17
Worship 7:00 pm

Good Friday –April 18
Worship 12:00 pm and 7:00 pm
Stations of the Cross available from 12:00 pm—7:00 pm

Easter Sunday—April 20
Worship 8:30 am and 11:00 am
Easter Breakfast (Fundraiser by the Youth for Ascension's Food Pantry) between services



All Services Livestreamed, Except 12:00 pm Good Friday.

WELCA

Welcoming all women into the joy of serving our Lord

2nd Sunday Food collection of Food; thank you to all who remember to bring in your additional food collection on this day. Remember, we accept food any day the office is open. We are currently handing out approximately 50+ bags of food each month.

WELCA is planning to have a list of truly needed items by highlighting the most needed items each month. Please look for the list to be handed out on the 1st Sunday of each month.

WELCA gave out 50 bags to the veterans at the Veterans Community Center on Valentines Day. This was really appreciated by our veterans.



During the month of March we will be supporting Mariposa School with another shoe drive, expanded to include, gloves, scarves and beanies. A basket will be provided. If you would like to donate momentarily, please note on the memo line for WELCA shoe drive.

By a large majority it has been decided to keep the WELCA meeting at 4 pm on the 3rd Monday of the month! We meet in the large conference room.

Remember **all women of Ascension are welcome.** Please come and join us.

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

Youth Service Project

Following worship on Sunday, February 16, a service project was held in the Conference Room for our youth. They assembled 65 personal care kits. They each took one home for their personal use and the rest were delivered on February 21 for the youth who attend the Sayonara Center afterschool activities.



Hard at work



Admiring their work



Grateful recipients

Habitat for Humanity's Build for Unity

On Friday, February 7, Ascension sent nine workers to Folsom where 10 homes are being built for low-income families. It was a muddy but productive day. Thank you to all who volunteered.

Habitat staff confirmed that they will break ground on a building project on Sayonara Drive in Citrus Heights this summer to build 26 new houses.



FINANCE STATUS THROUGH JAN. 2025

Current Monthly Actual Income	Current Monthly Actual Expenses	YTD Actual Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Actual Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses
\$51,986.61	\$43,406.08	\$51,986.61	\$41,083.26	\$43,406.08	\$46,107.32

Total Cash; All Accounts:	\$280,095.14
Obligated; Dedicated Accounts:	\$119,132.31

January is off to a good start with Income exceeding budget, and expenses below budget. However, these numbers reflect some annual and quarterly gifts, so that has to be taken into consideration when spread across several months.

A new benevolence distribution of our offerings has been approved by the finance committee and the council. We will still be designating 11.2% of all offering (Regular and Restricted) as benevolences each month. However, now 7.5% of the Regular offering will be dedicated to the Synod and the Synod supported ministries. The remaining 3.2% of Regular offering will support our congregation and our community designated ministries.

All 11.2% of the Restricted Offering will support our congregation and our community ministries each month.

Roger Linder
Treasurer

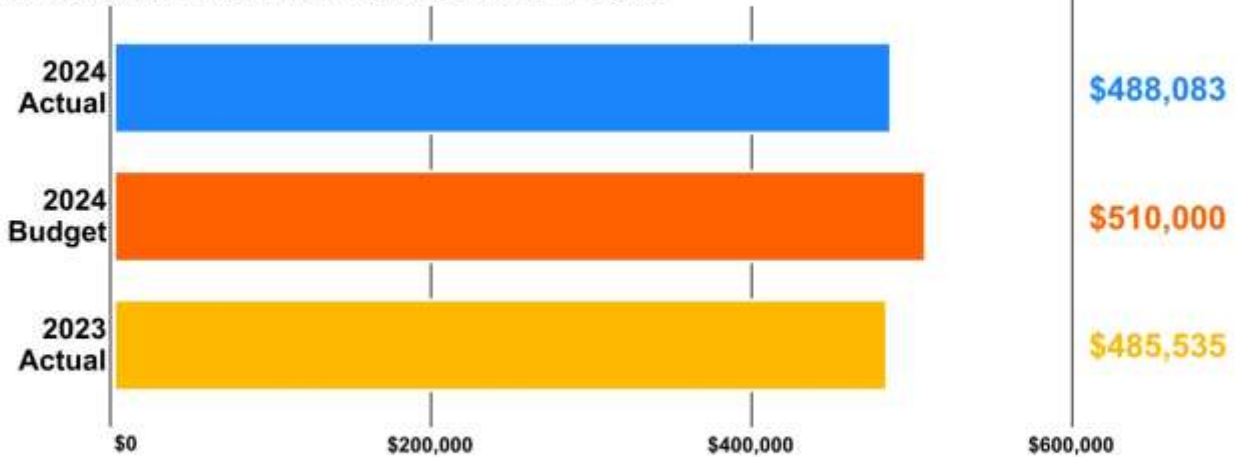
Pub Theology

This is a recurring event, meeting the 4th Thursday of the month. Jo Ann Little takes the lead and comes up with very interesting questions and topics for us to discuss over dinner and drinks. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27 at 6:00 pm at R Vida Cantina, located at 7040 Sunrise Blvd. in Citrus Heights.

