



**ZION
EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
Missouri Synod
(1892-Present)

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56134**

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**PREACHING
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OFFICE DEADLINES:
Sunday Bulletin:
10 am on Thursday
JUNE NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:
Thursday, May 23

NEWSLETTER *MAY 2024*



The Blessing of Family

God established marriage and family as the foundation for His entire creation when He made Adam and Eve in His image and united them in marriage to live as “one flesh.” Upon this foundation rests the meaning and purpose for all that was created and for that which is to follow. Being created in the “image of God” sets humanity apart and above everything else that was created. In the “Fall of Adam” all of creation became destined for destruction and eternity in hell. But only humanity received the promise of salvation and reconciliation through the Christ Jesus, who was both God and Man.

Jesus was born of the virgin-Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit. This was so that He might live as every other human being, facing the same trials and tribulations while remaining holy and without sin of His own. Then at the appointed time He would die to pay for the sins of all mankind with His innocent blood. He rose from the dead to prove His identity as the Christ, God-Man and substitute for sinful mankind. This was all necessary to illustrate that God’s original plan was still in place for His creation. God was and is continuing to work His plan for creation until the “Last Day” when He will make a new creation for His followers to live in for all eternity.

The comfort for Christians (believers) is that this proves the power and love of God is greater than the power of evil in this world. This means that we have a sure way for us to live that will not fail us. God’s plan from before creation is still valid and it is the only plan that has God’s stamp of approval on it. The

fourth commandment, Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you and you may have long life in the land, Eph. 6:1-3. It begins with marriage between one man and one woman united by God to live as “one flesh” for a life-time. When God unites a man and a woman in marriage, He is promising to provide them with everything that they will need to make that marriage last a life-time. Most importantly this means His love and forgiveness because in this world the man and woman are both sinful and can only reap the benefits of God’s promise by believing His Word. The other truth is that with God’s love and forgiveness will come all the other blessings promised.

After the gift of faith comes the gift of children and they are always a treasure from God. But due to the constant bombardment of lies from the Devil, the world, and our sinful flesh it is easy to doubt God’s Word. It requires constant devotion to regular worship and the study of God’s Word if the joy of marriage and family are to remain a source of power in our lives. Another blessing of family is when we recognize that God is allowing us to participate in His work of sustaining and growing His creation. Parents are the most important example of God when they use His plan for raising their family. Parents set the standards for their children and communities when they submit to the Law and Gospel of God. They are illustrating God’s consistency and fairness towards all people being equal and deserving of the same care and attention.

Let us honor our fathers and mothers over the next two months as we thank them for their witness to God and His abundant goodness. May we respect them as the faithful representatives of God that they are. And to God be all glory!

Your servant in Christ.
Rev. Gary Klatt

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

ACOLYTES OF THE MONTH

Sunday, May 5—9:00 a.m. Service— Trenton Lass
Sunday, May 14—9:00 a.m. Service— Paisley Baustian



The acolytes are done serving until this fall.

ELDERS OF THE MONTH:

Sunday, May 5th: 9:00 a.m. Service – Lloyd Hemme and Del Gangestad

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

ELDERS MEETING will be held on Tuesday, May 7th at 6:30 p.m. and **CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING** at 7:30 p.m.



LWML MEETING will be held on Wednesday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room.

LAST DAY OF CONFIRMATION is May 8th.

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY is May 12th. The Sunday School will sing during the worship service and serve cookies after the Worship Service.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY on Thursday, May 30th at 3:30 p.m.

HARDWICK MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM will be held on Monday, May 27th at 10:00 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial. Special music by Madi Oye, granddaughter of Bruce & Marilyn Oye



BACKBACK PROGRAM.

