



“Serving Christ through Serving Others”

I Love to Tell the Story

For the past few weeks, the hymn *I Love to Tell the Story* has been stuck in my mind. You might be familiar with its words: “I love to tell the story, ‘twill be my theme in glory/to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.”

It is specifically this idea of storytelling that has really captured my attention. We have a universal experience as humans of sharing stories. Today, we read stories in books, listen as friends spin tales over coffee, and watch our favorite series develop on TV and in movies. Storytelling is central to the human experience. In fact, before the Bible was ever recorded on paper, it was an oral tradition passed down from generation to generation. If that worries you, have no fear. Ancient cultures had much better memories than we do today. Every community would have a person or two whose sole job would be to serve as the community storyteller(s). I can confirm this to be true from studying under an African Historian in college. She shared that in her studies, and those of her colleagues, the stories passed down among African storytellers remain perfectly accurate time and time again— from the words themselves to the delivery and even vocal inflections. This is because oral cultures (whether ancient or modern) understood and appreciated the transformative power of stories far more than we do today.

As Christians we know the greatest story ever told— the truth that God took on flesh to save us from all the ways the world goes wrong— that by the Holy Spirit, we come to faith in Christ to the glory of the Father, experiencing eternal life both now, in the present, and yet more fully at the end of the age. I worry that sometimes we misunderstand what it means to share and witness our Christian faith. Many churches believe that having a firm grasp on theology is required to make sound witness. And while I certainly believe it is important to understand and embrace orthodox doctrine and dogma, I think these kinds of arguments miss the point. If you engage people using dogmatic theology and technical terms, you will be speaking over their heads and conversation will shut down as a result. That's because we humans are rarely transformed by technical arguments. Instead, we are transformed by stories.

Stories are not just entertainment, they are *events*. Here at Zion, we encounter Jesus each and every week as we hear the story of God and his people in the scriptures, the sermon, and the sacraments. This story *forms* us and *transforms* us. The Spirit works through this storytelling to soften hearts and open ears. In the New Testament, we see people encounter Jesus through stories more than anything else. Jesus, himself, shared deep theological truths through parables— stories locating God in the everyday reality of human life. Later, we see people come to faith in Jesus by hearing his story— especially the personal stories of those who encountered Jesus and were transformed by their encounter. We see this, clearly with Saul— who later became Paul after encountering Jesus on the Road to Damascus, transforming him into a leading apostle in early Christian life (see Acts 9 & Galatians 1:11-16). The same is true on the day of Pentecost when Peter shares his and the disciples' experiences of the resurrected Jesus (see Acts 2). Time and time again, we see that storytelling is what leads people to their own personal encounters with Jesus.

Newsletter of Zion Lutheran Church 14 West Walnut St., Tipp City, Ohio 45371 - Phone: (937) 667-3110

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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR THE September “TIDINGS” is Friday, August 21, 2026

What is your story? How would you tell it? Your story takes place within the glorious story of God, the author of life and it is in this story that we each play a role. By first acknowledging and then sharing your stories with friends, family, and neighbors, I guarantee that you will see transformation—your own personal transformation and the transformation of others. This does not require rhetorical magnanimity nor grandiose verbosity. Rather, it requires authenticity. The Indian theologian D. T. Niles once said, “Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread.” And how do we tell others where to find bread but by storytelling?

I invite you this month to think of your own story as God’s beloved child. And then, share it with whomever, whenever. Be generous as you scatter the seeds of life. I am always delighted to hear your stories and am available if you wish to share your spiritual experiences. I know that I can see where God has been over the course of my life and it makes me ecstatic to hear where people have seen God in theirs. So go! Share your story. And, just as importantly, listen to the stories of your neighbors.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jaren Summers

Story Teller by David Paul



August Birthdays

August Birthdays		12	Eli Brooks	22	Amy Byrd
					Judy Mader
1	Kim Jones	13	Merik Schlater		
4	Shirley Delaplane	16	Jamie Kennedy	23	Tom Replogle
					Dan Schall
7	Phil Elliott	17	Jill Greer	27	Jaque Mitchell
	Catherine Tangren		Judy Tritle		Reese Clum
			Fred Staie		
10	Belinda Hannah	19	Tim Satkowski	28	Jerry Strawser
	Pat Walker				
11	Hazel Ewing	21	Jen Garvic		
			Elijah Freitag		



Mission of the Month

Lutheran World Relief

School Kits

The table in the narthex will have different colored slips of paper which list specific supplies and the quantity needed. Please select the slip(s) of paper for the item(s) you would like to donate.

