



The Diaconate: Five Essential Truths in Five Months (2 of 5)

Through the first months of 2025 I have committed to reserving newsletter cover articles for the subject of the church office of deacon. Last year, the Session determined that the Diaconate would be a major concentration of our interest and training, not only among Church Officers, but across the whole church family. Deacons are essential to the Church. They are one of two specific offices provided to the people of God as the gifts of the Ascended Christ. By the absence of His Heavenly Session where He reigns upon Heaven's Throne, Jesus presents to His body two orders of officers to mediate His presence and authority and service by the empowerment of His Spirit. Those offices are Elders and Deacons; both of which are essential for the life of a healthy church.

What is the relationship of the Deacon to the Elder?

Regarding Office: Deacons are a distinct class of church officer separate from the Elders. When Paul gives the qualifications for Elders in 1 Timothy 3, he immediately turns his attention to the second group of officers – Deacons. They are distinct in their service. This is important because Elders aren't Deacons and *visa versa*. Maintaining this distinction helps to clarify who is doing what based on the office they hold.

Regarding Authority: The Diaconate is not a parallel authority to the Session in the Church; the Diaconate is an office of subordinate authority to the Session. In other words, the Deacons report to the Session *not the other way around*. It would not be helpful to conceive of Deacons as a second house of a legislature the way the U.S. Congress is structured. That means, final decisions of the Session don't need to pass through or be ratified by the Deacons (though the Session is wise to consult the Diaconate on certain matters, especially those that pertain to the care of the people).

Regarding Purpose: Deacons are servants in the Church for the execution of ministry among the people, which is directed by the Elders. Consider this example, imagining that church is a vehicle: if the Elders say, "we want to drive to Peoria," it's not up to the deacons to come back and say, "No, let's drive to Rockford instead." They can and should, however, come back and say, "we're concerned that the capacity of our engine won't get us to Peoria. What can do we do to address the capacity of our engine to help us get to Peoria?" Deacons don't undermine the vision and direction of the Session – they support it – but they also make realistic evaluations of the capacities of the congregation. That doesn't mean that elders won't sometimes be wrong – they're humans after all. But it does mean that, in a healthy church, godly deacons execute the vision and oversight of godly elders, not the other way around.

I've often used this illustration in officer training. If the Elders are steering the ship, the Deacons are attending to needs of the crew to make sure that we're all able to stay the course. Thanks to the Deacons, the ship and crew are able to speed along. We're grateful for our Deacons!



ELDERS

Kim Freyermuth
Jim Mueller
Kevin Oak
Mic Penry
Todd Stegmiller
Steve Wagamon

DEACONS

Angie Freyermuth - Chair
Dorothy Rursch - Secretary
Kay Amy
Mitch Anderson
Connie Huntley
Tom Huntley
Melody VanOteghem
Deb Wagamon

TRUSTEES

Mel Block - Chair
Larry Pithan - Secretary
Ken Benningfield
Aaron Ehm
Jeff Fuhr
Phil Fuhr
Colby Mueller
Cindy Oak
Bill Sloan
JR Thomas

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3 - Rachel Preston	19 - Kay Amy
5 - Michelle Franklin	19 - Nlta Darland
7 - Jordyn Stegmiller	19 - Martha Freyermuth
8 - Bill Olin	19 - Joshua Fuhr
8 - Marilou Simpson	19 - Keith Wilson
9 - Lisa Sloan	21 - Evelyn Hessman
10 - Nancy Cooksey	23 - John Fuhr
10 - Steven Woeckener	23 - Rachel Johnson
14 - Tom Huntley	23 - Caroline Neece
15 - Reese Maxwell	23 - Luella Weinert
15 - Ryleigh Maxwell	24 - Barb Freyermuth
16 - Hunter Wistedt	24 - Rich Stillwell
16 - Logan Wistedt	24 - Steven Wagamon
17 - Jemma Johnson	26 - Charlie Anderson
17 - Lori Meier	26 - Jonathan Gierlus

“May the strength of God pilot us,
May the wisdom of God instruct us,
May the word of God direct us.
Be always our this day and for evermore.”

~ St. Patrick

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

10 - Todd & Lauren Stegmiller
17 - Dan & Kim Zampogna

GREETERS FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 2nd - Brandee & Caroline Neece
Sunday, March 9th - Sue & Mic Penry
Sunday, March 16th - Sharon Orr
Sunday, March 23rd - Allan & Jan Fuhr
Sunday, March 30th - Don & Beth Easterla

ADDRESS

CORRECTION!

CORRECTION



It has been brought to my attention that I left a zero out of Judy Bote's address in the last couple of newsletters welcoming our new members.

Her correct address is:

Judy Bote
13300 42nd St. W.
Milan, IL 61264

Sorry about that! ~ Lisa

Edgington Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Annual Meeting

January 2024– December 2024

January 26th, 2025, 12:15pm

Location: Church Sanctuary

Attendees: 35 members were in attendance which exceeds the requirements of 20 for a quorum. Teaching Elder Zach Hopkins served as moderator.

Zach opened the meeting with prayer, then read Matthew 28:16-20.

Purpose: The annual congregational meeting is held to review the reports for the year 2024 and to elect new officers for 2025.

Approval of Docket: Motion made and seconded to approve the docket. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes: The January 28th, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Motion made to approve the minutes, motion was seconded and approved. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

Committee Reports: Appreciation was expressed to all committee members, teachers and volunteers. Reviewed collectively with comments as noted, motion made to approve all reports, seconded and approved.

Session: Zach referred to the Report of the Session found in the Annual Report and reviewed the Session activities for the year. Ruling Elder Patrick Shovar reflected on his experience being on the Session and has been honored to serve as a Ruling Elder and is encouraged by the many volunteers serving the church. Ruling Elder Keith Wilson told how he loved the fact that God established this church here in Edgington, loves this church family and has been honored to serve as a Ruling Elder.

2024 Membership Summary: Zach reviewed the 2024 Membership Summary noting that 2024 was a busy year and was particularly excited by the new members joining the church.

Deacons: The Deacons' report was referenced. Darcy Krueger spoke about how the group of Deacons has become a family within the church family and shared in many blessings.

Trustees: The Trustees' report was referenced. No additional comments were made.

Treasurer's Report: The General Fund, Building Fund, Education (Jahn) Fund, Memorial Fund and Investment financial reports were referenced. No additional comments were made.

