



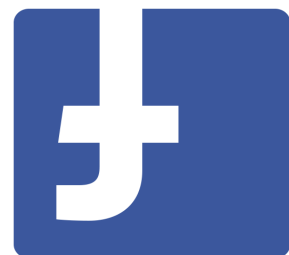
East Side Lutheran Church
1300 East 10th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103-1796
www.eastsidelc.org

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Sioux Falls, SD

April 2025



LENT: Wed. at Noon & 7:00 pm

8:00 am & 10:00 am

Sundays

5:30 pm

Saturdays

WORSHIP SERVICES



The Voice

Volume 29 Issue 4

of East Side Lutheran Church

April 2025

Welcoming All
Serving Others
Growing in Faith



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Morning Has Broken” is one of my favorite hymns. Not only is the tune catchy, but it also has a way of instilling Hope as you sing it.

This is the month of April. To me, April is a month of Hope. Yes, winter has been long, but by the time we get to April we can see that the warmer months of summer are close at hand. We are hopeful to see new life and growth all around us.

This year, April is also the month of EASTER (*though depending on the year, Easter can occur as early as March 22*). Easter is the biggest day in our Christian calendar, bigger even than Christmas. Easter changes everything for us. Easter is the day we celebrate Jesus defeating the power of death, and offering life to the world... and to you and to me. This is the life of transformation, what we have been working towards through Lent. This new life comes to us both at the end of time *and* is a transforming life we can live and experience in the here and now. For when we know that Jesus has already won the game, we can play it without fear, and with a great sense of freedom.

Take a few moments and reflect upon your life this April. Ask, “*Where am I at on my walk of faith?*”

-Are you ready to experience the impact of Easter?

-What do you need to give over to Jesus and the power of Easter this year?

-What do you need to let go of so that you can grasp the new life offered to you in Christ?

I am so *thankful* to be able to walk with you as your pastor on your journey of faith. May God bless you with true joy this month, and every month, as we grow closer to Jesus.

“Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s re-creation of the new day!”

Together in Faith,
Pastor Layne

P.S. APRIL also brings “**Volunteer Appreciation Week**”! To all of the Volunteers who give of themselves for others... THANK YOU! You are appreciated by your church. You make people’s lives better.

Stewardship Fun Fact - Compared to 2024... of the 158 pledge cards turned in this year:

13 decreased

25 remained the same

53 increased!

67 were Brand New!

Thanks be to God for the generosity of our congregation!



This is the monthly newsletter of East Side Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

It can also be downloaded from our website.

East Side Lutheran Church

1300 East 10th Street, Sioux Falls SD 57103-1796

(605) 336-3597 www.eastsidelc.org

Staff

Rev. Layne Nelson Lead Pastor

Rev. Ray Heidenson Visitation Pastor

Wayne Wosje Business Manager

Gayle Lee Parish Secretary

Sue Hart Volunteer Coordinator

Tom Call Security

Nona Bixler. Newsletter

Music Ministries

Paul R. Griffith Organist

Dr. Thomas Krause Director of Music

Katrina Mitchell. Accompanist

Worship Services

Saturdays

5:30 pm

Sundays

8:00 am 10:00 am

LENTEN Worship Schedule

meals at 12:30pm & 6:00pm

April 2 12pm & 7pm

April 9 12pm & 7pm

no meals during Holy Week

April 17 (Maundy Thurs & 1st Communion) 7pm

April 18 (Good Friday) 12pm & 7pm

April 19 (Easter Ever) 5:30pm

April 20 (Easter) 8am & 10am

Radio Sponsorship:

For 80 years we've received cards, letters, phone calls and e-mails from those who enjoy "being with you" in Sunday morning worship through our radio ministry.



"You're the church on the radio!"

-Sioux Falls Resident

YOU make this possible! Your sponsorship allows this to happen AND can honor someone or something special in your life... anniversaries, birthdays, the memory of a loved one or simply gratitude of God's love. THANK YOU! If you would like to help support this special ministry call the church office at 605-336-3597.

11:00am on KXRB Radio (1140 AM or 100.1 FM)

Sponsor a radio broadcast - \$255/Sunday!