These kits will be shipped overseas to help children learn in disadvantaged areas. Our goal is 52 School Kits.

Questions: see **Kathy Groth**.

Health Kits

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH KIT:

- ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original pkg.
- ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging
- ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

Two ways to help: 1) Purchase the items listed, put them unassembled in a bag and place it in the collection box in the narthex.

2) Donate money that a group of shoppers can use to purchase the items listed.

Questions: see **Donna Slyman**

Upcoming Events

Putter-palooza

August 7th, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Downtown Tipp City Partnership has put together a fun-filled evening of mini-golf Putter-palooza! There will be putting greens on 2nd Street in downtown Tipp. Zion will be participating by providing a putting green and greeting people by handing out bags of popcorn.

Thanks to all who have signed up to help.

Come out to enjoy this community event



Prayer Shawl Ministry Team Meeting

Saturday, August 15th, 10:00 am

This is for anyone currently making prayer shawls and baby blankets. We invite anyone who is interested in joining our team. We will answer any questions you may have about this ministry. We will also be sharing some of the patterns that we have used.

Contact Debbie Rudisill for more information.



Annual Church Picnic

August 16th, After Service

We will again be having our picnic at Zion. We can enjoy our air-conditioned fellowship hall rather than a hot park shelter.

Bingo can be enjoyed after lunch.

Church council will provide chicken and the Women of Zion will provide drinks. Please bring a side dish to share and your own service ware. Sign up in the fellowship hallway.



Bible and Brew

Tuesday, August 18th

5:30 – 6:30

Chaffee's Brewhouse

15 E. Second Street, Tipp

Everyone is welcome to join in on these interesting and thought-provoking gatherings. The monthly topics are diverse and relevant.

Chaffee's offers a selection of craft beers, coffees, and a variety of other alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

Women's Daytime Fellowship

August 25th, 10:00 a.m.

All women are invited.

The topic will be the book of Paul, led by Kate Tangren.

Our purpose is to form friendships, support for each other, and to grow in our Christianity.

We meet for an hour.



Celebration Service and Dinner

September 13th 10:00 am

For Regular Zion Attendees

MENU

A choice from 3 entrees:

Cordon au Vin – Chicken and vegetables cooked in wine

Braised Brisket

Hearty Pasta – Basil pesto, roasted tomatoes, artichokes, peppers, pinenuts, asparagus, & more vegetables

Herb Roasted Potatoes

Green Bean Almondine

Mixed Greens Salad

Roll

Cake

**Deadline to
sign up is
August 23rd**

**EACH PERSON ATTENDING MUST SIGN UP INDIVIDUALLY AND
CIRCLE WHICH ENTRÉE THEY WANT**

Sunday School Reboot

Sunday, September 20th

Sunday school for adults, youth and kids begins again at **9:00 a.m.**

Everyone is welcome!



ADULTS

We will begin a 7-part series, "By Heart", Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

Attendees will have the option to purchase the book.

All adults are welcome to attend! We meet in the Adult Sunday School room. Hope to see YOU there!

Tidings Update

Beginning with this August edition, we will be sending out Tidings **via email**. This will be beneficial in two ways:

It will **save Zion money** in printing and paper.

You will have more **flexibility to enlarge** type or photos on your computer.

We will continue to print a **limited quantity of paper editions for those who do not have a computer or email or cannot open PDF files**.

If you do not find the August edition in your inbox, check your spam/junk/trash. If it's not there, be certain that the office has your current email address.

You can also access Tidings on our website: www.ziontippcity.org.

Current and past editions are available.

You can also use this QR code to go to the website -



1.



