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JANUARY 2015

PASTOR ANTHONY'S RIPPLES

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In January we begin another new year, 2015 years after our savior's birth! We also begin a new season of the church year, Epiphany, and we direct our focus onto a new word, FELLOWSHIP. With three new things in January (2015, Epiphany, and Fellowship), what greater way to begin and celebrate these new things than with a party!

Epiphany is the season of the church that follows Christmas. There are 12 days of Christmas, which begin on December 25 and conclude with the 12th day of Christmas being January 5th. Epiphany then begins on January 6th. Traditionally, the last night of Christmas (January 5th) is the night to remove the Christmas decorations in homes and churches. Unfortunately, so many businesses want to jump to the next holiday (Valentine's Day) rather than celebrating Christmas for all 12 days of it.

After the Church celebrates Christmas for 12 days, then we continue the celebration with the coming of the Magi (the Wise Men). Epiphany is the season of light, anointing and commissioning. During this season we hear texts that declare Jesus as the light of the world (shining in the darkness). We also hear texts about Christ being anointed, baptized and proclaimed at Christ to the world. And we also hear texts about Jesus calling and commissioning his first disciples. Epiphany is certainly a time to celebrate for the promised Christ has come and calls each one of us to shine his light in the darkness of this world. But we cannot fulfill this calling on our own, we need help from others. This is why in January we will be focusing on FELLOWSHIP. Fellowship means a friendly association with people who share a common interest. In Acts 2 it says, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship...All who believed were together and had all things in common..." (Acts 2:42,44) Our common interest is that we all are part of God's family (the Body of Christ) and we all believe that Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. Then on the third day he rose again. That is our common interest. When we gather together for fellowship, we are gathering together because of Christ Jesus and the common beliefs that we share with one another.

Throughout January (and part of February), I encourage you to look for greater opportunities for your congregation and this parish to be in FELLOWSHIP with one another. This could be gathering before or after worship for coffee or gathering to share in a meal. Maybe it would be getting a group together to go ice fishing or shopping or even a playdate with parents and the young children in our congregations. If you have an idea pass it along, I'd love to hear about it!

On Sunday, January 11th we will gather as fellow brothers and sisters in Christ for fellowship. We will call it an Epiphany Party! We'll laugh, sing, eat, play and enjoy each other's company. Come join us on January 11th beginning at 6:00 pm at Trinity in Welcome. Plus 2 lucky guests will be crowned the king and queen of the evening. Will you be one of the lucky guests? Come and find out!

My prayer for you is that you would have a safe and happy New Year! Blessings to you in 2015!

In Christ,

Pastor Anthony

PASTOR ERIC'S RIPPLES

Dear Circle of Faith fellowship,

One of the things I really love about my life right now is that our children all live fairly close to us. We gather together for birthday parties and holidays and sometimes, just for fun when one comes over another one or two will come over as well. We catch up on news, we give each other advice, we eat, we play games, we laugh, we make fun of each other but we also support one another and learn from one another and help one another out. This is called fellowship and is sometimes devalued by our world, but it is very important for life. In fact, most of what people are doing on their phones and tablets is some type of fellowship.

Each phase of life has it's unique experiences of fellowship; when you are a child, later in school, later again when you are a young adult and still later as you get older and older. They are all very important, much is accomplished through them.

Psalms 133 describes in visual images the beauty and blessing of good fellowship: "How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore."

It is not surprising then that when the first followers of Jesus started the Church, they devoted themselves to fellowship. In fellowship they worshiped and planned and encouraged one another and helped one another.

If you ever wondered why church has so many meetings, now you know, it's doing fellowship. Very important! In fact, God is fellowship, the Son abiding in the Father and the Father in the Son and the Spirit in us and with us, which is the Spirit of the Son. So we have fellowship with God and with one another. We are not alone in this world.

So, at Circle of Faith we are going to spend a little time emphasizing this important aspect of our

Eric Midthun
Associate Pastor, Circle of Faith Parish



Wednesday, January 7th

5:30 – 7:30 pm

At Merle Burmeister's house
1931 160th Ave

Directions to Merle's— North from Welcome on 130th Ave.
Turn right on 170th ST and go 3 miles, Turn left, north, and go
2 1/4 miles.

January Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Services

Date	St. Peter – 8:30 am	Trinity – 10:30 am	Waverly – 10:30 am
January 4 – Communion <i>Altar Color: White</i>	Pr. Anthony	Pr. Eric	Pr. Anthony
January 11 <i>Altar Color: White</i>	Pr. Eric	Pr. Eric	Pr. Anthony
January 18 <i>Altar Color: Green</i>	Pr. Anthony <i>Annual Meeting Following Worship</i>	Pr. Anthony <i>Annual Meeting Following Worship</i>	Pr. Eric <i>Annual Meeting At 7:00 PM</i>
January 25 - Communion <i>Altar Color: Green</i>	Pr. Eric <i>Installation of new leadership</i>	Pr. Anthony <i>Installation of new leadership</i>	Pr. Eric <i>Installation of new leadership</i>

ANNUAL MEETINGS

St. Peter, Ceylon – after worship on Sunday, January 18, 2015
Trinity, Welcome – after worship on Sunday, January 18, 2015
Waverly, Trimont – at 7:00 pm on Sunday, January 18, 2015

Parish Weather Cancellation Policy



Traditional methods of phone trees (St. Peter & Waverly) and radio announcements will continue.
We will also post closings on Circle of Faith's Website, and on our Facebook Page.

PARISH EPIPHANY PARTY



Sunday, January 11th
6:00 PM

Trinity Lutheran in Welcome
Potluck meal and fellowship

Bring your remaining Christmas treats for dessert.

*Two lucky guests at the party will be anointed king and queen for the evening.
These two individuals will receive royal treatment during the party!*

Will you be one of the lucky guests? Come and find out!

WINE, WOMEN & the WORD

Tuesday, January 20th

6:00 – 8:00 pm

At Velma Schaal's 1330 Lucia St, Fairmont, MN

From Cty rd 26 Turn L (east) at 4th St, go to North North Ave turn L (north), go to Anna St, turn L (west), go to Lucia Ave turn L (south). Gray house on left after curve

From I 90, Hwy 15 exit, go to Winnebago Ave turn R (west), go to North North Ave turn R, go to Anna St finish as above.



Thank you to all who gave us Christmas wishes, food and goodies during the Christmas Season. Everything was very much appreciated. We are hoping that God blessed you and yours with a very Merry Christmas. Pastors Anthony and Eric, Eileen and Lisa.

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Trinity Lutheran www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranwelcome

Waverly Lutheran www.facebook.com/waverlylutheran



Friday, January 30 – Saturday, January 31

8:00 pm – 8:00 am

Waverly Lutheran Church

All youth in grades 7-8 from Circle of Faith Parish and Partners in Ministry (Trimont) are invited to attend an overnight lock-in at Waverly. You are allowed to invite one friend to come with you if you wish.

More details to come as we get closer. **Mark this on your calendar now!**

We will need adult chaperones to help throughout the night. We schedule it in 2 hours shifts. Talk to Pastor Anthony if you're interested in helping.



(A Letter received from Salvation Army)

Circle of Faith Parish — Dear Friends:

The Salvation Army of Fairmont, MN would like to thank you for your recent donation of food. Many people in our community and Martin County will receive help because of your generosity. Your gift is greatly appreciated! Again, thank you so very much for assisting those in need.

Have a great day in Him!!

In His service,
JoAnn Hixenbaugh, Major
Corps Officer

"Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy. Matthew 5:7"

THRIVENT FINANCIAL Last year, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided more than \$100 million to help congregations, communities and individuals in need. The Thrivent Choice® program offers two ways members can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach funds. Some members can participate in both, based on eligibility. One is participating in “Choice Dollars” and the other is voting where to allocate them.

Choice Dollars®

Eligible members are designated Choice Dollars, based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars can be directed to thousands of nonprofit organizations nationwide, **including your local congregation**. If you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars, you will receive a letter in the mail at the point you become eligible. If you are unsure of your eligibility, review the eligibility requirements, login or register to view your eligibility and Choice Dollars. Any questions please call Thrivent at 800-847-4836 or go on line to their website to sign up. Please have your member number or contract number available. If you don’t allocate your dollars, Thrivent will donate them to an organization of “their “ choice. Choice Dollars replaces the matching funds that each church was given annually in previous years. This is a great way to help your congregation financially. If you need additional information or help, please call Eileen at 507-728-8774.