April 13—In memory of Marty Trumbull
given by Carol Trumbull & Family



Online Sponsorship:

Did you know that people in SD, ND, NV, WY, TX OK, OH (and other states) regularly worship with us online... and then share the Good News in their local community. YOU make that possible!

Sponsor an online broadcast—\$50/Sunday!

April 13— In honor of John & Sheri Shively's
Birthdays given by Shirley Watke



As hearts simultaneously break and rejoice... please hold the following

ESL families in prayer:

Robert Thompson

Rita Erickson

Sheryl Jorgensen

Donna Murphy

The following have been Honored this month to the glory of God through gifts given in their memory or honor to the work and ministry of East Side Lutheran.

Thank you for your generosity.

Donna Murphy given by

- Nancy Renner
- Dee Hohn
- Marv & Laurie McKnelly
- Judith Eliason
- Glenn & Judy Adler

Rita Erickson given by

- Merlin & Barb Goehring
- Kary Dammer
- Kay Dammer
- Nancy Renner
- Bob & Jane Himrich
- Dave & Nona Bixler
- Marcie & Keith Lindquist
- Marv & Laurie McKnelly

Allen Kulbel given by

- Merlin & Barb Goehring

Pastor Olaf Roynesdal given by

- Sharon Austin
- WELCA
- Keith & Marcia Lindquist
- Kary Dammer
- Kay Dammer
- Nancy Renner
- Dave & Nona Bixler
- Bob & Jane Himrich
- Judith Eliason
- Donald & Carol Riswold
- Marv & Laurie McKnelly, Rich & Tracy Hollingshead & family
- Reggie & Shelly Huber
- Glenn & Judy Adler

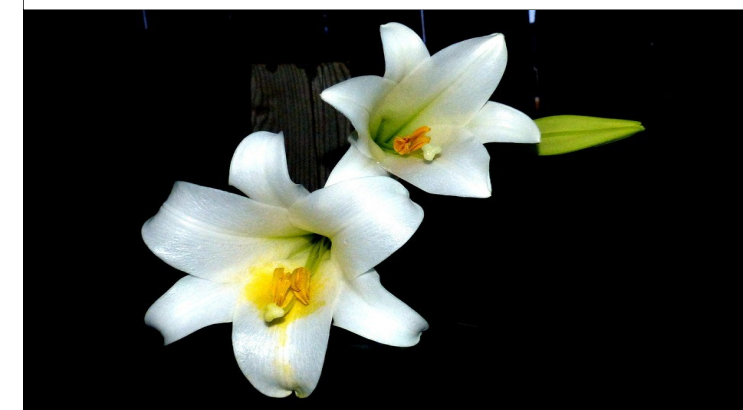
Greg Stulc given by

- Reggie & Shelly Huber

Sheryl Jorgensen given by

- Dave & Nona Bixler

(gifts given as of March 25th)



Your Altar Guild members are decorating the sanctuary for the Easter season. You may participate in the purchase of flowers and décor by donating \$10 in memory or honor of someone. The names will be listed in the Easter bulletin. Forms are available in the Church office or in Sunday's bulletins.

Proceeds go to the Altar Guild Ministry to enhance our worship experience.

TREASURER'S REPORT — BRIAN ENSBERG



Year-to-date as of February 28, 2025, we are \$2,980 **better** than budget. The complete year-to-date budget is posted on the Church bulletin board. Please note that in February of last year we received a generous one-time windfall gift that was considered as we formulated the 2025 budget. So, we are right on track. Thank you for your continued gifts that allow ESL to continue the Gospel mission and our Church programs.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT — RAY SCHUT



There's a different feel in the air. Every year, about this time, it feels different, it feels good. As a kid spring time was something that was long awaited. Away with the snow, ice and stinging cold winds, welcome warmer weather, green grass and smooth sailing. Our farm yard was muddy so you had to wear the 4-buckle overshoes with your jeans tucked inside but it was better than winterwear.

I loved the sound of Canadian honkers flying in a V-formation above my head, calves being born and birds coming out of their shell. My buddy used to take his bow and spear fish coming over the spillway while I was smiling because I could walk out the door without a coat on. I guess spring means a time of hope, optimism and a new beginning. Funny how spring and Easter give you the same feelings.