Mission Committee: The Mission Committee report was referenced. A question was raised concerning the Leach Properties line item on the report. Zach responded that it was emergency assistance for a local family.

Food Pantry: The Food Pantry report was referenced. No additional comments were made.

Children's Ministry: The Children's Ministry 2024 report was referenced. Rachael Johnson, Children's Ministry Director, gave thanks for those that have offered assistance and is excited for the upcoming year.

Vacation Bible School: The Vacation Bible School report was referenced. No additional comments were made.

Student Ministry: The Youth Group report was referenced. No additional comments were made.

Women's' Ministry: The Women's Ministry report was referenced. No additional comments were made.

Men's Ministry: Zach reported that the December chili cookoff was a great success and wants to expand the ministry by holding 4 gatherings in 2025 and building to 12 gatherings in 2026. Bob Stegmiller suggested it would be better to hold future chili cookoffs in January.

Auditor Report: The Auditor's report stated that all financial records were in good order with no material discrepancies. A thank you to Tonya Hall was expressed.

New Business:

Pastoral Sabbatical: The Session has approved a Pastoral Sabbatical for Zach beginning April 27th, 2025. Ruling Elder Keith Wilson reviewed the steps that the Session had taken to study this. He explained that the purpose of a pastoral Sabbatical was to allow time for the pastor for rest, renewal, and spiritual and professional growth. It was decided it was best to modify a typical plan for a sabbatical, considering Zach and his family's needs to stay connected to the church family during this time. It has been decided to provide Zach with a six-week period of relief from teaching and preaching. During this time, he and his family would still participate in worshiping with our church family and his office hours would be reduced. He would still be available for emergency situations and funerals. Zach has been working with eight individuals within our church family in a Preaching Lab. These individuals would be available during this time to preach on Sunday mornings. A question was raised concerning 'Rules of Engagement' with Zach during this time. Keith responded that the Session will need to provide guidelines for members to follow. It was also noted that members should know what Elder they should contact when needs arise.

Developing the Diaconate at EEPCC: Zach explained that last year recruiting and training Deacons was a key need. Going forward, the Session needs to invest more time and attention to providing the Deacons with support and encouragement.

Review of the 2025 Budget: The 2025 budget was referenced. The Trustees have reviewed the proposed budget. The Session previously approved the budget. Zach referenced a graphic included in the Annual Report illustrating the 2025 Giving Impact and the uses of the funds received in terms of Discipleship, Mission and Administration. Zach also mentioned that each contribution applies to the ministry of the church and thanked the church family for their generosity. A motion was made and seconded to affirm the 2025 budget. The motion carried.

Presentation of Slate of Nominees: The 2025 Officer and Committee Nominations Report was referenced. A motion was made and seconded to approve the election of officers and committee members. The motion carried.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and approved.

Zach closed the meeting with prayer and congregational singing of the Doxology at 1:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Wilson, Clerk of Session

Date: February 9, 2025

Present: Kathy Stegmiller, Tara Johnson, Hillary Terrill, Kortney Gierlus, Beth Flickinger, Jason Flickinger, Lyndsey Flickinger, Nathan Flickinger, Rachel Johnson, Mic Penry

Nathan opened the meeting in prayer.

Old Business:

- Talk about 2024 year and things we noticed/potential adjustments, etc.

New Business:

- Created a year at a glance calendar to reference dates that will be big for CE
- Talked about an open house event for families to see what their child is learning in Sunday School.
- Miss Katie is out for an unknown amount of time. We discussed options for a sub. Jimmy Johnson will help out in place of Miss Katie until she can return. We also discussed moving her room to help accommodate her once she is able to return.
- Teachers are going to need curriculum by mid-March. This will be ordered in the coming weeks.

Mic closed the meeting in prayer.

Next Meeting: March 16 at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Johnson

SAVE THE DATES!

Sundays, March 23rd, 30th, &
April 6th at 11:30am
New Member Reception
April 13th

This class is offered to anyone seeking more information about Edgington EPC; what it means to be a church member, our denomination, what we stand for, and much more. If you have been attending for

awhile, but not yet committed to membership, you're encouraged to check this out!
If you are looking to join, you definitely want to mark your calendar!

Register by scanning the QR Code or clicking on the image.

"Membership Matters"



Adult New Member Registration

Date: 2-19-25

Present: Mel Block, Bill Sloan, Colby Mueller, Phil Fuhr, Jeff Fuhr, Treasurer Barb Freyermuth, and Session Representative Jim Mueller.

Mel opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:00pm.

Minutes for December meeting reviewed. (There was no meeting in January)

Treasurer's report for January reviewed and approved.

Old Business:

- Acknowledged installation of new shades for windows in SS rooms and office windows, thanking WM and our youth group for their contribution of \$3,000 per group with the balance of \$3,800 coming from the church maintenance fund. We are still waiting for a few plastic pull down handles.
- Discussed changes made to choir risers. We are waiting for new carpet on that area that will cost \$3,800. Moving piano and organ will follow new carpet installation.

New Business:

- Plans are made to add a riser in the balcony prior to the audio/video equipment installation coming soon.
- Discussed bid from Mike Chillemi for residing last gable end of church for \$7,290 with additional cost for JLG (lift) of \$2,100 for one month rental. Lift will be used by Mike and painter.
- Discussed work at the Dunlap cemetery that maybe needed this spring on ground damaged by moles and vehicle traffic.

Mel closed the meeting with a prayer at 6:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Block



MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR USE

Are you aware that the church has a variety of medical equipment available for you to borrow as needed? We pray you never do need it, but life happens & if you need to borrow something, just contact the church office.

Here is the current supply list:

- Bath/Shower Chair
- Commode Safety Rails
- Crutches
- Medical Seats
- Walkers
- Bedside Commode
- Cane & Quad Cane
- Knee Scooter
- Raised toilet Seat
- Walkers w/seats & brakes

MISSION COMMITTEE

February 20, 2025

The Mission Committee met on February 18th, 2025. Those attending were: Jim and Bailey Johnson, Eric and Kelly Moel, Lori Meier, Cassie Fuhr and Zach Hopkins.

Zach opened the meeting in prayer.