A group of us got together on March 12th and did the backpack program at the Rock County Food Shelf! We packed 56 bags of food. ~Ashley Carlson



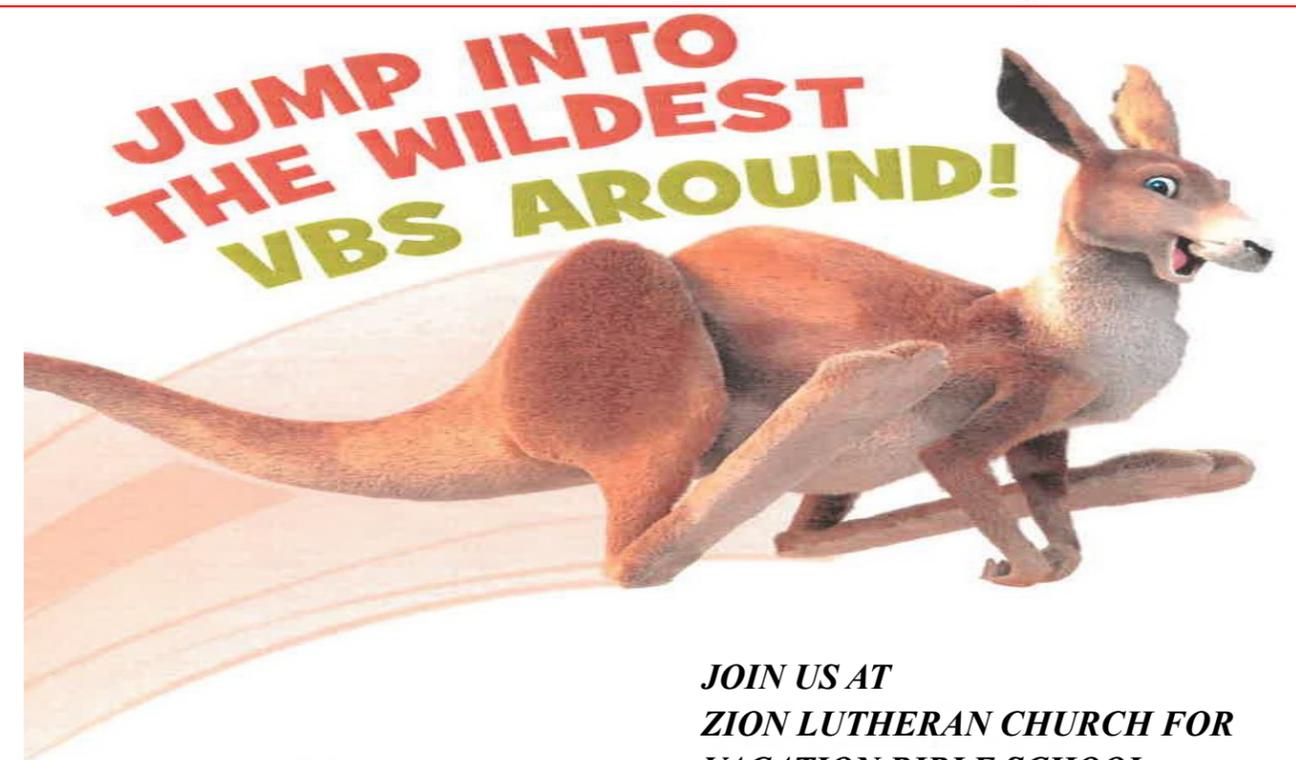
Pictured left to right: Kyle Hemme, Guinevere Carlson, Garrett Carlson and Anna Haas. Not pictured is Ashley Carlson



forever-kind of love. A love that resembles my own.”

“Once I put a precious baby in her arms, she will never be the same. **One day her children will grow up and move on, but she never will.** As long as she lives, she will fight for her children, pray for them, and sacrifice for them.”
And so, God made a mother.

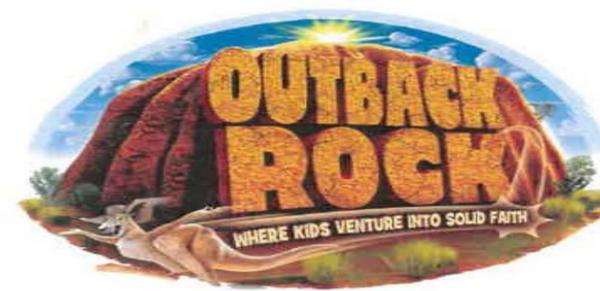
We set you aside. You are a blessing to your families, and a blessing to this church. Thank you. Well done. And may Christ be with you. May God bless you this mother's day and every day.



