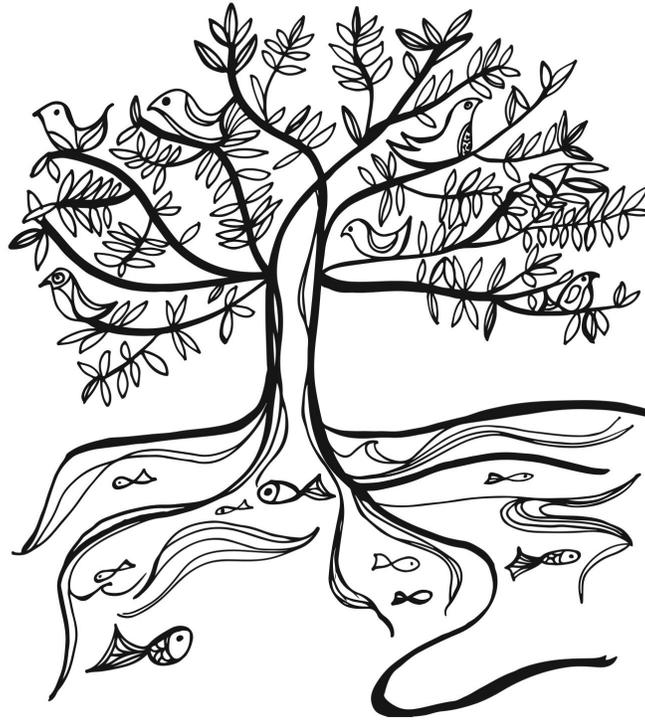


St. James Lutheran Church
Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 18, 2025



St. James Lutheran Church

Service Attendant: Maddie Schmidt

Reader: Linda Gross

Acolyte: Edi Southwell

Music Minister: Steve Abel

Church Address: 1705 Oak Street, Bettendorf, IA 52722

Office Email: ***stjamesbett@gmail.com***

Church Office: 563-355-4161

Website: ***www.stjamesbett.com***

WELCOME!

Guests, we are glad you have joined us today! If you would like to receive contact from St. James following this worship service, please fill out a card from the pew slot and put it in the offering plate. Welcome!

Children's Church takes place during our worship service. The children are dismissed after *Blessing the Children* and brought back to their families after the *Prayers of Intercession*.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

S: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

S: In the name of ✠ the One
who was, who is, and who is to come.

C: Amen.

S: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection,
and called to live the baptized life,
let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

S: Holy God,
thank you for the waters of baptism,
waters that make a people your own,
that restore to wholeness,
and empower us to be witnesses in your name.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
C: make us one as you are one.

S: thank you for the waters of baptism,
waters that strengthen believers
and give new life to beloved servants of your church;
waters that extend your boundless love
and cross barriers of our own making.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
C: make us one as you are one.

S: thank you for the waters of baptism,
waters that open the hearts of believers
and give a voice in the night to those in captivity;
waters that set your people on a new path,
rejoicing in the Spirit's power.
Baptized into you, O Living One,
C: make us one as you are one.

S: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One,
that our every day is shaped by these waters
that give us our very lives in you.
We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 453 *Baptized and Set Free*



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

GREETING

S: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

S: Let us pray.

C: O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna' let it shine
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*

Children are dismissed for Children's Church.

WORD

FIRST READING: Acts 11:1-18

¹ Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me.

⁶ As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'

⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'

¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

A: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 148 (read responsively)

¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

² **Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³ Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴ **Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
who commanded, and they were created,

⁶ **who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸ **fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹ mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰ **wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹ sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹² **young men and maidens, old and young together.**

¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

¹⁴ **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for
all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near
the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING Revelation 21:1-6

¹ I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

“See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them and be their God;

⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.”

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.” A: Word of God. Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

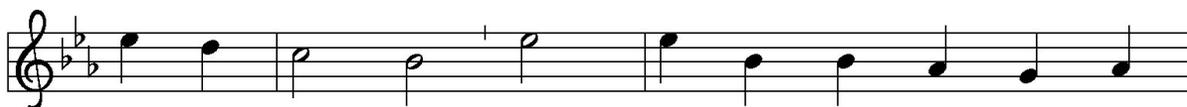
HYMN ELW 424 *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*



1 Ye watch - ers and ye ho - ly ones, bright
 2 O high - er than the cher - u - bim, more
 3 Re - spond, ye souls in end - less rest, ye
 4 O friends, in glad - ness let us sing, su -



ser - aphs, cher - u - bim, and thrones, raise the glad strain:
 glo - rious than the ser - a - phim, lead their prais - es:
 pa - tri - archs and proph - ets blest: "Al - le - lu - ia!
 per - nal an - thems ech - o - ing: "Al - le - lu - ia!