Easter offers the same hope and a new beginning as spring. It makes me feel lighter in a way knowing that there's a promise of renewal, of brighter days ahead. Maybe it's a feeling of fearlessness and empowerment that fills my mind, body and spirit. What feelings does Easter stir in you?

It seems to me that East Side Lutheran has a sense of renewal and brighter days ahead as well. Each week I have conversations about ideas, promotions and fellowship. Things that you'd like to see us, as a congregation, do together to grow inside and outside our walls. People offering their time, talents and money to build upon the great things happening within our church.

I hope the change of season as well as Easter have the same profound impact on you as they have on me. Thank you for all you do and Happy Easter!

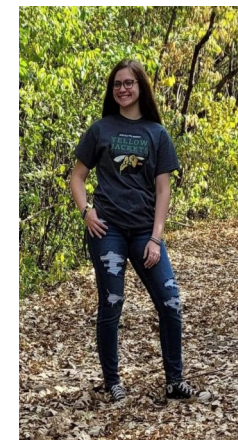


Thank you to all who serve unconditionally at ESL. East Side Lutheran could not exist without the faithful contributions of our most valuable labor force - **our volunteers**. So many of you give freely of your time and talents because of your passion for East Side Lutheran Church and our mission.

April 20-26 is National Volunteer week but we want to show our appreciation all month long so please take a minute to thank one of the many members who are volunteering. It may be a greeter, usher, coffee/meal server, council member, choir or bell member, Sunday school/youth/confirmation teacher and the list goes on and on.

PORTRAIT OF A SPIRITUAL QUEST—AMBER OAKLAND

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This brief profile of a member of East Side Lutheran Church is presented here because these folks are in the pews and you have noticed them for an hour each week. You are often aware when they are in church and when they are not because their presence shapes a bit of your sense of belonging in this faith community. This story may offer an insight, a bit of inspiration or answer a question you've wanted to ask.



Amber Oakland talks softly but sings loudly. For the 19-year-old student at Black Hills State University singing started when she learned to talk and she has been doing both ever since. And singing got her out of the country for her first trip abroad. She went with a college choir to Dublin, Ireland and that planted a desire to do more of that – in summers when she will not be working.

Amber Oakland plans to be a special education teacher when she graduates. "I want to be there for kids who need a little extra help," she said. Just as members of the East Side congregation have been there for her. Oakland has been a part of the East Side Lutheran community since she was a baby. She was baptized here, attended Sunday school here and was confirmed here as well. "People (at East Side) have known me for my whole life. They watched me grow up."

As a teenager part of the interest in helping others directly began when she attended Camp Shetek, a Minnesota lake camp northeast of Sioux Falls as a teenager. Oakland admits to being a shy person and finds it hard to make friends. Yet having a role to play could make a difference and the camp job was a good way to sidestep her reticence. After the first year there she knew she wanted to do more of this kind of work. For example, she found satisfaction working with special needs adults who attended the camp. Others had been helpful guides and guardrails for her and she learned how to pay it forward early.

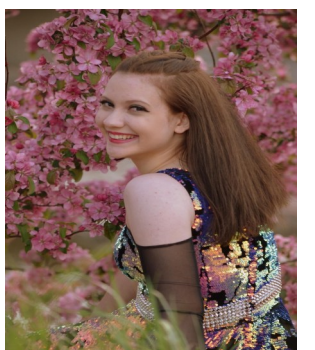


Growing up Amber carried another burden. She didn't know what to make of her faith because she could not comprehend why her father would have left the family when she was just nine months old. Her father had committed suicide. "I struggled with forgiving him," she said.

There were many unanswered questions, in fact. She struggled to understand "why he would do that to my brother and me." And the resolutions to questions became part of a faith journey, not to be dismissed but to work through. "A few years ago I found the peace and courage to forgive him," she said.

Her mom, a single parent, raised Oakland and she credits her mother's influence as an additional force shaping her desire to help others as a person and eventually as a teacher.

