

The Latest Word

“Making God Known Through Word and Deed.”



A Message from Pastor Dan Overbo

The 2026 Lenten season is approaching quickly, and this year, our series of worship services will focus on six of Jesus' profound "I am" statements.

Jesus refers to Himself as the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door of the Sheep, the Resurrection and the Life, and the True Vine. He aligns Himself with the divine name, "I AM." Jesus embodies I AM, the God who saves and liberates!

Join us for worship services on:

- **Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.**
- **Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**
- **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

During these worship services, we will celebrate the names that Jesus bestowed upon Himself, all starting with "I am." He connected Himself with the sacred name of God, the name given to Moses when God delivered His people from slavery. **He is I AM, the God who saves and sets us free!**

Join the LCOOR Team! Faith Formation Assistant



Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer is hiring a Faith Formation Assistant to join our ministry team. This is a meaningful opportunity for someone who has a heart for youth and a desire to help nurture the spiritual growth of children and teens within our congregation.

The Faith Formation Assistant plays an important role in supporting middle school and high school ministries, including weekly faith experiences, service opportunities, confirmation support, and special events throughout the year. **This is a part-time position of 15-20 hours per week.**

Job description and application are available on our website at www.lcoorwatertown.org, in the church office, or at the Welcome Center.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Dan in the church office.

Applications must be submitted by Thursday, March 5.

In this newsletter:

2026 Lenten Information

Financial News & Reports

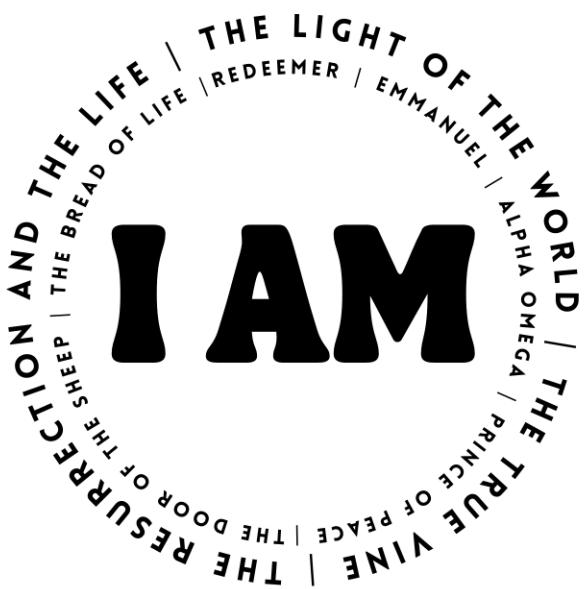
LCOOR News & Events

Faith Formation & Youth Updates

Preschool Happenings

February 2026 Calendar

2026 Lenten Information



Youth Music Team

Students in 9 to 12 grade are encouraged to join the Youth Music Team (YMT) to sing during worship throughout the Lenten season. YMT will meet **Wednesday, February 11** after the Wednesday church service to practice and pick songs for the upcoming services. The YMT will sing as follows:

February 11: Meet after Wednesday night service to select music and practice.

February 18: No Youth Music Team (Ash Wednesday)

February 25: Youth Music Team

March 4: Youth Music Team

March 11: Youth Music Team

March 18: No Youth Music Team (Spring Break)

March 25: Youth Music Team

Questions?? Contact Wendy Kruger in the church office.

Community Ecumenical Lenten Services

Host Church: Grace Lutheran Church, 202 2nd St SE, Watertown, SD

When: Wednesdays during Lent (excluding Ash Wednesday) at 12:05 p.m.

Meal: Light Lunch, \$5 suggested donation

Pastors from participating congregations will lead worship each week and offering collected during the weekly services will be donated to local community resources.

February 25: Hank Roso (Midwest Bible Camp)

March 4: Janet Miller (Grace Lutheran Church)

March 11: Captain Dennis Jolly (Salvation Army)

March 18: Pastor Dustin Bartlett (First Congregational United Church of Christ)

March 25: To Be Determined



Ash Wednesday at LCOOR

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer will offer two Ash Wednesday worship services on **Wednesday, February 18 at 12:15 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Both services will be traditional with imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

All are welcome to join us in the Great Hall following the 12:15 p.m. worship service for a soup luncheon.

Please note that there will be no Wednesday evening community meal, confirmation or church school on Wednesday, February 18.

Financial Reports & News

2025 Year-End Financial Overview

Faithful Stewardship - Strong Finish

2025 Budgeted Amount \$1,090.027.31

Income Received

\$1,039,584.20

Expenses for Ministry & Operations

\$1,022,561.34

Year-End Surplus

\$17,022.86

Income Exceeded expenses, allowing us to close the year with a positive balance.

