

LEBANON LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Sunday School @ 9:30 am

Worship Service @ 11:00 am

Phone (540)465-5456

10120 Middle Road

Lebanon Church, VA 22641

Email: pastor.lebanon@gmail.com

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in
him should not perish but
have eternal life.*



John 11:25-26

*Jesus said "I am the resurrection
and the life; he who believes in
me, though he die, yet shall he
live, and whoever lives and
believes in me shall never die."*



NALC

A Message From The Pastor

CHURCH BUILDINGS DAMAGED

To cite examples of war damage to church buildings, the cases of two congregations, Winchester and Strasburg, are mentioned.

The Winchester church was occupied four times by military forces and used as an improvised hospital, twice by Confederate soldiers and twice by Federal. The first occasion was during the summer of 1861 when troops of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, overcome by twin epidemics of mumps and measles, were left behind when their comrades marched off to the battlefield of First Manassas. Hardly had the abuse and damage to the church property been repaired than the second occupancy occurred in January 1862. Again Confederate forces commandeered use of the building for a few weeks. During the spring of 1863, when the town was held by Federal forces under General Milroy, and the Second Battle of Winchester was fought, the third occupation resulted. And the fourth followed the Third Battle of Winchester in September 1864, when General Philip Sheridan took over, and continued until March 1865. The church building had to be repaired, restored and renewed after each occupation.¹¹

The Strasburg church suffered more severe damage from wanton destruction. Permit Private Wilbur Fisk, Company E, Second Vermont Brigade, U. S. Army, in a letter written from Strasburg on October 30, 1864, to give the testimony of an eye witness. He declared:

We have had a warm, bright Sabbath today, just such an autumn Sabbath as one loves to enjoy, and really seems to be designed on purpose to make delightful the worship of God. So clear and warm has shone the sun, so mellow

the bread of me. . .

There is another brick church in the opposite part of town (Lutheran) and Chaplain Roberts had intended this as a place to hold his meetings, and we were congratulating ourselves upon our good fortune in having so good a place for this purpose; but one cold morning last week the boys conceived the idea of appropriating some of the inside work for their own comfort and benefit. Before their depredations were discovered, they had completely torn out the inside of the house and destroyed it for use. The pulpit was entirely taken away, the seats were removed, and doors, windows, casings, and everything that could be used in any conceivable way to build a "shanty" was taken. Nothing but the bare brick walls was left. It was too bad, not only on account of the destruction of property, and spoiling the place we had intended to use ourselves in an appropriate way for religious worship, but on account of the good name of the troops. The General was indignant when he heard what had been done and would gladly have made restitution but that was beyond his power.¹²

Excerpts from *The Lutheran Church in Virginia, 1717 - 1962: Including an Account of the Lutheran Church in East Tennessee.*

As we approach the anniversary of the dedication of Lebanon Lutheran Church, one of the things that we Christians and all people of well-formed conscience should consider is the actual content of our history. The statement likely sounds terribly obvious, but I would submit that as a considered life requires the effort of attention, and so too does that life now behind us due to the flow of time. When this attention is given, we soon find that we have much to be grateful for to our fathers and mothers in the faith, and, as we know, God's Law requires that we honor them. As the Apology to the Augsburg Confession states, we should remember the saints of the past, praise their faith and seek to emulate their witness and virtues – where such faith is orthodox and virtue genuine. This we can and should do. There is ample witness to the persistence of both faith and virtue in our recorded history.

Yet, history is not only the story of God's mighty redemption and His blessed people of faith, but it includes the shadow-side of that divine effect: the messy, convoluted, imperfect, human side of things. God works in history to salvage His Creation, to form a people capable of blessing, but they are not yet perfected. They, and we, can resist that work of God. In fact, they did, and we often do. History bears the terrible effects of human sinfulness. There is a conflict near the origins of our congregation, a nationwide tumult that eventuated as one more evidence of that totally encompassing human condition that the Bible calls "sin". I am of course referring to the Civil War, where Christians took opposing views regarding justice, governance, the extent of the dignity of God's creation, and other issues of great importance for the Church and civil society. This eventuated in division among Christian people at every level, civil and ecclesiastical. Our own Lutheran Church was further divided when four Southern Regional Synods withdrew from the General Synod of the United States to form

the United Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the South. The Virginia Synod, to which Lebanon Lutheran belonged, was one of these four initial local Synods.