"Mom never missed my school events. She showed up for everything," Oakland said. All sorts of attention from her mother got distilled into one phrase: "**she showed up.**"



COUNCIL MINUTES — PASTOR MICHAEL MOLLAND



East Side Lutheran Congregation Council Meeting March 16, 2025

Present: Ray Schut, Jon Cisar, Carla Midden, Danielle Champa, Brian Ensberg, Todd Brower, Brenda Schut, Gwen Oakland, Michael Molland, and Pastor Layne Nelson.

President Ray Schut called the meeting to order at 11:25.

Opening Devotion - Pastor Layne Nelson opened the council meeting in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Carla Midden moved; Gwen Oakland seconded to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2025 Council Meeting. Motion Carried.

President's Report: President Schut reported on potential fundraising events. He reported that there has been positive feedback on the annual meeting. Many people felt the meeting was concise and informative. There were positive comments on Treasurer Brian Ensberg's report. President Schut thanked everyone for their work in making our congregation thrive.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Nelson reported that the many events of Lent are planned and ongoing. He just returned from time with family for vacation.

He discussed with council summer plans and potential continuing education plans. The three emphasis areas for the congregation were talked about. These are focusing on Christ centered worship and study; focusing on welcoming families and individuals with focus on reaching younger people; and re-engaging our existing congregation and engaging our larger community.

Financial Report: Treasurer Brian Ensberg presented the following financial report: Year-to-date total net position as of 2/28/2025 is (30,612) which is \$2,980 better than budget. He reminded the council that the budget is a target and a guide to where the finances should be at a particular time.

Our checking account balance as of February 28, is \$51,253. The surplus achieved at the end of the year allows us to sustain the variations on the budget each month.

The 2024 Life Light parking proceeds were used to provide camp assistance to East Side Lutheran youth.

Carla Midden moved; Danielle Champa seconded to approve the financial report from February 2025. MSP.

Committees:

Outreach – Danielle Champa reported there were 113 families for March 6 "Food to you". She reminded the council that April 27 is the date we invited Katie Chapman, Shetek Lutheran Ministries to present information on their ongoing capital campaign.

The Task Force met virtually on 3-4-25 to review the numbers and will meet at the end of the month in person with our GSB representative to plan next year's pledge drive as well as the end of year appeal for 2025.

Education – Gwen Oakland reported Sunday School and confirmation are going well. The Eggstravaganza will be held on April 12. There will not be an egg bake brunch this year.

Evangelism – Brenda Schut reported that there were forty people at the hockey outing. Over 100 bags have been picked up for the forty items in forty days outreach. She passed out some stickers to promote outreach by members.

Fellowship – Carla Midden reported that Bingo was very well attended. She reported on the Wednesday evening mid-week meals. They are also helping with Eggstravaganza.

Property – Todd Brower reported on Projects that are ongoing. He reported on the total ongoing boiler expenses and discussion was held about the heating/air conditioning of the church.

New Business – Pastor Nelson reminded the committees that the 2025 Rummage Sale is scheduled for September 4-6. Please do not plan events on those days.

President Schut adjourned the meeting at 12:40 pm. The next meeting will be on April 27, 2025 at 11:15.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS — JACKIE SWIDEN



April showers may bring May flowers but it also bring lots of actives to Sunday School

- April 12th – Eggstravaganza 10:00 AM
- April 13th – Palm Sunday, children will sing in church
- April 13th – 5th grade class preparing for 1st communion 11:15 AM in Kitchen
- April 17th – 5th grade students first communion on Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM
- April 20th – No Sunday School (Easter Sunday)
- May 4th – Sunday School presentation of Milestones
- May 11th – Last day of Sunday School (Mother's Day)

Below are some pictures of some of our Sunday School kids, parents and grandparents in action.



Sunday School class served up BBQ's for a Lenten meal in March made by our very own Wayne Wosje.



Sunday School children are in training to become ushers someday and love handing our bulletins.

Eggstravaganza

Join us for our annual Eggstravaganza on Saturday,
April 12 at 10 am. Everyone is invited.

