

Our Father's News

Five hundred worshipers joined us for service this past Easter weekend as compared to ninety on Good Friday. These simple statistics prove we are Easter people. We love Easter and it brings us together to celebrate the resurrection; but what about the crucifixion? Aren't we crucifixion people, as well? Why doesn't everyone fill the pews to celebrate the death? The suffering, the mocking, the denial...do we find ourselves hopping right from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday, leaving Holy Week forgotten in the celebration? As I asked this question, a friend of mine remarked, "Jesus death is uncomfortable. We don't want to dwell there for any amount of time, but it cracks us wide open to encounter God." Immersing ourselves in the death, the image of Jesus suffering on the cross, allows us to fully recognize and appreciate the sacrifice God gave us through his Son. We can avoid it because it is gruesome or we can let ourselves feel the weight of God's love in that pain given for us.

Index:

Bible Studies	Pg 14
Kids & Youth	Pg 13
Leadership	Pg 2
Life & Growth	Pg 6
Opportunities	Pg 10

"For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a

resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him." Romans 6:5-8



So as we reflect back on Lent and the journey to the cross, let us remember and reside a while in Jesus's death, so we too, can be united with Him stopping in that holy space and listening for Him to speak into our lives.

In thankfulness, Pastor Cathy

**Council
Corner**

*"Building Christ's Community through Hospitality,
Relationships, Teaching and Service"*

Leadership Notes:

"Now as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who was called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:18-19

At the Council meeting, Pastor Kimberly and Perry Buffie came to tell us that they are being called to start an ELCA mission church in Montrose called House of Grace. After a time of discussion we laid hands and prayed for them. Council has promised to support them financially in the future. May God bless this new Christian church.

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Jesus shows us that he wants us to be good servants and stewards of what God has blessed his people with." John 13: 14-15

April has been the month that we pick up and deliver meals to senior citizens and those who are homebound in the Rockford area. This is just one of several ways that we are in service to the hungry in our community.

On the weekend of Palm Sunday, 30+ people joined together to prepare Wright Hennepin Electric newsletters for postal delivery. Money from this fundraiser is helping the music program and also helping the Harvesters of Hope combine project for Tanzania.

At a special meeting, Council approved the removal of trees to prepare for the future children's playground. A plan is in place to build a safe playground for children. This will make our church a more welcoming place for families and kids.

Easter is a time for joy and new life, and as you can tell from the accounts above, we are seeking new ways to Build Christ's Community together. As we continue our journey into year-round stewardship, we ask ourselves how we can give thanks through our prayers, service, and finances. How has God blessed you? How might you use your gifts to Build Christ's Community and draw closer to God?

Respectfully Submitted,
James Strehlow, President



Widows and Widowers Group will be meeting on Thursday, May 8th at 9:00 am at Dobo's in Loretto.

Harvesters of Hope

The **combine** is being prepared (with the help of Steve Strehlow, Brian Walton, Denise and Anthony Wold) so that it can be put into a 40' long, 9' high container; we hope to have it in Iringa, Tanzania, by the end of June. The corn harvest starts there in mid-July and the rains have been good, so a big harvest is expected this year.



Cheetah Development plans to send the combine to each of the village cooperatives that are its partners as a demonstration of its commitment to bring big changes to the lives of partnering cooperative farmers. This will have a huge demonstration effect in these villages! It will attract many more farmers to join the cooperative so as to benefit from the "**coming of the combine**" to their village...

We continue to ask for a little help from a lot of folks to get this done! Join with us in extending this hand up to farmers who now have a chance to rise up out of poverty for the first time in their lives. Donate online at: www.ourfatherschurch.org

Cheetah is also developing a marketing plan for the large solar dryers, made locally, that many women farmers are using to produce sun dried tomato and onion powder that has a ready market. The potential for this to benefit women farmers, mainly, is great and will even increase the opportunity for their children to get shoes, uniforms and notebooks and pencils that are required for elementary schools that are free but require all to have these things to attend...