Old Business:

- **Review ministry updates:** Newsletters and emails.
- **Banquets:** We discussed the need to continue to inform the congregation about the upcoming banquets for Pregnancy Resources & YouthHope. The Pregnancy Resources banquet is Thursday, March 27th and the YouthHope Banquet is Thursday, April 17th.
 - Kelly will contact Deb Wagamon to confirm our level of support from last year for both partners.
- **School Supplies:** Jim is having Bailey work with Brandee to find out the needs of the schools. When she has the needs, Jim will message the team so we can plan shopping.
- **Coat Drive:** We now have an inventory of all the winter clothing items on hand. We are also going to put a reminder in the monthly Church newsletter in the spring as we transition from winter to spring/summer clothes.

New Business:

- Quarterly Commitments: The 1st quarter commitments were discussed, voted on and approved.

2025 Mission Commitments	Amount Committed
World Outreach (Burdall)	\$ 2,125.00
World Outreach ITEN (Anderson)	\$ 2,125.00
World outreach ITEM (Kuhn)	\$ 2,125.00
World Outreach (Huber)	\$ 1,050.00
Youth Hope	\$ 2,312.00
Pregnancy Resources	\$ 812.00
Total	\$ 10,549.00

- **Committee Overview:** Zach presented a power point about the mission committee's goals and objectives for the newer members.
- **Pregnancy Resources' Walk For Life:** Kelly brought up the need to inform the congregation often and early about the Walk of Life in Early September. She also talked about the need to be more proactive in getting the word out for all of our events.
- **Congregation Update:** Jim will talk to Lisa about getting on an upcoming bulletin to give the congregation an update.

Next meeting – Tuesday March 18th.

Jim closed the meeting in prayer

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION

We will be packing food baskets on Friday, April 4th at 9am.

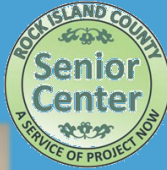
Distribution will be on Saturday, April 5th from 9-11am.

If you know of anyone in need of food, please let either Shirley Flemming or Sue Penry know so we can get them on the list.

Thanks to all who support us!

Food Pantry Staff - Jim & Teresa Balmer, Don & Beth Easterla, Dewey & Shirley Flemming, Marlin & Darcy Krueger, Mic & Sue Penry, & Jim Schaubroeck

PROUDLY SERVING
SENIORS SINCE 1968



Project NOW
Community Action Agency



For many years now Edgington EPC has been a host site for Senior Meals. The doors are now open here for meals **EVERY WEEKDAY!**

Meals are available for a suggested donation of \$3 to anyone 60+ years or with a disability. If you are new to the program, you need to call 309-788-6335 the day before to request your meal.

Those who attend regularly come early to play cards and enjoy each other's company for a little longer than just meal time.

If you would like more information or want to check out the menu for the month click the Project Now logo above for the link to their website or call 309-788-6335.



 YouthHope
Infinite
IMPACT

2025 FUNDRAISING BANQUET

APRIL 17, 2025

Bend XPO Center
922 Mississippi Parkway, East Moline, IL 61244

DOORS OPEN @ 5PM
DINNER @ 6PM

EVENT INCLUDES DINNER, LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION,
AND AMAZING TESTIMONIES!

2025 FUNDRAISING BANQUET

Annual Fundraising Banquet
April 17 | 5pm Doors Open

Help make infinite in our community by partnering with YouthHope! Host a table of 10 guests for dinner, bid on Auction items, and help bring youth HOPE!

Our Mission Committee is sponsoring tables for those who sign up to attend! If you would like to learn more about our ministry partner, YouthHope, please take this opportunity and sign up! (Signup sheet is located on the table in the sanctuary foyer.)

(For more info, click on the banquet image)



A BEACON OF HOPE

As Pregnancy Resources begins its 35th year in ministry, we reflect on these beautiful words:



*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you”
Jeremiah 1:5a*

This verse fits perfectly with our anniversary theme *“Legacy of Life”*. For 35 years, we have sought to protect life, to share hope, to offer help, and to extend compassion to women and men at risk of choosing abortion. **Just this week, 3 women who were undecided chose life for their pre-born children!** Hallelujah!

From January thru December 2024, more than **5482 life-affirming appointments to nearly 2000 individuals** were provided. While more than 9 in 10 of the women who came for pregnancy testing and ultrasound care were at risk of aborting (or had an abortion planned), **more than 86% chose life for their pre-born children!!!**

It’s hard to predict what life and the law will look like in the months and years ahead. Even as I write this note, a pro-abortion webpage, that was previously sponsored by the federal government, has been taken down! Praise the Lord! But we still face some heart-breaking abortion realities:

- While many states now have laws to protect the pre-born, **abortion is on the rise in the United States**. At least 1.2 million lives were lost to abortion in 2023 and there was a 15% increase in abortion in the first quarter of 2024. **The abortion industry, which made at least \$780,000,000 in 2023, will continue to aggressively go after abortion revenue.**
- The majority of abortions now occur as “self-administered at home” abortions. These abortion pill abortions do not require in-person visits or any doctor follow-up. Sadly, according to AAPLOG at least **1 in 25 of the women who self-administer their own abortion will require medical intervention** in the local emergency room.
- At least 80% of the abortions that occur in Iowa are “self-administered”.
- Illinois is now responsible for nearly 10% of the known abortions that occur in the United States. Illinois continues to pay for abortions with their state medical card and they continue to promote “abortion tourism”.

Pregnancy Resources stands as a beacon of hope against this type of darkness every day – because every life matters and women deserve better! So, with your help we will continue to promote a *“Legacy of Life”* now and in the days to come.

~Trisha Wilson, Executive Director

Pregnancy Resources
2025 Fundraising Banquet Dinner
March 27, 2025
Waterfront Convention Center
2021 State Street
Bettendorf, IA 52722
6pm - 8:30pm
Doors Open at 5:30pm

The Mission Committee is sponsoring tables for church members that would like to attend Pregnancy Resources’ Fundraising Banquet. There is a signup sheet on the table in the sanctuary foyer. The deadline to signup for the banquet is March 7th.