**JOIN US AT
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH FOR
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**Saturday, June 29th, 2024 from 10:00
A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Lunch will be provided!**

*Registration is due Sunday, May 12th.
See Heidi Roos, Ashley Carlson or Anna
Haas for more info.*



So, God made a mother

At the dawn of time, God needed someone He could trust to love His precious children.

And so, God made a mother.

God said, "Life will often be harsh. I need someone with a gentle touch. Someone who can brush a tear from the downy cheek of a newborn and gauge a child's temperature without the aid of a thermometer. I need someone who has a special knack for soothing, who can kiss away pain and soften blows. Someone who will hold her child's hand firmly, until she has to release it, tearfully, on the first day of school."

And so, God made a mother.

"I need someone who will care enough to gather daffodils and put them in a vase, so everyone in the house can enjoy the first blooms of spring. Someone who will care enough to rummage through the mismatched sock pile, in hopes of finding a match. Someone who will make birthdays extra special, sing silly songs with her toddlers in the car, and who actually *wants* to go on a school field trip to the insect museum, just to be close to her child."

And so, God made a mother.

"I'll make someone who can gather a chaotic, busy family around the dinner **table** for chicken soup, cornbread, and sharing life together. Someone who will organize playdates, piano lessons, and the pantry. I need someone who can find the lost football cleat, Dad's keys, and 'Bun-Bun,' her little girl's favorite stuffed bunny."

"I need someone who can unload the dishwasher, pack lunches, call out spelling words, and make coffee, while bouncing a baby on her hip. Someone who will carry an amazing array of toys, snacks, and essentials in her heavy purse, and never complain. I need someone to help with endless school projects, organize the football banquet, and say, 'I'm so proud of you,' even when her child fails."

And so, God made a mother.

God said, "I'll place a second pair of eyes in the back of a mother's head, give her bionic ears, and grant her a generous portion of laughter *and* tears, for she will need them."

"Yes, this is exactly what I need. To put it simply, **I need someone who will love my children like . . . well, kind of like I do,**" God laughed.

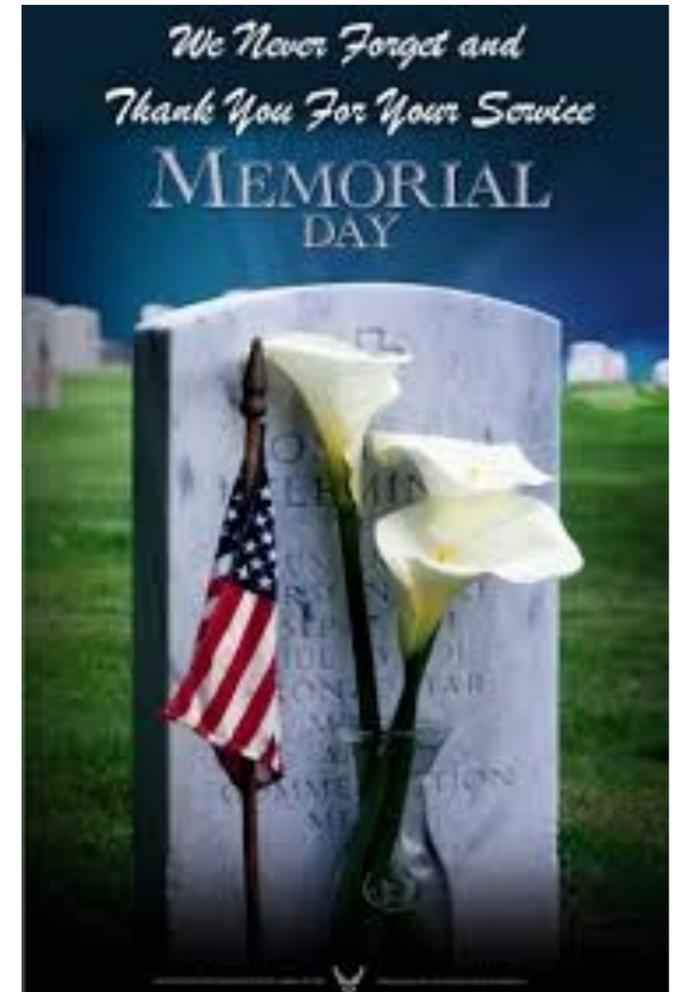
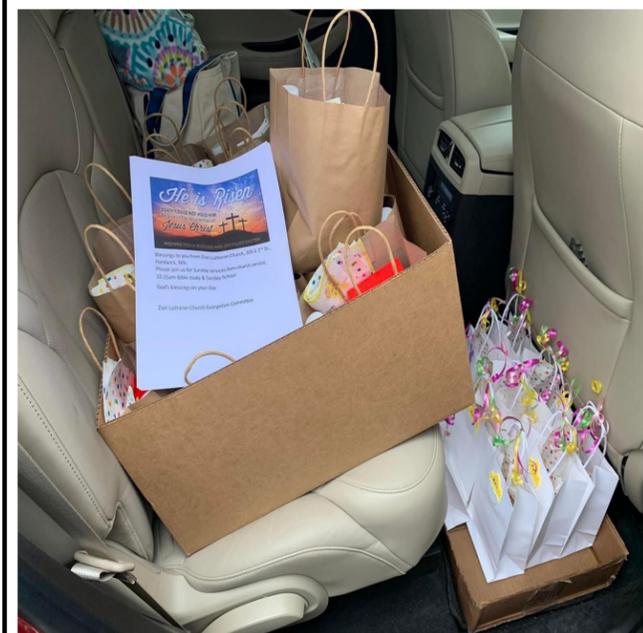
"So, I'll give each mother a heart the size of Texas, and if she'll let me, I'll fill it with my special,