Actual income and expenses both came in under the 2025 budget of \$1,090,027.31, reflecting careful planning and faithful stewardship.



Support Our Preschool While You Shop!

Purchase gift cards and **raise funds for our preschool**. We keep a variety of cards on hand, including Hy-Vee, Walmart, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Menards. Stop by the Welcome Center or visit the church office to see what's available.

Here's how it works: we buy gift cards at a discount and sell them to you at face value. When you use them for your regular shopping, the Preschool earns money—sometimes up to 20%! **It's an easy way to support our preschool ministry with shopping you're already doing!**



Mission Project for February: LWR Fabric Kits

We Need Your Help to Make Fabric Kits

Sewing is a life-changing skill that empowers men and women around the world to earn a reliable income. Lutheran World Relief Fabric Kits provide essential materials—quality fabric and thread—for vocational sewing programs and for newly trained tailors as they begin their small businesses.

LWR Fabric Kits are trusted globally for their quality and consistency. By following the assembly guidelines carefully, you help ensure that every kit is useful, fair, and ready to support someone's journey toward economic independence.

Your time and generosity truly make a difference. Thank you for helping us share God's love in such a tangible and practical way.

Fabric Kit Instructions can be picked up at the Welcome Center & church office or you can go to <https://lwr.org/kits/fabric-kits/instructions> for the instruction sheet.

Financial Reports & News



February Mission of the Month: LCOOR Preschool

In February, we lift up LCOOR Preschool as our Mission of the Month. This ministry nurtures young children through Christ-centered learning while welcoming families into our church community. You are invited to support this ministry through special gifts and our Noisy Can Offering, helping us continue sharing God's love with our youngest learners.



Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota

Spreading the Love Around. You might think that creating a charitable legacy means sacrificing your family's inheritance, but that doesn't have to be the case. The key might be paying less in taxes. With a little intentional planning, you can experience the joy of sharing your love with the people and the ministries you care about. Your life can make a difference! -- Kathy McHenry, Lutheran Planned Generosity of South Dakota, 605.274.5030 or lpgsd@sdsynod.org.



Thrivent Choice Dollars Received

- **\$1,371.00** – Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
- **\$20.00** – LCOOR Preschool

We are grateful to **Roberta Cossette, Curtis Dahl, Laura Overbo, Bob & Patsy Reiner, Allen Rude and Sandy Zubke** for directing their Thrivent Choice Dollars to support our church. Your generosity helps strengthen our shared ministry and make a difference in the lives we serve.



REMINDER

Have You Picked Up Your 2026 Offering Envelopes??

Do you have your 2026 offering envelopes? If not, please stop by the church office and collect them from our Business Manager, Jodi Spilde. Questions? Contact the church office at (605) 886-2696 or via email at office@lcoorwatertown.org.

Financial Reports & News

Timmerman Scholarships

Are you a member of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer and a graduate of Watertown High School? If you're entering your first or second year of education or technical training at a South Dakota state-supported institution, you may be eligible for the Timmerman Scholarship!

Each recipient will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to help with educational expenses.

Applications and more information are available:

- In the church office
- At the Welcome Center
- Online at lcoorwatertown.org under the RESOURCES tab

Deadline to Apply: March 31, 2026 - Don't miss this opportunity to support your education!



December Mission of the Month Report

In December, **\$1,018.11** was received through **Noisy Can and Special Offerings**. With these gifts and additional designated contributions, support was shared with two mission partners:

- **Brothers & Sisters Behind Bars:** \$1,509.06
- **St. Francis House:** \$1,506.05

Thank you for your faithful generosity and commitment to supporting these important ministries.



Mission & Endowment Committee Awards 2025 Grant Funding

The Mission & Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the distribution of this year's Endowment Fund Income grants. The committee received **10 applications** from a variety of ministries and programs seeking support for their work.

After thoughtful review, discussion, and prayerful consideration, the committee recommended funding for eight projects that reflect our congregation's mission of serving both our church family and the wider community. The following grants were approved:

- **Sandwich Ministry - \$2,000**
- **LCOOR Quilters - \$500**
- **LCOOR Prayer Shawl Ministry - \$425**
- **Sewing Day - \$1,000**
- **Family Fun Nights - \$750**
- **Worship & Music - \$500**
- **Hygiene Bags for 4th Grade Girls in Watertown Elementary Schools - \$500**
- **Kitchen/Funeral Committee - \$1,000**

In total, **\$6,675** in Endowment Fund grants will be shared with these ministries, helping them continue their meaningful and hands-on outreach. Funds were presented at the Annual Meeting.