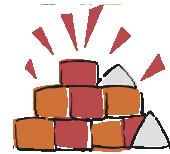
Check out the Cheetah Facebook page and website for pictures of these solar dryers and women using them: www.cheetahdevelopment.org



Our Father's Sewing/Knitting/Quilting Group – In May we will only have one session - May 5th at 9 am. You're welcome to bring your own project or work on one of ours. Join us in the conference room (Room 102) for a relaxing "Knit and Stitch" whenever you're able.

Our Father's Foundation News

John 15:5 says "*The Lord is the vine, we are the branches, if we live our lives in him, we will bear much fruit.*" Your yearly membership and gifts "keep bearing fruit" through the investments the Foundation makes. We are kicking off our annual membership drive the first of May! Please be a part of it! Several families have already renewed their memberships and we have received some new memberships. Thank you! The memberships are \$20 for a family and \$10 for an individual. Of course, you may give a Sponsor membership/gift which is an amount of your own discretion. Any size gifts are welcome. When you become a member, renew or sponsor annually, a leaf with your name will be added to OFLC Foundation Vine on the Narthex wall. We will be taking memberships the four Sundays in May, but will always accept memberships/gifts throughout the year.



We also encourage your family to consider the OFLC Foundation when designating memorial gifts for loved ones or in honor of special family events such as a celebration of baptism, birthday, or anniversary. Thank you for your support!

Maiyapalooza

Maiya, daughter of Joe and Kelly Roelofs, was diagnosed with Stage 4 hepatoblastoma (liver cancer) on September 14, 2012. After 15 months of chemotherapy and surgery to remove a softball-sized tumor, Maiya was finally given a clean bill of health this past December.

Joe and Kelly told everyone that would listen that a "**Maiyapalooza**" party was going to take place when their daughter was finally healthy again. It is the perfect opportunity for the Roelofs family to thank all of the wonderful people that showed their love and support during their difficult time.

The celebration is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, May 3rd** at the **Rockford Riverside Park** from 3 to 5 pm. Maiya's favorite treat – cupcakes, as well as refreshments will be served. Please join us if you have time, Maiya can't wait to give lots of hugs and "fist bumps" to all of the people that were on her side in the fight against cancer!

Women's Ministry News

Lenten Soup Suppers -- Thank you so much for your support of the Lenten Soup Suppers.

OFLC's Spring Rummage Sale – May 22, 23 & 24

Beginning on Monday, May 19th, you may drop off your rummage sale donations at the church during office hours. The sale will be set up in the large education room so please bring your donations to that area. We welcome clothing of all sizes, especially infant and children sizes. All clothing should be clean and wearable, toys should be in working condition, games and puzzles in complete sets. We still need workers...if you are able to help, please sign up on the bulletin board for a specific time. On Saturday, the sale ends at 1:00 pm and we need lots of helpers, cleanup is fast and easy. Many hands make light work!



OUR FATHER'S WISH LIST March 2014



New Item: **Clever Climber & Tikes of Steel Overhead Climber Playground System**
(\$12,234 has been donated) **Additional amount needed - \$4,750**

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Red Hymnals - \$24.50 each

Optional : Hymnals can be dedicated In honor of or In memory of someone special.

Telescopic Banner Storage System - \$500

Banners – Baptismal - \$500/each

SCHOLARSHIP NEEDS

Camperships & Retreats (range from \$20 - \$200)

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND

Any amount may be given, Pastor will use as he sees a need.

Gas cards - Grocery cards

LIFE & GROWTH

ALL COMMITTEE NIGHT Tuesday, May 13th at 6:30 pm

Stewardship—Live Abundantly By Colleen Newquist (from Cappers magazine)

My son came out of a sandwich shop to where I waited in the car and handed me a few dollars in change from his purchase. He put the coins, he said, in a box for the needy. I had to smile. He's been doing this-giving money to anyone who needs it for as long as I can remember.

The first time he came home from school and said he'd given his money to a classmate for lunch, I was upset. But I quickly stopped myself. Wasn't that how I'd been brought up? If I needed money, as a child or as an adult, my dad would have his wallet out, no questions asked, regardless of his own financial situation. I'm so very glad the apple didn't fall far from the tree.