A Seminarian’s Letters Home

January 2015

To the membership of Circle of Faith Parish:

Greetings to you all from Evanston, IL! Winter is definitely here now. It’s bitterly cold, there is snow on the ground, and our Christmas celebrations have come and gone. Or have they? If you’re reading this prior to January 6th, it’s still Christmas. If it’s anywhere between January 6th and Transfiguration Sunday, it’s the time after Epiphany, that season of light growing longer outside and light popping up everywhere in our music, our practices, and even our FELLOWSHIP, the word we focus on now as Circle of Faith.

During this season, Circle of Faith will be blessing our homes, a practice new to some of us, but a very old one in Christian history. The pastors will come by with a piece of blessed chalk, and on the door, or step, or somewhere, they will write 20 CMB 15. The letters stand for *Christus mansionem benedicat* – “Christ, bless this house.” In earlier days, since most people couldn’t understand Latin, the legend arose that the letters were for the names of the Magi – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, which is also where we get the story that there were three of them. Whether or not that’s true, Epiphany gives us an important lesson about FELLOWSHIP. Traditionally, both Epiphany and the Baptism of our Lord are days to admit new members to our community through the sacrament of baptism, manifesting God’s eternal claim on them and us, showing them being illuminated in the light of Christ. But that spills over even further.

Christ blesses more than the house – the people in it get blessed, too. We then carry that blessing out with us to share with everyone we meet. Every cup of coffee we share together, every trip we take to get to warmer climates, every meal at the café or get-together in the church basement is a chance to share Epiphany’s lengthening light, the light of Christ that came to us at Christmastime, hallowed the waters of the earth at Jesus’ baptism, and spreads throughout the earth like a brushfire, no matter how dark and cold the nights of winter may be.

Lighting the darkness with Epiphany’s light, let us pray for God’s blessing, using these words:

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. [ELW, Epiphany of our Lord]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Your fellow member and pilgrim,
Carl P. Rabbe, M.Div.



ST. PETER RIPPLES



Women of the ELCA will meet January 7th at 1:30. Hostesses are Muriel Klentz and Marge Schley.

Happy New Year and God's blessing for 2015.

The Bible Study from the Gather magazine is Repent and Forgive taken from the book of Samuel. Thank you to all who attended the December potluck and brought all the delicious food. Also thanks to everyone who brought food for the food drive for Heaven's Table and the Salvation Army. The total was 215.2 pounds.

Mid December's treasurer report is \$974.00

Installation of officers: President-Jeannine, V. President-Annette Yackle, Secretary-Rosemary, Treasurer-Muriel, Historian-Barb Schmidt. Thank you ladies for serving.

Quilting Days are: January 14 & 15, and 28th & 29th. Invite a friend, bring your own sack lunch, come when you can and stay as long as you can.

The President, Vice President, and Conference Board will meet January 31 at 9:00 at First Lutheran in St. James.

January Alter Care: Barb Schmidt. Next work detail: Group 1

Blessings, Janice

SUNDAY JANUARY	<i>USHERS</i>
4	Kathy Bremer and JoAnn Wink
11	Kevin and Angie Schmidt
18	Keith and Jody Franck
25	Larry W Schmidt and John Schmidtke
FEBRUARY	
4	Jeff Petschke and Larry R Schmidt

TRINITY RIPPLES



Trinity Lutheran Church — December 9, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:25 pm by President Henry Borchardt.

Opening devotions were by Pastor Anthony.

Members present: President Henry Borchardt, Pastor Anthony, Pastor Eric, Jean Schock, Eileen Morrow, Becky & Joel Detert, Mary Ann Frerichs, Jon Saxen, Velma Schaal, Larry Phillip, and Wes Strausser.

Pastor's Report: We collected a total of 936 pounds of food and paper products to deliver to Heaven's Table and to the Salvation Army. Trinity gathered 462 pounds. St. Nicholas pictures are posted on Facebook. The next fellowship meeting will be held on January 11th at 6 pm. It will be an Epiphany Party and will be held in Trinity. Pastor Anthony will be on vacation Dec. 25 thru Jan. 1st. Carl Rabbe will be preaching at Trinity and we will have communion. Pastor Eric reported that he heard a lot of great comments from the Salvation Army for the donations. He also wanted to thank the council for the great work we have accomplished this year. Good Job.

