



## Amazing Choir Coming To Pilgrim!

June 15, 2014 9:30 AM Service



ROCK (Rock On Christ Kares) Band is an inter-generational music ministry of Christus Victor Lutheran Church. They will be helping to lead our 9:30 AM worship service on Father's Day, June 15th. ROCK is comprised of singers from middle school, high school, young adults, parents, and older adults. The brain-child and leader of this musical ministry mayhem is Anne Nyquist, Director of Music at Christus Victor. In addition to singing at Pilgrim, ROCK Band will be serving and singing at Saint Luke Housing and Ravenswood Community Services Market Pantry that weekend.

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### Synod Assembly 2014

Many thanks to Clay Dickerson, Lindsay White, Anna-Kari Johnson, and Pastor Kristian as they represent Pilgrim at the upcoming Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly May 30 and 31st at the Tinley Park Convention Center. The Synod Assembly is a time of worship, spiritual renewal, networking, learning, and decision making as we strengthen the witness of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) throughout the Chicago region!



### Red Geraniums for Pentecost

Sunday, June 8 is Pentecost, and in keeping with Pilgrim tradition, the congregation is invited to bring red geraniums to decorate the altar. Why red? Red is the color for Pentecost Sunday. The geraniums will be planted in the church garden for all to enjoy over the summer. If anyone would like to volunteer to do the planting, please contact Chris Wallis. It's a great family project--geraniums are very forgiving!



### September 14, 2014 Pilgrimfest Block Party!

Are you ready to be a part of Pilgrim's fall celebration? Do you have some great ideas to make 2014's event better than ever? Please contact Shellie Riedle Volkens at [shellieriedle@yahoo.com](mailto:shellieriedle@yahoo.com) or 773•216•1623.



## Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center Family Camp June 29th to July 3rd

Attention Grandparents, Parents, Aunts, and Uncles... want to experience camp with your children? This is the week for you! There will be hiking, Bible Studies, games, swimming, campfires, and so much more. Pastors Johnson, their kids, and a collection of nieces and nephews will be attending! The Executive Director of LOMC, Russ Senti, is extending an AMAZING SPECIAL rate for Pilgrim families for the week. To register, please email [registrations@lomc.org](mailto:registrations@lomc.org) And don't forget to visit [www.lomc.org](http://www.lomc.org) for other summer program options!



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## Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS program, Gangway to Galilee, will take place the week of June 16-20, 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon. Kids ages 3 through 12 are eligible to participate. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#). You can register children to attend VBS and register as a volunteer at the site. We need adult, teen and 7-8th grade volunteers to help with our preparations, as well as to help during VBS. Last year's volunteers had a great time, so please consider signing up to help this year, even if you don't have kids! Questions? Contact Chris Wallis.



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**(Editor's Note:** Included in the May newsletter were 8th Grade Essays reflecting back on their Pilgrim School years and looking forward to high school. The Essays continue throughout this issue. Look for them and ENJOY!)

## Essay: Joseph Cardo

### 8th Grade, My Favorite Year

This was my favorite year because I had the best teacher ever. Mrs. Andreen pushes you in a friendly way and knows that you can be so much more. I am very happy because I got to spend the entire year with my best friends, most of whom I have known since PreK. I also had the wonderful experience of attending St. Bens and was able to meet the nicest person I have ever met, Mrs. D. This year was much more peaceful because I didn't have as much stress from high schools. I was also much safer this year under the "amazing" watch of Malia, Myles, Mattie and Alyssa who kept me safe from stepping on the grass. Although I am sad to see all of my friends leave as I graduate, I know that the Pilgrim spirit will stay with me and the morals and lessons I learned will help guide me through my christian faith.

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## Hansel & Gretel

**Thank You** to our school Chorus Director, Dr. Jennifer D'Agostino and members of the Chicago Opera Playhouse for inviting our students to perform with them in a shortened adaptation of Engelbert Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel" on Friday, May 2nd at Pilgrim. Dr. D'Agostino played the role of Hansel and Pilgrim students were the Gingerbread Chorus.



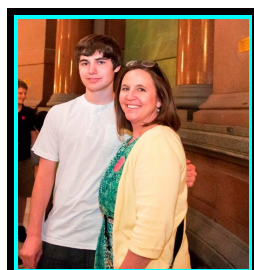


**May 13th was Lutheran Day in Springfield** and Pilgrim's 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students joined members of the congregation on an exciting trip to Springfield.



