



MESSIAH MESSENGER

March 2026

Lutheran Church & School of Messiah
840 N. 11th Street, Grand Junction, CO



Can These Bones Live?

Hearing God's Word in the Valley of Dry Bones

Have you ever looked at a situation and thought: *This is beyond repair*. A broken relationship. A struggling church. A culture drifting away from God. A family member who seems far from faith. Sometimes life can feel like a valley of dry bones.

That is exactly the setting of one of the most striking visions in the Bible. In Ezekiel 37, the prophet is carried by the Spirit of the Lord into a valley filled with bones. As he walks among them, he notices something important:

"They were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry."
(Ezekiel 37:2)

These bones had been lying there a long time. Bleached by the sun, stripped of flesh, they were completely lifeless. They had no pulse. They had no breath. They had no future. Then God asks a startling question:

"Son of man, can these bones live?" (Ezekiel 37:3)

From a human perspective the answer is obvious: Nope. There's no way that these bones can live again. These bones are not merely dead—they have been dead for a long time.



No technology, no medicine, no human power could ever ever restore them. Yet Ezekiel answers with humility:

“O Lord GOD, You know.”

You see, when the Lord asks the question, the obvious answer may not be the right one.

The Lord then commands Ezekiel to do something unexpected:

“Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.’” (Ezekiel 37:4)

It sounds strange because bones cannot hear. But the Word of God is not merely information—it is **creative and powerful**. God’s Word *does* what it says. As Ezekiel proclaims the Word of the Lord, a sound begins to echo across the valley. There’s a rattling as the bones move across the ground, finding their proper place. Skeletons form. Sinews appear. Flesh grows. Skin stretches over them.

But something is still missing.

“There was no breath in them.” (Ezekiel 37:8)

Then God speaks again:

“Prophesy to the breath... and say, ‘Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.’” (Ezekiel 37:9)

The Hebrew word used here—*ruach*—can mean breath, wind, or spirit. When the breath enters them, then the impossible happens.

“They lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.” (Ezekiel 37:10)

What was once a valley of death now became a multitude of the living.

God then explains the vision:

“These bones are the whole house of Israel.” (Ezekiel 37:11)

The people believed their future was finished. They said, *“Our bones are dried up, and our hope is gone.”* Yet God was not finished. He promised to open their graves, restore them, and bring them home.

This vision ultimately points us forward to Easter. The same Spirit who raised those bones is the same Spirit who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. And the risen Christ still breathes His same Spirit into His Church today.

This is why the vision of the dry bones matters for us at **Messiah Lutheran Church with School**. First, it reminds us that God’s Word creates life where there is none. Ezekiel did not organize the bones or motivate them—he simply spoke the Word of the Lord. And the power of God’s Word did the work. The same is true today. Every sermon, every Bible class, every catechism lesson, every classroom devotion places people where the Holy Spirit is at work bringing life through the Gospel.

Second, the Spirit brings hope where people see only dry bones. Many today feel lost, disconnected, and uncertain about the future. Yet the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead continues to bring new life through the Word of Christ. No situation is beyond God’s reach.

Third, God raises people not only to live—but to **stand**. When the breath entered the bones, they rose to their feet as a great army. In the same way, the Spirit raises believers to stand in faith, hope, and witness in the world.

Lent Soup Suppers

Lenten Soup Suppers start at 4:30 pm on Wednesdays, with service at 6:00 pm.

- 7/8 grade is hosting March 4th
- Dennis & Ursula Clark & Scout Troop 303 are hosting March 11th
- The Youth Group will host March 18th
- Elders are hosting March 25th



One of the places where this life-giving Word is spoken daily at Messiah is in **our school**. Each day students hear Scripture, pray together, and learn the faith. In a world where many young people are searching for identity and purpose, Christian education places them where God’s Word and Spirit are actively shaping their lives.

We are not simply preparing students academically. We are helping form young people who know Christ, trust His promises, and are ready to walk faithfully **on the road ahead**. And wherever God’s Word is spoken and His Spirit is at work, even the driest bones can live again.

