

The Latest Word

"Making God Known Through Word and Deed."



Walk and Pray

A prayer garden featuring a labyrinth is beginning to take shape west of the church building. This outdoor space will be a peaceful place for prayer, reflection, and time with God.

Unlike a maze, a labyrinth has only one path so there are no dead ends or wrong turns. The practice is to follow the winding path to the center and back out again. This journey becomes an opportunity to quiet your mind, listen for God's voice, pray for others, or simply rest in God's presence. For centuries, Christians have used labyrinths as a form of walking prayer, remembering Jesus' invitation, "Come to me, all you who are weary...and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

This new outdoor sacred space is becoming a reality thanks to many people. Hannah Bartelt will paint the labyrinth design as her Eagle Scout project. The surrounding prayer garden will continue to take shape in months to come. This area has been made possible through the generosity of church members who have shared memorial gifts.

When completed, the prayer garden and labyrinth will be a place for individuals, families, and small groups to pause, pray, and experience God's peace amid the busyness of life. Whether you walk the labyrinth, sit on a bench, or simply enjoy the beauty of God's creation, we hope this new space will become a place where faith is nurtured, and hearts are renewed.

We invite you to join us on **Saturday, August 8 from 9-3** to work on installing the cross, painting the labyrinth, installing and planting flowerbeds, along with landscaping and placing prayer stones and a bench. Please wear clothes that can get dirty and work well in hot weather. Water, snacks and lunch will be provided.

Pastor Dan and Pastor Laura Overbo

Financial Reports & News



June **FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**
— Thank you for your faithful generosity! —

 INCOME	 EXPENSES	MISSION OF THE MONTH
\$86,491.61	\$86,522.90	DISTRIBUTED \$4,661.81
Thank you for your continued faithfulness!	Your generosity helps us carry out our mission.	to  WATERTOWN SANDWICH MINISTRY

♥ *Together, we are making a difference.*
Thank you for being a blessing to our church and community!

REFLECTING IN Summer

Summer is a time of rest, renewal, and connection. As our schedules change, your continued generosity helps us stay strong and make an impact all year long. Thank you for being part of what God is doing!

WAYS TO GIVE

 IN WORSHIP	 ONLINE	 MAIL	 SET UP RECURRING AUTOMATIC GIVING
Bring your offering and place it in the offering plate during our worship service.	Give securely online anytime at www.lcoorwatertown.org	Send your gift to our church office: Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer 2001 2nd St NW Watertown, SD 57201	Make giving simple and consistent by setting up recurring automatic gifts online.

MAKING GOD KNOWN THROUGH WORD & DEED

LCOOR Collecting School Kits for LWR

We are collecting **School Kits in August for Lutheran World Relief**. Instructions and school bags can be found at the Welcome Center or Lake Worship Information Table. You can also view instructions at lwr.org/kits/school-kits.



Mission of the Month: Companion Synods, Cameroon & Nicaragua

Throughout August, our Mission of the Month focuses on our South Dakota Synod's Companion Synod relationships with the **Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cameroon** and the **Lutheran Church, Faith and Hope of Nicaragua**.

These partnerships are built on faith, mutual encouragement, and shared ministry. Together, we strengthen one another through prayer, learning, and support as we work to share Christ's love across the globe.

As you plan your giving this month, we invite you to consider a special gift—above and beyond your regular offering—to support these important ministries. Please designate your contribution as **"Mission of the Month."**

To learn more about our Companion Synod relationships and the impact of these partnerships, visit the South Dakota Synod website.

Thank you for helping build lasting relationships that connect us with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

Financial Reports & News

Memorials & Special Gifts

We are deeply grateful for the many memorials and special gifts received in recent weeks. These generous expressions of faith and remembrance strengthen the ministries of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer and extend Christ's love into our community and beyond. A total of **\$7,970** was received to support the following ministries:

Watertown Sandwich Ministry

- In memory of Karen Moeller from Allan & Jodi Spilde, Darwin & Nancy Brinkman, and Dave & Anita Nelson
- In memory of Deverne Rickard and Mel Reeves from Mark & Tammy Ohnstad
- From an anonymous gift

LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund

- From Deanna Ericsson and an anonymous donor

LCOOR Endowment

- From an anonymous gift designated for the Technical School Fund
- In memory of Dorothy Syhre from Darrel & Joanne Lundby

LCOOR Youth Ministry

- From Marian Neshiem

Nicaragua Youth Retreat

- In honor of Bishop Katia's Installation from Ken & Renae Madison

Care Fund

- In memory of Bob Synstad from Ken & Renae Madison

Grief Share Program (Startup)

- From Deb Munsterman

Visual Display Updates in the Sanctuary

- From Jim & Kathy Hanson

Prayer Shawl Ministry

- In memory of Dan Sumner from Rod & Nancy Iverson and Burt & Barb Andersh

Say Hello to Effortless Earning!