We are grateful for the generosity that makes this annual distribution possible and for the ongoing ministry impact these grants support.

LCOOR News & Events



Special Event: Inspirational Speaker, Melanie A. Brown

We are thrilled to welcome Melanie A. Brown to Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer on **Thursday, February 26 at 6:00 PM for a 90 minute presentation.** Melanie is a dynamic, faith-based keynote speaker, author, and coach whose passion is empowering people to discover their God-given purpose. Melanie's own life story is a powerful testament to faith, resilience, and the transforming grace of God. Raised in the heartland of South Dakota, she has walked through heartbreak trials that challenged her faith in ways she never expected. **Tickets are available for \$5 in the church office.**

Circle Bible Study

Priscilla and Martha Circles will meet in February to discuss the Bible study in the Gather magazine. Copies of the study can be found at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

Martha Circle will meet at **2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 9**, in the Gathering Space.

Priscilla Circle will meet at **9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 11**, in the Gathering Space.

CAFÉ MURDER

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater



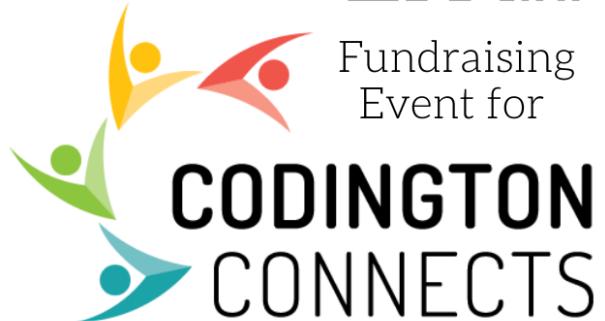
FEBRUARY 19-21

SEATING BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M.

2ND STREET STATION

INCLUDES A 3-COURSE DINNER

Scan QR code or
call Amber at
(605) 250-1156
for tickets.



LCOOR News & Events



Redeemer's Kitchen - February 15

No last-minute grocery runs, no staring into the fridge wondering "what should we make tonight?", and no cooking alone. Instead, you'll enjoy good conversation, shared work, and the satisfaction of knowing that busy nights ahead just got a whole lot easier. Come for the fellowship and leave with meals while giving yourself the gift of less stress and more time around the table with your loved ones.

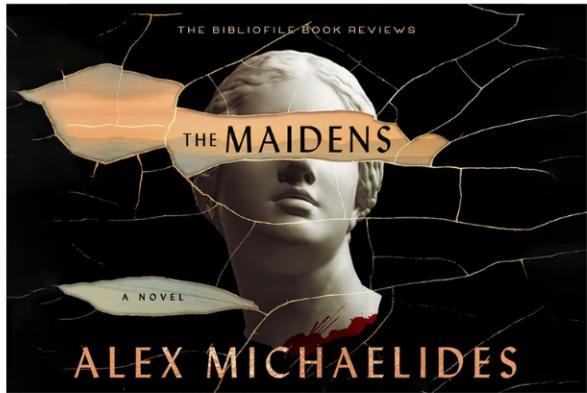
Redeemer's Kitchen will meet the 3rd Sunday of each month after the 9:30 a.m. worship to prep seven freezer meals. For the month of February, we will gather on **Sunday, February 15.**

February Menu:

- Chicken Fajitas
- Sweet Cashew Chicken w/ Rice
- Rainbow Beef
- Sausage & Sweet Potatoes
- Shrimp & Sausage Boil
- Greek Chicken w/ Rice
- Pork Tenderloin
- Funfetti 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.

The deadline to sign-up is February 12 at noon.



February Book Club

The LCOOR Book Club will meet on **Thursday, February 26 at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room.** The book for February is *The Maidens* by Alex Michaelides.



Family Fun Night - Thank YOU!

Thank you to all who joined us in January at the Prairie Lakes Ice Arena for ice skating!

A special thank you to Tim & Chris Chandler for their generous donation to help cover the cost of the event, and to everyone who contributed to our fundraiser that night.

We raised \$198 for the negative school lunch accounts in the Watertown school district.

LCOOR News & Events



OUR CONGREGATION IS PART OF SOMETHING BIG!

SD Synod's 2026 Holy Playground Cohort—

a year-long journey with other churches to strengthen intergenerational relationships and imagine new ways of being church together.

We are asking faithful, hope-filled questions:

What if children helped shape our faith life and worship—not just observe it?