In His Hedgehog Service,
Pastor Redeker



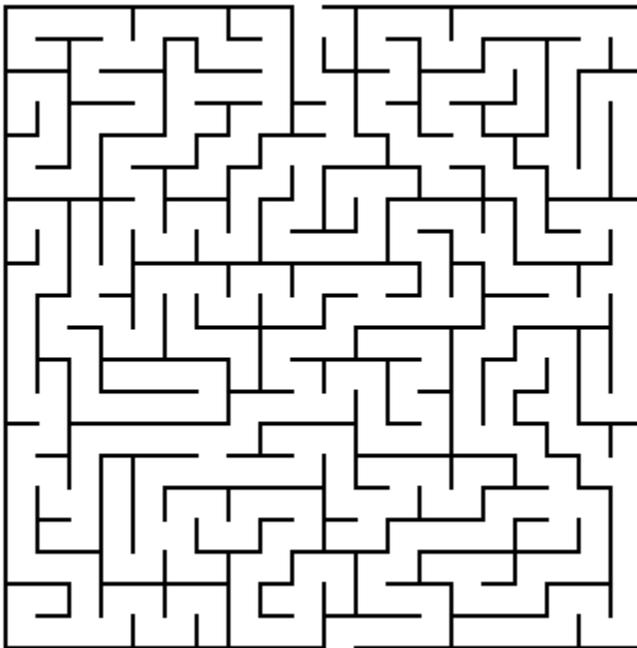
Quilting Group

If you're a quilter—or just curious—we welcome you! Join us every Tuesday from 9:00 AM to noon in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Come see what we're working on or bring your own project and join in!

MAZE GAME!

Can you make it from one side to the other?

Start



Finish





✝ I Can Only Imagine 2

I had the opportunity to watch the movie “I Can Only Imagine 2” with the youth in February. It’s a great movie, lots of highs and lows. If you haven’t had a chance to see it, I highly recommend it. And while you’re at it, check out the first movie, “I Can Only Imagine.” I like that they made it simple for me to remember that this is a continuation of the first movie by just putting a 2 at the end of the title. But I think they should have a secondary name for the movie called, “Even If.” Part 2 of “I Can Only Imagine” has so many things going on; but it culminates in how the song “Even If” came to be.

Where does your faith go “Even If” God doesn’t seem like He’s listening or responding? (By the way, God always hears and responds to prayer...“Even If” His answer is no or not yet.) Do you lose faith? Or do you respond the way the lyrics to the song go?

“I know You're able and I know You can
save through the fire with Your mighty hand.
But even if You don't,
my hope is You alone.”

and

“But God, when You choose
to leave mountains unmovable,
oh give me the strength to be able to sing,
‘It is well with my soul.’”

That last line is borrowed from the hymn, “It Is Well With My Soul.” [Click Here](#) to read some of the history behind that song.

When you’re struggling, does it help to know that others have gone through similar or worse situations? “Even If” it doesn’t, I’m amazed at the response the lyricists had to their struggles. I pray that we can all respond, “It is well with my soul.”

I received a seven day devotion that connects with the movie too. [Click Here](#) to read and use it. I pray that it will be a blessing for you “Even If” you aren’t going through a struggle at the moment.

Lenten blessings.
Jesus loves you!
DCE Jonathan Peterson

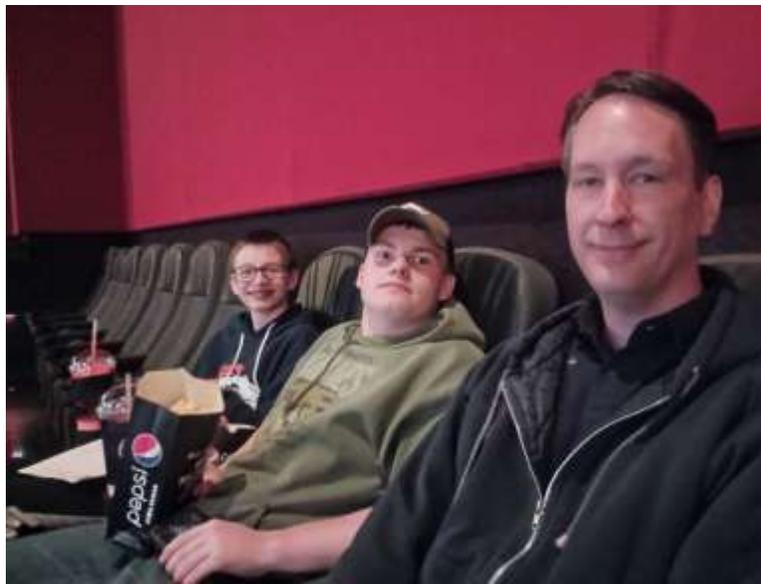


Youth Night for Middle School & High School

We had a great time watching I Can Only Imagine 2 for the February Youth Night. DCE Jonathan received a 7 day devotion that can accompany the movie or be used on its own. [Click Here](#) for a copy.