2. Click on Menu

3. Click
on Life
at Zion



4. Click on Tidings Newsletters

5. Select the month and either PDF or Flip version

Women of Zion Picnic

On July 12th, thirteen Women of Zion gathered at Linda Holt's home for a picnic and fellowship. The weather was perfect, the food delicious, and a good time was had by all.



Property Committee

July 6, 2026

- Brackets have been ordered for installing a rod in the quilters' area.
- During daily building checks, committee members will make sure to check the water level on the AC dehumidifier in the balcony/recording studio.
- An estimate from Meyer Restoration was discussed concerning tuck pointing and brick sealing on both the 1894 and 2006 buildings.
- The monthly work list was completed.

The next meeting will be **Monday, August 3, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.**

Children & Youth

Correction to July Tidings: Sunday School will resume next month on **September 20th**.

If you are interested in teaching or helping in Sunday school for the 2026/2027 school year please reach out to Jessica Dorn.

*There will be a Kid and Youth Teacher meeting on **August 9th** after worship.*

Messy Games

Messy Games is BACK on **August 16th**.

Schedule:

We will leave after the church picnic
6:00 pm (approx.) Parent pick-up at Zion



Blessing of the Backpacks & Back to School Bash

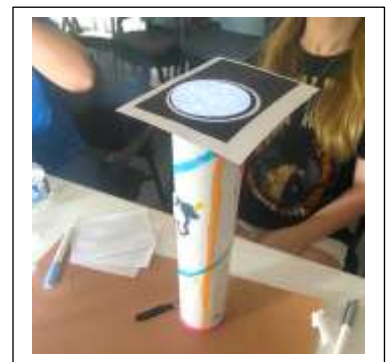
August 23rd

As we prepare for school to return, bring your backpack to worship on Sunday, August 23 for it to be blessed.

After worship join us in the fellowship hall for hotdogs, chips, and fellowship!



Fun Faithful Fellowship Events in July



On July 13th we learned about creation day 4, and made a star projector. We had 5 adults, 3 youth, and 4 kids who participated.



On July 20th we learned about creation day 5 and made jellyfish. Five adults, 1 youth and 6 kids participated.



Our last Fun Faithful Fellowship on July 27th was a pool party. 4 adults, 2 youth, and 6 kids were in attendance. Before it was time to leave, we enjoyed popsicles and ice-cream.

This summer it has been great to see the friendships forming and fellowship occurring within our church family.

Invitation to Serve – Council Openings in 2027

Two Council seats will be opening in 2027, and Zion invites members to prayerfully consider serving in this important ministry of leadership. Our Congregation Council helps guide the mission of the church, supports our staff, and ensures that our ministries remain strong, faithful, and connected to the life of our congregation.

Serving on Council is a meaningful way to share your gifts, insight, and care for Zion's future. Council members serve three-year terms, meet monthly, and work together in a spirit of prayer, collaboration, and discernment. If you feel called to serve—or would like to learn more—please speak with any current Council member.

What Does a Zion Congregation Council Member Do?

The ELCA describes Congregation Council members as leaders entrusted with supporting and guiding the mission of the congregation. Core responsibilities include:

- Being an active participant in worship and congregational life.
- Attending Council meetings and engaging in thoughtful, prayerful decision-making.
- Supporting the pastor and staff in nurturing the spiritual life of the congregation.
- Ensuring that congregational decisions, policies, and ministries are carried out faithfully.
- Maintaining confidentiality in Council deliberations and working collaboratively as a unified leadership body.
- Being familiar with the congregation's governing documents and serving as a visible, supportive presence in the community.



Council service is rooted in shared leadership, discernment, and care for the congregation; a chance to strengthen Zion's ministry and help shape its future.



How Can I Get Involved?

We are so happy to welcome new people to our congregation. We've been asked about ways to plug in to activities. To provide information about the multitude of opportunities, this an ongoing section in Tidings, which describes a specific ministry area and ways to become involved. This month we are highlighting the **ZION GARAGE SALE**

For many years, the Women of Zion have held a huge garage sale on the Thursday and Friday of Mum Festival week in late September. Proceeds from the sale have benefitted a variety of causes including tornado relief efforts, Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and local non-profits to name just a few.