We love our volunteers!!!
If you are interested in more information or would like to register, please either click on the image to the right or email maia@qcpregnancy.org

Pregnancy Resources
Volunteer!
2025 PRC 101 Training

Training Dates
Feb 18-20, 2025
July 15-17, 2025 (Morning Only)
October 21-23, 2025
ALL 3 DAYS OF TRAINING REQUIRED TO VOLUNTEER
Minimum 3 participants needed

Choose Between
Morning Session
8:30 am to 12:00 pm
Evening Session
5:30 pm to 9:00 pm
(Dinner Provided)

To register, contact Maia@qcpregnancy.org

Week 1: We arrived 15 minutes early to the classroom to find 36 smiling men seated in expectation. They had chosen a class leader, divided into 4 regional groups with leaders chosen and were ready to begin. Their ages ranged (we think) from 23 to 50, most married, pastors, evangelists (a “leader in training” role focusing on outreach), and deacons (leadership role in church). Our interpreter for the week graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from the Philippines and had very good English.

Over the week we heard life stories: subsistence farmers, how the gospel came to them (radio broadcasts from a neighboring country in their language & H evangelists), financial/ health challenges, and growth of the Body of Christ. Many reported persecution by local authorities. But that there is freedom of religion legally and how they are using this fact to stand against oppression!

At the end of class the four groups broke into eight to plan how they would train others. Each plan was written on large white paper and was explained to Rev. S. Their class goal is to train 410 people! **Pray that the Lord will help them accomplish the goal they have set.**

Week 2: The “H” Teaching Cohort have expressed to us and the Bible College how the refresher courses have given them increased confidence teaching. This session looked at Understanding, Preaching and Teaching Genesis and Pastoral Ministry. Ed took them deeper in seeing the links between events in Genesis and how the gospel is revealed from the beginning of the book and continues through Revelation. We teamed in storytelling and practical application of content. It was interesting to see how many times sexual relationships are recorded in Genesis.

Guests: Rev. Dr. B. G. from Michigan was spectacular teaming with Ed to teach Understanding, Applying, and Communicating the Bible with the “D” people. They spelled each other well and were able to build on each other’s knowledge and background. B. had a good first taste of ITEN.

Rev. P. T., the prayer coordinator for World Outreach from Virginia, came for part of the week providing prayer ministry for the class, the men, and for the nation. For many years P. has prayed for the nation and greatly appreciated being there. It was his first time seeing ITEN in action and he affirmed our seminar style adult education.

Life: “We may make our plans, but God has the last word.” Proverbs 16:1. We are sure that we, like you, plan forward. We have travel/teaching plans for 2025 with the goal of bringing completion to the “H” class and have things in place for the “D” class to move forward as we pass the baton to others.

A wrinkle has developed. In December Ed noticed periodic weakness in his legs, mental muddiness, and weight loss. While frustrating we didn’t sense that we needed to change plans, so we left for Vn January 3rd. What we didn’t know, but God did, was his blood sugar levels were way too high. We are grateful that God’s hand of protection was with us providing the strength and mental acuity Ed needed. A couple days after getting home Ed was led to look up the symptoms of high blood sugar. He had 80% of those listed and home testing confirmed the he need medical care. His doctor confirmed that Ed's system wasn’t making enough insulin.

Some of you may remember that in 2016 Ed had acute pancreatitis that caused a high percentage of his pancreas to atrophy. He adjusted to a new normal. Now it’s time to adjust to another new normal. Various tests show nothing “remarkable.” We are very grateful that his energy and sleep are much better, and the rapid weight loss has decreased. **Please pray for effective insulin delivery to be established.**

Blessings, Ed & Nan



For safety reasons we are not linking the full report and pictures. If you would like to receive their regular updates via email, please contact the church office and Lisa will connect you with McCallum’s to be added to their email list.

THE HUBER FAMILY (Click [HERE](#) to link to their site.

There are soooo many pics!)

A lot has happened since our last update! Only by God's grace, mercy, and your prayers did we make it from Illinois to Fremont, CA in three days, arriving the night of December 31st! The MC6 Winter Retreat began the next morning with 10 young adults, 4 other leaders, and our five kiddos.



From January 1 - 6, we based out of Centreville Presbyterian Church in Fremont, CA. Our hopes for this time together were:

- sweet and refreshing fellowship with multiple generations (including our kids, we had 4 generations together)
- learning more about Afghan culture, what it's like to be an immigrant, how to support/care for/love refugees, sharing faith with people from a muslim background
- encouraging and supporting the body of Christ that is involved in long-term ministry in the area
- on-the-ground prayer
- fun!

Praise God for writing the best story for this week! No matter how much planning goes into these trips (and there was A TON) there's always uncertainty and loose ends leading up to the beginning. And adding five children removes even more control from our hands. "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps (Prov. 16:9)." Here are some of the ways we saw God establish our steps:

- Group dynamics - there was immediate connection between all four generations in the group! Our morning times of devos and worship were so spirit-filled and our evenings of were filled with laughter.
- Door to Door - We went door to door with local missionaries in apartment buildings of international immigrants and refugees. We had backpacks full of Bibles in other languages, and hearts/mouths full of prayers. We prayed at every door even if no one opened. But when someone did open, we kindly started conversation and eventually asked how we could pray for them, and offered a Bible in their native tongue. It was especially awesome to see our coworkers engage Afghans in Dari and Pashtu, and see several Muslim families accept the Bible in their own language.
- Cultural Scavenger hunt - We sent the students off to learn more about Afghan culture and engage the people in a couple of different Afghan stores. It was exciting and humbling for the students and our kids to enter into their world and learn how to be the Aroma of Christ.
- Soccer Camp - One day we drove to Sacramento and partnered with our friends from Capitol Community Athletics, an organization that ministers to Afghan refugees through soccer/cricket programs. It was a warm day and our crew spread throughout the park. Some played soccer, some coached, some played with kids, some struck up conversations with Afghans on the side, and some prayer walked. It was amazing to participate for a day in the long-term work being done there... of sharing Christ's love and truth to an unreached people group already here in the US.
- Our kids - It was really special for us to see how much our kids loved doing outreach with the colleges students. Here are some of their highlights...

Zuri (9) - the soccer camp was my favorite. I loved helping with soccer drills, and playing soccer with the Afghan girls, who aren't usually allowed to play.

Sam (7) - the scavenger hunt to the Afghan grocery store was fun. I liked looking at all the foods and asking them what different words meant in their language. Did you know that the Dari word for snow is BARF?!

Salem (6) - the store owner was so kind that he gave us a HUGE piece of fresh flatbread (naan) that they had just baked. The bread was longer than my arm. students, and in our own kids' lives.

Cont. on p. 12

THE HUBER FAMILY (Cont. from p. 11)

Zola (4) - knocking on doors was fun. Waiting to see who would open it was exciting. If no one answered we prayed for them and then went on to the next one. I knocked so loud that I woke up someone who was napping!