High School Youth Night will be on March 13th (instead of the first Friday) due to the Daddy Daughter Dance. All high schoolers are welcome to go bananas! (or to Bananas) \$20 unlimited wrist band with high school id. The Ammon family is hosting and will provide food.

Middle school youth night will be the third Friday as usual. We're still looking for a host family! [Click Here](#) for a schedule. Contact [DCE Mr. Peterson](#) with any questions



CMU Dinners

We had a great time serving dinner to CMU students on Super Bowl Sunday. The students of CMU are very appreciative of all the dinners that have been provided by congregations and campus ministries in the valley. Contact [DCE Jonathan](#) if you would like to help and/or be a point person. There are a variety of menu options already. Or you could make up your own. Being the point person doesn't mean you do everything. You would help gather volunteers, plan the menu, make a list of supplies needed or delegate all these things to others.



What's A Steward?

One of the devotionals that I use is called *Greek Word For The Day* by J.D. Watson. I ran across this devotion on what is a steward. Stewardship isn't simply about money. It also encompasses the gifts of time and gifts of talents that God has given each and every one of us.



Steward *oikonomos*

“In yesterday’s study of faithfulness, we touched briefly on the ancient steward. The Greek behind this word is the compound *oikonomos* (3623), which is comprised of *oikos* (3624; “house”) and *nemō* (not in NT; “to deal out, distribute, apportion”). In ancient times, a steward managed the domestic affairs of a family, business, or minor. That position still exists today in some broader ways, such as an accountant, estate manager, live-in maid or housekeeper, or even a head cook. The ancient steward, however, had far more responsibility, so it is an important metaphor for the Christian.

The metaphor is strengthened all the more by the fact that while free persons were employed as stewards (Luke 16:1, 3, 4, 8), they were usually slaves (Luke 12:42; cf. Eliezer in Gen. 15:2 and Joseph in Gen. 39:4). This applies graphically to Christians because we are spoken of as servants, or literally slaves (Rom. 1:1; etc.;).

An example, therefore, of our stewardship appears in 1 Peter 4:10: “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” Peter tells us here that every Christian has received some “spiritual gift” ... with which he or she serves the body of Christ. The Christian, then, is to be a steward of his or her gift, managing it and using it for the betterment of the body. And as we saw yesterday, the most essential quality of the steward is faithfulness, that is, reliability and trustworthiness (1 Cor. 4:2).

Let each of us search our hearts and ask, “Am I a faithful steward?”

Scriptures for Study: Read the Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25:14–30). Compare yourself with those stewards and make any changes that are necessary in your life.

Watson, J. D. *A Word for the Day*. Accordance electronic edition, version 1.3. Chattanooga: AMG Publishers, Inc., 2006.

Messiah's Hedgehog

Preparing People for Eternity

Over the past months, our Board has been prayerfully clarifying who God has uniquely called Messiah Lutheran Church and School to be. Not something new — but something clearer.



Using a simple framework sometimes called the “**Hedgehog Concept**,” we asked three important questions:

1. What can we be best at?
2. What drives our mission forward?
3. And what are we most passionate about?

The result is captured in the visual below.

At Messiah, our strength is **deep Lutheran theology applied to real life**. Our passion is clear and eternal: **preparing people for eternity**. And the strength of this mission is fueled by **engaged, formed families** who worship, grow, serve, and invest in the life of the church and school. When these come together, our focus becomes beautifully simple:

Preparing people for eternity through Lutheran theology in action.

In a world filled with uncertainty and noise, depth matters. Christ-centered truth matters. We are committed to forming children, families, and members in a faith that is thoughtful, lived, and anchored in Jesus. Thank you for being part of this mission. Together we continue the joyful work of **teaching the faith, living the Gospel, and preparing people for eternity**.