Secretary's Report: Jon moved to accept the report. Mary Ann seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Velma Schaal moved to accept the report. Jon Saxen seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report: Jon Saxen moved to accept the report. Wes Strausser seconded. Motion carried.

Youth & Board of Ed: There will not be a Sunday School program but the children will be singing 3 songs on December 21st. They are planning on holding a party on December 17th instead of WOW. The TV did get purchased. We will hand out Christmas bags to the children on Sunday December 21st.

Deacon's Report: Ushers are lined up for a little while. Henry made a list of duties. Becky will type up and laminate and then it will be posted for reference.

Trustee's report: Wes reported that he has 2 projects ongoing. The plumbing project of hooking up the water line from the street instead of the parsonage will hopefully be done before he goes south this winter. And he will have the TV installed on the stand shortly. Joel brought up the need for a 10 foot ladder. Discussion was held on making the men's restroom into a handicapped accessible restroom.

Old Business:

Constitution voting: The second vote on the constitution will be held at the Annual Meeting on January 18th. A 2/3 majority vote will be needed for the constitution to be approved and it will have an effective date of January 18th.

Slate of Officers: The slate of officers will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. Dallas Rassmussen will go off the board a year early to meet the new board requirements.

The Parish Council is looking for new members for their council as they will be replacing 3 current members each year. Trinity will need to have one new member on the board. Anyone interested in serving on the Parish Council is encouraged to contact the church office, Trinity Council or a Parish Board member. The decision on who will be the new council member will be a mutual agreement made between Trinity's Council and the Parish Council.

New Business:

2015 Budget – Becky presented the budget. Discussion was held on the line items on the budget. We made several changes and Becky will bring in a revised copy of the budget.

Eileen moved to give \$2,000 in benevolence before the end of the year. We will review our budget in January for further donations. Becky Detert seconded. Discussion was held on recipients. Eileen revised her motion to include the following designations: Crest \$500, Ingham Lake \$500, and the Synod \$1000. Motion carried.

Jon made a motion to approve the revised budget. Wes seconded.

The next meeting will be January 13, 2014 at 7:30.

Jon Saxen moved to adjourn, Velma Schaal seconded. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Eileen Morrow, Secretary



A couple members at Trinity are interested in starting up a choir for the upcoming Lenten Season. If interested please talk to Marilyn or Pastor Anthony.

DATE	COMMUNION SERVERS	USHERS
JANUARY 4	S-Jon Saxen H-Brian Burmeister	Dallas and Tami Rasmussen
11		Bocky and Susan Borchardt
18		John and Rita Garbers
25	S-Lonnie Moffitt H-Bob Moffitt	Jamie and Monica Chukuske
FEBRUARY 1	S-Bob Moffitt H-Lonnie Moffitt	Robert Swanson and Norm Schley

WAVERLY RIPPLES



The Waverly Church Council met December 16, 2013.

Members present: Pastor Anthony, Pastor Eric, Cliff Armbrust, Rosemary Atzenhoefer, Don & Nancy Nordstrom, Bob Olson, Tim Peterson, Deb Schneider, Tim Peterson, Council President, called the meeting to order.

Cliff gave the financial report. Year to date income minus expenses -\$10,512.67 Motion by Bob, second by Don to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

The proposed Waverly 2015 budget was reviewed and discussed. The 2015 Parish Agreement with proposed revisions was presented. The Circle of Faith proposed budget had been approved by the parish council. Motion by Rosie, second by Bob to present the proposed budget, Parish Agreement and Circle of Faith proposed budget to the Waverly congregation.

Motion by Nancy, second by Bob to appoint Karen Helvig as Waverly's Circle of Faith Council Member. Motion carried.

With no further business, motion by Cliff, seconded by Bob to adjourn. Motion carried.

~ Waverly Council meets January 13, 2015 at 7:30

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Schneider

Special Congregational Meeting Minutes

Waverly Congregational Meeting Minutes — November 9, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Tim Peterson.

President Tim explained the purpose of the meeting was to receive the report of the Constitution Committee.