Sidon (3) - I also loved knocking on doors and seeing who was inside! But my favorite part of the trip was coming back home

Please pray that God would water the seeds that were planted during this week of outreach--in the people we interacted with in Fremont and Sacramento, in the hearts of our students, and in our own kids' lives.



(Click [HERE](#) to link to their site. There are soooo many pics!)



Est. 1837

EDGINGTON

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“TO GLORIFY GOD, & ENJOY HIM FOREVER”

Edgington EPC Greeters Instructions

- ◆ **Thank you** so much for giving of yourself this morning and showing warm hospitality to all those who enter in today!
- ◆ As you are greeting each person, if there is someone unfamiliar to you, please be sure to introduce yourself, and ask them if they are a first time guest or relative newcomer to our church. If that is the case, please ask them to fill out one of the “Welcome” cards located in the pews, if they haven’t already, point out the coat closet, let them know that their presence with us today is most welcome, and if they have any other questions, please feel free to ask you. If you are unable to answer some of their questions please direct them to one of our Session or Trustee members.
- ◆ As a reminder, you will also be ushering today. Please be sure to have another couple lined up to help you with this.
- ◆ After ushering quietly go upstairs and get a head count for attendance. Please include infants in your count.
- ◆ Please be sure to record the attendance and weather in the little red book located here on the table, or on the window ledge.
- ◆ If you enjoy serving in this manner please be sure to let one of the Deacons know, so they can put you on the list regularly.

Thank you again for showing hospitality this morning!

Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:13

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Hebrews 13:2



GREETERS & USHERS

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

This little sign/placard is on the table with the bulletins each service, so that if you are new to greeting or uncertain as to what your responsibilities are, you can easily reference it.

The small, red, Deacon’s book for recording attendance and weather is located on the same table, usually on top of the bulletins before you start, to help remind you to record attendance.

If you ever have any questions about greeting and/or are interested in greeting, please reach out to one of the Deacons. They are all listed in the newsletter each month at the top of the page following Pastor Zach’s cover letter.

M & K

Relationships are everything. Whether it's with self, family, friends, nations or with God, our whole life consists of our relationships.

I recently taught a class at our local church titled "Delighting in the Trinity." God has always existed in a perfect relationship of other-preferring, self-giving love shared among Father, Son and Spirit. The central claim that "God is love" helps us understand why He created anything in the first place - to share His loving care with us who were created in His image. The rejection of that relationship and love at the beginning of time didn't stop His pursuit of all humanity. God was not content to just share relationship within the Trinity. Out of love, He kept pursuing us after we turned our backs on Him- a pursuit that led Him to the cross and then resurrection. That love is still moving powerfully throughout the world! As we see the many ways God is drawing people to Himself, we could just about sum up our faith in these three words: restoration of relationship.

Wait, I thought this was a ministry update ???!

Actually, our entire ministry is about relationship as well. Wherever we go, we're interacting with brothers and sisters in Christ's body. His presence working in and through them has already prepared a place for us. As we go, we offer them ourselves, our persons...just as God offers Himself to us in the persons of His Son and Spirit.

Even in training, we rely entirely on our relationship with those we train and interact with. God's Spirit prepares them to receive us and us them. Together we seek to learn and grow deeper in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and the One Who sent Him.

This month, I will return to N....for a second visit. Our plan is to link with our N..... partners and work with them through the process of understanding and applying the Bible (Hermeneutics). That again, is a relational skill, understanding the words of God in their context as received by His people at their time and place of history.

We are so thankful for the following:

- **A wonderful family Christmas.**
- We've also recently celebrated **the first birthday of our new grand-daughter, Laraine Leua.** How good God is!
- Ministry visits to **Ward Church** (Detroit area) were fruitful and encouraging.
- Fruitful visit to **new ITEN team members, C and B G.....**, in the Pittsburgh area. The Lord is expanding our team in a most encouraging way.
- **ITEN trainings** have already taken place this year in SE Asia, Central Europe, and Eastern Europe. We are grateful for the reach of this little teaching ministry into many nations and peoples.
- Participation in a preparation meeting for a **fraternal relationship between the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Evangelical Church of Egypt.** That led to renewal of old relationships with friends from Egypt.

If you can, join us in prayer for the following:

- **Feb. 15-16.** - M will speak at the Sequim Community Church as they initiate a yearly mission emphasis. **Pray for anointing of the Holy Spirit and fruitful interaction.**
- **Feb. 20-28.** The ITEN training in N..... Pastor N. M. will be with me. We will be in a remote town near the Indian border. The trainees are mainly Hindu background, first generation believers. **Pray for clear and Spirit-led communication.**
- **Mar. 1-7.** After N....., I will attend a meeting of the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education in A..... **Pray with us for fruitful interactions and wisdom to know how ITEN can benefit from the rich pool of experienced practitioners in global theological training.**
- **Mar. 26-30.** M and S will travel to G..... in March to visit our ITEN colleagues P and E B..... **Pray for us to bring hope and encouragement to this couple and their ministry context.**

Blessings, M & S



EDGINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY 2025



		Receipts	Disbursement	Balance
General Fund	\$ 112,331.86	\$ 9,148.97	\$ 24,611.25	\$ 96,869.58
Education Fund	\$ 15,728.24	\$ 187.58	\$ -	\$ 15,915.82
Building Fund	\$ 164,775.96	\$ 1,523.42	\$ 6,066.51	\$ 160,232.87
Youth Group	\$ 15,055.33	\$ -	\$ 317.34	\$ 14,737.99
Totals:	\$ 307,891.39	\$ 10,859.97	\$ 30,995.10	\$ 287,756.26

January 2025 MONTHLY REVIEW - General Fund

Receipts - January 2025

Pledges	9,054.70
Interest Income - General Fund	14.27
Per Member Asking	80.00
Basement Rent	-

\$ 9,148.97

\$

-

Expenditures - January 2025

Administrative

\$ 7,023.10

ABS (copier rental)	236.92	28.5%
AT&T - Phone for elevator	244.37	
Cemetery Upkeep	-	
Computers: Hdw, Sftw and Apps	194.99	
Edgington Water District	365.00	
Insurance	-	
Jeanne Hayes (Custodian)	519.09	
Johnson Controls	-	
Kone (Elevator)	1,903.92	
Lisa Bowman (Office Manager)	810.68	
MidAmerican Energy	444.00	
Millenium Waste	70.58	
Office Supplies	4.12	
Repairs & Maintenance - general	-	
Reytel - Internet	120.19	
Shipping/Postage	-	
Taxes / FICA / Penalty	2,109.24	