Join LCOOR Preschool's RaiseRight program and raise funds for our preschool throughout the year. Simply buy gift cards, shop online, or dine at participating restaurants, and watch the earnings stack up!

Stop by the church office during the week and see Jodi Spilde—we have a variety of gift cards on hand and will continue placing orders throughout the summer. Or go online and enroll on our earnings page and see all the ways to earn funds for our preschool.

www.raiseright.com/enroll/LAEALB248149

Thank You for Your Thrivent Choice Dollars

We are grateful for the recent Thrivent Choice Dollars® donations supporting our ministries.

LCOOR Preschool: \$404

Thank you to Barb Andersh, Darlene Bailey, Lori Beyer, Chris Chandler, Gary Eide, Twila Schmitt and Betty Wolff.

LCOOR: \$1,065

Thank you to Darlene Bailey, Myron & Diane Eidsness, Rachel Hauck, Clark Likness, Dan & Laura Overbo, Bob & Pat Reiner, Nancy Rogers, Russell Schoenefelt, Richard Schroeder and Duane Zubke.



Community Support Strengthens the Watertown Sandwich Ministry

The Watertown Sandwich Ministry is grateful for the generous support we have received from community partners and individual donors whose kindness helps us continue serving our neighbors.

In February, we were honored to receive a \$500 grant from the Walmart Supercenter at 1201 29th St. SE in Watertown through the Walmart Spark Good program. This funding helps us continue providing sandwiches and care to those in need in our community. Thank you, Walmart, for your support!

We are also excited to announce that we received a \$2,000 Working Here Fund Grant from Farm Credit Services of America. This generous gift will directly support the mission of the Watertown Sandwich Ministry and strengthen our ability to serve our neighbors. We sincerely thank Farm Credit Services of America for partnering with us to make a meaningful difference right here in Watertown.

In addition, the Watertown Sandwich Ministry is honored to have been selected as a Partner Agency for the Watertown Area United Way's 2027 Campaign and to receive grant funding in support of our mission. We are deeply grateful for this partnership and for United Way's continued commitment to building a stronger, healthier community for all. Thank you for your confidence in and support of our ministry.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the many individuals, families, churches, and local businesses who have made private financial donations throughout the year. Whether your gift was large or small, every contribution helps provide food, encouragement, and hope to those we serve. Your generosity is an essential part of this ministry, and we are truly grateful for your compassion and support.

Together, these grants and private donations make it possible for the Watertown Sandwich Ministry to continue meeting needs in our community. Thank you to everyone who has partnered with us to share kindness, nourish our neighbors, and make a lasting difference.

LCOOR News & Events



Redeemer's Kitchen - September 27

Overwhelmed? Busy? Or maybe you're just tired of the same thing every night for supper? We can help! Redeemer's Kitchen will meet **Sunday, September 27 after the 9:30 a.m. worship** to prep seven freezer meals.

September Menu:

- Chicken Pot Pie
- Stuffed Peppers
- Honey Chicken with Rice & Broccoli
- White Chicken Chili
- Beef & Cheese Ravioli Bake
- Creamy Sausage Gnocchi
- Salisbury Steak Meatballs & Mash Potatoes
- Monster Cookies

More information, including pricing and sign-up are available at the Welcome Center or by contacting Karri in the church office at karri@lcoorwatertown.org or (605) 886-2696.



Our 75+ Celebration
Diamond Dinner

Join us for 5:30 pm Worship at
LCOOR
with Dinner to follow

ANY FAMILY MEMBER WHO BRINGS YOU IS
INVITED TO DINE AS WELL.

IF YOU NEED TRANSPORTATION, PLEASE CONTACT KARRI
WILLHITE AT 605-886-2696

**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 5TH
2026**

RSVP TO 605-886-2696
BY AUGUST 28TH

Diamond Dinner is September 5

Our annual Diamond Dinner 75+ Celebration will be held **Saturday, September 5th, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** following Saturday night worship.

We are looking for volunteers that are interested in serving at this event.

Please contact Karri in the church office at karri@lcoorwatertown.org or (605) 886-2696 if you are interested in joining us for dinner or if you are interested in serving the meal.

Stepping Stone Thank You

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our stepping stone project! Many beautiful and special stones were created and will now be a part of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer's church prayer garden and outdoor youth area.



LCOOR News & Events



God's Work. Our Hands.

Join us as we make God known through Word and Deed by serving our community!