As I've gotten older, I've come to realize that holding on to money only makes me feel poor, mean, and scared. Sharing what I've got-whether it's money, food, or time-is freeing. Sharing is a show of confidence in the powers that be, a belief that we will always have what we need.

I'm lucky that I've never not had enough. And even luckier that I have a generous son to remind me.

"This article struck a nerve with me from the first time I saw it. I didn't use it immediately because of copyright; but I contacted the author and told her how important it was for me to use for my church and she agreed to let me publish it. I have always believed that there is more joy in giving than receiving; whether that is giving of my time, talents (strengths) or my treasures."

"There are periods when we give of our time and there are periods when we share our treasures; and even though God doesn't need our time or our treasures there are many others that do! This story reminded me that to Live Abundantly is to live as God intended me to live."

Sharon Thomas



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

March Memorial & Special Gifts (these gifts are not included in General Fund)

- Gifts totaling \$3,950 to the Harvesters of Hope Fund (Cheetah Combine Project)
- Gifts totaling \$445 to RiverWorks Foodshelf support
- Gifts totaling \$2,774 in support of fundraiser for a church member in need
- A gift of \$25 to red pew hymnals
- Gifts totaling \$120 to Kids Against Hunger
- Gifts totaling \$50 to MOPS

Our General Fund at a Glance

	2014 Actual Year to Date Jan. 1 – March 31	2013 Actual Year to Date Jan. 1 – March 31
<i>Contributions</i>	\$51,015	\$56,288
<i>Expenses</i>	\$63,638	\$64,578
<i>Net of Contributions & Expenses</i>	-\$12,623	-\$8,290

Nancy Varner, Congregation Treasurer



**RiverWorks Food Shelf
May Focus – Juice Boxes**





RiverWorks Store - Your community thrift store. Proceeds used to enhance current and future programs to strengthen our community. **Store Hours:** Monday through Friday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Accepting donations during regular business hours. The RiverWorks Store is located in the Rockford Mall.

MAY WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**SERVICE****SERVICE COORD:****May 3 (Sat 5:00 pm)**

Betsy Pennuto

SERVICE**SERVICE COORD:****May 4 (Sun 9:30 am)****USHERS/GREETERS:**

MOPS

COMM PREP/CLEANUP:

MOPS

COMM ASST:

MOPS

May 10 (Sat 5:00 pm)

Jen Boulton

SERVICE**SERVICE COORD:****May 11 (Sun 9:30 am)****USHERS/GREETERS:**

Barb Strehlow

James & Janet Stein

Dave & Gail Swanson

READER:

Barn Strehlow

COMM PREP/CLEANUP:

Dave & Gail Swanson

COMM ASST:

Gail Swanson, Barb Strehlow

May 17 (Sat 5:00 pm)

Sarah Sanderson

SERVICE**SERVICE COORD:****May 18 (Sun 9:30 am)****USHERS/GREETERS:**

Becky Miller

Iris Ripley, Audrey Harman

Glen & Jan Janos

READER:

Becky Miller

COMM PREP/CLEANUP:

Glen & Jan Janos

COMM ASST:

Jan Janos, Becky Miller

May 24 (Sat 5:00 pm)

Paulette Podratz

SERVICE**SERVICE COORD:****May 25 (Sun 9:30 am)****USHERS/GREETERS:**

Suzanne Otten

Brian & Marie Walton

Jon, Jennifer, Jordan & Taylor Weeding

READER:

Suzanne Otten

COMM PREP/CLEANUP:

Brian & Marie Walton

COMM ASST:

Brian Walton, Jennifer Weeding

May 28 (Wed 7:00 pm)