\$ 17,588.15

Discipleship (Internal)

Children's Director	393.25	71.5%
Continuing Education	62.67	
Deacon Expense	-	
EPC General Assembly	2,500.00	Per Member Asking
EPC (health)	24.27	
Events	-	
Fidelity (pension)	1,038.28	
Flowers	-	
Housing Allowance	4,000.00	
Meals	167.00	
Mileage	308.70	
Pastor HSA (insurance)	3,500.00	
Pastor Salary	2,782.08	
Presbytery Expense	2,540.00	Per Member Asking
Pulpit Supply	-	
Resource Materials	271.90	
Sunday School	-	
Worship Supplies	-	

\$ -

Mission (external)

Mission - International	-	0.0%
Mission - US	-	
Mission - Local	-	

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 24,611.25

\$

-

NET OPERATING INCOME

\$ (15,462.28)

INCLUDED IN GENERAL FUND TOTAL

Mission monies included in general fund of \$8,322.47 and Assistance Fund of \$4,483.46

Cont. on p. 15



TREASURER'S REPORT (Cont. from p. 14)

January 2025 - Building Fund Detail

Beginning Balance - January	\$ 164,775.96
Receipts	
Investment Income	1,254.98
Checking Interest	4.96
Money Market Interest	263.48
	1,523.42
Expenditures	
ERCGo	1,066.51
Great Plains Blind Factory	5,000.00
	6,066.51
Ending Balance - December	\$ 160,232.87



FOOT CLINIC

Next Clinic: Monday, March 17th, beginning at 9am

If you would like to receive a pedicure done by a medical professional, please call the church office at 309-795-1713 to schedule an appointment.



CONCERNED ABOUT FALLING?

Classes on Tuesdays & Fridays for 4 weeks, beginning March 18th, from 12:30 - 2:30pm

Matter of Balance (MOB) is a falls prevention program designed to help reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity levels of older adults. Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging (WIAAA) is sponsoring another MOB class in our church basement this Spring.

If you have previously expressed interest, we will be in contact to confirm with you. If you are interested, but haven't previously notified us, please contact Nita Darland or Kathy Stegmiller as soon as possible, as class size is limited.

NEED A HAND OR ENCOURAGEMENT? ASK A DEACON!

The Deacons' charge is to care for the church body. You may already know that we provide delicious treats to celebrate new members, collect coats for those in need, and organize blood drives. But did you now that we are ready to serve in other ways, too?

Here are some of the ways a Deacon can help out:

- Visit shut-ins (including those who are temporarily unable to make it to worship) to provide cheer and recordings of the sermon.
- Deliver meals to those who are injured, ill, or have experienced a loss
- Visit widows(ers) to comfort and provide company.
- Send cards to recognize milestone birthdays and anniversaries, and express condolences
- Organize transportation to doctor's appointments (please give advance notice)

Please, if you or someone you know could benefit in one of these areas, please let a Deacon know right away. We try to anticipate needs, but we are only human, and need help with knowing needs!

Your 2025 Deacon team includes: Kay Amy, Mitch Anderson, Angie Freyermuth, Tom & Connie Huntley, Dorothy Rursch, Melody VanOteghem, & Deb Wagamon.



CURRENT SERMON SERIES

Pastor Zach continues preaching through *The Gospel According to Luke*. Please join us each week! We look forward to seeing you and diving deep into God's Word together!

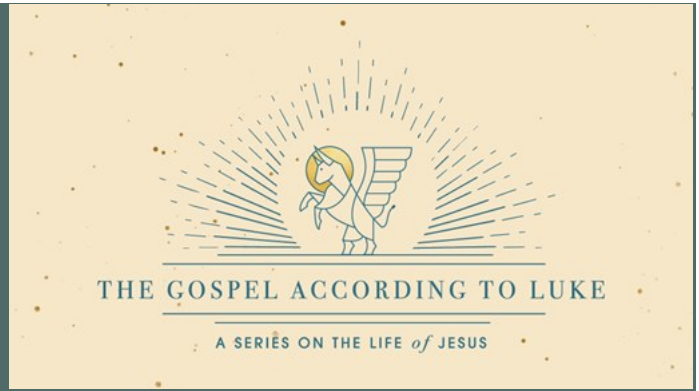
Sunday, March 2nd - [Luke 11:37-54](#)

Sunday, March 9th - [Luke 12:1-3](#)

Sunday, March 16th - Rev. George Salnave preaching

Sunday, March 23rd - [Luke 12:4-7](#)

Sunday, March 30th - [Luke 12:8-12](#)



SCRIPTURE LINKS - Download the apps!



ESV.org is an online Bible reading tool created to help you read and engage with God's Word. While many features of the site are available without signing in, we invite you to **create a free account**, which makes it easy to save personal notes, highlight favorite verses, and start interactive reading plans.

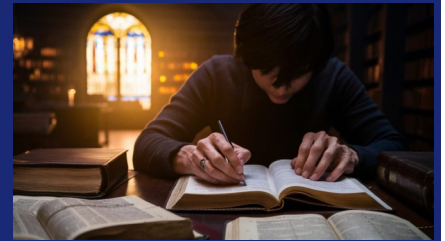
(Click on the images to go to their websites)



Blue Letter Bible provides powerful tools for an in-depth study of God's Word through our free online reference library, with study tools that are grounded in the historical, conservative Christian faith. We view the Bible as central to our study resources. We intentionally designed the website to include study tools that are linked directly to Bible passages. Dig deep into the Word using commentaries, encyclopedias, maps/images and much more. One of our most used tools is the Lexicon search, which gives users immediate access to the original Hebrew and Greek words.

DAILY BIBLE READING FROM AN HISTORICAL APPROACH

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like to read the Old Testament in ancient Israel? Or, the New Testament as the books were written? In this plan, the order of the Old Testament readings is very similar to Israel's Hebrew Bible, progressing from Law to Prophets to Writings. The New Testament ordering is based upon research regarding the order in which the books were authored. Although this research is not conclusive, it may offer helpful insights to your Bible reading.