What if curiosity was welcomed as holy?

What if every generation truly belonged?

In the months ahead, you may notice new conversations, small experiments, and invitations to share your ideas and stories.

This is a season of listening, dreaming, and discovering—together.

For more information on how to get involved, contact:

Holy Playground

Belong. Wonder. Worship. Together.

New Member Orientation

New Member Orientation will take place on **Sunday, March 1 immediately following 9:30 a.m. worship service.** We will meet in the church office conference room for about an hour to answer any questions, discuss ministries and volunteering opportunities, and take a tour of our beautiful facility.

We will officially welcome new members during worship on March 4, 7, & 8. **Questions?? Contact Karri Willhite in the church office.**



LCOOR Mobile Soup Kitchen

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer's Mobile Soup Kitchen ministry will continue in 2026 as we work to feed those in our community who may be experiencing food insecurity or just need a hot and free meal.

Cash donations or gift cards are greatly appreciated and will go directly toward purchasing ingredients, and other essential supplies. If you feel called to give, please consider purchasing your gift cards through RaiseRight, available from Jodi in the church office. When you donate this way, you support the soup kitchen and help benefit our church preschool at the same time.

In addition to financial support, we are looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please stop by the Welcome Center and add your name to the sign-up sheet.

Our coffee trailer will be parked in the Guest House parking lot (101 N Broadway, Watertown, SD 57201) **from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the following dates:**

- **February 8 and February 22**
- **March 8 and March 22**

LCOOR News & Events

SPRING MARKET

Spring Market: Craft Show and Vendor Fair - Saturday, May 9

Calling All Crafters, Vendors and Shoppers!

Join us for our Spring Market: Craft Show and Vendor Fair at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Watertown, SD on **Saturday, May 9 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 Spring 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, May 8 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 9 from 7:15 - 8:45 a.m.

Spots are limited, so be sure to sign up early!
Payment is due by Friday, May 1.

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

SPRING Festival

JOIN US FOR THE
**FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
SPRING CELEBRATION**

**Sunday
March 29th
10:30AM - 12:00PM**

Lutheran Church of
Our Redeemer
2001 2ND ST NW
WATERTOWN SD 57201

LCOOR Spring Festival - Sunday, March 29

All ages are invited to join us at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer on **Sunday, March 29 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** for our Spring Festival, Fruit of the Spirit Celebration!

After Easter, Jesus rose from the tomb with the promise of eternal life, ascended into heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts and guide us as his disciples. At the Spring Festival, we'll gather to learn about and celebrate the many ways the Holy Spirit helps us live out our faith.

Each of the nine gifts, called the Fruit of the Spirit, will be represented by a fun, hands-on activity station as we learn and grow together. We have a special surprise at the conclusion of our time together.

Faith Formation & Youth Updates

Church School & Confirmation Schedule Reminders

- **Church School** is Sunday at 8:45 a.m. and Wednesday at 5:45 p.m.
- **Confirmation** is Sunday at 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

There will be **no church school or confirmation on Sunday, February 15, and Wednesday February 18**, due to President's Day and Ash Wednesday. Class will resume the following week, Sunday, Feb. 22 and Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Upcoming Milestones

Looking ahead the **First Communion** class for second grade students will be held **Sunday, March 8 immediately following the 9:30 a.m. church service**. This is a class for students and parents to attend together. Students will receive their First Communion, **Sunday, April 12**.

The **three-year-old prayer pillow** milestone classes will be held **Wednesday, March 11 and Sunday, March 15**.

8th Grade Confirmation Students

Please call the church office to let us know which confirmation service you will be attending, Sunday, April 26 or Wednesday, April 29.



Luther League

Luther League is for 9th to 12th grade students. **We meet every Wednesday after Worship.** Please join us for a variety of bible study, treats, games, service projects and fellowship. **Luther League will meet at 5 p.m. on February 18 for another lesson on prayer beading.** Please let Wendy know if you are interested in joining us that day.



Junction Youth Group

Junction, a youth group for **1st-4th grade**, will be meeting on **Thursday, February 12, from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** We'd love to have your child join us for an evening filled with fun and faith. We'll share a Bible verse together, play games, make a simple craft, and enjoy snacks and fellowship. It's a great chance for kids to build friendships and grow in their faith in a relaxed, welcoming environment. Friends are always invited to join!



Route 56 Youth Group

Route 56, a youth group for **5th-6th grade**, will be meeting on **Thursday, February 19 from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** This will be a fun volleyball night in the Great Hall, so come ready to play! It's a great chance to grow in your faith while hang out with friends and meeting new ones.