Jen Boulton

May 2

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3
-5 pm Ringers of Light 10 pm Confirmation 10 pm Rejoice Singers	7:00 pm Cub Scouts, Den 2	Mpls Area Synod Assembly (ELCA) Lord of Life, Ramsey 9:30 am MOPS Member Meeting 7:30 pm AA Meeting	Mpls Area Synod Assembly (ELCA) Lord of Life, Ramsey 7:30 am Man Meeting 9:30 am Baptism Class 5:00 pm Worship
	8	9	10
-5 pm Ringers of Light 10 pm Confirmation 10 pm Rejoice Singers	6:30 pm Brownie Girl Scouts, Troop 15016	7:30 pm AA Meeting	8:00 am to 8:00 pm My Scrapbook Nook 5:00 pm Worship
	15	16	17
0 pm Rebekah Circle -5 pm Ringers of Light 10 pm Cub Scouts, Den # 490 10 pm Rejoice Singers	5:30 pm Daisy Girl Scouts Heart Revolution Men's Thursday	9:30 am MOPS Member Meeting 7:30 pm AA Meeting Retreat @ Camp Castaway through Sunday	5:00 pm Worship
	22	23	24
-5 pm Ringers of Light 10 pm Rejoice Singers		7:30 pm AA Meeting	5:00 pm Worship
	29	30	31
-5 pm Ringers of Light 10 pm Rejoice Singers 10 pm Worship		7:30 pm AA Meeting	8:00 am to 5:00 pm MOPS Kickoff Retreat

JUNE WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SERVICE	<u>June 1 (Sun 9:30 am)</u>
SERVICE COORD:	
USHERS/GREETERS:	Ed & Barb Bies Dennis & Linda Kasin
READER:	Norie Siers
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:	Dennis & Linda Kasin
COMM ASST:	Linda Kasin, Norie Siers
SERVICE	<u>June 8 (Sun 9:30 am)</u>
SERVICE COORD:	
USHERS/GREETERS:	Jim & Debbie Lupino Daryl & Gina Nesenson
READER:	Jim Lupino
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:	Daryl & Gina Nesenson
COMM ASST:	Debbie Lupino, Gina Nesenson
SERVICE	<u>June 15 (Sun 9:30 am)</u>
SERVICE COORD:	
USHERS/GREETERS:	Wendy Peterson-Biorn Greg & Ruth Modrow
READER:	Sherry Meola
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:	Wendy Peterson-Biorn
COMM ASST:	Wendy Peterson-Biorn, Ruth Johnson
SERVICE	<u>June 22 (Sun 9:30 am)</u>
SERVICE COORD:	
USHERS/GREETERS:	Dan, Pam, Rachel & Jacob Reed Randy & Anna Burger
READER:	Dan Reed
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:	Randy & Anna Burger
COMM ASST:	Dan Reed, Anna Burger
SERVICE	<u>June 29 (Sun 9:30 am)</u>
SERVICE COORD:	
USHERS/GREETERS:	Jeff & Michelle Miller & Family Karen Sangren
READER:	Jeff Miller
COMM PREP/CLEANUP:	Karen Sangren
COMM ASST:	Jeff Miller, Karen Sangren

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Lunch Box Fever Is Coming!!!

Lunch Box Fever is a program sponsored by Our Father's Lutheran Church which provides food for children during the summer months at no cost to their families. Many children who are on the lunch program at school do not have a reliable source for food during the summer. We strive to provide nutritious meals consisting of a main dish or sandwich, fresh vegetables, fresh fruit, milk and a small treat. The lunches will be prepared Monday through Thursday from June through August and are delivered to homes (many of the families also do not have reliable transportation). Application forms will be available at RiverWorks Foodshelf, Maple Hills Estates, Our Father's church office, Rockford Elementary and Middle School offices, or by contacting Betsy Pennuto or Marilyn Nelson. Many volunteers are needed to make this another successful year--such as kitchen help (Monday --Thursday from 9:00 to 11:00 am from June 9th to August 22nd), drivers (Monday through Thursday at 11:00 am and takes about an hour), volunteers to pick up groceries at Sam's Club or Costco (this is reimbursed), and volunteers to pick up groceries in St. Michael and deliver them to church on Saturday mornings. There will be sign up charts in the narthex starting in May. We also appreciate donations of food and money. We ask for your prayers for the children, families, and volunteers. You can volunteer at OFLC by calling the church office at (763) 477-6300.