Click on the image for the digital link

Each year Pastor Zach provides a new reading plan to help equip you to spend time reading through God's Word. This year he has chosen an historical reading plan from Blue Letter Bible. It is a 1-year reading plan and you can start at any time. The new year is always a great time to start fresh!

If reading through the entire Bible in one year seems like an insurmountable challenge, just mark off each reading as you complete it and then move to the next. Each day progresses you through the books in the order they are believed to be written in and once you reach number 365, you will have done it!

In the year ahead, ask God each day to speak directly to you from the Scripture portions you read. Be expectant, and let your continual exposure to God's Word reshape your attitudes and behavior as you gain a better understanding of every part of His written testimony to us.

Hard copies are located on the table in the sanctuary foyer.

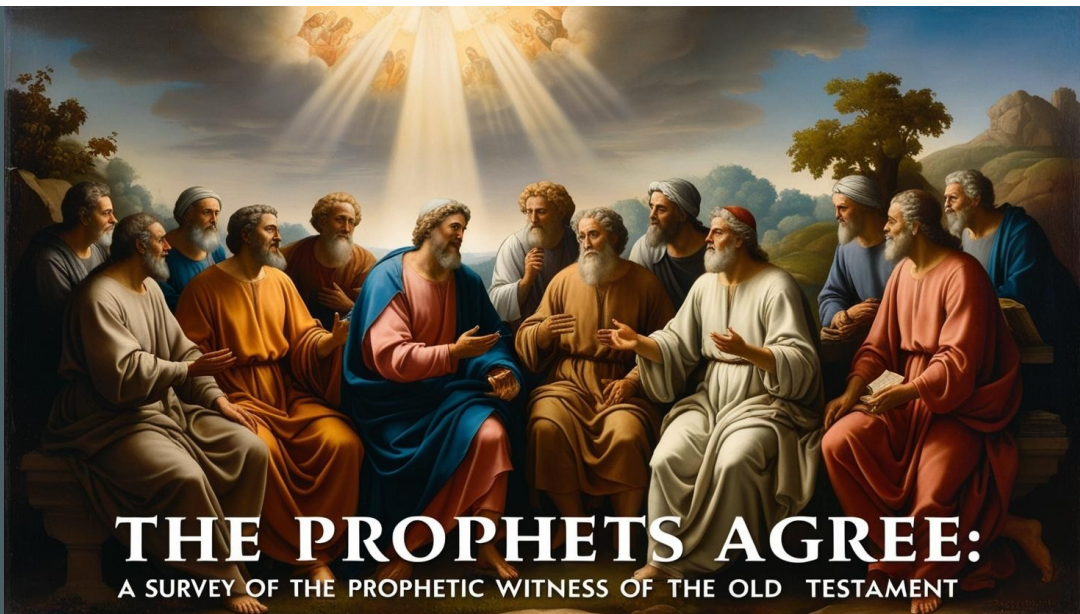
Pastor Zach is on Facebook Live every Sunday morning at 10am for our Lord's Day Worship Service .



If you are not already a member of our Facebook group, please click on the image for the link. "Like" our page and request to join. We are pretty quick to respond. Make sure you are "following" our page and turn your notifications setting on if you would like to receive a notification when Pastor Zach begins to stream. We will post a worship guide each week in advance of the service.

Have you ever been intrigued by the prophetic books of the Old Testament?

The Adult Sunday School class "The Prophets Agree" will survey the prophetic witness of the Old Testament. Each class will feature the historical and biblical context for each prophet and a summary of their message. God spoke through prophets in the course of history and their words are still relevant to us today.



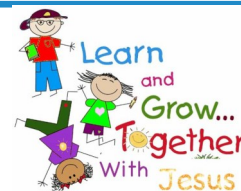
Please join us as we grow in our knowledge of God's Word.

We meet every Lord's Day morning at 9am in the church basement. Please join us!

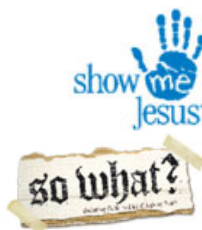


CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Every Sunday morning at 9am



- Toddler - Hillary Terrill & Kortney Geirlus
- Pre-K - Beth Flickinger
- 1st-2nd - Katie Pearson & Sue Miller
- 3rd-5th - Kathy Stegmiller
- Junior High - Tara Johnson
- Senior High - Nathan & Lyndsey Flickinger



All of Scripture is the unfolding story of salvation and Jesus is its focus. We show how Jesus, revealed throughout the Bible, came to seek and save the lost.

We look forward to the privilege of caring for and teaching your children about Jesus each Sunday!

Christian Education

Want to sing during our Easter Service? Join us during Sunday School at 9:00 am to practice!



Dive into the Bible with us as we learn about God's love and His truth!

Each month we will highlight various Sunday School class happenings & would like to include pictures of the children, but **need parents to sign waiver forms before that can happen. If you are a parent, please be sure to ask to sign a waiver when you drop off your kids to class next week.**

thank you!



Mark 10:14

But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."



2025 VBS PLANNING MEETING

Sun., March 16th at 12:30pm at Edgington EPC.

This year we will guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. True North VBS shows kids that Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North!



This community outreach takes **MANY** hands, **MUCH** work, and **LOTS** of planning!
We could use your help!

Please look for ways to be involved and contact Kathy Stegmiller at 309-791-1162 for more info.

Thank you!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, March 5th at 1pm
Hostess: Nancy Cooksey

ALL women of the church are welcome to attend our business meetings!

We hope to see you there!



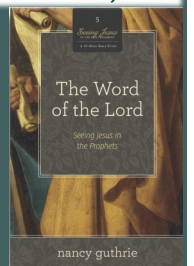
WOMEN'S MINISTRY WINTER BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 10am & Wednesdays at 6:30pm
Beginning February 4th & ending April 9th

Even though we have already started this study, it is not too late to join in! Each week we are looking at a different prophet from the Old Testament, so each week could be done as a stand alone study. Please join us if you can!



Click on the image for more info!



EASTER LILIES

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily for the sanctuary this year, please take one of the giving envelopes from the pew card holder located on the back of the pews, and write your name(s) on it. Mark the "Other" box on the front and designate "Easter Lily(ies)" on the line next to it. If the lily(ies) is to be listed in memory of a someone, please list the loved one's full name(s) on the back of the envelope. Place the proper monetary amount in the envelope, and put the envelope in the offering plate.