EASTER BREAKFAST

Linda Wenzel and Jen Luitjens delivered 13 Easter breakfasts with egg bake, juice, cinnamon roll and Easter goody bag. *Thanks to Zion Lutheran Evangelism Committee for helping to make this happen.*



Linda Wenzel and Jen Luitjens.



**OUR FAMILY UPC,
BEST CHOICE LABELS and
CLEARLY ORGANIC
LABELS.**

We are still collecting OUR FAMILY UPC's....please put them in the container on the cabinet in the Narthex. In addition to this we will start saving Best Choice labels... those we need the UPC with the name BEST CHOICE printed on it. We also can save Clearly Organic labels. Thank you all for helping save these items so that we can get a refund to use to help support our seminary food shelves. If you have questions please ask Bonnie Scherff or Patti Pierson.

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 5, 2024**

Attendance: George Lass, Robert Remme, Pastor Amen, Anna Haas, Linda Wenzel, Patti Pierson, Don Bryan, Lloyd Hemme and Mike Lindsey.
Voting Elders: Kyle Hemme and Robert Wenzel

The March 5, 2024 Church Council Meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chairman; George Lass. Pastor Amen opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: Information given by Robert Remme. Minutes from the February 8th Council Meeting and February 18th Special Congregation Voters Meeting were distributed. Linda Wenzel brought up that we were missing that the council approved a gift and card as a gift for Pastor Baker and family. This was under general discussion of gift. We are amending the February 8 minutes to include "A departing gift of \$1,000 with card was given to Pastor Baker & Family." **A motion was made by Kyle Hemme to approve the amended February 8 minutes and Don Bryan seconded the motion. Motion carried. A motion was made by Don Bryan and seconded by Robert Wenzel to approve the Special Voters Meeting Minutes for February 18. Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Information given by Don Bryan:

Total Receipts for the month:	\$ 7,152.40
Total Receipts to Date:	\$ 16,159.89
Total Expenses for the month:	\$ 11,207.80
Total Expenses to Date:	\$ 34,403.23
Total Restricted Savings (02/28/24)	\$ 32,925.11
Prop. Improvement Fund: LCEF	\$ 122,532.48
Jessen Endowment Savings account	\$ 574.73

Checkbook balance \$ 26,384.42. Don Bryan indicated the checkbook balance is down a bit this month. Don Bryan went through the Financial Report for February. Explained the deposits and checks written. Transferred the \$10,000 from the Jessen Endowment Savings account to the LCEF CD Fund. Zion received a reimbursement check from Family of Christ Lutheran Church for Pastor Baker's March Concordia Plan that we paid until they could get him on their plan. Lots of discussion on the CDS up for renewal in the LCEF Fund. Possibility of looking at local banks to invest in until the CDS are up and renew as new money for a better rate. **A motion was made by Kyle Hemme and seconded by Anna Haas to pull 3 CD's (CD – 4499, CD – 4501, and CD- 4513 – building committee CDs) and invest into an 18-month special LCEF account. Motion carried.** Don Bryan will receive a check from LCEF and deposit. He then will deposit the check and write one to invest in new money. At next meeting, we determine what to do next and the terms for the CDs.