Messiah Lutheran Church & School Hedgehog Concept





Ladies Guild News

The **Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)** is an official auxiliary of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. LWML focuses on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions. Each woman here at Messiah is a part of LWML. So join in Sunday March 29th **bringing loose change for the Mite Box**. Mite Box contributions account to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants. Here at Messiah, we collect Mite Boxes every last Sunday of the month! Please pick up a little box in the Narthex.

It's that time of year again!



Messiah LWML Annual Fundraiser No Baking....No Fuss

We ask you prayfully consider making a monetary donation to the following projects the LWML would like to help support this year.

Home Projects: 3rd grade Bibles, School Scholarship Fund, National Youth Gathering San Antonio 2028, Kitchen stove

Away Projects: Elle Diedrich studying to be a Lutheran school teacher, Ft Wayne and St Louis Seminary student(s), Southeast Asia flood relief.

Every gift, no matter the size, helps us continue God's work in our church and community. Fundraising Sale ends March 1st, so your donations are appreciated

Extended Through APRIL

Checks can be made out to Messiah Ladies Guild and dropped off to the church office or to an LWML member.

Vacation Bible School, June 8 – 12, 2026

Snowball Mountain Challenge - Find your strength in God!

June will be right around the corner. We're looking for volunteers for a variety of positions. When you sign up, you'll be in charge of gathering supplies (or making a list of supplies needed for the congregation to donate) and making sure your station is ready for a great week!

We'll need group leaders (help children get from station to station) and station leaders for games, crafts, snack, Bible story time and science!

The VBS curriculum will be purchased this year. The package will have all the notes and reminders for you. You'll just need to read through it and prepare your station.



Contact [DCE Jonathan](#) to sign up!

Battle Ready

Battle Ready Modules (for 7th/8th graders) and world religions/Lutheran distinction (for 9th/10th graders) continue to help our youth become Battle Ready. Modules meet on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am in the computer room. World Religions/Lutheran Distinction meet on Mondays at 5:30pm.

5th graders are meeting with Pastor for a 6 week first communion course. We can't wait to celebrate Holy Communion with these students and their first communion on Maundy Thursday!

Rib City

Show Us Your Colors

2025 receipts for Rib City have been turned in. Rib City will be making a donation of \$62.43 to Messiah.

Rib City donates 5% of your food bill. All three locations, all year long! Ask your server about 'Show Us Your Colors'. They will stamp your receipt. Bring your receipt to Messiah and we get 5%!



Bible Studies

▶ Kids Connection

All children in 6th grade and under are invited to Kids Connection after worship every Sunday. We're going through all the stories of the Bible!

▶ Women's Bible Study

Saturday morning Women's Bible Study is on winter break and will resume Feb 7th, 9:00 – 10:30 am. We will study "The God of All Comfort" by Donna Pyle. Have questions or comments, contact Beth Weber at weber4342@gmail.com. The office still has a few copies of the book available for purchase, they are \$15.

▶ Men's Bible Study

Bible Study is every Tuesday morning on at 7:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

▶ Wednesday Bible Study

Join us a 9:30 am each Wednesday as we look at 3:16 -- How does each book of the Bible point to Jesus in chapter 3 verse 16?

▶ Pastor's Virtual Bible Study

Meet with Pastor online at 6:30 pm
Meeting ID: 830 0615 1276
Passcode: Thurs630

▶ Jesus Book Club

We are currently reading "Has American Christianity Failed" by Brian Wolfmueller. Come join us in the multipurpose room shortly after service on Sunday as we have an open floor discussion about these books and religion.

▶ High School Bible Study

All high school youth are invited to a new Bible study on Sunday mornings. We meet in room 340, the upstairs north east classroom, above the preschool room. Invite a friend! We started a new study in January going through The Story.

▶ Early Church Study

An in-depth small group Bible study of the early church and the book of Acts, held on Saturdays at 2:00pm.



Who's Under the Hood? Coordinating Your Advisors

“I took my car to one place for an oil change, another for the brakes, and still another for a tune up. Yet my car just doesn't seem to be running right, and no one is offering to step in to help me.”