I am not prepared to arbitrate anew the competing claims of this conflict, but I will assert the theological judgment that slavery is an unjust human institution, violating several important areas of Christian doctrine – and to the extent that any church perpetuated slavery and actual racism, or supported the practice or cultural institution of the same in its life and teaching, it was in error and morally sinned before God. To what extent our forebearers shared these failings, God knows. We must be clear about the truth of the moral status of that issue even as we are clear-eyed and merciful to our extended family in the faith. It certainly should not serve as an opportunity to overestimate our own righteousness, or to nurture an undue sense of the superiority of the moral progress of our age and time. Every age has its blind spots, which is not an excuse for any particular moral or spiritual failure so much as an honest appreciation of human frailty and fallen nature.

And there was sin to go around. War, and specifically “civil” warfare, is among the most of terrible human realities. Civility is easily repudiated when it comes to one’s dealings with state enemies. The demonization of the other and the attendant removal of essential moral rights, as privileges to be ignored, this characterizes war in general, and sometimes especially wars against fellow citizens. Some of the worst fights are family fights, and civil wars often split families asunder. So too, the bonds of normative Christian charity suffer in the prosecution of war. Deep wounds are carved into the cultural landscape in these times, and sometimes our physical architecture still bears the scars.

The historical excerpts above demonstrate this sad reality. I can’t be sure that the “Strasburg church” mentioned in the second photo is Lebanon Lutheran (the reference to it being a brick structure makes me dubious), but it is one example of a phenomenon that occurred in the Valley generally, and *we do* have a record of Union troops damaging our building in a display of sinful disrespect for God’s house. There is also a record of Lebanon, eventually, receiving a restitution payment from the Federal Government for damages done to the building during the war.

When we consider events of this sort, or the reality of ancestral sin, we must do so with the same measure we are given for the contemporary world – God’s holy Law and Gospel. These two forms of divine address must serve as the healing balm for all manner of grudges, past iniquities, recriminations, and enmities. We are to call a sin exactly that, *and then* to proclaim repentance and the forgiveness of sins in the Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the God’s divine prescription for every effect of sin and every form of human depravity.

As we enter into Passiontide and nearer to the Great Day of Atonement (Good Friday), let us see the entire history of this world through the lens of the mighty work of God upon the Cross, where He gave His Son as a sacrifice for the sins of the world from beginning to end. Through these sacred historical events we find the peace our world still desperately needs: peace with God, with others, and with ourselves.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Porter

Events at Lebanon

Do you or someone you know need a ride to Church?

Please contact Ann Deming
(540)869-5795 Leave Mssg.

Wednesday's

8:15 AM Matins

10:00 AM Individual
Confession & Absolution

1:30 PM Communion

5:30 PM Vespers

April Birthday's

1st Carrie Snow

1st Arden Kimmons

3rd Kara Hockman

9th Brandi Rosenberger

8th Billy Hockman

11th Lucy King

19th Lisa Parks

30th Leslie Heird

Anniversaries

2nd Joe Jackson and

Karla Funkhouser

5th Steve & Shirley Foster

7th Willard & Wilda Clem

27th Steve & Tina Lowe

Women's Meeting
Thursday, April 27th
@ 7:00 PM

Men's Prayer Breakfast

Saturday, April 15th

7:00 AM @ Tractor

Supply in Woodstock

*Help Wrap Chicken for Church
Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

The Church is currently looking into purchasing the following items: Chalice and Altar Linens

The Baptismal Font is also in need of repair and we are looking into restoration of the Baptismal Font

If you would like to make a donation toward any of the above items or have any questions, please see Missy Hockman or Pastor Porter

Sunday School Class led by Rev. J.D. is at 9:30 Sunday

Christian
Education

Children's/Elementary
Sunday School Class led by Leslie Heird and Dorothy Harriman is at 9:30 Sunday