Board of Elder's Report: Information given by Lloyd Hemme – Head Elder. Lloyd Hemme informed the Church Council that the Elders met with Pastor Gary Klatt following the Midweek Lenten Service on February 28. Reviewed Confirmation and March Service Times with him. Elders set the March Schedule for Elders on Duty. Discussed at last Elders Meeting Pastor's Klatt's compensation package, starting effective February 28. Pastor Klatt agreed to be paid once a month. \$150 per Worship Service, \$25 a Sunday for Adult Bible Study, \$50 a time for Confirmation. Mileage Reimbursement – Pastor Klatt will keep track and turn in to Don Bryan.

George Lass asked Lloyd if the Easter Vigil on Saturday that Pastor Baker was planning was cancelled. Lloyd informed the board it was cancelled. As George Lass mentioned in church on Sunday, March 3, there will be a Pre Call Informational Meeting for the Congregation at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 17. Pastor Ethridge will be in attendance.

Lloyd informed the Council that Sam Hansen notified him that he will be retiring as organist; effective April 1, 2024. Lloyd has contacted Leona Hoek and she will take over full time. The council discussed options or other fill in organists if Leona is gone a Sunday. Pastor Amen mentioned that CPH Concordia Organist CD has over 700 hymns prerecorded to play on stereo. Sunday, April 7, 2024 – Pastor Scott Sailor (SD District President) will lead our worship service @ 9:00 a.m. This was lined up by Pastor Baker. The Elders will be meeting with Pastor Amen following the council meeting tonight to discuss financial compensation and duties of Vacancy Pastor.

Board of Trustees Report: Alon Hemme was not present tonight so there was no actual report given. Kyle did mention that the Sound System issues is on his list of items to look into.

Board of Education Report: Information given by Anna Haas. Vacation Bible School materials have arrived. They are planning VBS and currently looking for volunteers to help. VBS will still be the weekend of Jubilee Days. Kids are going to church on Wednesday night – nice to see

them together. The kids were planning to sing in church on Sunday, March 10 but are now signing on Sunday, March 17 during the Palm Sunday Service. They are working on this with Pastor Klatt. Pastor Klatt did the opening for Sunday School and did a great job. Anna was going to ask if would continue. Anna mentioned that if there are issues with kids, please go to the parents to discuss the matter and not other family members.

Board of Evangelism Report: Information given by Linda Wenzel. Linda Wenzel indicated she has nothing really planned right now. With no Easter Breakfast, she was tossing around some ideas for a breakfast for shut in's. Indicated that the Food shelf is always looking for donations, especially garden produce. Linda mentioned that KWIK Trip will be donating the food they no longer can sell to the Food Shelf. Backpack Program – discussed a little – more questions, see Becky Uilk. They are always accepting monetary donations. Don Bryan mentioned that \$25 was given in the offering plate for the Backpack Program. He asked what he should do with it? Council said to hold and send in the first week of April in case there are more donations.

Property Improvement Fund: Information given by Kyle Hemme. Kyle mentioned that he talked with Derek at Cleveringa Construction. Derek is waiting for 1 more bid and his own and then he would meet with Kyle to go over. Discussion was held on what is taking so long for the bids.

New Business: George Lass gave a update on the Call process. Pre-call Meeting with Pastor Ethridge – March 17 @ 11:30 a.m. This meeting will look at the steps of the process and answer any questions we have. There will be discussion on the Self Study Survey. At this time, we can also submit names for Pastor's if we have any.

Pastor Amen explained a little bit about his insurance plan. He has compared it to what we currently had for Pastor Baker. He will get us the information to help us save some money. The plan is still through CPH.