Highlights of the day included but were not limited to:

Lisa Madigan, Illinois Attorney General, pointed out seats she and President Obama used when they were both state senators. Pastor Anna-Kari presented a letter of appreciation and a promise to pray for our Attorney General, Lisa Madigan, as she received Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School delegation into her Springfield office. Pastor Kristian sharing a letter of appreciation Michael Madigan and a promise to pray for the Illinois Speaker of the House. Both Madigans showed our group amazing hospitality. Bringing our music to the Capitol. At the museum, measuring up to Lincoln's family.



### Looking Back, Moving Forward

Graduation is simultaneously a time to look forward and a time to look back because I am leaving a place I called home for most of my life, but I am venturing to a bigger and new environment. Pilgrim is where I made my first friend, read my first book, solved my first math problem. I think of Pilgrim as a river, and I'm about to enter the open waters of the ocean. Leaving such a familiar environment has spurred my mind to think about the rest of my life. I will be walking down massive hallways with hundreds of people I couldn't name. Having to make my own life decisions in an unfamiliar building and getting to know my surroundings. Pilgrim Lutheran has been a place of safety for me since the early age of three. I've memorized every voice, face, and laugh of my classmates, I grew up with them. I can name every teacher, and I've had a connection with every single one of them. It's a rare situation for the student to genuinely feel the love and care from the teacher. That's what I'll miss most about this place, that connection. Now I have to take the next step. I have to think about every decision I make, every person I choose to trust or associate with, and how it will affect the people I love. But leaving Pilgrim, I can't help but get the feeling that my childhood is ending, and I can't help but feel sad about that. I can't help feeling a little scared that I'll make the wrong decision. But I know I will be okay. Everything will be okay. I know that Pilgrim Lutheran has provided the tools I need to be better than okay. I know that if I didn't have the proper tools, I wouldn't be writing this right now. So I say farewell to my little fish in my little pond, and hello to the big blue.

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#### Prayer Ministry



*Join us Saturdays at 8:30 AM for our weekly prayer time. It is such a wonderful way to spend a morning!*

*We meet at the Parsonage, 4332 North Winchester Avenue.*

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**Come to El Salvador Mission Trip, July 31st – August 10th 2014.**

This trip is open to all people. ALL AGES WELCOME, no Spanish knowledge required. Please grab a brochure on the back table at Pilgrim for next steps!

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#### Food for the Hungry



Pilgrim accepts grocery donations for the Friendship Center and Common Food Pantries. Please bring nonperishable food and leave

it at the top of the stairs near the entrance of the church.

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#### Looking for Rides to Church



We are looking for people who would be willing and able, on occasion, to give a ride to someone who needs help

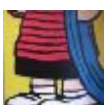
getting to church for Sunday worship and home again afterward. If you have not already done so, please let Barbara Anthony, in the church office, know if your name can be added to a list of volunteer drivers, and also let us know if your vehicle is accessible to people who may have limited mobility. Thank you in advance!



# Project Linus/Thrivent Join Hands Day

(Christine Wallis)

Did you know that for the past six years, Pilgrim has hosted the Thrivent-sponsored **Project Linus Blanket Day** for the North Cook County chapter? This year, over 100 volunteers made 111 fleece and 39 flannel blankets, the latter featuring artwork by kids (and a few adults). This brings our total for the six years to 893 blankets provided to children who are ill, affected by fire or other disasters, or otherwise in crisis. Most of the blankets produced this year have already been given out. Our thanks to Thrivent for the grant that buys the materials and the tasty lunch, as well as to all our volunteers, especially all the Pilgrim students and families who helped draw, knot fringe, crochet edges, cut and sew. If you missed it, not to worry—we'll be back next year, so mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 2nd, 2015 for our next Join Hands Day! Project Linus is a national charity and if you don't want to wait that long to help, visit their website to see what you can do.



*Dear Pastor Kristian and the members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School,*

*Your congregation has generously hosted Thrivent Blanket Day for Project Linus for the last seven years. Thank you! Because you care, we have made 893 blankets for children in need of comfort since we began. This year alone, we completed a total of 160 blankets. There were 87 people at the event this year, and an additional 47 who helped out before and after the event, totaling 134 volunteers. Thank you for touching 294 lives by supporting this event. Thank you so much Pastor Kristian, for your beautiful words and prayer at the event. It is so important to lift up that everyone at the event is doing God's work with their hands, and you conveyed that beautifully.*

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

*Janet Fisher*

### **Essay: Miles Hayward**

#### **Why this year is a great year**

This year was good because there were a lot of changes. Change can be bad or good, and there were a lot of good changes this year. I like that our class got separated and now we have a smaller close knit classroom. This is an example of a good change. Mr. Comella coming was a big change as well. The boys basketball season was very successful. We consistently got second place in our tournaments and won the majority of our games. I personally won 1st place in the first three-point contest and 2nd place in the second three-point and free-throw contest. This year was also the first year of boys volleyball. At first we were not very good but, in the end, we got 2nd place in our last tournament. We had to go through applying for and choosing our high schools which was stressful to say the least, but in the end I am happy where I ended up. These are just some of the reasons why this was a good year.

