



Hope Lutheran Church
PO Box 886
Summit, SD 57266
605-398-6150
hlchurch1969@gmail.com

Vol. 53 Issue 7
August 2026

WORDS OF HOPE, FROM HOPE

"It is the Mission of Hope Lutheran Church to help people Grow in their Faith; to be a Leader in the community; to Serve the needs of all people, and to Teach and Educate all people.'

Everyone Is Welcome Here

Find us on Facebook at Hope Lutheran Church
and online at www.seesummitsd.com

TRANSITION TEAM

The Transition Team concluded its work in late May and submitted a report to the council in June. The Call Committee will use some of the information gathered to fill out the Ministry Site Profile (MSP)—the form congregations fill out and submit to their Synod introducing the congregation to prospective clergy. Other information will be used by the council.

Thank you to the Transition Team for all of your hard work!

Dustin Holt	Vicky Gleason	Brady Lindholm	Scott Kneeland
Brianna Lindholm	Tamijo Bronson	Avery Bronson	Dash Ebson
Tim Gapp	Laura Frankenhoff		

CALL COMMITTEE

The Congregation Council appointed nine people to Hope's Call Committee. They will be installed on Sunday, August 2 at worship. Keep them in your prayers throughout the call process. Meetings are already underway!

James Amdahl	Val Moen	Kathy Brink	Laura Frankenhoff	Emmett Whempner
Tamijo Bronson	nddBrady	Brittany Graf	Matt Amdahl	
Lindholm				

RALLY SUNDAY and GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Save the Date: Sunday, September 13, 2026!

Fall schedules are returning! We're celebrating Sunday School and God's Work, Our Hands on September 13. Come for Sunday School and worship, stay for lunch and service projects! God's Work, Our Hands is the name of the ELCA's annual celebration of service. ELCA Congregations around the country lead and participate in service projects. This year, Hope plans to do some clean-up at Hope Cemetery, cutting quilt squares, and assembling meal/cake kits. Below is a tentative schedule:

Rally Sunday and God's Work, Our Hands

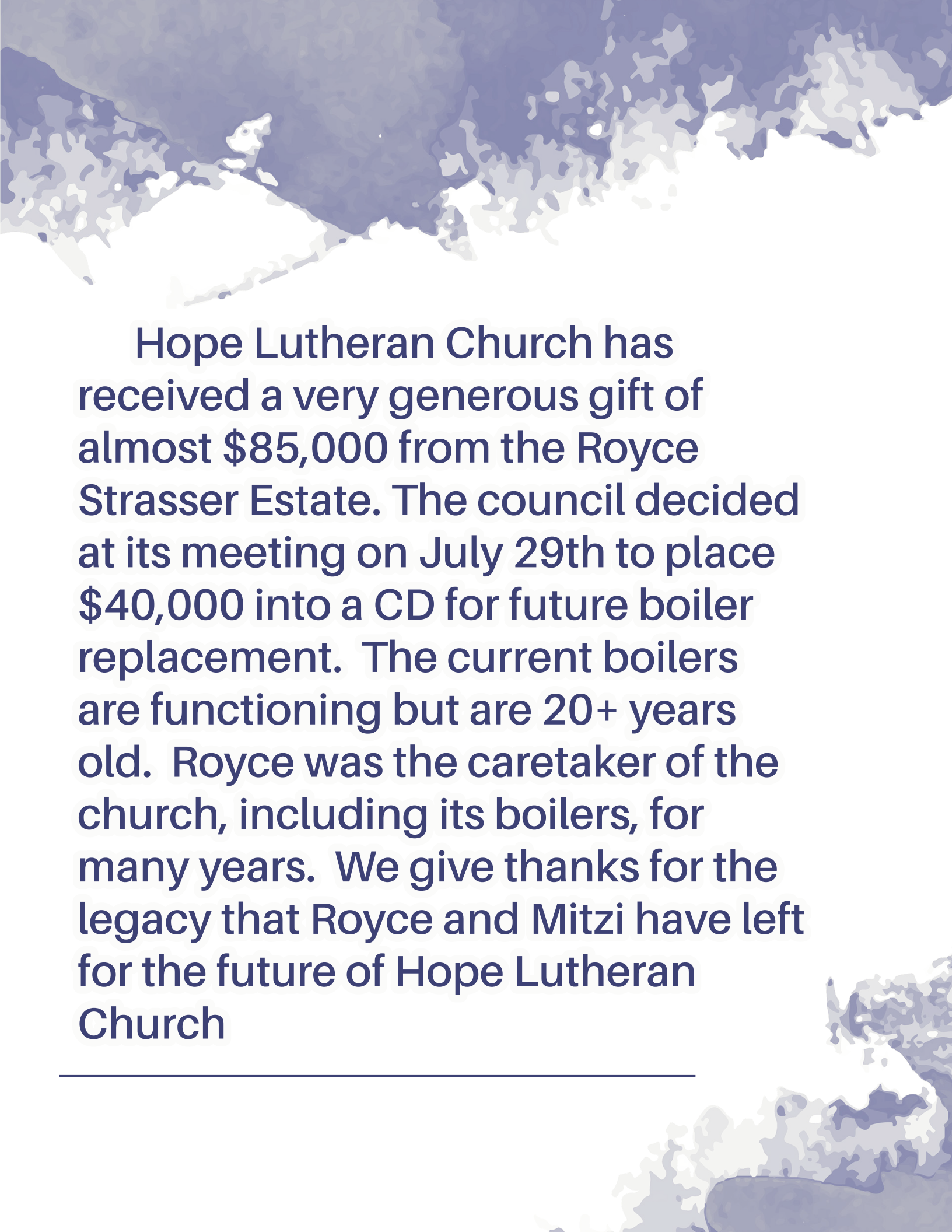
9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship – Cody Swanson to lead Children's Church