Price of lilies and deadline for orders to be received has yet TBD. Watch for more info in the April newsletter & in the bulletin.



6 P M | 4 . 1 8 . 2 5

GOOD FRIDAY



Easter Services and related events/info

HALLELUJAH! CHRIST IS RISEN!

EASTER WORSHIP

WORSHIP 10AM



Please join us Easter morning prior to the service for a BIG breakfast served by the youth.

We will have eggs (depending upon availability), bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, and waffles.

Serving starts at 8:30am and ends at 9:30.



EASTER BREAKFAST

GET YOUR MARCH COPY OF
THE TABLETALK DEVOTIONAL

TABLETALK

MARCH 2025 | 55



LOCATED ON A TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY FOYER

EVERY SUNDAY (UNLESS NOTED)

5:30-7:30PM (UNLESS NOTED)

EEPC YOUTH GROUP

3.2 - GARGONS

3.9 - GAME NIGHT

3.16 - TRIVIA NIGHT

3.23 - PIZZA COOKOFF

3.30 - WHIFFLE BALL

FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS

CADE REIMERS FOR MORE INFO

309.373.2488



If you would like to submit something for the newsletter, **please** be sure to have it in by the deadline.

ALL submissions for the April 2025 Newsletter must be in by

NO LATER than Wednesday,

March 19th the newsletter. Please note the earlier date due to the short month and the way the days fall on the calendar for the month

Thank you for your cooperation!

~ Lisa Bowman, Office Manager

Do you know anyone that is not receiving the Edgington EPC Newsletter each month? If so, please contact the church office at 309-795-1713 or edgingtonepc@gmail.com and let me know. I will be happy to make arrangements for it to be received by whatever means works best.

The newsletter is distributed via email and postal service. It is also posted to our Facebook page and website: edgingtonepc.org.

Thank you so much for your help!



QUILTING

Thursday, March 20th, 9am

Please join us on the third **THURSDAY** of nearly every month from 9am - noon as we create, piece, and sew quilts to present to next year's graduating seniors, as well as donate to various ministries.

Even if you don't know how to sew, but can operate a pair of scissors and/or an iron, we would love to have you! If we can increase our production, we will be able to bless even more people in the community.

Hope to see you there!

Small act.



Big impact.

Edginton Presbyterian Church

Saturday, March 15

13228 140th St. W. - Fellowship Hall
Taylor Ridge, IL 61284

7 - 10:30am

To book your appointment, call Kay Amy at (309) 791-2296, email Melody VanOteghem at mjvano57@gmail.com, or scan the QR code.

Last day to be eligible: 1/18/25

WHEN YOU GIVE BLOOD
MARCH 1-31
YOU GET
A GIFT CARD
OR
A CHARITABLE
DONATION
OR
BONUS POINTS
TO THE STORE!



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
BLOODCENTER.ORG/FOOTCROWNING
TO LEARN MORE


ImpactLife





2025 Youth Mission Trip June 21st - 28th



2 Corinthians 9:8

WHO: High School Students / Ages 14+

WHAT: You and your group will provide home repairs at no cost for elderly, disabled, and disadvantaged people who need your help. Project crews typically serve the same resident for the entire trip, creating an environment where meaningful relationships develop. Projects typically include painting houses, repairing porches, and general home repairs.

WHY: Because you want to have a meaningful summer experience of service and Christian growth while making new friends from all over the country.



6/21 - 6/28 Worksite projects in Ashby, Minnesota – Staying at Ashby Public School, Ashby, MN

WHERE & WHEN?

Date and time for a parent information meeting will be announced soon!



- **I think I want to go! What do I need to do?**
 - Get this trip on your calendar! Make sure you don't have any schedule conflicts. Spots are limited so we need to be sure that those students who sign up can go.
- **How much is this going to cost?**
 - A deposit of \$100 will secure your spot. Turn this into the office ASAP.
 - A second payment of \$150 is due before the trip.
 - The total of \$250 covers ****everything****
 - Except whatever random snacks or weird things you might want to buy – that's on you!
 - Please don't let finances be a factor, there are support opportunities available to help you cover your costs. Just ask!
- **What's next?**
 - Register online – talk to Cade Reimers or Nathan Flickinger
 - When we have our spots filled, there will be more info including: lodging details, tool lists, estimated schedule, and more!




MARCH 2025



EEPC

Sunday School 9am
Worship Service 10am

Phone: 309-795-1713
Email: edgingtonepc@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.edgingtonepc.org

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
23 B/P Checks Officer Training, 11:15 VBS Mtg., 12:30pm Youth Group, 5:30pm	24 Meal Site	25 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 10am Session Mtg., 7pm	26 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm	27 Meal Site Chair Exercises, 4:30pm	28 Meal Site Meal Site	1
2 Food Pantry Sunday New Officer Installation Deacons' Mtg., 11:30am Youth Group, 5:30pm	3 Meal Site	4 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 10am	5 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm WM Mtg., 1pm	6 Meal Site Chair Exercises, 4:30pm	7 Meal Site	8
9 Daylight Savings Time Begins B/P Checks Youth Group, 5:30pm	10 Meal Site	11 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 10am	12 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm	13 Meal Site Chair Exercises, 4:30pm	14 Meal Site Meal Site	15  Spring Blood Drive, 7 - 10:30am
Lisa on vacation through March 17th →						
16 Christian Ed. Mtg., 11:15am Youth Group, 5:30pm	17 St. Patrick's Day  Meal Site	18 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 10am Matter of Balance, 12:30pm Mission Comm. Mtg., 6:30pm	19 ^{NewsLetter} Meal Site DEADLINE Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm Trustees' Mtg., 6pm	20 Meal Site Quilting, 9am Chair Exercises, 4:30pm 	21 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 12:30pm	22
← Lisa Back →						
Zach on vacation through March 20th →						
23 B/P Checks Membership Class, 11:30am Youth Group, 5:30pm	24 Meal Site	25 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 10am Matter of Balance, 12:30pm Session Mtg., 7pm	26 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm	27 Meal Site Chair Exercises, 4:30pm	28 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 12:30pm	29
← Zach Back →						
30 Membership Class, 11:30am Youth Group, 5:30pm	31 Meal Site	1 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 10am	2 Meal Site Women's Bible Study, 6:30pm	3 Meal Site Chair Exercises, 4:30pm	4 Meal Site Matter of Balance, 12:30pm	5