We are very grateful to the Rockford Lions and Thrivent for their financial support and to all of you who have supported this program for the past 7 years.

Ideas for donations to Lunch Box Fever:

Peanut butter	Juice boxes	Hamburger
Jelly	Evaporated milk	Hot dogs
Tomato soup	Cereal	Pork and beans
Mushroom soup	Pepperoni	Velveeta cheese--3 lb. Boxes
Pasta sauce	Granola bars	Mozzarella cheese--shredded
Pizza sauce	Saltine crackers	Pasta--elbow macaroni, spaghetti, rotini
French salad dressing	Graham crackers	Sandwich bags
Ranch salad dressing	Fig Newtons	Reusable containers
Pudding cups	Animal cookies	Reusable shopping bags
Fruit cups	Butter	Paper grocery bags
Yogurt cups		

And, of course, we are always grateful for monetary donations!



A special thank you to Michelle Miller for her service as our Office Administrator; her last day will be May 27th. If you're interested in learning more about this open part-time job, please contact Pastor Jon or Jen Boulton.

Love INC Heartland - Current needs are for king sheet sets, king blankets, king comforters and new pillows.

Thank you for all your generous and continuing donations!



Tickets are \$35.00
or 4 for \$125.00

Available at Love INC- Heartland,
online, or at Affiliate Churches

Growing in Love Spring Gala May 3, 2014

*6:30 pm
Delicious Dinner
and Silent Auction*

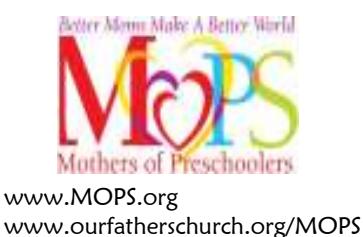
*St. Mary's Catholic Church
606 Elm Ave
Waverly, MN*

Volunteers and Silent Auction Donations are welcome!
Please contact the Love INC-Heartland office at 763-972-6547.

See www.loveincheatland.org for tickets or more information.



Our Father's Lutheran Church Mothers of Preschoolers



We have two more MOPS meetings left this year - May 2nd and May 16th! We welcome anyone who has children between the ages of birth to kindergarten to consider checking out a MOPS meeting, or if you have older children and would like to help in the MOPPETS classrooms or be a mentor mom, you are welcome to visit a meeting (9:30 am - 11:30 am).

For more information contact Kelly Kinnan, 612-483-4379 or visit <http://www.ourfatherschurch.org/mops>.

Moms take care of their children, but who takes care of moms? MOPSunday is dedicated to the message that “better moms make a better world” and that mothers of young children need encouragement and support during these critical and formative years through MOPS.

We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, May 4th as we celebrate moms while we provide hospitality and service to our charter congregation, Our Father's Lutheran Church.

- Noisy offering on MOPSunday will go to The Sandwich Project as part of Crow River Thousand Hearts Day. On May 18th, MOPS will make 1,000 sandwiches for Lunch Box Fever, a program that provides lunches to children who may go without during the summer months.
- Free will offering at breakfast on MOPSunday, May 4th, will benefit the OFLC playground project. MOPPETS, children of MOPS Members, and OFLC Sunday School children will be singing “The Butterfly Song.”



Sunday, May 4th
Thank You to our
Charter Congregation,
OFLC!



Sunday, May 18th

KIDS & YOUTH NEWS

Vacation Bible School

We are looking for a individual (or a group of individuals) to help us plan our 2014 Vacation Bible School program. If interested or have questions, contact the Education Committee (Pastor Cathy, Dan Reed, or Kristi Kosfeld).



Sunday School

The *last day of Sunday school for this year will be May 4th, 2014*. On May 4th, the Sunday School kids will sing with the MOPPET kids during the 9:30 am service.

We are nearing the end of our Sunday School year and would like to plan a special day for students on May 4th. We are looking for volunteers to help plan the education hour that day to maybe include some story time, games, treats or anything you can think of to end our year with celebration! Please contact Kristi Kosfeld, Dan Reed, or Diane Mutterer if you would like to assist!

