



## Living the rest of the story

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus has come exclusively to proclaim the good news to people everywhere. He begins his ministry in the synagogue of the small Galilean town of Capernaum, where he casts out an unclean spirit from a Jewish man on the Sabbath day. He then crosses the street, where he casts a fever out of Simon Peter's mother-in-law, who gets up from her sickbed and serves the Sabbath meal.

That's how it begins, this proclamation of the good news. The Kingdom of God draws near in word and deed to people whose lives center around worship and faithfulness. People around him are healed and freed for service, whatever that might be.

His ministry is a continual string of teaching, preaching, and casting out unclean spirits of every sort: those that cause mental illness, physical illness, separation, and distortions of both thinking and self-worth. He fishes for people, beginning close to his Jewish home and spiraling ever outward to outcasts, Jewish people from Galilee to Jerusalem to all of Judea, and Gentiles from 10 cities, catching them all in his net of grace, love and mercy. His expanding ministry is clearly meant for everyone. Jesus' story in the gospel of Mark ends with a rigged trial, execution on the cross, an empty tomb, and a call to meet him again in Galilee. The gospel itself ends with women gathered at Jesus' tomb, stunned into silence. Here we have no witnesses to his rising, no stories of him appearing to his disciples, no follow-up to the emptiness of the tomb. Mark's readers and hearers are simply provoked by a story that ends with an unfinished sentence: "They said nothing to no one; they were afraid because..."

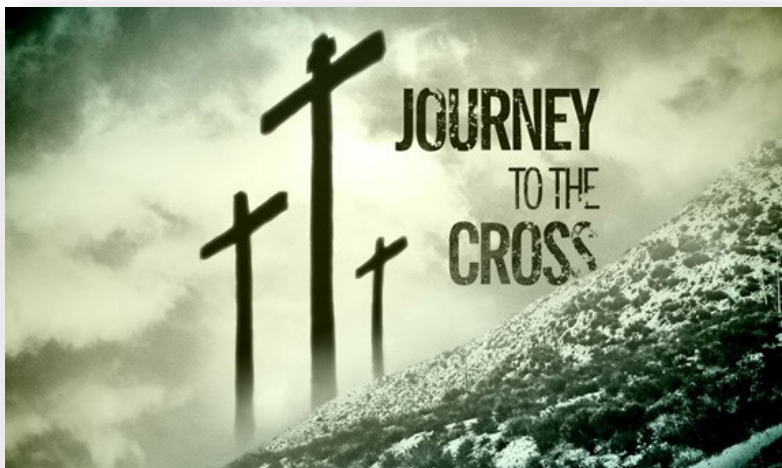
We who hear this account of Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection are challenged: Will Jesus' words and deeds fall into obscurity in our time, or will we live the rest of the

story? We like the women at the tomb stand in stunned silence as we witness many things: the demands of our personal lives; the politics of our city, country, and world; the provocation of the empty tomb and the call of the Church.

Will we say "nothing to no one"? Or will we risk telling the story and living in ways consistent with God's Beloved Son, who proclaimed good news in word and deed everywhere he went, even at the cost of his own life?

These are the questions of Lent.

How we answer reveals our Christian commitment, the strength and weakness of our faith; the need for study, prayer, fasting, charitable giving, and discernment; and the extent of our connection to Jesus' beloved community, the Church.



Wherever the start of Lent finds you this year, let its end find you at the foot of the cross, in adoration of the One who gave everything he had and everything he was in order to bring healing to people everywhere, including you. Make the most of Lent by studying and praying daily, attending the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, Ash Wednesday service, Thursday mid-week services, and Sunday services. Don't miss Holy Week, as we live out Mark's story of the last week of Jesus' life. It is a full worship experience from February 14 through April 1; if you give it time and attention, Jesus himself will transform your heart and mind. He will help you live the rest of the story.