Devotions were shared by Karen Koeder

Don Nordstrom reviewed the background of the current proposed Constitution Committee work. Karen Koeder reviewed the definitions related to Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions found in the proposed revision.

Don reviewed the proposed revisions to the Constitution. Karen review the proposed revisions to the Bylaws and the new Proposed Continuing Resolutions.

Don and Karen answered questions for clarification. Concerns and issues were identified to be included in the agenda for November 23rd.

The meeting was adjourned until November 23, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Koeder, Acting Secretary

Waverly Congregational Meeting Minutes

Continuation of November 9th Meeting — November 23, 2014

President Tim Peterson reopened the meeting adjourned on November 9, 2014. A quorum was present.

Karen Koeder led devotions and prayer

Don recapped the meeting of November 9th. Susan Krueger reviewed basic Ground Rules for this meeting.

Discussions related to the proposed revisions of the Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions followed.

Recommended Amendments included:

p. 11 C12.04 g To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.

Delete A Parish responsibility

P. 11 C12.01 Insert after officers in the first sentence...,except Financial Secretary,

p. 12 C12.05 c The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$5000 for items not included in the budget. Delete

d Change \$2000 to 10% in excess

Quorum for Congregational Meetings be set at 20 voting members

Congregational, Council and Committee meetings may be held electronically provided member participation is assured.

Motion to approve amendments. Second, passed.

Motion to approve the Revised Waverly Lutheran Church Constitution, By Laws, and Continuing Resolutions as amended and authorize the Constitution Committee to make editorial changes, as needed, and make changes in the order of the document for clarity in its use and meet the ELCA requirements. Second, Passed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Second, Passed. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Koeder, Acting Secretary



Quilters report for November: On Tuesday we had 8 workers and 10 quilts done. Wednesday we had 5 workers and 6 quilts done. Total of 16 quilts. Thank you to all that helped.

Lauri (Bentz) took 15 quilts and 7 baby quilts with her .
Larry Peterson took 15 quilts and one baby quilt to Pine Ridge.

Next work days are in Jan. the 13 & 14th. We can still use double sheets for backing.

Rosemary Atzenhoefer

January Ushers:

Tim Peterson, Steve Williamson
Randy Schneider, Brian Clow,
Jeff Lueth

February Ushers:

Erwin Atzenhoefer, Brad Sherman
Cliff Armbrust, Phil Bettin,
Todd Rathman

DATE	READER	ACOLYTE	CHILDREN'S TIME
January 4	Don Nordstrom	Emily Bettin	Susan Krueger
11	Mim Potter	Jeff/Jodi Lueth	Laurie Sherman
18	Daniel Helvig	Scott Peterson	Pastor Eric
25	Karen Helvig	Susan/Todd Rathman	Pastor Anthony
February 1	Deb Schneider	Laurie/Brad Sherman	Kendra Helvig

Martin County Mentoring Network

Martin County Mentoring is an organization that serves youth between the ages of 5—17 of Fairmont, Sherburn, Dunnell, Granada, Ceylon, Ormsby, Northrop, East Chain, Truman and Trimont. We receive referrals for youth in these communities and attempt to place them with an adult mentor that is willing to do activities with them at least two times a month. The activities do not have to cost anything, you can ride bikes, do crafts, attend their games, and other fun things. We offer discounted activities in the communities if you were interested in a day at the water park or going out to eat. We also provide activities sponsored by the mentoring network such as free ice skating and horse riding. Mentoring is not replacing parents, it is an effort to support families in need of assistance and provide role modeling and reduction of risk to the youth of our county. Currently we have a waiting list for youth and are in need of mentors throughout the Martin County area. If interested please contact: Shawn Chambers at 507-238-3117