George asked about the newsletter; if the Elders would see if Pastor Amen or Klatt would write something each month.

Discussion was held on making sure to update the church sign and look at getting the website updated. We will be looking into getting someone to do this.

Discussion was held on Church 360 Program. Pastor Baker was the administrator and has asked Anna Haas to take over the duties of 360. Don Bryan brought up that we are still getting bills for this, which he hasn't paid, as Pastor Baker said he had it cancelled. It was mentioned that the Head Elder, Chairman, Admin./Pastor have access to the program and are able to update. Lorna Bryan has access to the members of the congregation. Joyce Roos has access; as she is the Financial Secretary. **A motion was made by Linda Wenzel and seconded by Don Bryan to make Anna Haas the administrator of the Church 360 program. Motion Carried.**

Anna will be contacting Concordia Tech Support to take off charges, cancel and set her up in the administrator role now as Pastor Baker is no longer here.

LWML – Linda Wenzel said that LWML is really small right now and members of Zion need to help a bit more. If you are contacted to help out, please consider helping out when asked.

With No Easter Breakfast planned, Patti Pierson brought up that many have asked if we could possibly do rolls and coffee after worship – still giving us a chance for fellowship. After discussion, it was decided to do rolls and coffee after worship. The church will pay for the rolls.

Patti Pierson attended the Circuit Zoom meeting. She said the Circuit Retreat (known as the Circuit Forum) will be April 27. More details to come.

Pastor Amen reported 2 scholarships from the area circuit churches in the synod were given out; from the money we collect on Sundays for Coins for Christ. Roughly \$590 was collected.

Discussion was had on whether our current bylaws, which were updated in 1995, would be updated soon. The concern was over who was eligible to vote as Elder and Trustees. Right now, only 1 voting elder and trustee can vote at the meetings. If it was changed to allow all to vote, then there was thought that more of them would come to the meetings and be more involved. Concern was then if we would have enough at the meetings each time for a quorum. Currently, there is a bylaw committee. Do we keep same members, change, etc? After major discussion, it was decided to table this until next meeting to further discuss the makeup of the committee.

A motion by Anna Haas and seconded by Robert Wenzel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meetings: Board of Elders will meet following the council meeting tonight and on Tuesday, April 2 @ 6:30 p.m.

Church Council will meet on Tuesday, April 2 @ 7: 30p.m

Respectfully submitted, Robert Remme,
Congregational Secretary

May 2024

Church Email: zionoffice@alliancecom.net

Church Website: <http://www.zionlutheranhardwick.com>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 P.M. CONFIRMATION 7:00 P.M. LWML MEETING	2 3:30 P.M. WORSHIP ON CABLE TV	3 3:30 P.M. WORSHIP ON CABLE TV	4
5 9:00 A.M. WORSHIP/ COMMUNION SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING AFTER WORSHIP No Mentoring 10:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY	6 1:00 P.M. QUILTING	7 6:30 P.M. ELDER'S MEETING 7:30 P.M. COUNCIL MEETING	8 6:00 P.M. LAST DAY OF CONFIRMATION 6:30 P.M. CALL COMMITTEE MEETING	9 3:30 P.M. WORSHIP ON CABLE TV	10 3:30 P.M. WORSHIP ON CABLE TV	11
12 MOTHER'S DAY 9:00 A.M. WORSHIP Cookies served after worship service 10:15 A.M. LAST DAY BIBLE STUDY and SUNDAY SCHOOL	13 1:00 P.M. QUILTING	14	15	16 3:30 P.M. WORSHIP ON CABLE TV	17 3:30 P.M. WORSHIP ON CABLE TV	18
19 9:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE/COMMUNION SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING. AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE.	20 1:00 P.M. QUILTING	21 JUNE NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	22	23 3:30 P.M. WORSHIP ON CABLE TV	24 3:30 P.M. WORSHIP ON CABLE TV	25
26 9:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE	27 10:00 A.M. HARDWICK MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM	28	29	30 3:30 P.M. WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY	31	Pastor Amen's Home Phone: 507-562-4851 Pastor Amen's Email: pastorca-men@gmail.com