See you there!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <div>A</div> <div> </div> <div>APRIL</div> </div>		1 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 3:00 pm Finance Committee meeting	2 12:00 pm Lenten service with lunch to follow 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Service 7:45 pm Adult Choir	3 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Food to You Distribution East Side Hosts	4	5 9:30 am Altar Guild 5:30 pm Worship
	6 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 9:15 am King's Choir 11:15 Education Task Force Meeting	8 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 6:00 pm Charis Board Meeting	9 11:30am WELCA Board Mtg 12:00 pm Lenten service with lunch to follow 1:00 pm WELCA Bible Study 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Service	10 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	11	12 10:00 am Eggstravaganza 5:30 pm Worship
	13 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 9:15 am King's Choir 9:15 am Youth Comm Meeting 11:15 Healing Service 11:30 am—1 pm 1st Communion making bread	15 <i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i> 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn 6:00 pm Charis Board Meeting	16 <i>Wednesday of Holy Week</i> 6:00 pm Bells 7:45pm Adult Choir	17 <i>Maundy Thursday</i> 8 am Men's Bible Study 10 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm First Communion and Maundy Thursday Service	18 <i>Good Friday</i> 12:00 pm Good Friday Service 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	19 5:30 pm Easter Eve Worship
20 8:00 and 10:00 am worship	21 <i>Easter Monday</i> Office Closed <i>Newsletter Items Due</i>	22 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	23 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 6:45 pm Confirmation and Adult Bible Study 7:45pm Adult Choir	24 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Women's Bible Study	25	26 5:30 pm Worship
27 8:00 and 10:00 am worship 9:15 am King's Choir 11:15 am Council Meeting Volunteer Appreciation Sunday	28	29 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship In the Barn	30 4:30 Church on the Street Fry Bread Event 5:45 pm Bells 6:00 pm Supper 6:45 pm Last Confirmation Class and Adult Bible Study 7:45pm Adult Choir			

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Without our dedicated volunteers at East Side we would not be able to fulfill our Mission of Welcoming All, Serving Others and Growing in Faith. From Ushering to Bible studies, to making quilts or serving meals the list is endless. Some of you volunteer once a month and others Multiple times each week. You are all vital to fulfilling our Mission. Each month we will be introducing you to one of the volunteers at East Side Lutheran and share their story.



Ever wonder how the live stream of Sunday services happens? No need to wonder any longer because once again we have some talented volunteers who are dedicated to make sure the live stream happens each Sunday. Michael Menholt and Marilyn Haiar are the faces behind the camera's. They start setting up before any of us arrive at church in fact sometimes before the church is even open. Now that dedication.

When asked why he got started Michael said, "One Sunday Wayne asked me if I would be interested in running the live stream and the rest is history". Michael says it's not hard work and he really enjoys being able to give back to the church he grew up in. During the week Michael works at Fairway Foods at the meat counter and also just started a part time job at LifeScape.

Michael's mom Marilyn Haiar also got involved with an "ask from Wayne" in the event that one of them could not attend on a particular Sunday. She stated "It takes a village" and that is why I volunteered. Marilyn said that they have added a camera as one of the members who watches from home told her that she misses seeing the people in the pews. So they added a fourth camera to ensure that those who are watching the live stream can also see the members in the pews. Marilyn also is a member of the Altar Guild and enjoys meeting members of the congregation through volunteering. Marilyn also quoted Pastor Layne by saying “When you do good you feel good and this makes us feel good.”

Carol Trumbull also is part of this team who ensures that Sunday services are live streams. She will be feature in a future spotlight.



DIRECTOR OF MUSIC — TOM KRAUSE



Lessons & Carol on April 20th

This year’s Easter morning services will be a little different than other years. People seemed to enjoy our Christmas Music Sunday Lessons & Carols service so on Easter morning we will have a modified Easter Lessons & Carols.

Yes, outside America the songs we sing for Easter are known as “Easter Carols”. We will hear more of the story, than what is told in the day’s Gospel reading and hear about other exciting events that happened that first Easter morning. What a busy day that first Easter was.

Like our other Lessons & Carols services, we will sing carols (hymns) associated with the Easter event. This will conclude, unlike our Christmas service, in our sharing of communion with our risen Lord. It is hoped that this will be a joyful culmination of your Lenten journey into resurrection joy.