THANK YOU to the Sunday school teachers, students, and parents for another great Sunday school year! Your participation and contributions are very much appreciated.

Confirmation Faith Circles

This year during Lent, we experimented with small group faith circles. Thinking Faith Circles would be a great way to get fifth and sixth graders introduced to confirmation. Well, it was a huge failure. Hardly any of these students came. What was really amazing was this: some of those younger than fifth and sixth grade participated; not right away, but after they floated around the edges for the first few weeks. Then, the confirmation students were asked to go and find some information from whomever they could find in the church. Suddenly, they had invaded the fellowship hall and soup supper. This could have been seen as a big mess, but it was actually beautiful. Adults and teenagers and younger kids all talking and interacting together. Perhaps this is what building Christ's community is truly about?

BIBLE STUDIES

Every Tuesday Morning at 10:00 am

Together, we discuss our lives and God's promises. All are welcome. Contact Pastor Cathy or Pastor Jon for info.



Wednesday Afternoon (May 14th) at 1:00 pm

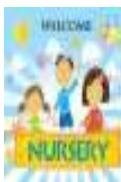
Women's Study (Rebekah Circle) – **Rehab, A Faithful Businesswoman**

Theme Verses: “Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death.” *Joshua 2:12-13*

Saturday Morning (May 3rd) at 7:30 am

MAN Meeting - All men welcome! Questions? Contact Tom Dery at 477-6787.

CHURCH WEBSITE - Worship service announcements, readings, gospel, and sermon are available in mp3 format for easy downloading at ourfatherschurch.org. We are also looking for other ideas for improving the website. You can give ideas to Pam Reed at webmaster@ourfatherschurch.org.



Looking for Nursery Assistants – Looking for a way to serve? Do you love kids? Interested in providing a little space and support for families with little ones? We need two caregivers each Sunday morning in the nursery during the 9:30 am worship service. Sign up on board posted on nursery door.

PHONE NUMBER CHANGED? EMAIL ADDRESS?

Have you cancelled your landline or changed your email? Please help us keep our records up-to-date by notifying the church office at office@ourfatherschurch.org.

COUNCIL

President	Jim Strehlow	498-7652
Past President	Jeff Miller	477-4096
Vice President	Open	
Secretary	Open	
Treasurer	Nancy Varner	498-7883
Communications	Amy Field	(612) 237-3884
Building & Grounds	Paul Mutterer	477-6924
Education	Dan Reed	479-4007
Evangelism	Open	
Personnel	Jen Boulton	(612) 636-0466
Social Concerns	Lynne Greseth	682-5486
Stewardship	Karen Sangren	477-6510
Women's Ministry	Tari Brase	477-5322
Worship & Music	Norie Siers	477-5218
Youth	Brian Walton	477-5770
Foundation	Krista Fisher	(612) 916-0139

OUR FATHER'S INFORMATIONJOIN US FOR WORSHIP

5:00 pm	Saturday Worship
9:30 am	Sunday Worship
7:00 pm	Wednesday Worship (begins May 28th)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday	12 Noon	-	4:00 pm
Tuesday	12 Noon	-	6:00 pm
Wednesday	12 Noon	-	6:00 pm
Thursday	9:30 am	-	4:00 pm
Friday	9:30 am	-	12:30 pm

STATISTICSAVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

March 2013—399 (2 services including Easter services)

March 2014—281 (2 services, including 4 Wed Night Lent services)

Baptism Class

Making plans for a baptism? Contact Pastor Jon with questions.

ourfatherschurch.org

Our Father's Lutheran Church
3903 Gilbert Ave SE
Rockford, MN 55373
Office: 763-477-6300
Fax: 763-477-7092

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PRESORTED
ROCKFORD, MN
PERMIT NO. 5

Find us on
Facebook



Building Christ's Community

through Hospitality, Relationships, Teaching, and Service

Worship

Saturday Worship *5:00 pm*
Sunday Worship *9:30 am*
(Final Saturday—May 24)



Summer Worship

Wednesday Worship *7:00 pm*
Sunday Worship *9:30 am*
(First Wednesday - May 28)