Choir Practice

Choir will practice
Thursday, April 20th @
7:00 PM

*See Evelyn if interested in joining the Choir

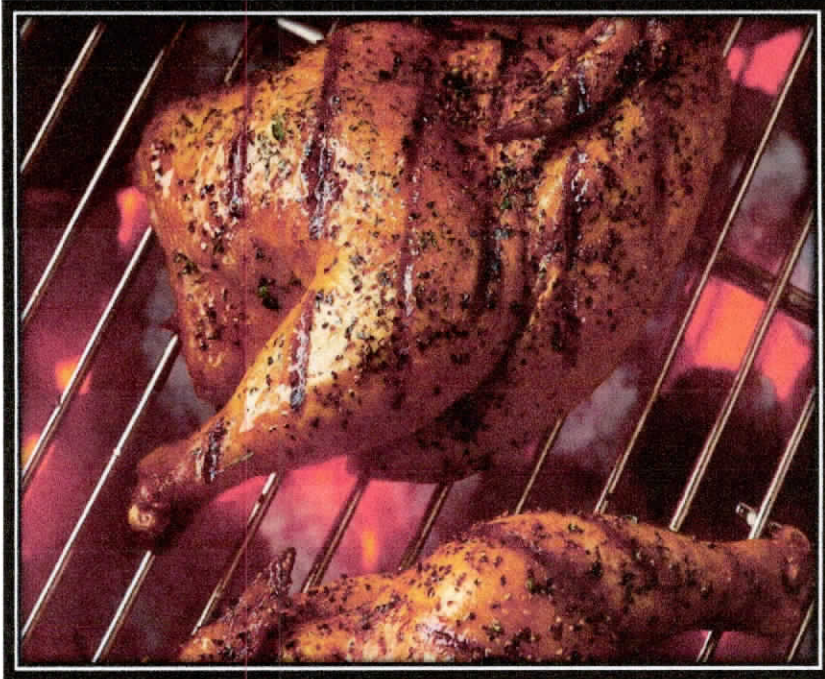
Church Anniversary
Planning Meeting

Sunday, April 16th
following Divine Service

Flowers For Sunday
Morning Worship

If you would like to provide flowers, please see Dorothy Harriman (540)409-6470

Chicken BBQ



***Saturday, April
15, 2023 @ 7:00
AM @ Tractor
Supply in
Woodstock***

\$5.00/Half *** Pre-order sign-up sheet available

Woodstock Pick-up @ Tractor Supply @ 9:00 AM

Strasburg Pick-up @ H. L. Borden Lumber @ 9:30 AM

***We need volunteers to help wrap and sell chicken.
If you are available to help, please see Brenda Rose.***

*****To benefit activities for Lebanon Lutheran Church's 175th Anniversary Celebration in 2023***

Strasburg Mayfest Booth

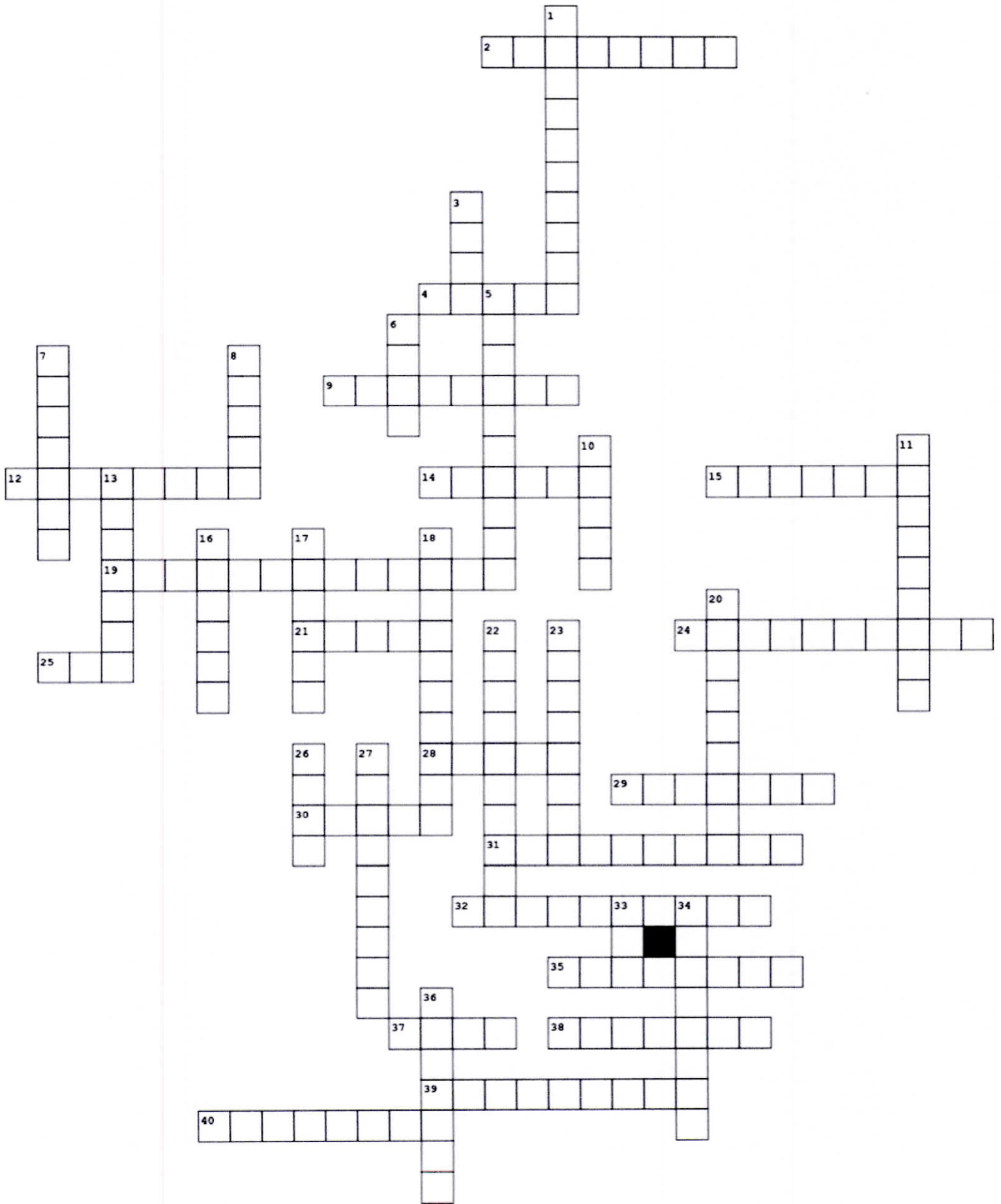
Saturday, May 13th @ 10:00 – 5:00



We need volunteers to help with the church booth @ Strasburg Mayfest on Saturday, May 13th. We have morning shifts and afternoon shifts to help with handouts to children and fill helium balloons. Please see Jeff Hamman if you are available to help.



Romans Chapters 13-16



Romans Chapters 13-16

Across

2. "Praise the Lord all you _____, and let all the peoples extol him." (15)
4. "But put on the Lord _____ Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." (13)
9. "I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the _____ of Christ." (15)
12. "You shall love your _____ as yourself." (13)
14. Paul said that Prisca and this person risked their necks for his life. (16)
15. We are to do this to the one who is weak in faith? (14)
19. "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of _____ and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (14)
21. "The God of _____ will soon crush Satan under your feet." (16)
24. "Therefore one must be in _____, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience." (13)
25. "_____ to all what is owed to them:" (13)
28. We should get rid of the works of darkness and put on this armor? (13)
29. "and by smooth talk and flattery they _____ the hearts of the naive." (16)
30. "for the one who _____ another has fulfilled the law." (13)
31. "For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been _____ by God." (13)
32. "and those who never heard will _____." (15)
35. "to be a _____ of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God," (15)
37. "Great one another with a holy _____." (16)
38. "Christ became a _____ to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness," (15)
39. "For _____ is nearer to us now than when we first believed." (13)
40. "watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the _____ that you have been taught; avoid them." (16)