How can you help out?

First, **set aside any items you may want to donate to the sale**. All we ask is that you wait until the weekend before the sale to bring them into Zion and that your donations are clean and in working order. Look for a list of items we cannot accept in future Tidings. Beginning on Saturday, Sept. 19 and running until Tuesday, Sept. 22, **donations** will be accepted, **sorted and priced**. It takes many people to do this job. A crew **also picks up donations from folks** who can't bring **larger items** into Zion. They do this on Sunday afternoon. The sale opens on Thursday, Sept. 24 and runs 9-5 and on Friday, Sept. 25 from 9 to 8. We will need **clerks** to work during the sale.

After the sale, a team will be needed to **box up the leftovers** and **clean up** the Fellowship Hall.

We are looking for someone who is savvy with selling on eBay or Facebook Marketplace to **volunteer to sell more expensive items online**. Please see Deb Keppel if you might be able to help with that.

Look for a sign-up in the Fellowship Hallway in a few weeks.

We NEED you!

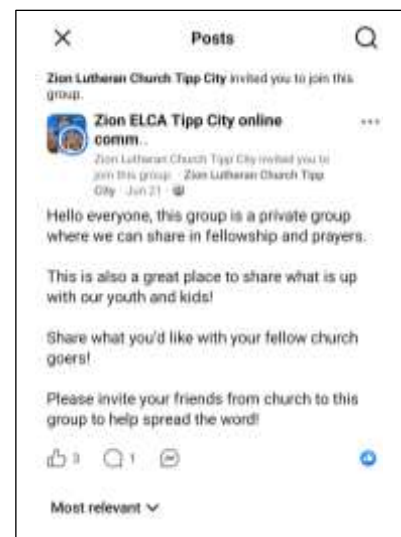


What's New

We now have a Facebook page for our Zion community that is **private** so that you can post information that you want to share with our members but don't want to be public.

These might include photos of your family, schedules of activities, upcoming Zion events not open to the public etc.

The page is: [zionelcatippcityonlinecommunity](https://www.facebook.com/zionelcatippcityonlinecommunity). If you want to join, simply press "yes". As Admin, Jessica Dorn will approve your request.



Council Meeting Report



July 14, 2026

Pastor Andrew Thompson (Associate Pastor at Abiding Christ Lutheran Church, Fairborn; Convener of LSIM), Pastor William "Bill" Schwochow (Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Xenia; Vice-Convener of LSIM), and Deacon Nancy Trimble (LSIM Deacon) joined Council to present an overview of the Lutheran Saints in Ministry (LSIM) collaborative.

LSIM is a mission-focused partnership of six congregations in the Southern Ohio Synod of the ELCA. According to LSIM's published description, the collaborative brings together ELCA and affiliated congregations to share resources, strengthen ministries, and support one another while maintaining each congregation's local identity. Member congregations coordinate ministries wherever collaboration can enhance mission impact, and all uphold the Statement of Faith in Chapter 2 of the ELCA Model Constitution.

The LSIM vision emphasizes:

- Furthering the work of Jesus Christ through shared mission,
- Strengthening congregations by pooling resources for the common good,
- Supporting community outreach, food ministries, and shared worship opportunities,
- Providing a framework for ongoing cooperative relationships, and
- Maintaining a congregational presence in each community served.

The collaborative includes:

- Abiding Christ Lutheran Church, Fairborn (anchor congregation),
- Arise in Christ Lutheran Church, Donnelsville,
- First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Xenia,
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, West Milton,
- St. John Lutheran Church, Vandalia,
- Emanuel Ministries & Outreach Center, Fairborn.

The presenters shared how LSIM congregations work together on worship, outreach, food pantry support, community programs, and shared ministry leadership. They also highlighted LSIM's commitment to economies of scale, mutual growth in discipleship, and service to local communities.

Zion Council will be discussing this opportunity to join this collaboration in future meetings.

Christian Education report included the following items:

Rally Day, the first day of Sunday School, will be Sunday, September 20. Families with children or youth are encouraged to complete the Sunday School Questionnaire available on the website, email, and Facebook. Jessica will continue reaching out to families directly.