11:30 Potluck

12:00 Work projects: clean gravestones, quilting, assemble meal/cake kits

1:30 Closing @ the church



Hope Lutheran Church has received a very generous gift of almost \$85,000 from the Royce Strasser Estate. The council decided at its meeting on July 29th to place \$40,000 into a CD for future boiler replacement. The current boilers are functioning but are 20+ years old. Royce was the caretaker of the church, including its boilers, for many years. We give thanks for the legacy that Royce and Mitzi have left for the future of Hope Lutheran Church

June 24, 2026 – Church Council Meeting

Present: Tim Gapp, Beth Hills, Brittany Graf, Mark Amdahl, Scott Kneeland, Vicky Gleason, Traci Ellingson, Pastor Kari Foss; Treasurer Annelies Seffrood

Absent: Michelle Urban, Addison Bronson, Dash Ebsen, Nicole Ebsen

Welcome, Devotion (Ephesians 2: 8-10), Opening Prayer by Pastor Kari

Secretary's Report – Motion by Brittany, Second by Scott to accept with spelling corrections. Passed

Treasurer's Report - Motion by Traci, Second by Brittany to accept. Passed Motion to transfer \$10,000 from General Fund to a CD by Beth, Second by Mark. Passed

Pastor's Report – Pr.Kari has returned from medical leave. She has several conferences on the calendar for July – August. She will be at the ELCA Rostered Leaders Gathering July 6-11 and a Holden Village Retreat August 2-9.

The Transition Team gave its report to the Council.

- Staff/Daily Function Group – interviewed staff (paid & volunteer), had outside audit of the facility; immediate areas to address are storage room in the family bathroom and creation of a procedure book (ex. Usher, set up communion, guest pastor checklist..)
- Mission/Vision Group – shared feedback from 3 Questions (Past, Present, Future); presented updated Mission statement for consideration
- History of Hope Lutheran Group – compiled a brief history from 1969. Ten pastors have served Hope Lutheran, 6 of which were in their first call. Many property improvement projects have been completed.
- A Call Committee of 7-9 people will be formed. The goal is to have 1 youth and a man & woman from 18-30, 30-60, 60+ years old to have broad representation of the congregation.

The May 20th Summit at Summit was attended by more than 35 people from across the Prairie Couteau Conference with several Synod staff participating. The next gathering is planned for September 9, 2026. The goal is to increase communication and foster collaboration between congregations in the conference.

Fog Fest Activities will include a float in the parade on Saturday (Brittany & Michelle) and Worship in the Park on Sunday. Coffee, lemonade, and donuts will be served before the service. There will not be lunch afterwards. Tim G has a mic & speaker to use.

Committee Reports

- Worship: Beth, Traci, Annelies, Val, Nicole
 - July 5 – worship @ NeSoDak (no service at Hope)
 - July 12 – Worship in the Park
 - Pulpit supply is needed for August 9 and 30
 - Worship time will change September 6th to 10:30 service
 - Will reach out to Cody Swanson to lead worship Sept 13 (Rally Sunday), Oct 11, Nov 8

- Property: Scott, Mark
 - Kitchen Remodel Committee formed with Laurie K, Kathy B, Earline H, Jackie A
- Education: Michelle, Vicky
 - VBS July 2022 (Mon – Wed) 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Lava Lava Luau -- Volunteers Needed
 - Rally Sunday is September 13th - Sunday School will be at 9:30 am. Teachers are needed.
- Stewardship: Tim, Brittany
- Audit Committee – needs to be formed

A council retreat for planning & visioning is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th. Tim & Pastor Kari will plan an offsite workshop.