Down

1. Junia and he were kinsman of Paul? (16)
3. "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles will _____." (15)
5. "through the encouragement of the _____ we might have hope." (15)
6. "As I live, says the Lord, every _____ shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." (14)
7. "_____ to whom respect is owed," (13)
8. "The one who observes the day, observes it in _____ of the Lord." (14)
10. "The _____ that you have, keep between yourself and God." (14)
11. "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in _____," (15)
13. "that together you may with one voice _____ the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (15)
16. She is a servant of the church at Cenchrea? (16)
17. "I have fulfilled the ministry of the _____ of Christ;" (15)
18. The weak person eats only this? (14)
20. "let not the one who abstains pass _____ on the one who eats," (14)
22. "We who are strong have an _____ to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves." (15)
23. "They are well known to the _____ and they were in Christ before me." (16)
26. "So that by God's _____ I may come to you with Joy and be refreshed in your company." (15)
27. The authority every person should be subject to? (13)
33. "For whatever does not proceed from faith is _____." (14)
34. "Let not the one who eats despise the one who _____," (14)
36. "For none of us lives to _____," (14)

All Questions are Formed from the ESV Bible.
Chapters are in Parenthesis.

Romans Chapters 9-12

A crossword puzzle grid with 40 numbered starting points. The grid contains the following words:

- 1 M**: MARRIAGE
- 2 G**: GROUND
- 3 P**: PROUD
- 4 D**: DIGNITY
- 5 I**: ISAAC
- 6 W**: WITNESSES
- 7 P**: PORTER
- 8 T**: TERTER
- 9 C**: CABBAGE
- 10 S**: SAVED
- 11 S**: SHOWN
- 12 W**: WIND
- 13 H**: HONOR
- 14 U**: USNESS
- 15 R**: RIGHTEOUSNESS
- 16 S**: SIGHT
- 17 G**: GIFT
- 18 C**: CONSCIENCE
- 19 G**: GROUND
- 20 D**: DISCERN
- 21 C**: CEREN
- 22 T**: TRUTH
- 23 B**: BIRTH
- 24 P**: PREACH
- 25 M**: MERCY
- 26 B**: BIRTH
- 27 E**: ELIJAH
- 28 F**: FAITH
- 29 H**: HONOR
- 30 I**: ISRAELITES
- 31 S**: SEEK
- 32 W**: WORL
- 33 D**: DIGNITY
- 34 U**: UNBELIEF
- 35 N**: NATION
- 36 M**: MIN
- 37 D**: DEPEND
- 38 W**: WOOD
- 39 S**: SATURDAY
- 40 N**: NATURAL



Lebanon Lutheran Church



◀ Mar 2023		April 2023					May 2023 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 9:00 Church Clean Up Day	
2 Palm Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Passion Sunday	3 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	4	5 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 7:00 Lenten Vespers	6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	7 Good Friday 7:00 Good Friday Service	8 Holy Saturday 7:00 Easter Vigil	
9 Easter 6:30 Easter Sunrise Service *Easter Day	10 Holy Monday	11 7:00 Neighborhood Watch	12	13 6:00 Outreach Meeting 7:00 Church Council Meeting	14	15 7:00 AM – Chicken BBQ @ Tractor Supply in Woodstock *Men's Prayer Breakfast @ Tractor Supply – will help wrap chicken	
16 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Anniversary Meeting *Easter 2	17 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	18 10:00 Greenfield Service 7:00 Greenfield Service	19 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 5:30 Vesper Service 6:30 Worship/Music Meeting	20 7:00 Choir Practice	21 5:30 Shenandoah Co Pregnancy Center Annual Spring Support Celebration @ The Yellow Barn, Mt Jackson (Reminder for those signed up)	22	
23 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Easter 3	24 10:00 Acts Bible Study 7:00 Adult Catechism Class	25 10:00 Greenfield Service 7:00 Greenfield Service	26 8:15 Matins 10:00 Individ. Confession 1:30 Communion Service 6:30 Pastor @ H-burg Lutheran Church of Valley	27 7:00 Women's Meeting	28	29	
30 9:30 Sunday School 11:00 Divine Service *Noisy Offering *Easter 4							