*What if you woke up today
with only the things you
thanked God for yesterday ?*

JANUARY



2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Ronald Rahm	2 Karen Koeder Belva Peterson Tom Peterson January Elliott Amelia Brosnahan	3 <i>Jon and Karen Helwig</i>
4 Jeanne Rasmussen Irene Reiman Deb Armbrust	5 Lois Duncan	6	7 Aimee Hand Mason Mosloski	8	9 Amanda Brosnahan	10 John Frerichs Maurice Rahm Lacey Lueth
11 Patience Poyner	12 Selma Peterson Brock Burmeister Olin Bakke	13 Marge Schley Scott Benge	14 Barbara Speckman Marilyn Schlager <i>Paul and Lorrie Jensen</i>	15 Buck Jagodzinske Audrey Swanson Nancy Steele	16 Ione Nelson Wayne Burmeister	17 Denyse Borchardt
18 Julie Schulz James Korte	19 Larry Puhman Bryce Winter Larry R Schmidt	20 Victor Abelson	21 Victoria Lake	22 Deb Schneider	23 Jeanne Leiding	24 Susan Krueger Cody Williams
25	26 Synjin Haugen	27 Rhonda Oeschle	28	29	30	31 MarLeone Williamson

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
I recall this image from my home congregation: A banner depicting Mary and Jesus in the manger and the backlit silhouette of the cross cast over this scene. It was jarring. The cross on Christmas? I didn't like it.

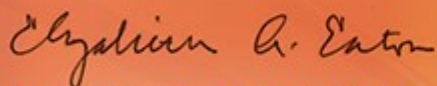
Christmas can carry so much emotional freight. We must be merry and filled with good cheer. We are driven to get everything perfect by the stroke of midnight on Christmas Eve. We are filled with wistful longing. But what are we longing for?

We long for peace, love and a place to belong. We want to know that someone cares. We want the assurance that all of this means something. And, we try to bring that all about in the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The hope of Christmas was fulfilled on Good Friday. The cross is part of Christmas. "Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you" (What Child Is This?). The cross is *the* Christmas gift, where all of our Christmas glorias are realized in Jesus' glorification on the cross.

We don't have to get everything completely right. We can't. That's God's work and it has been done. So, good Christian friends, rejoice!

Peace,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Parish Office closed <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3
4 Worship / Comm	5	6 7 pm Mary Circle WLC	7 1:30 pm WELCA StP Dorcas Circle-WLC 5:30-7:30 Men's Garage 6:30 pm WOW-TLC Confirmation	8	9	10
11 Worship 6 pm Parish Epiphany Party @ TLC	12	13 Quilt Day-WLC 6 pm Parish Council Mtg 7:30 pm TLC & WLC Council mtg.	14 Quilt Day-WLC Quilt Day-StP 2 pm Communion @ Goldfinch 6 pm MEAL 6:30 pm WOW-TLC Confirmation	15 Quilt Day- StP	16	17
18 Worship Annual meetings TLC & StP following service 7 pm WLC	19	20 <i>Ripples Article Deadline</i> 6-8 pm Wine, Women & the Word	21 6:30 pm WOW-TLC Confirmation	22	23	24
25 Worship / Comm	26	27	28 9:30 am Assemble Ripples Quilt Day-StP 6:30 pm WOW-TLC Confirmation	29 Quilt Day-StP	30 Youth Lock-in	31



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HYMN OF THE MONTH

'Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus' seems to be quite appropriate for 2015. Dudley Tyng was serving as an assistant pastor for his father at a large Episcopal church in Philadelphia. He was asked to take over when his father retired in 1854. He preached against slavery and eventually was asked to resign by the more conservative members of that church. He and his followers then organized the Church of the Covenant elsewhere in the city. His ministry became quite popular – he started noontime Bible studies at the YMCA. He felt a particular burden for leading men to Christ. In March, 1858, he led a meeting of 5,000 men – as he looked out into their faces he said, "I would rather this right arm were lost, than that I should come short of my duty to you in delivering God's message."

Two weeks later, he was visiting a farm and watching a corn thresher in the barn. He moved too close and his right arm was severed at the shoulder. He died of infections two weeks later, but before he died he told his father, "Stand up for Jesus, and tell my brethren of the ministry to stand up for Jesus." Rev. G. Duffield of Philadelphia's Temple Presbyterian Church was so moved by that statement, his next Sunday sermon was from Ephesians 6:14 about standing firm for Christ. He wrote the poem, "Stand Up, Stand Up, for Jesus, Ye soldiers of the cross; Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss." This poem was printed in a leaflet for Sunday School children. A hymnal publisher paired it with appropriate music and it became one of America's favorite hymns.

Let us face the new year with the resolution to Stand Up For Jesus!