LCOOR Preschool

WE STILL HAVE A FEW SPOTS OPEN!!

Our preschool offers a Monday-Thursday 8:30-11:30 Pre-Kindergarten (4/5 year old) program, which is open to anyone not just church members.

Our curriculum includes introducing letters and sounds, numbers, first/last names, shapes, and colors. We also socialize and play, listen to a lot of books, and sing songs along with many other learning activities. The students also learn about God's love, hear and learn stories and songs about Jesus.

You can find an enrollment form at the Welcome Center, the Preschool classroom, or online. We would love for your child to be part of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer Preschool!!

Any questions please call Miss Nikki or Miss Wendy at 886-2696 or email us at preschool@lcoorwatertown.org.

ENROLL
NOW

**PRESCHOOL
ENROLLMENT**

LCOOR PRESCHOOL

4 & 5 Year Old Program | Monday-Thursday | 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Our curriculum includes introducing letters and sounds, numbers, first/last names, shapes, and colors. We also socialize and play, listen to books, sing songs, and learn about God's love.

Enrollment forms are available at the Welcome Center, in the preschool classroom, or online at lcoorwatertown.org/preschool.

(605) 886-2696 | preschool@lcoorwatertown.org **QUESTIONS?**



Polar Bear Directed Drawings



FEBRUARY

February Calendar

February 12:
Valentine's Day Party

February 16:
No School (President's Day)

February 26:
Chapel



The Latest Word



February 2026



Deadline for the March 2026

Newsletter:

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Church Council

President Alan Stager

Vice President Matt Blackwelder

Secretary Kim Pearson

Treasurer Jessica Kruse

Jan Birkeland | Cindy Day | Scott Leitheiser

Bret McGillivary | Dana Stimson



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>

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

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30am Confirmation Workshop 8:45am Church School 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal	2 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm Al-Anon	3 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting	4 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 5:00pm Community Meal 5:30pm Confirmation Workshop 5:45pm Church School 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Luther League (9-12 Grade)	5 9:00am Quilting 5:15pm Al-Anon	6 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry	7 5:30pm Worship with Holy Communion 6:30pm Saturday Evening Meal
8 8:30am Confirmation Workshop 8:45am Church School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal 11:00am LCOOR Mobile Soup Kitchen	9 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 2:00pm Martha Circle 6:45pm Al-Anon	10 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting 4:00pm Befriender Meeting (Listening Hearts) 6:00pm Executive Committee 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	11 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 9:30am Priscilla Circle 2:00pm Watertown Parkinson's Support Group 5:00pm Community Meal 5:30pm Confirmation Workshop 5:45pm Church School 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Handbell Rehearsal (Great Hall) 7:15pm Youth Music Team (9-12 Grade)	12 5:15pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Junction Youth Group (1st - 4th Grade)	13 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry	14 5:30pm Worship
15 No Church School or Confirmation (Presidents' Day Break) 9:30am Worship with Holy Communion 10:30am Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Redeemer's Kitchen	16 Church Office Closed (Presidents' Day) No Preschool-Presidents' Day 6:45pm Al-Anon	17 10:00am Prayer Shawl Group 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting 2:00pm Quilting Bible Study "The Word in Patchwork"	18 No Church School or Confirmation (Ash Wednesday) Ash Wednesday No Community Meal 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 12:15pm Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion & Soup Luncheon to Follow 5:00pm Luther League (9-12 Grade) 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion 7:15pm Handbell Rehearsal	19 March Newsletter Deadline 9:00am Quilting 5:15pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Route 56 Youth Group (5th & 6th Graders)	20 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 9:00am Quilting	21 5:30pm Worship with Holy Communion
22 8:30am Confirmation Workshop 8:45am Church School 9:30am Worship 10:30am Praise & Rejoice Choir Rehearsal 11:00am LCOOR Mobile Soup Kitchen	23 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 6:45pm Al-Anon	24 9:00am Sewing Ministry Group 11:00am Area Pastor TEXT STUDY 1:00pm Staff Meeting	25 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry 5:00pm Community Meal 5:30pm Confirmation Workshop 5:45pm Church School 6:30pm Worship 7:15pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:15pm Luther League (9-12 Grade)	26 10:00am Book Club 11:00am Preschool Chapel 5:15pm Al-Anon 6:00pm Melanie Brown-Inspirational speaker	27 Church Office Closes at Noon 8:00am Watertown Sandwich Ministry	28 5:30pm Worship