Pastor Laura

# A glance at February Ministry Happenings....



**February 1** - PhD.—noon—1:30 pm

**February 3** - Men's Breakfast—8 am

AGAPE Café—6 pm—Please sign up at the church

**February 4** - Young Families Gathering—following worship

**February 6** - Prayer and Care—10:30 am—potluck lunch

**February 10**—Way of Christ Training—9 am—3:30 pm

**February 13** - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—6 pm

**February 14** - Ash Wednesday Worship—7 pm

**February 17** - Men's Breakfast—8 am

**February 21** - Council Meeting—7 pm

**February 22** - Caring Conversations—5 pm

**February 24** - Women's Ministry—10 am

**February 27** - Mentor Night at Confirmation

\*\*\*\*\*All events are at Lutheran Church of the Cross, unless otherwise stated.



**In this Month's Issue**  
**Love the Lord your God**  
*with.....*

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## Lutheran Church of the Cross

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403-255-4792

### Mission

Gathered by God to worship and grow.  
 Empowered by Spirit to love and care for each other  
 Living Christ's love by witnessing to all.

### Vision

To be a vibrant and growing congregation unified in sharing the love of Christ through words and actions.



**CHURCH OF THE CROSS**

# LEAD ... love God with all your **strength**

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY** Cause of the month for February

### **Canadian Lutheran World Relief**

Our annual **PANCAKE SUPPER** will be held on Shrove Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. A free will offering will be received with all proceeds going to C.L.W.R. Join

## **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party**

It's time to clean out your pantries! Traditionally, the few days before Lent are a time to rid your kitchen cupboards and refrigerator of indulgent sweets and fats, in preparation for the austere season of Lent.

This tradition has given rise to some well-known regional parties, such as Mardi Gras in New Orleans and Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, as people found ways to use the abundance of foods and drinks considered inappropriate for consumption during the days of Lent.

The day before Ash Wednesday is often called "Mardi Gras" (Fat Tuesday), "Shrove Tuesday", or even "Pancake Tuesday", as it has become associated with a simple food that can be dressed up with nearly anything fat or sweet found in the common kitchen.

We too have such a party. On February 13, we'll feast on pancakes, sausage, applesauce and some decadent delights as we purge our own kitchens in preparation for Lent. But this is no ordinary pancake supper. It's a pancake extravaganza complete with homemade New Orleans beignets and pralines, traditional pancake flipping, and "The Master's Chef" cooking competition. We'll collect a free will offering to benefit CLWR. Bring a friend... the more the merrier. Festivities begin at 6 pm. Activities are sponsored by the Tuesday evening faith study groups. Pancake supper provided by Social Ministry.

## **Family'n Friends**



- Are you interested in connecting with other young adults and families at the church?
- Do you wondering how your faith can give you new life in the midst of the busyness of work and family?

The Families and Friends group is a chance for families with young children and young adults at the church to gather to build relationships, eat lunch and have meaningful conversations together. This year we will be meeting the first Sunday of the month after church (During Blast) in the small classroom next to the fellowship hall. Each time it will be a new conversation about life and faith. No prep work is expected, and we know life is full, so come when you can and bring simply yourself (and your little ones). You are simply welcome. If you have any questions feel free contact Ryan Andersen at [ryancandersen@yahoo.com](mailto:ryancandersen@yahoo.com) or (403)993-7123.

**Next meeting is Sunday, February 4** —following worship



**God's Covenant of Baptism**

*Lenten Midweek services*

**7pm Thursdays in Lent, beginning February 22**



Splashed with Promise is currently looking for someone interested in taking pictures for baptisms within the church. If you are interested please contact Sandi 403-228-0463 for details.



# LEAD ... love God with all your **soul**

## COFFEE SET-UP

### February—Confirmation class, parents and mentors

Thanks to all those who have been setting up coffee Sunday mornings. Your dedication to providing this service is greatly appreciated.

If you enjoy the after service coffee/tea and would like to become involved in this ministry, stop by the kitchen on Sunday mornings and express your interest or contact Jan Reimer, Coffee Coordinator. No previous experience required!