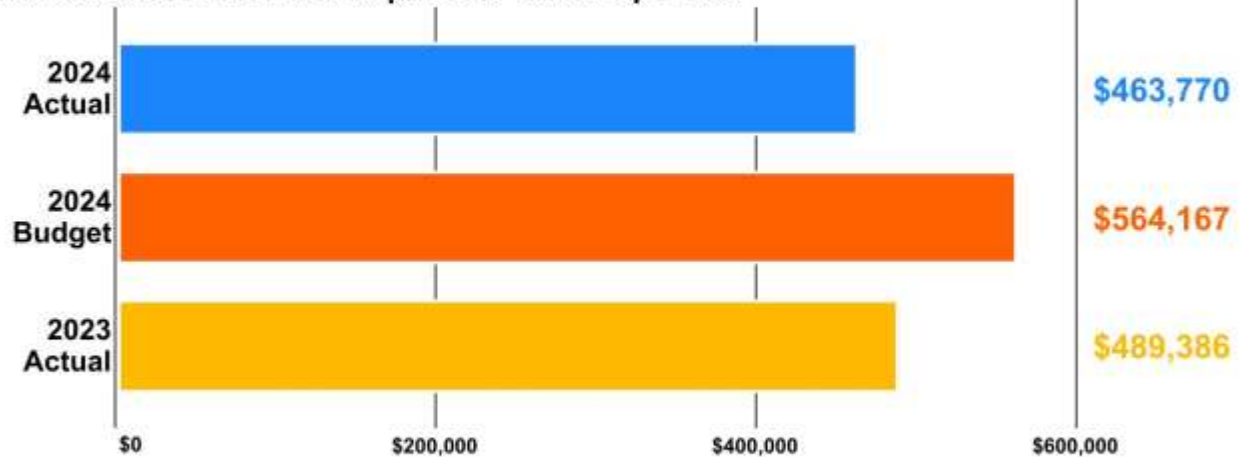


2024 Year End Financials As reported at the Annual Meeting on February 23, 2025

2024 Year End Financials: Income: Total Income



2024 Year End Financials: Expenses: Total Expenses



Off Road Youth Group

William Barker—Youth Director
Justin Carballar—Asst Youth Director
carbiemagoo@yahoo.com



3rd-6th Grade

- 3/2 Off-site for lunch and to watch a flag football game
- 3/16 On Campus
- 3/30 On Campus

Contact Mr. Justin with questions.



G1 Youth at Ascension

William Barker—Youth Director
Justin Carballar—Asst Youth Director
g1youth@luthchurch.org

- | | | |
|------|-----------|--------------------|
| 3/2 | 9:45-11am | Confirmation Class |
| | 4:30-7pm | Youth Group |
| 3/9 | | No Youth Group |
| 3/16 | 9:45-11am | Confirmation Class |
| | 4:30-7pm | Youth Group |
| 3/23 | | No Youth Group |
| 3/30 | 9:45-11am | Confirmation Class |
| | 4:30-7pm | Youth Group |



VP/Properties

WHAT IS THIS?



Have you noticed the amazing architecture in our facility? Do you know where this picture was taken in our beautiful building? If you have seen this then you can imagine where we are getting our inspiration as we update the narthex and WELCOME all into our facility!

We do have a committee that is working on the **Narthex beautification** project, and we want you to **get involved??**

We need your **construction talent**. Building a façade; painting; plants added...**WE NEED YOU?**

We have maintenance issues that need attention. Ron McCormick does a great job, but your talent could help!

Your talents are needed? Carpets cleaned; lights replaced; smoke detectors added; drain outside preschool; ceiling tiles replaced;

CAN YOU HELP?

DID YOU KNOW?? Your church council works hard on your behalf? Need something done, contact one of the **council members** or church staff...pictures are on the hallway wall of council members who can help - Take a look!!

Mary Jo Edmondson
edmondsonmaryjo@gmail.com
916-284-9107

Are You the Next Ministry Partner?

We are in need of folks we can equip to partner in ministry to help us continue to provide meaningful worship services. The needs are great but the burden, when shared, can be light. Together we can make a difference. Below is a brief overview of each of the areas in which partners are involved, along with the name of a person currently serving in that position who is available to answer questions you may have.