EVANGELISM UPDATE — BRENDA SCHUT



Forty Days – Forty Items – Last year was a success so we are jumping in again

Wednesday, March 5th is the first day of Lent. Your church council has a challenge for you! Each day of Lent, remove one item from your closet that you no longer wear or need and put it in this trash bag. At the end of the forty days, we will donate these items to the following local charities that can share them with someone who can really use them!

Dress for Success – is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting women in their journey to achieve economic independence.

Foster Network - The Closet is where foster families can access essential items while navigating the rewarding but often challenging foster care journey. Most needed 24 months – 4T and teen boys sweatpants.

The Clothes Rack Boutique – is a not for profit, volunteer service to provide seniors a shopping experience while living in a facility at an affordable price - \$1 per item

St. Francis House - Moving people from homelessness to hope – To name a couple current needs, items XL and larger, mens/womens belts

Drop off your bags of gently used, clean items in the church office. If you are interested in helping sort the donations, please reach out to Brenda Schut.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT — JON CISAR



What An Impact!

The Stewardship Task Force would like to extend a very hearty, "**Thank You**" to everyone for a successful and uplifting 2025 pledge drive! The "Together in Faith" drive surpassed the numbers from last year in every category! (THANK YOU to those who made generous challenge gifts!).

The number of pledges increased from 111 last year to 158 this year while the total amount pledged increased by \$99,758. Over half of the pledges collected either pledged more than last year or remained the same, while an amazing 67 first-time pledges were made.

Fun Fact - Compared to 2024, of the 158 cards turned in:

13 decreased
25 remained the same
53 increased!
67 were Brand New!

This amount of "buy in" shows that our congregation is becoming increasingly engaged and this is a very good thing. We've seen broad support of the church's three main stewardship goals for 2025: sharing the Gospel, welcoming more young families, and engaging in community outreach. Plus the information gathered will help us to be better stewards of the financial gifts made to the church. The Stewardship Task Force will continue to meet with our GSB consultants over the coming months as we look forward to our next pledge drive this Fall.

Your financial gifts really do make a difference, and we could not be "In the Neighborhood for Good" without your support. Thank You and God Bless!

Thank you to GSB for our partnership in their "Stewardship for All Seasons" Program.

-Your ESL Stewardship Taskforce

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES — DANIELLE CHAMPA



"Building Bridges of Faith, One Campfire at a Time!"

It might only be March but it is never too early to plan for summer camp! This is no April Fools joke, there are only two weeks left to sign up for the early bird discount! Sign up for Shetek Lutheran Ministries mini camp before April 1st to get a discount. This mini camp is for our 3rd and 4th graders. East Side has spots reserved July 20-22, 2025. The cost (if registered by April 1) is \$230. ESL will provide half of the cost of camp to all ESL students who attend camp. There are also camp scholarships available to our students.

Studies show that people who attend a week of summer camp are 3 times more likely to still be active in worship community 5 years later than those who do not attend. To register a camper go to www.shetek.org and when it asks for a group hold code use: East Side.

We are also taking our 5th—8th graders to "Confirmation Camp" at NeSoDak Bible camp June 22-27. East Side Lutheran pays half the cost for each student going to camp.

Register at www.LOSD.org code: EastSide 25

WELCA HAPPENINGS



Welca installation of new members was held in February and are pictures above.

Left to right: Nancy Renner, Laurie McKnelly, Evie Pruden, Karel Amend, Wayne Wosje (installed officers), Janet Keenan-Hauck, Shirley Sundem, Barb Anderson

As members of East Side Lutheran Church all women are members of Welca and are invited to attend the monthly bible study and fellowship the second Wednesday of each month at 1pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Grandma's Attic will be available on Sunday, April 6th between church services. Welca will have tables set up in the Narthex with spring and Easter items for sale. This will be a free will donation to Welca.

All are invited to the Welca Spring Luncheon which will be held Saturday, May 3rd at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. This is a time for ladies to enjoy a delicious meal and fellowship with one another. Please feel free to bring a friend or two.