## Acolytes for February

Feb. 4—Leo Rettie & Jamie Risse

Feb. 11—Max Thomson & Leo Rettie

Feb. 18—Jamie Risse & Kim Reath

Feb. 25—Max Thomson & Kim Reath



Morning Prayer—9 am—Monday—Thursday

Fellowship & Coffee at  
Tim Hortons—every Tuesday morning at 10 am.  
11472 Braeside Dr. SW.



February 1

12:00 noon to 1:30 pm

We would like to welcome you to Church of the Cross for  
the PHD program.

PHD means – POTLUCK/HYMN/DEVOTION

There will be a potluck lunch, a presentation regarding the contemplation and reflections of the composer of a hymn (*chosen by the presenter*), then a devotion followed by a short hymn sing.

Please join us for:

**GOOD FOOD/ GOOD COMPANY/ FUN/ KNOWLEDGE**

# LEAD ... love God with all your mind

## A 40-Day Invitation to Rediscover Jesus

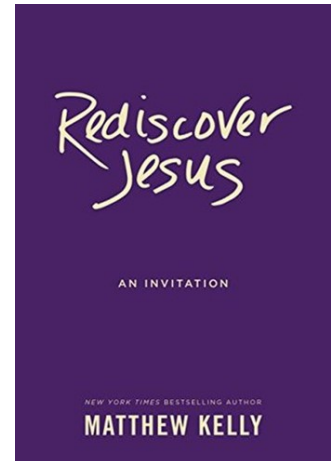
At a time when so many people are spiritually disillusioned and searching for ways to live, love, work, and play that nurture the soul rather than destroy it, author Matthew Kelly delivers a powerful book that encourages us in our weariness, challenges us in our comfort, and invites us to rediscover the beautiful possibilities God places before us daily.

Rediscover Jesus is a profound invitation to seek deeply personal answers to our deeply personal questions. Each page seems to effortlessly reach into every aspect our lives, providing spiritual wisdom and practical insights that help us to know both Jesus and ourselves in a new way.

Some books find us at just the right time, and those books change our lives forever. Rediscover Jesus is one of those books.

Forty short daily devotions including a 2-4 page reading, a point to ponder, verse to live, question to consider, and prayer encourage us to rediscover Jesus and re-energize our faith.

Use the forty days of Lent to Rediscover Jesus. Rediscover Jesus: An Invitation by Matthew Kelly is available at church for \$10 while supplies last. Digital and print editions are available online.



Women's Bible Study takes place at Lutheran Church of the Cross on Saturday, **February 24, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.** with the following study from "Gather Magazine".

**Winter 2018: Multiple meanings**  
**Session Two – Prepare the Way of the Lord (Luke 3:3-17)**



**Save the Date: Friday, March 2, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. – World Day of Prayer Service**

**Location:** St Gerard's Catholic Church.

**Theme:** "All God's Creation is Very Good" -Written by the people of Suriname.

This service sponsored by The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC), the only national ecumenical council with representatives from 10 church partners, focusing on four main concerns of social justice, women's issues, ecumenism, and the growth of women's spirituality. The annual World Day of Prayer is coordinated by WICC. Through World Day of Prayer grants, WICC supports grassroots work to help women and children both in developing countries and here at home escape the cycle of poverty and violence



# LEAD ... love God with all your mind

The Cause of the Month for February is

## Canadian Lutheran World Relief

CLWR continues to focus on bettering the lives of people around the world suffering because of drought, natural disaster, poverty or civil unrest. Across our Canadian Lutheran denominations, congregations give willingly and regularly to this national ministry in support of its humanitarian programs. Check out their website, or subscribe to their news releases at [www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org)

Last year, CLWR distributed thousands of Living and Learning Kits containing school supplies, hygiene products and a simple toy, assembled by congregations across Canada, to school children across Southern Africa. This fall (2017), your material and monetary contributions toward Living and Learning Kits have increased the number of kits we are assembling from 50 to 75! Thank you for your contributions. Way to go!!