### **Essay: Nick Grott**

#### **My Favorite Year at Pilgrim**

This has been my favorite year at Pilgrim because of how my attitude has been towards school this year. I've looked at school in a more positive way than ever because of the amount of stress I have had this year compared to others. My teachers are also a big part of this since they have been helpful and supportive all the time and have been a great inspiration to me. My classmates have also been very important to me this year. They are almost always caring, friendly and will help me in every situation that arises.

Another awesome part of this year was our class size, small and only eighth graders. I feel that this has provided a better learning environment and a closer classroom. This year has been an awesome experience and a year that will never be forgotten.



# Celebrate Family

A Benefit to support the ministry of  
**Ethiopian Pastor Lalissa Gemechis**

Wednesday, June 25th, 6:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

Lalibela Ethiopian Restaurant

5631 N. Ashland Avenue

Chicago, IL 60660

<http://chicagoethiopianrestaurant1.com/>

Suggested Donation: \$25 a person

In addition to the suggested donation, there will be a Silent Auction.

There will be Ethiopian food served and this event is BYOB.



## Who is Pastor Lalissa Gemechis?

Pastor Gemechis is about to become a lead Pastor in one of the fastest growing churches in the World, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (<http://eecmy.org/>) (meaning "the Dwelling Place of Jesus"). They have grown in membership from 22,000 to 6.2 million over the past 50 years. In order to prepare for this role, he has secured a scholarship to pursue a PhD in Missiology at Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Why does he need our prayers and financial support?

Unfortunately, the scholarship he received does not include funding for his wife and his two small children Homey (age 7) and Wada (age 4) to join him in Indiana. They are struggling in every way to make it as a family. We believe God has given us an opportunity to fulfill the great command "to love our neighbor as ourselves" and allow someone committed to holiness in the church to be a whole person as a father and husband these next three years.

To give online, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/o3bdqbg> and enter the amount you'd like to donate next to the "other" box, and type in "Lalissa" in the "other" box.

We hope you can join us! Please RSVP to the church office.



## Raising Fund\$

(Anne Barsano)

**"June is busting out all over"** and so is your garden with flowers and/or weeds needing your "tender" care. Pick up Lowe's, Menards and Home Depot gift cards to use when you purchase your plants, sprays and fertilizers.




June is also the time for weddings, graduations, and Father's Day and we carry the cards for the perfect gifts: Amazon, Bed, Bath and Beyond, Crate & Barrel, Pier One and many others. We will be selling Sunday, Monday and Friday the first week in June and then only on Sunday and Monday until school starts. Please feel free to contact Anne Barsano with your order at [cbarsano@aol.com](mailto:cbarsano@aol.com) or 773•472•6037 if you can't make it in those days.



Remember to renew your magazine subscriptions at [www.gaschoolstore.com](http://www.gaschoolstore.com) (Account #: 2633014) over the summer, unless you want to wait for our Magazine Drive to start in September.



 **MARKET DAY** over for the school year. Thank you to those families who purchased religiously (npi) throughout the year. Your support was much appreciated. Since 1989, Pilgrim has raised over \$50,000 in profits on Market Day sales of over \$500,000. Have a wonderful summer and we will see all of you in September at Market Day, September 11th!



Do you order on the Internet? Check out [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com).



### Essay: Alyssa Brandon

#### This Was My Favorite Year Because....

This year was my favorite year because I got to spend a lot of time with my friends. Although my class can get annoying, I still love them! We've spent so much time together, that I feel like we are family. These have been the best six years of my life. This has also been the best year because we got both Mrs. Fanning and Mrs. Andreen as our teachers. Although I am excited to go to high school, I will miss this class so much. This year we got our own classroom, which was nice to have. We also got to go to out for lunch every quarter, thanks to our awesome teacher, Mrs. Andreen. This has been such a good year and I am sad that it is almost over. It will be hard to let go of some of our friends, but we will see each other. Some important highlights this year was going to Springfield for State, spending time with my friends, going to Wells, and getting ready for high school. Graduation is a good time to reflect about the year, I have had a great year and I'm so excited for high school. I think this year has been stressful for all of us. With all the decisions we have had to make like applying for high school, I think we have all grown up and become more independent. Over all, this has been my favorite year at Pilgrim.