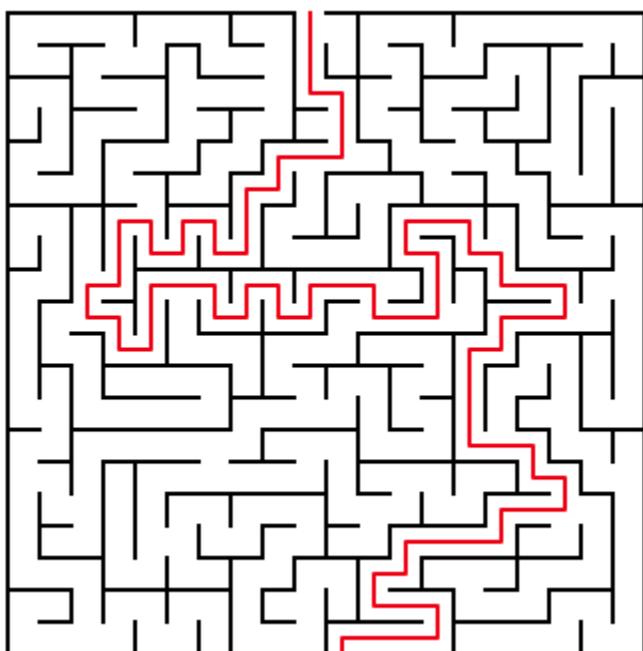
That same scenario might be true about your Christian estate plan. You might be tempted to focus on one thing at a time, a will here, an insurance policy there, a conversation with the financial planner periodically and then the annual tax preparation. But do we think about how all those things are linked together? We need to, in order to have a comprehensive plan.

In a busy world, focused on quick productivity, we often miss the opportunity to weave the conversations of all our advisors together. In addition, inviting your pastor into these conversations, and your family, can bring a fullness otherwise missed. Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help facilitate conversations in your circle of important people.

Jason Jones, CGP, CDE
Gift Planning Counselor
LCMS Foundation
(970) 988-0305 - Cell
Jason.Jones@LFND.org

Raise Right Gift Cards

Purchase a gift card through Raise Right. You get the full amount of the gift card. Raise Right makes a donation to Messiah. See DCE Jonathan with any questions.



**MAZE
SOLUTION**





◆ ★ *Happy Birthday* ★ ◆

Messiah Members

- 1-Mar Daniel B. Powell, Jack E. Messenger, Dave Filter, Jamie C. Strickert
- 5-Mar Daniel Nordmeyer, Morgan Ryndfleisz, Parker G. Shahan
- 7-Mar Debbie Boydston
- 8-Mar John Moseman Jr.
- 9-Mar Matthew R. Morris
- 11-Mar Karen Skoog
- 12-Mar Vara Fridal
- 13-Mar Lily L. Resz
- 15-Mar Preston Shahan
- 16-Mar Jeffrey D. Barker, Katy Buxman, Adrianna Atencio, Carol Haller, Amelia R. Resz
- 18-Mar Dylan E. Messenger
- 19-Mar Gail S. Seeley
- 20-Mar Zoie R. Magner
- 21-Mar Floyd W. Jordan, Lisa M. Mauser, Oliver Messenger
- 22-Mar Candy N. Kaspar
- 23-Mar Lesley Nordmeyer, Gail Colvin, Afton L. Messenger
- 24-Mar Karen M. Mead, Barbara Schaak, Jenna L. Lampe
- 26-Mar Logan A. Bunnell, Kay Merry
- 27-Mar Andy Wilke, Eric B. Mello
- 28-Mar Jenifer Oien
- 29-Mar Thomas Bethka
- 30-Mar Joshua L. Bonnell, Nicholas T. Powell, Lisa A. Moore, Declan M. Bethka
- 31-Mar Barbara J. Moore, Amanda A. Druml



Messiah's Board of Elders

Duane Lofton 970-234-3544 leftylofton@yahoo.com
~Aden – Bonner

Matt Bonnell 970-250-5916 mattzbonnell@gmail.com
~Bonnell & Schultz families

Don Olbert H:970-523-1106 C:970-420-2458
~Bonnie – Clark emiliedon@yahoo.com

Curtis Peterson 763-203-1393 cdprainbow@gmail.com
~Clemmer – Clubb & Freeman – Fry & Stull -Zarecor