**You are invited and welcome to help assemble these kits during the BLAST showcase following worship Sunday, February 25.**

Your Cause of the Month contributions in February help fund CLWR's work in the world: humanitarian assistance and development; food security and nutrition; refugee sponsorship; and the We Care program.

# EXCITING NEWS!

**Catherine**, our Minister of Music, is thrilled to announce that she has been accepted to the Banff Musicians in Residence program from January 28th to February 10th at the Banff Centre.

The Banff Musicians in Residence (BMiR) program provides emerging and established artists from the classical, jazz, singer songwriter, folk, pop, electronic, and world music traditions with a period of focused time to concentrate on artistic development. Residents are given the opportunity to expand their artistic insights through interaction with program peers and visiting artists. Participants have the freedom to structure their time around the needs of their own individual project, to interact with peers who are also participating in the program, and to use the beautiful resources and facilities at the world-acclaimed Banff Centre.

Catherine's research project will focus on repertoire study. She will be preparing a paper / interest focusing on a historical perspective of Treble Choir repertoire by Canadian composers that she will present at the national conference of Choral Canada in St. John's Newfoundland at the end of June. She also intends to focus her time to research new repertoire in general, and on music of the Venetian Oespedali.

This work will benefit the singers in ALL of Catherine's ensembles including both Cantaré Children's Choir and EL-COC choir.

# LEAD ... love God with all your **mind**

## The Agape Café

The Agape Cafe is a free 4-course dinner and evening of entertainment brought to you by the Church of the Cross youth group.

"Agape" is a Greek word for "love" that represents God's love for us: a deep, abiding, and unconditional love that we could never repay and for which we can only be grateful. The Agape Cafe is offered to you in the spirit of God's agape love for us.

Set aside Saturday February 3, 6-8:30 pm for a lavish experience of fine dining, entertainment, and friendship. Come and know the love of God and the love of people in your church community. Please bring a friend (or two) -- especially people who need to experience God's deep and abiding love.

Although the evening is offered to you free of charge, silent auction items and a freewill offering will be available to support our youth as they prepared to attend the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) Gathering in Thunder Bay, Ontario this August.

RSVP for the Agape Cafe by phoning the church office at (403) 255-4792 or signing up by the church mailboxes. Please make for food sensitivities and allergies known when you make your reservation.





**LEAD**  ... love God with all your **mind**



**Catch Up**  
**with LCBI**

**LCBI**  
HIGH SCHOOL

**Calgary:** Feb. 3, 5:00 p.m., supper at 5:30  
Lutheran Church of Our Saviour  
8831 Fairmount Drive SE

**Airdrie:** Feb. 4, 2:00 p.m. coffee & snacks  
Lutheran Church of the Master  
216 Main Street SE

*Alumni, friends, & prospective students  
Come and catch up on...*

- ♦ *what's happening at the school today*
- ♦ *the current mission and vision*
- ♦ *how LCBI in 2018 is an awesome place*

please RSVP to Joe Stolee 403.478.9684  
or online at [lcbi.sk.ca/catchup/](http://lcbi.sk.ca/catchup/)



**The Secret Garden**

**At**

**Theatre Calgary**

**April 17—May 19**

**Laura stars as “Lily”**



## God Moments

On Saturday, January 3rd a small group of women from Church of

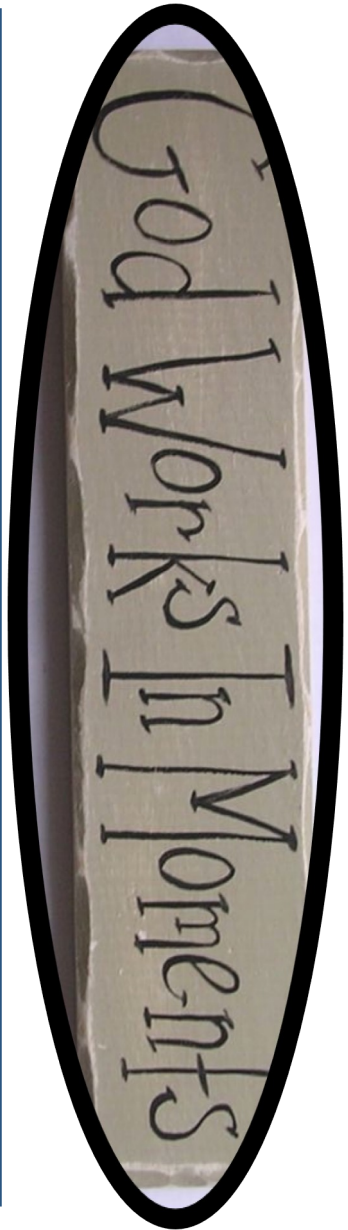
the Cross travelled across the city to Tuscany for a get together with the ladies from the Muslim Turkish community. For a couple of hours we prepared a meal together and then ate around one table. The whole time we were chatting and sharing stories from our lives.