"Al - le - lu - ia!" Cry out, do - min - ions, prince - doms,
 "Al - le - lu - ia!" Thou bear - er of the e - ter - nal
 Al - le - lu - ia!" Ye ho - ly twelve, ye mar - tyrs
 Al - le - lu - ia!" To God the Fa - ther, God the



pow'rs, arch - an - gels, vir - tues, an - gel choirs:
 Word, most gra - cious, mag - ni - fy the Lord:
 strong, all saints tri - um - phant, raise the song:
 Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One:



"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!" Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Bishop: The holy gospel according to **Hebrews 10:11-25**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. ¹²But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, "he sat down at the right hand of God," ¹³and since then has been waiting "until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet." ¹⁴For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. ¹⁵And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying, ¹⁶"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds," ¹⁷he also adds, "I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more." ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin. ¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith,

with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **B: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or spirit to sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 631 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - 'ry
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion, pure and spot - less

earth come down! Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 find thy prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee! Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise!

APOSTLES' CREED

S: In prayer and devotion, we confess our faith with the whole church.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PEACE

S: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

Greet one another by shaking hands or with a word or sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

S: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

S: Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities.

Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

S: Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

S: Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. We pray for peace and safety for all people in **Ukraine and the Holy Land** who are in harm's way. We pray for the people of **Sudan** who are facing a hunger crisis due to famine. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others, especially **Anthony, Brandon, Eli, Nathan, and Samantha**. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

S: Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness, especially **Annette & Rick, Barry, Bev, Carol, Connie, Donna, Donnie, Dotty, Drew, Ed, Emmett, Erik, Frieda, Hattie, Jason, Konnor, LaVonne, Lynn, Mark, Maggie, Mary, Michelle, Michelle, Minhon, Phil, Sandy, Sherry, Stan, and Wally**. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

S: Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

S: We give thanks for your faithful ones who are now at peace with you, especially **John Leder**. We give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love, especially **Erik**, King of Sweden, whom we commemorate today. We praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places, especially **Helena, Nicolaus, and Leonhard**, whom we will commemorate* in the upcoming week. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

S: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **C: Amen.**

*See announcement for commemorations.

MEAL

OFFERING *your offering may be placed in the plate as it is passed. We thank all who support God's ministry here and in the world.*

Stand as the offering is presented at the rail.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

OFFERING PRAYER

S: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C: Amen.

The assembly is seated.

COMMEMORATION

On this day we commemorate Erik, King of Sweden, martyr, died 1160.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The assembly rises in body or spirit.

BLESSING

S: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 379 *Now the Green Blade Rises*



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

S: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

S: Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birdies for Charity—It's Birdies for Charity time. Thanks to all who have supported us in the past and welcome to all newcomers. St. James receives all donations plus the Birdies Bonus will be between 5-10% (last year it was 8%). Pledge forms are available in the Narthex and should be returned by Sunday June 22nd to be entered in the contest. Donations can also be made online at <https://birdiesforcharity.com/donate> - be sure to search for our Bird Number 960: St. James Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Meumann or Ellen Hogbin.

May 19th-23rd—Rummage Sale Week. See bulletin insert for more details.

June 2nd—4PM Potluck & Style Show! Bring or wear something purchased from the Rummage Sale! Please use recipes from the St. James Cookbook for the Potluck. Everyone is welcome—please come and celebrate with us!

June 7th-8th—Pentecost Vigil and Feast of Pentecost. See bulletin insert for more details.

June 23-27—Lutheran Summer Day Camp. See bulletin insert for details.

Attendance last week:

Saturday	25		
Sunday	69	YouTube	1

Birthdays this week:

5/18 Janet Brakel	5/21 Scott Wendell
5/24 Lisa Mekalson	5/24 Asa Pessein

This week's anniversary:

5/21 Mark & Lora Gwin

The flowers are given today by Janet & Paul Brakel.