This year, we'll be cleaning gravestones at Mt. Hope Cemetery, caring for this sacred place while honoring those who came before us.

Please join us at **11:00 a.m. on Sunday September 20, at Mt. Hope Cemetery.** We'll provide all cleaning supplies, T-shirts, water, and snacks.

To sign up, please visit our website at www.lcoorwatertown.org and click the "Serve" button in the main menu, sign up at the Welcome Center before or after worship services, or scan the QR code below.



**God's work.
Our hands.**



Congratulations to Hattie H. the winner of the Acts of Kindness Bingo drawing for June!!



Fall Market: Craft Show and Vendor Fair - Saturday, October 10

Calling All Crafters, Vendors and Shoppers!

Join us for our Fall Market: Craft Show and Vendor Fair at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Watertown, SD on **Saturday, October 10 from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your handmade goods, unique products, or small business offerings.

To sign up as a vendor, visit our website at www.lcoorwatertown.org, click the 'Serve' tab on the main menu and find the Fall Market Vendor Signup or scan the QR code.



Once you've signed up, we'll reach out to you via email to collect payment. **You can choose to pay online or send/drop off your payment at the church office:**

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
2001 2nd St. NW
Watertown, SD 57201

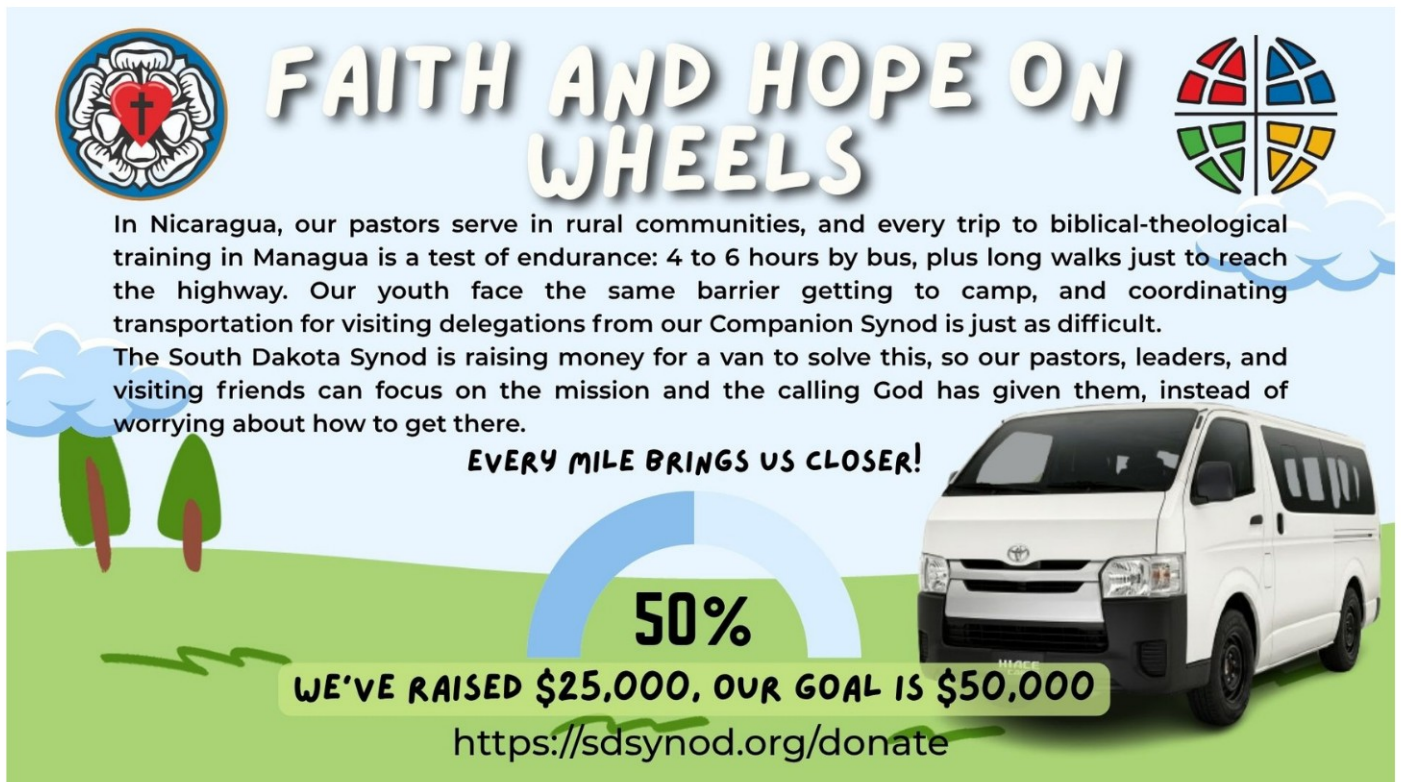
Vendor Setup Times:

Friday, October 9 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 10 from 7:00 - 8:45 a.m.