We come from different countries, with different experiences and different faiths, and yet we were all women, gathered around a table, how to roll out dough and fill the gözleme with meat, potatoes, spinach and cheese. As we ate the conversations deepened and women from both communities shared their griefs.

After eating we faced east with the Muslim women and prayed to one God silently. We shared an experi-

ence of food and fellowship that afternoon. The afternoon was a reminder that we are one humanity created to worship one God and to care for one another.

Intern Kate is in the office Monday to Wednesday. Please stop by and meet her if you haven't already met her.



# LEAD ... love God with all your heart

## We are connected to these Olympic Athletes!



At 22 years of age, Emily Clark (#26) is the youngest member of the Canadian Women's Olympic hockey team and is the lone player from Saskatchewan. While this is her first Olympics, she has competed on the world stage with a number of gold and silver medals to her credit. She also has one year to go at the University of Wisconsin in Madison where she has been a standout player. Emily says that along with hoping Canada will be in the gold medal game at the Olympics, she is really looking forward to the opening ceremonies and walking in with the rest of the Canadian athletes.

*Emily is my niece, and I am very proud of the lovely person she has become. She has worked hard to get to this place in her hockey career. Go, Canada, Go!!*  
~ Janis Ogilvie



Elisabeth Vathje is ranked #2 in the World Cup Women's Luge and has been racing for 9 years. She says, "I am looking ahead to the 2018 Olympics, where I am working to compete in the sport that I have loved since my first time I slid down the track. I still have a lot of work that I need to do to have the honour to and privilege to compete for Canada."

*Elisabeth is a kind, friendly, helpful, down-to-earth and open-minded young woman very much rooted in faith and prayer. She is my first cousin's granddaughter, and Marvin and I are proud to be part of her family.*

~ Renate Erickson



**PyeongChang 2018**





Most of us have heard the argument that the Bible condemns being gay - but what does the Bible really say about it all? The unconventional documentary, *Fish Out of Water*, tackles the seven Bible verses used to condemn same-gender relationships and justify marriage discrimination. This feature film uses humour and original animation to make a traditionally complex and controversial topic accessible to those who don't like talking about religion and sexuality.

With slapstick animation and quirky interviews taken everywhere from barbershops to mega churches, *Fish out of Water* delivers a voice to the oppressed and informs to the misled. Most importantly, it sits down with hundreds of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender folks to impart their experiences with faith and sexuality.

Join us after the film for a discussion panel moderated by faith leader and activist Pam Rocker, featuring local religious leaders and people of faith from various backgrounds, as we delve inside the issues and personal stories that have been affected by this topic!

Dear Beloved of God –

In the fall of 2017 I was privileged to participate, among other events, in three Common Prayer Services with the Roman Catholics, and with Anglican presence and participation, in Calgary, Edmonton and Whitehorse.

The Common Prayer Services were meaningful in their hopefulness, in a moving forward together, and in their commitment through five ecumenical imperatives. Regularly, over the course of the next year I will be briefly reflecting on these imperatives via this monthly newsletter article.

Ecumenical Imperative 1: Catholics and Lutherans should always begin from the perspective of unity, and not from the point of view of division, in order to strengthen what is held in common, even though the differences are more easily seen and experienced.