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town! YouTube link for livestream:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjqGF4g_QWtn_I2SqL5Q

COMMEMORATIONS

Helena, mother of Constantine, died around 330

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Influenced by her son to become Christian, Helena (or Helen) lived an exemplary life of faith. She is also remembered for traveling through Palestine building churches on the sites she believed to be associated with Christ's life.

Nicolaus Copernicus, died 1543; Leonhard Euler, died 1783; scientists

Saturday, May 24, 2025

These two men were both scientists who helped to explain the wonders of God's universe. Copernicus is best known for promoting the idea that the sun, not the earth, is at the center of our solar system. Euler was one of the founders of pure mathematics, and contributed to many other fields.

Worship Assistants

May 18

Service Attendant

Reader

Acolyte

Ushers

YouTube Assistant

Altar Guild

Counters

9:00 AM Worship

Maddie Schmidt

Linda Gross

Edi Southwell

Diana & Darryl Worley

Deb Crooks

Ellen Hogbin & Terry Martens

Ellen Hogbin

May 25

Presider

Assisting Minister

Acolyte

Ushers

YouTube Assistant

Altar Guild

Counters

9:00 AM Worship

Pastor Roger Claxton

Jason Forari

Rilynne Larson & Carter Royse

Melissa & Anna Forari

Deb Crooks

Mary Meumann & Shirley Richlen

Ellen Hogbin

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Eric Anderson, **Ed** Arp, **Maggie** Bayliss, **Lynn** Chamberlain, **Bev** Chappen,
Sherry Germanio, **Sandy** Henry, **Frieda** Houldsworth,
LaVonne Mienke, **Mary** Meumann, **Minhon** Ridenour

Family and Friends

Annette & Rick (friends of Sue and Steve Miller), **Barry** (cousin of Ellen Hogbin), **Carol** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Connie** (friend of Maggie Bayliss), **Dotty** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister), **Donnie** (friend of Deb Crooks), **Drew** (Pat Larson's friend), **Emmett** (friend of Diana Worley), **Hattie** (Frieda's sister), **Jason** (Lynn Chamberlain & Sherry Germanio's son), **Konnor** (Bert Leder's grandson), **Mark** (friend of Jason Forari), **Michelle** (friend of Joleen & Erik Bakken), **Michelle** (friend of Jason & Melissa Forari), **Myles** (friend of Anna Forari), **Phil** (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), **Stan** (relative of Fritz Voss), **Wally** (Frieda's nephew),

Military Personnel

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
Lt. Col. **Brandon** Sandoval USAF (Pat Larson's grandson)
CPT **Eli** Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)
Samantha Richard (friend of Larson family)

In Memoriam

John Leder

If you have anyone who needs to be taken off or added, please notify the church office.

May / June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 9AM Worship 10:00AM Council Mtg.	19 9AM-3:30PM Item drop off	20 1PM Sarah Circle 9AM-3:30PM Item drop off	21 6-8PM Food Pantry 9AM-3:30PM Item drop off	22 9-11AM Food Pantry 8:30AM-3:30PM Rummage Sale	23 8:30AM-3:30PM Rummage Sale	24 5:00PM Saturday Service
R u m m a g e S a l e W e e k						
25 9AM Worship	26 9:30AM Monday Morning Fellowship Church office closed <i>Memorial Day</i>	27 12-4PM Quilting	28 6-8PM Food Pantry	29 9-11AM Food Pantry	30	31 5:00PM Saturday Service
6/1 9AM Worship 10AM Friendly Visitor's Mtg.	6/2 4PM Potluck & Style Show	6/3 4PM Property Mtg.	6/4 8AM Worship & Music Mtg. 6-8PM Food Pantry	6/5 9-11AM Food Pantry	6/6	6/7 5:00PM Pentecost Vigil: Baptisms & Summer Kick Off
6/8 9AM Worship: Feast of Pentecost & Welcoming New Members	6/9 9:30AM Monday Morning Fellowship	6/10	6/11 6-8PM Food Pantry	6/12 9-11AM Food Pantry 1:30PM Finance Mtg.	6/13	6/14 5:00PM Saturday Service
6/15 9AM Worship	6/16	6/17 1PM Sarah Circle	6/18 6-8PM Food Pantry	6/19 9-11AM Food Pantry 11:30AM GANG	6/20	6/21 5:00PM Saturday Service