On March 16, between services and after second service, you'll have the opportunity to see this work in action. If you're interested in serving in any of these capacities, there will be training offered as well as support provided as you serve.

Altar Guild: Basic duties revolve around total care of the altar and chancel for worship. This includes linens and the communion elements. See Dana Maroney for details.

Assisting Minister: The Assisting Minister provides leadership during specific parts of the worship service and assists the presiding minister with communion preparation and distribution; leads prayers and dismissal. See Dana Maroney for details.

Coffee Hour: Purchase donuts (for which you are reimbursed), make coffee & set out creamers, etc., place donuts (and baked goods donated by members) on platters at the end of Classic Service. Wipe down tables, put supplies away and wash dishes after Modern Service begins. See Kay Emery for details.

Communion Assistant: Communion Assistants assist the Pastor in distribution of Holy Communion, both bread and wine. See Dana Maroney for details.

Lector: The Lector reads the week's lesson from the lectern. A copy of the text is emailed ahead of time, affording the opportunity to rehearse in advance. See Terri Jellesed for details.

Usher: Ushers greet members and guests as they arrive for worship, tally attendance, collect the offering, and provide direction to the communion rail. See Paul Bacchi for details.

Table & Chair Set Up/Take Down: Set up tables and chairs in the Fellowship Hall before Coffee Hour; take down tables and chairs after Coffee Hour. Also the table on which pastries are served. See Justin Carballar for details.

Tech Team: Following written guidelines engage appropriate camera shots; advance pre-programmed words on screen; activate specific microphones at appropriate times. See Andrea Toven, Shane Toven or Brian Peterson for details.

Opportunities to Serve in the Community

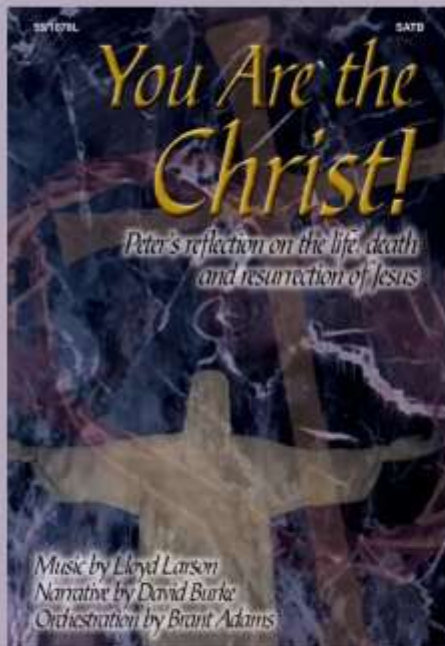
Loaves & Fishes

Ascension volunteers serve lunch in the dining room on the first Wednesday of each month. We will be serving on March 5. **We need more volunteers** for this community outreach to homeless people in the Sacramento area. Our group meets at the church at **10:00 am** for carpooling. Contact Art Champ for more information.



Sunrise Christian Food Ministry

Ascension volunteers fill bags on the third Wednesday of each month; our goal is to send six volunteers. The next scheduled date is March 19, from **8:30 am—12 noon**. In September, the food pantry started offering Wednesday evening family distribution. We will be packing bread and produce in advance of the evening food distribution. We always enjoy our time together while helping needy people. Contact Betty Alvord for more information.



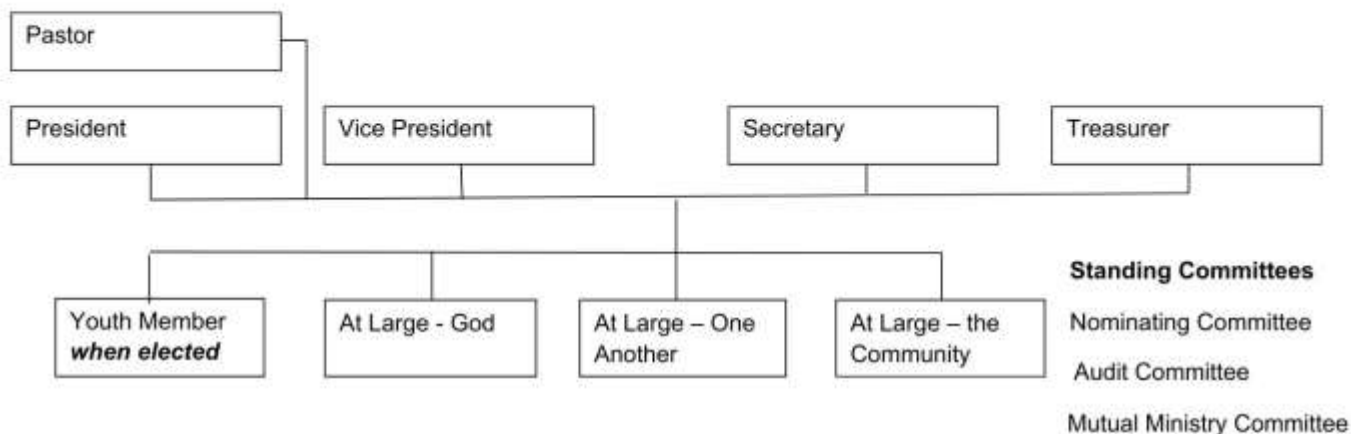
Join us for our Holy Week cantata

Rehearsals begin
Thurs., March 6 @ 6:30 pm

Questions? Interested?
Talk to Cynthia Hannem!