Upcoming Dates of Activities and Events for Christian Ed:

- Messy Games Youth interested in participating should contact Jessica before July 26
- July 20 – Creation Day 5: make a jellyfish
- July 27 – Creation Days 6 & 7: games and relay

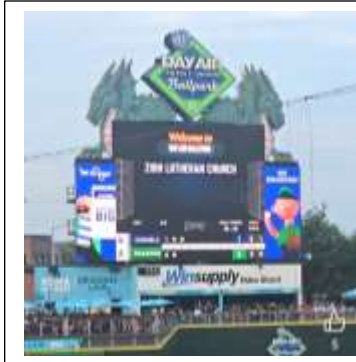
Communications and Welcoming Committee noted the following upcoming events:

- July 25th-Zion Outing with the Dayton Dragons
- September 28th -30th -How Can We Pray for You"
- October 10th - Bunco Night

Next Meeting: Tuesday, **August 14th at 7:00 p.m.**

Zion Night at the Dragons

Another fun time was had by 86 Zion members and their families. It was a great time to fellowship with one another and even better to see the Dragons win.



Thank You

Dear Pastor Summers and the Congregation of Zion Lutheran Church,

On behalf of our entire family, I want to express our deepest gratitude for your warmth and support during our recent loss. Thank you so much for allowing us to use your beautiful church sanctuary for my mother's funeral service. Having the service in such a sacred and welcoming space brought great comfort to all of us as we honored her memory.

We are also incredibly grateful to the church members who prepared and served the wonderful luncheon following the service. Your hospitality relieved a huge burden from our shoulders during a very emotional day. The delicious food and peaceful fellowship provided a much-needed space for our family and friends to gather, share stories, and comfort one another.

Please accept the enclosed honorarium as a token of our deep appreciation for your kindness and ministry. We hope it helps support the ongoing mission and work of the church.

Please extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved, from the pastoral staff to the volunteers who worked so hard in the kitchen. Your kindness, generosity, and prayers have sustained us through this difficult time and will always be remembered.

With sincere appreciation,

The Family of Shirley Rawlins
c/o Brent Rawlins



Ice Cream Social Was a Hit!

On June 27th, the church parking lot was transformed into a fun community event that included something for everyone! A bouncy house from Jaqua's, ice cream truck from Susie's Big Dipper, balloon man Victor Thomas, and our own Jessica Dorn who provided kids' activities. Our Mitch Tayse and his band Bunty Station played and received \$110 in donations, which were given to Needy Basket. The weather cooperated. We were blessed with about 130 attendees! Thanks to the Bicentennial Committee for their hard work: Tim Rambeau, Denise Jacobs and granddaughter Maddison, Lara Jacobs, Carla Frame, Lil Nichols, Bob Keppel, and Linda Holt.





I Come with Joy

On July 4, 2026, our nation celebrated its 250th anniversary, commemorating the signing of the Declaration of Independence. To celebrate, and because of the heat, we went to see the movie Young Washington, which I can highly recommend. Coincidentally, the hymn of the month for August – *I Come with Joy* – ELW 482 incorporates a text by an Englishman with an American folk melody.

The tune for *I Come with Joy* – DOVE OF PEACE was composed by William Walker in the hymnal Southern Harmony in 1835. The tune DOVE OF PEACE which has a meter of 8 6 8 6 6 can also be used with the text *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* (ELW 605).

Brian Wren, the author of *I Come with Joy*, was born in Romford, Essex in 1936. He received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Modern Languages in 1960 and Theology in 1962 followed by a Doctorate in Philosophy in 1968 from various schools in Oxford. He was ordained in 1965 and became a minister at Hockley and Hawkwell Congregational Church in Essex. According to the hymnary.org, “Wren is a major British figure in the revival of contemporary hymn writing.” His hymn texts were initially published in a variety of hymnals in the 1980s and 1990s. Wren currently lives in the United States, where he preaches, lectures, and writes hymns.

Reflect on this hymn text (verse 1): “I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me.”