The next Council Meeting is set for Wednesday, July 29th at 7:00 pm.

The Meeting was adjourned.

April 22, 2026 – Church Council Meeting

Present – Traci Ellingson, Michelle Urban, Vicky Gleason, Scott Kneeland, Beth Hills, Brittany Graf, Tim Gapp & Pastor Kari Foss, Treasurer Annelies Seffrood, & Secretary Nicole Ebsen

Welcome, opening prayer, & Devotion

Secretary's Report – Motioned by Brittany Graf 2nd by Vicky Gleason Minutes approved

Treasurer's Report – Motioned by Beth Hills, 2nd by Traci Ellingson

Pastor's Report – Confirmation is on April 26th. 4 will be confirmed. Intersectionality was the focus of the Spring Theological. She has also signed up for a few more Pastoral events.

Maddie Hinkleman came to church on April 19th to do a Temple Talk – Hope was able to donate about \$650, and we will be putting the basket out for another Sunday.

Confirmation is on April 26th with 4 being confirmed. Grey Christofferson, Brynlee Amdahl, Raylee Ellingston, and Montana Crandel. Pastor Kari Motions that we accept their request to affirm their baptism and approve their membership to the church. Vicky Gleason 2nd Motion approved

Building Committee

- Kitchen remodel is next. We do not have a timeline to start that yet. The boiler is also something that will need to be replaced as soon as issues begin to arise.

Education

- Sunday School, youth group & VBS – VBS July 20-22nd from 1-4 with them singing at church on the 26th. Lava Lava Luau is the curriculum that they are choosing to purchase.
- ELCA Youth Gathering is next summer. June 28th – July 2nd in Minneapolis.
- Youth Conference in Sioux Falls – Dr Anna Madsen and her daughter are speaking. July 31st – August 1st. You stay at the church.
- Looking at new curriculum for Sunday School next year

Worship

- Great Job with Lenten Season
- Pulpit Supply May 24th Annelies. June 7th? and June 14th? We will reach out to a few people to fill in.
- Summer hours for worship – 1st Sunday in June – June 7th – 9:30 service and fellowship after.

Stewardship

- Need to have a meeting with Pastor Kari

Transition Team Update

- In final stages and are almost ready to bring to the council.

Summit at Summit – We are inviting the conference to come meet each other. We would like to work together with our neighbors. May 20th at 6

Council Retreat – An idea to have us get together and have a small retreat to get to know each other and plan the future for the church.

Mowing Bids

- Cemetery Bid – 1 bid - Church Bid 1 bid - Both Bids have been accepted

Synod Assembly Members – May 29th & 30th – Pastor Kari & Anne are going; we have 1 more spot available for someone to go if there is any interest. Equip is the theme this year.

Audit Committee – we need 3 people to be on this committee –

Interim Ministry Contract – Ends 6/30/2026 – Need to finish up with the transition team report and then put the call committee together. We want to extend for an additional 3 months to get us through the call. Beth Hills motions, Michelle Urban 2nd, Motion approved.

Fog Fest –

- Worship at the park on Sunday – Worship at 10:30 with Lunch after. July 12th
- Fog Bless America – have a float in the parade

May 21st is the Lutheran Outdoors Day of giving – They are having a Birthday Party at NeSoDak!

Next Meeting – June 24th at 7

Meeting Adjourned -



The 2026 South Dakota Synod Assembly was held on May 29-30, 2026, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD. Pastors, deacons, lay members, and visitors gathered each day in worship to center ourselves on the necessary work of the church. Assembly participants were invited to celebrate and remember that we are **equipped** as individuals, as a Synod, and as the Body of Christ to share the Gospel of God's love and

forgiveness with the world. In addition to worship and learning, here are some of the highlights of the Synod Assembly:

- Dr. Ryan Cumming, ELCA Director of Theological Ethics, delivered the ELCA report to the Assembly. Together, the congregations in the South Dakota Synod made it possible for the synod to share \$637,748 with the churchwide organization to support our ministry together. Together as one church, we are working toward the vision of a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation. No single expression or part of the church can realize this vision alone. We are stronger together, as one church. Dr. Cumming also highlighted the work of *Lutheran Disaster Response* and *ELCA World Hunger*, the *Church Property Resource Hub* online platform, which connects congregations and synod leaders with information, organizations, and guidance for faithful and effective stewardship of church property, and the social statement *Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*, adopted by the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.
- In her State of the Synod Report, Bishop Constanze Hagmaier discussed how she has noticed a weariness veiling individuals and communities across our nation. This weariness leaves us depleted, exhausted, and sometimes unable to respond with the patience, generosity, or courage we might otherwise have. However, there is good news: the crucified and risen Christ keeps meeting us in the very places where we are weary, divided, afraid, and worn thin. Our faith allows us to see what God is making possible through ordinary hands, ordinary tools, ordinary faithfulness, and ordinary people who dare to believe the darkness is not the whole story. If you are interested in learning more about new and emerging ministry models you might explore as a congregation, conference, or area strategy, please know this: your Synod team is ready to accompany you. Bishop Hagmaier reminded the Assembly that by the power of the crucified and risen Christ, through ordinary hands, ordinary tools, ordinary conversations, ordinary congregations, ordinary bread and wine, ordinary water and word, ordinary courage and ordinary people like us, God is still poking holes in the darkness.
- The agenda also featured two panel discussions. One focused on the programs implemented through the Lilly Grant awards the Synod has received: *Rural Ministry*, the *Pasque Online Learning Community*, and the *Holy Playground Ministry*; the other on the work of the Associates to the Bishop.
- Director for Evangelical Mission Rev. Jonathan Vehar also introduced the Assembly to the Synod's new narrative budget document, and Rev. Ann Rosendale, Senior Pastor at Augustana University, led the Assembly in a Bible Study demonstrating storytelling techniques from Augustana's Sacred Discoveries Initiative.
- Throughout the assembly, Dakota Road Music provided music leadership. Dakota Road Music has become known nationally for their stirring original music that is being sung in congregations across the U.S. and beyond. They craft powerful stories of life and faith woven in colorful musical styles ranging from acoustic ballads to rocking anthems. Their songs of faith and love, hurts, and hopes are shaped by a passion for justice and a vision for the church, the neighborhood, and the whole world to be peace-filled, welcoming places. The band members are Hans Peterson, Karol Baer, Scott Jibben, Al Berven and Larry Olson.
- Actions taken by the Synod Assembly include:
 - Election of new South Dakota Synod Council Members and approval of synod committee members.
 - Approval of new compensation and guidelines for rostered and lay staff.
 - The 2027 Mission Plan for the South Dakota Synod was adopted.

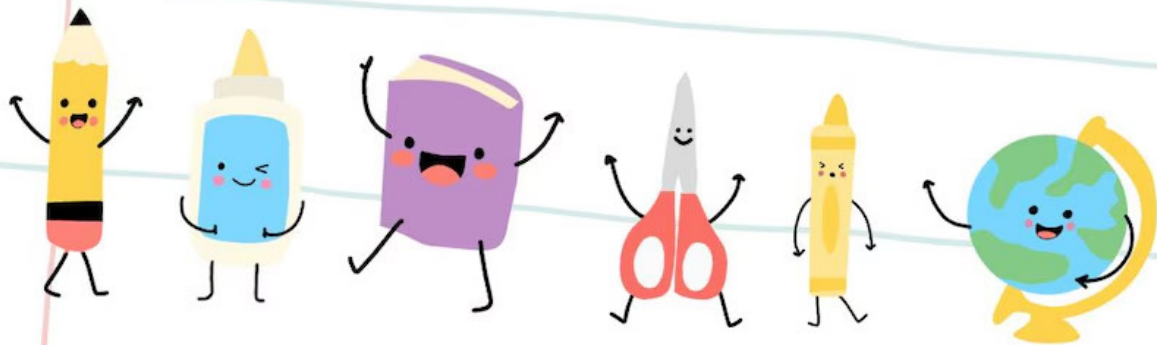
Thank you to all who participated in the Synod Assembly this year! Watch a replay of the Assembly on our YouTube page.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Prayer

Dear Lord,
Open my eyes to see new friends.
Open my ears to hear my teacher.
Open my mind to learn new things.
Open my hands to help others.
Open my mouth to speak kind words.
Open my heart to love like you.

Amen



→ August

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9:30 Worship w/ Communion 10:30 Fellowship	3	4	5	6 9:00 Quilting	7	8
9 9:30 Children's Church w/ Adriann Wise 10:30 Fellowship	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 Worship w/ Com & Blessing of the Backpacks, Students, & Staff 10:30 Fellowship	17	18 1st Day of School @ Summit 	19	20 9:00 Quilting	21	22
23 9:30 Worship 10:30 Fellowship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:30 Worship w/ Communion w/ Pastor Chris Matson 10:30 Fellowship						