Each of the Common Prayers Services was a sign of this unity. Catholics and Lutherans (and Anglicans) gathered to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. These were solemn events, cognizant of the pain between our two churches over the centuries, of the pain in families and communities. They acknowledged the areas where we need to repent our arrogance, our certainty that we and only we are right.

But each also joyously affirmed our oneness in Christ. Through scripture, through prayers, through music, through homilies (yes, in Edmonton and Whitehorse there were two sermons!), we celebrated and pledged to find more ways to focus on our oneness. In reflecting on the powerful impact of the service, many people said, "Oh, we have to do this again!"

The services were built around the Five Ecumenical Imperatives that are part of the Lutheran-Catholic "From Conflict to Communion" project. It doesn't take a large

group of people in an imposing Cathedral or a group of pastors in a hotel conference room to discuss the imperatives. You can do it with your congregation, you can do it in groups of 2 or three. You can get together with a Catholic parish, or a Catholic neighbor and discuss each of the Ecumenical Imperatives together. (You can find "From Conflict to Communion" document here:

[www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/From%20C...](http://www.lutheranworld.org/sites/default/files/From%20C...)

As part of the Edmonton service Archbishop Richard Smith, Bishop Jane Alexander and I signed a Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic (LARC) agreement establishing a dialog between our three denominations. The first gathering of this group takes place the end of January.

We have now commemorated the 500th anniversary. But remember, it is the 500th anniversary of the beginning, not of the ending. And so, as we move into the next 500 years, we have the gift of the five Ecumenical Imperatives to guide us. The first one reminds us always to start with unity, not division. That's what we did through the Common Prayer Services, and that is our ongoing challenge as we journey forward together.

Won't you join me?

In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom,  
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer



# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Cause of the Month</b> <b>CLWR</b></p>						
				<p><b>1</b> Morning Prayer—9 am PHD—12—1:15 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Office Closed</b> SWCG—7 pm</p>	<p><b>3</b> Men's Breakfast—8 am Agape Café—6 pm</p>
<p><b>4</b> Worship—10 am BLAST—following worship Young Families—during BLAST Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—3 pm</p>	<p><b>5</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10</p>	<p><b>6</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Prayer &amp; Care—10:30 am <b>Faith Formation—7 pm</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 SWCG—7 pm</p>	<p><b>8</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Office Closed</b> SWCG—7 pm</p>	<p><b>10</b> Way of Christ Training—9 am—3:30 pm</p>
<p><b>11</b> Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am—BLAST —following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—3 pm</p>	<p><b>12</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10</p>	<p><b>13</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am Pancake Supper—6 pm</p>	<p><b>14</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 Ash Wed. Worship—7 pm SWCG—7 pm</p>	<p><b>15</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Office Closed</b> SWCG—7 pm</p>	<p><b>17</b> Men's Breakfast—8 am</p>
<p><b>18</b> Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am—BLAST —following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—3 pm</p>	<p><b>19</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10</p>	<p><b>20</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am <b>Faith Formation—7 pm</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 Council Mtg.—7 pm SWCG—7 pm</p>	<p><b>22</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Quilting—9 am Kodaly—1:15 pm Caring Conversations—5 pm E.A.—7 pm Choir—7:15 pm</p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Office Closed</b> SWCG—7 pm</p>	<p><b>24</b> Women's Ministry—10 am</p>
<p><b>25</b> Adult Study—9 am Worship—10 am BLAST —following worship Youth Faith Lens SWCG—1—4 pm <b>FOOD BANK SUN</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Office open—9—1 Kodaly—9:15 am Staff Mtg.—10:15 am Cantare—6—10</p>	<p><b>27</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Coffee @ Tim Hortons' - 10 am <b>Faith Formation—7 pm</b> <b>Mentor Night at Confirmation</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> Morning Prayer—9 am Bible Study—9:30 am Cantare—6—10 SWCG—7 pm</p>	<p><b>Communion Sundays</b> <b>February 4, 11 and 18</b></p>		