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Congratulations Zion! August marks the 12th month since we have learned one new hymn a month. Do you remember some of the tunes and texts we learned? – Here is the listing.

1. September – Will You Come and Follow Me (The Summons) – ELW 798
2. October (Reformation) - By Grace We Have Been Saved – ACS 1006
3. November (Thanksgiving) – Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator – ACS 1091
4. December (Advent) – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers – ELW 244
5. January (Epiphany) – Jesus, the Light of the World – ACS 914
6. February - Come to Me, O Weary Traveler – ACS 1017
7. March (Lent) - Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land – ELW 333
8. April (Easter / General) – Touch that Soothes and Heals – ACS 939
9. May (Easter) – Now the Green Blade Rises – ELW 379
10. June (Pentecost and Luther Hymn) - Come, Holy Ghost – ELW 395
11. July (General) – Be Still My Soul - Old hymn from Lutheran Worship – Public domain
12. August (General / Communion) – I Come with Joy – ELW 482

Choir Director Needed



We are still searching for a Choir Director to lead our adult Chancel Choir and support the musical life of our worshipping community. We want to first invite our own congregation to prayerfully consider whether someone within Zion may feel called to this role. If you are interested or want more information, please contact Susie Gray or Lori Sebastian.

By the Numbers

These numbers are for the three Saturdays (no church on 7-4) and four Sundays in July.

Average Attendance – Saturday: 44 Sunday: 77

Total Giving: \$12,832.00

Prayer Requests

Pray for those fighting cancer: Prayer request for Sasha Tritle. She had surgery for breast cancer and now is having radiation treatments.

Prayer requests: **Kristen Zimmann** fell and broke her kneecap. After a few days in the hospital, she is healing at her sister's home. Keep in your prayers the **Ferryman Family**. **Greg Gilbert** is recovering at home from back a successful back surgery. Please keep **Chalmer and Judy Mader** in prayer. **Chalmer** is home and has good and bad days. **Judy** is at Miami Valley Hospital and will have a heart procedure on Wed. Keep **Amy Byrd** in your prayers along with her parents **Jack and Sharon**. **Ruth White** is home. She appreciates cards! 76 Sunflower Place, Tipp City, OH 45371. **Katie Kessler** is healing at home and making progress! Keep **Deb and Bob** in your prayers as they provide care for Katie. Pray for **Sue VonAschen** who has sight problems. Emily Clenney (**daughter of Bill and Kim Jones**) is waiting to see if she needs another procedure. Prayers are requested for **Richard Leflar** Keep in your prayers the **Williams Family**.

Continue to pray for: Betty Jackson, Debbie Turner, Greg Watkins, Peggy McCoy, Christine Copeland, James Oaks, Brian Watkins, Fred Staie, the Weprin family, Cindy Moore, and Carol Phillips.

Zion's Prayer Chain is sent out weekly through email. It lists prayers needed for those in our community and world. If you have signed up to receive the prayer chain and have not received it recently, please let the office or Linda Holt know. If you have never been a part of the prayer chain and would like to receive it, let us know. To request prayers, or take an individual off the prayer chain, email them to prayers@ziontippcity.org. You can also access this through Zion's website www.ziontippcity.org or call the church office at (937) 667-3110.



August 2026

Calendar of Events at Zion

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Communion Saturday
2	3 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Property 6p	4 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	5	6	7 Putterpalooza 5-8 2 nd St.	8
9 Kids & Youth Teacher mtg. after service WoZ 7:00	10 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 200 th Comm. 6	11 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm Welcome 5p Council 7p	12	13	14	15 Prayer Shawl Mtg. 10 am Communion Saturday
16 Zion Picnic after service Youth Messy Games after picnic	17 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5	18 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm Bible & Brew 5:30 -Chafee's	19	20	21	22
23 Backpack Blessing & Back 2 School Bash	24 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5 Pastor Rel. 7	25 Mens Bkfst 9:30 Quilts 10 AA 8-9 pm	26 10 Women's Fellowship	27 Compassion. Friends 7:00	28	29
30 Storypoint Outreach	31 Quilts 10:30 TOPS 3:30 - 5					