Spots are limited, so be sure to sign up early!
Payment is due prior to the event.

Shoppers: mark your calendars, call your friends and we look forward to seeing you!



FAITH AND HOPE ON WHEELS

In Nicaragua, our pastors serve in rural communities, and every trip to biblical-theological training in Managua is a test of endurance: 4 to 6 hours by bus, plus long walks just to reach the highway. Our youth face the same barrier getting to camp, and coordinating transportation for visiting delegations from our Companion Synod is just as difficult. The South Dakota Synod is raising money for a van to solve this, so our pastors, leaders, and visiting friends can focus on the mission and the calling God has given them, instead of worrying about how to get there.

EVERY MILE BRINGS US CLOSER!

50%

WE'VE RAISED \$25,000, OUR GOAL IS \$50,000

<https://sdsynod.org/donate>

Praise & Rejoice Choir Updates

Do you enjoy singing? The Praise and Rejoice Choir would love to welcome you! We are a fun, encouraging group that enjoys sharing our love of music in worship. Our music is approachable, easy to learn, and we enjoy being creative as we let the Spirit guide our ministry. **We rehearse on Sundays following the 9:30 a.m. worship service, with our first rehearsal of the season on Sunday, September 13.**

To help everyone feel confident, Choir Director Kristy Tostenson provides practice resources throughout the week, including recordings of your individual vocal part, so you can practice at home whenever it's convenient.

We're excited to expand our music ministry this year and are looking for instrumentalists to share their gifts in worship. Whether you play cello, trumpet, violin, clarinet, or another instrument, we'd love to hear from you! Musicians and vocalists of all ages are welcome to participate. Opportunities include piano duets, vocal ensembles, instrumental groups, solos, and many other combinations. We have music available for a wide variety of instruments and ensembles.

If you've ever thought about sharing your musical gifts but weren't sure where to start, this is your invitation! Please reach out to Kristy or a staff member for more information. And don't worry... we've heard the music director is pretty easy to get along with! 😊

Faith Formation & Youth Updates



Youth Mission Trip - Donations Needed

Our Luther League youth (9-12 grade) are currently taking donations for St. Francis House in Sioux Falls. **Our students will be working at St. Francis House August 7-9** in collaboration with Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Items Needed:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Napkins
- Monetary Donations for Clothing



Luther League Youth Group

The Luther League offers a vibrant youth group for students in 9th to 12th grade. To stay updated, sign up for the Luther League Remind, which you can find on our website, on the bulletin board next to the youth room, or provided below.

Throughout the summer and school year, students can enjoy a wide range of activities, including Bible study sessions, delicious treats, fun games, engaging service projects, and opportunities for fellowship.

Remind App QR Codes for Luther League Students



9TH



11TH



10TH



12TH



Faith Formation & Youth Updates

Teachers Needed

Church school and confirmation teachers are needed for the upcoming school year. Please prayerfully consider being a part of the team that helps our youth grow in their faith.

Contact Wendy if you are interested in helping with church school or Pastor Dan if you are interested in helping with confirmation.

Church school teacher orientation meeting will be held **Wednesday, Sept. 2 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Great Hall. This meeting will be to go over the schedule and lessons for the upcoming school year. We look forward to hearing from you!

Acolytes and Confirmation Students

Acolyte and Blessing Assistant Orientation will be **Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 5:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. This is for all parents and students from 4th to 6th grade.

7th and 8th grade confirmation students and their parents will meet **Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Use the QR code below to register for confirmation.

Confirmation will be **Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** and will include Wednesday night worship. Parents need to be in worship with their child.



Church School

Mark your calendars for the back to church school celebration on **Sunday, Sept. 13** and **Wednesday, Sept. 16**. Our bible verse and theme for the coming school year will be "Taste and see the Lord is good" *Psalms* 34:8. Lessons will include a Bible food focus throughout the school year.

Church school for three-year-olds through sixth grade will be **Sunday at 8:45 a.m.** and **Wednesday at 5:45 p.m.**

Use the QR code below to register for church school.

Register
Now



Junction & Route 56 Youth Group

Junction (1-4 grade) and Route 56 (5-6 grade) will be combined for the summer months. We will meet one more time this summer on **Thursday, August 13, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Please join us for some summer fun. Look for the Remind app for Junction or Route 56 to stay current with the activities planned for the school year.