Loving God, One Another & the Community

Ascension Church Council



Ministry Teams

Standing Ministry Teams	Loving God	Loving One Another	Loving the Community
Properties (Vice President)	Sunday School	Congregational Care	Social Ministries
Finance (Treasurer)	Bible Study	Coffee Hour	Evangelism
Technology (TBD)	Altar Guild	Youth	Trunk or Treat
	Worship/Music	Small Groups	Sunday Funday
	Stewardship	Pub Theology	National Night Out

Save the Dates

April

- 3 Women's Breakfast
- 13 Palm Sunday
- 17 Maundy Thursday
- 18 Good Friday
- 20 Easter Sunday
- 26 Grief Group begins

August

- 5 National Night Out



2025 Church Council

Pastor	Scott Jones
President	Terri Jellesed
Vice President	Mary Jo Edmondson
Secretary	Mark Chapman
Treasurer	Roger Linder
<u>Loving:</u>	
God	Greg Imlay
One Another	Brian Shannon
The Community	Doreen Nichols
Technology	Brian Shannon

Council Corner

Our congregation has experienced a significant amount of “change” in the past few years. We welcomed our new Pastor in 2018—thanks be to God! 2020 brought Covid—enough said! One more thing, though, our new Constitution and Bylaws were adopted in 2020. 2023 brought us back to in person worship AND two services. 2023 also saw our Parish Assistant go out on extended medical leave that lasted through all of 2024. Time for a reset, right?!

At our annual congregational meeting on February 23 we thanked two departing members of Council and welcomed two new members. Pastor Scott and all the members of Council met following that meeting to determine whose gifts are best suited to the various duties. While we have designated Council members in place to serve as liaison to our various ministries, ALL members are committed to support the congregation as we work together to fulfill our Mission Statement. Results are shown at left. We’ll have new photos (and job titles) posted in the hallway soon.

In addition to our regularly scheduled meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of March, Council members will meet again on the 3rd Tuesday to set goals as we continue our faithful efforts to carry out our Mission Statement.

“We as members of the same body have different gifts given to us by our Father. We shall encourage each other to use these gifts to support and serve God, our church and church family, and the community with one voice and a spirit of unity as directed by Christ Jesus. We will support each member of our church in prayer including our pastor and leaders as they seek to guide us. (Romans 12:4-6; Romans 15:5-6; Hebrews 13:17)” (Taken from Ascension’s Relational Covenant)



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

Ascension Public Calendar							Mar 2025 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
23	24	25	26	27	28	1							
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6pm - Shrove Tuesday 7pm - Finance Committee	10am - Loaves & Fishes 12pm - Ash Wednesday 6pm - AA Meeting @ 7pm - Ash Wednesday	2pm - Craig Brewick 6:30pm - Cantata	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @							
2	3	4	5	6	7	8							
Food Pantry Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class -	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope 7pm - Council @ C-1	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick 6:30pm - Cantata	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @							
9	10	11	12	13	14	15							
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class -	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 6:15pm - Antelope 7pm - Council @ C-1	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick 6:30pm - Cantata	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Karen Walton 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @							
16	17	18	19	20	21	22							
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @	2pm - Craig Brewick 4pm - WELCA Meeting 6pm - National Night Out	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling 7pm - Church Council	8:30am - Sunrise 6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick 6:30pm - Cantata	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 10am - Gold Country 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @							
23	24	25	26	27	28	29							
Healing Sunday 8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class -	2pm - Craig Brewick	10am - Text Talk @ C-1 2pm - Craig Counseling	6pm - AA Meeting @ 6:30pm - Band Rehearsal	2pm - Craig Brewick 6pm - Pub Theology 6:30pm - Cantata	8:30pm - Romanian SDA	9am - Romanian SDA 3:30pm - Romanian SDA 6pm - NA Meeting @							
30	31	1	2	3	4	5							
8:30am - Classic Worship 9:30am - Women 9:45am - Band Rehearsal 9:45am - Bill's Class - 9:45am - Coffee Hour @ 9:45am - Confirmation @	2pm - Craig Brewick												