Victor Lozano H:970-433-7890 C:818-726-6234
~Colvin – Franke colozos1@gmail.com

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~Gaines - Kuhlman

Peter Chaney 970-200-1203 peterchaney67@gmail.com
~Kukuk - Metz

John O'Connor 970-250-4321 sixgun6x@gmail.com
~Meyer – Powell

Ray Seeley H:970-243-8917 C:970-260-8954
~ Ratliff - Sommers ` gailseeley@bresnan.net

Gary Anderson 970-260-1598 gla64afa94@charter.nt
~ Soriano – Strothers & Fruita Members

Prayer Chain

If you would like to receive information on who needs prayers or if you would like to receive them, send an email to sec@mlgj.org

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mar 1 ● 9am Divine Service ● 9am Students Sing in Church ● 10:30am Battle Ready Modules ● 10:30am Education Hour ● 11:30am Battle Ready WR/DD | 2 ● 6pm Scouts | 3 ● 7am Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) ● 9am Quilt Ladies-FH ● 7pm Compassionate Friends (Fellowship) | 4 Bulletin Items Due 9AM ● 8:30am Chapel ● 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study ● 1pm Safety Team Meeting ● 4:30pm Lent Supper (7/8 Grade) ● 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service | 5 ● 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study-Zoom | 6 Daddy/Daughter Dance High School Youth Night | 7 ● 7:30am Open Gym ● 9am Women's Bible Study (Library) |
| 8 Daylight Saving Time starts ● 9am Divine Service ● 10:30am Battle Ready Modules ● 10:30am Education Hour ● 11:30am Battle Ready WR/DD | 9 ● 6pm Scouts | 10 Mother/Son Bowling Night ● 7am Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) ● 9am Quilt Ladies-FH ● 6pm Elders Meeting (library) ● 6pm Elders' Meeting | 11 Bulletin Items Due 9AM ● 8:30am Chapel ● 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study ● 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service | 12 ● 3:15pm Finance Action Team Meeting (L) ● 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study-Zoom | 13 School Half Day (End of Quarter) | 14 ● 7:30am Open Gym ● 9am Women's Bible Study (Library) ● 3pm Seder Dinner |
| 15 ● 9am Divine Service ● 10:30am Battle Ready Modules ● 10:30am Education Hour ● 11:30am Battle Ready WR/DD | 16 Spring Break (No School) ● 6pm Scouts | 17 St. Patrick's Day ● 7am Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) ● 9am Quilt Ladies-FH ● 1pm LWML Ruth Circle (Fellowship Hall) ● 6:30pm LWML Lydia Circle (Library) | 18 Bulletin Items Due 9AM ● 8:30am Chapel ● 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study ● 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service | 19 ● 1:30pm LWML Dorcas Circle (Library) ● 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study-Zoom | 20 Middle School Youth Night | 21 ● 7:30am Open Gym ● 9am Women's Bible Study (Library) |
| 22 ● 9am Divine Service ● 10:30am Battle Ready Modules ● 10:30am Education Hour ● 11:30am Battle Ready WR/DD ● 12:30pm Council Meeting | 23 ● 6pm Scouts | 24 ● 7am Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) ● 9am Quilt Ladies-FH | 25 Bulletin Items Due 9AM ● 8:30am Chapel ● 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study ● 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service ● 7pm Easter Program | 26 ● 10am Sew Blessed Quilters ● 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study-Zoom | 27 Lunch Bunch Newsletter Due ● 10am Sew Blessed Quilters | 28 ● 7:30am Open Gym ● 9am Women's Bible Study (Library) ● 10am Sew Blessed Quilters |
| 29 ● 9am Divine Service ● 10:30am Battle Ready Modules ● 10:30am Education Hour ● 11:30am Battle Ready WR/DD | 30 ● 6pm Scouts | 31 ● 7am Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) ● 9am Quilt Ladies-FH | Apr 1 Bulletin Items Due 9AM ● 8:30am Chapel ● 9:30am Wednesday Bible Study ● 10am Class pictures ● 1pm Safety Team Meeting ● 6pm Midweek Contemplative Service | 2 ● 10am Preschool Class Pictures ● 6:30pm Pastor's Bible Study-Zoom | 3 Good Friday High School Youth Night No School | 4 ● 7:30am Open Gym |