August Dates to Remember

August 31

Open House for Incoming Students



**School Starts
Tuesday,
September
8th, 2026**



Care to help our preschool?
All help is appreciated.

- New/Used Toys
- Snacks/Juice
- Support our Fundraisers
- Classroom Giving Tree
- Thrivent Choice Dollars
- Scrip Dollars

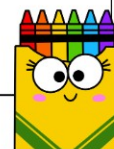


**A Prayer
for
Students
& Parents**



Dear God,

Thank You for this new school year and the fresh start it brings. Bless the students, teachers, and staff with energy, patience, and kindness. Give courage to face challenges, curiosity to keep learning, and compassion to care for one another. May this year be filled with growth, friendship, and joy. Amen.



Fall Worship Schedule

Last Summer Worship at Memorial Park:

- Sunday, September 6, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.

Fall Worship Schedule Resumes:

- Saturday, September 12, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, September 13, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.
- Wednesday, September 16, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.



August Book Club

For the month of August, the LCOOR Book Club will meet on **Thursday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room.** The book for August is *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini.



Deadline for the September 2026 Newsletter:

Monday, August 24, 2026



Address

2001 2nd St. NW
Watertown, SD 57201



Phone

605-886-2696



Website

<https://lcoorwatertown.org/>



Prayer Chain

Marilyn Chapman 886-4858
Email: karri@lcoorwatertown.org



Facebook

www.facebook.com/lcoor



Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/c/LutheranChurchofOurRedeemer>



Praise in the Park at Foundation Plaza

We invite you to join us at Foundation Plaza (217 E Kemp Ave) for Praise in the Park on **Sunday, August 30 at 9:00 a.m.** This will be our ONLY worship service on Sunday, August 30 and we encourage everyone to come together with the community for this special worship experience. Don't forget to bring your chairs and blankets, we can't wait to see you there! In case of rain, worship will take place at LCOOR.

Church Council

President Alan Stager
Vice President Matt Blackwelder
Secretary Kim Pearson
Treasurer Jessica Kruse
Jan Birkeland | Cindy Day | Scott Leitheiser
Bret McGillivray | Dana Stimson

Staff

Senior Pastor Dan Overbo
Associate Pastor Laura Overbo
Preschool Teacher/Director Nikki Landmark
Preschool Teacher Aide Wendy Kruger
Welcoming & Caring Ministries Karri Willhite
Business Manager Jodi Spilde
Business Administrative Assistant Megan Thyen
Director of Faith Formation Wendy Kruger
Sound & Technology Sam Langner
Custodian Roman Gainor

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
26 9:00am Worship at Memorial Park 10:30am Worship 11:30am Garden Stepping Stone Project		27 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm AI-Anon		28 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting		29 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:00pm Fishing League		30 5:15pm AI-Anon		31 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry		1 5:30pm Worship with Holy Communion 6:30pm Saturday Evening Meal	
2 9:00am Worship at Memorial Park with Holy Communion 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion		3 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm AI-Anon		4 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY		5 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry		6 9:00am Quilting 5:15pm AI-Anon		7 Church Office Closes at Noon H.S. Mission Trip - Sioux Falls 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry		8 H.S. Mission Trip - Sioux Falls 5:30pm Worship	
9 H.S. Mission Trip - Sioux Falls 9:00am Worship at Memorial Park 10:30am Worship		10 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm AI-Anon		11 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:30pm Quilting Bible Study "The Word in Patchwork" 6:00pm Executive Committee 6:30pm Church Council Meeting		12 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 2:00pm Watertown Parkinson's Support Group		13 5:15pm AI-Anon 6:00pm Junction (for grades 1st to 4th) and Route 56 (for grades 5 to 6th)		14 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry		15 5:30pm Worship with Holy Communion	
16 9:00am Worship at Memorial Park with Holy Communion 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion		17 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm AI-Anon		18 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY		19 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry		20 9:00am Quilting 5:15pm AI-Anon		21 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 9:00am Quilting		22 5:30pm Worship	
23 9:00am Worship at Memorial Park 10:30am Worship		24 September Newsletter Deadline 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm AI-Anon		25 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting		26 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry		27 10:00am Book Club 5:15pm AI-Anon		28 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry		29 3:00pm Wedding - Brooke Sutton & Lance Reyelts	
30 9:00am Praise in the Park at Foundation Plaza		31 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 11:00am Preschool Open House for Upcoming Students 6:45pm AI-Anon		1 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting		2 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 5:30pm Church School Teacher Orientation		3 9:00am Quilting 5:15pm AI-Anon		4 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry		5 5:30pm Worship with Holy Communion 6:30pm Diamond Dinner (75+)	