**Deadline for the combined July/August newsletter items is June 15th.  
Send to [jmvalencia@comcast.net](mailto:jmvalencia@comcast.net) or put in my church mailbox.**

## **Essay: Mac Doherty**

### **Fear and Funny Memories**

Thinking about graduation is scary. Bringing up all the scary thoughts of the future, and the funny memories of the past. Thinking about all the stupid things I've managed to do! One particular memory comes to mind when thinking about stupid things I've done. One day, in the third grade, I found a rubber band, and you know that a rubber band to a kid is like pure gold. It was a Wednesday morning so we had chapel, I brought the rubber band into the chapel and played with it, and flexed it. I decided to put the rubber band around the side of the church pew and make it super tight. After about five minutes I wanted to play with it again, so I took it off the pew but, before I could grab it, it launched across the chapel and lightly grazed the side of Mrs. Fanning's ear. I then just sat there, not daring to move, hoping no one would figure out it was me. After chapel I was called into the preschool room. Mrs. Fanning was there and Mrs. D made me apologize. I said I was sorry and then I was waiting for the punishment. But, Mrs. Fanning just said "Okay." I was so confused for the rest of the day on how I didn't get in trouble. So, thinking about graduation makes me think of all the funny things I have accomplished.

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### **May Dining Review**

*(Julie Lea)*



On an ideal Sunday evening in May the group of a baker's dozen enjoyed Colombian food at Las Tablas at the Irving Park location. The large dining area had Colombian artifacts of huge jugs and gold masks lining the walls. They are known for their grilled skirt steaks, also fried yucca, sweet plantains and potatoes, which are usually served with the entrees. Sauces are served on the side, one mild, one hot. Five combination dinners consisting of skirt steak, grilled chicken breast, pork loin, calamari, octopus and shrimp were order and shared for two. Appetizers, which are large, can easily serve as an entrée. The very tasty, flavorful food was enjoyed by all. The service was good and they have entertainment on the weekends. Prices are moderately expensive and Las Tablas would be good for a festive special occasion.

**Brunch will be served Sunday, June 22nd, 11:30 AM at Misericordia, 6300 North Ridge in Chicago.**



## Essay: Miles Friedman

### The Greatest Year of All

This was my favorite year at Pilgrim throughout my whole time at this school. First off, everything has gone great for me this year. I got into the high school of my choice, got to relax a bit more than any of the other years and was able to just have fun. One big thing that happened this year is that the 8th graders got their own classroom! It was really fun and exciting and was definitely one of my favorite things about this year. Second off, we had one of the best teachers to help guide us through eighth grade, Mrs. Andreen. She was just an amazing teacher that helped all of the eighth graders reach their full potential and become something greater than just a bunch of teenagers. Last of all, I got to spend my final year at Pilgrim with my friends, which just made my 8th grade year the greatest year of all!

## Essay: Maria Andrikopoulos

### Why This Was My Favorite Year

I think this year was my favorite because it's my 8th grade year. This is the time when we look back at all of our memories of Pilgrim, and take a step towards high school. It's sad because everyone is leaving. I think that will be the hardest part about leaving Pilgrim, since I've been with this class for eight years. I think everyone is more happy than they are sad. High school is an exciting change, that gives everyone a fresh start, although, I will miss Pilgrim, my friends and classmates, and all the memories. I think the highlight of this year was when the volleyball team went to Springfield. It was so much fun, because all my friends were there, and we had a great time playing volleyball.

I'm really excited about graduation, even though it's the last time we'll all be together. We have all had our fights at Pilgrim. There were times when we were mad at each other, but at the end of the year, I think everyone realizes how important the friends we've made at Pilgrim really are. Even though I'll be going to high school soon, I don't think I'll ever forget all the friends and memories I made at Pilgrim.

## Essay: Matthew Jones

### My Favorite Year, 8th Grade

Eighth grade was my favorite year. I liked it because it was not as stressful as seventh grade. I like our new learning system better. I think there is a little more freedom than last year. The only thing we did in Science last year was take notes and I feel like I didn't learn enough. Some subjects like math are basically the same. But others like E.L.A. are very fun and it is very easy to learn and study. I am glad that this year was not boring. I would want some things on certain days changed. Such as on Tuesdays, there is too much science. When there is too much of one class it gets very boring. I find it that when classes are shorter I learn more. For the rest of this year I want to keep my grades up and finish strong.



## Pilgrim Groups And Committees

**CHURCH COUNCIL** Oversees the business of the church, but delegates committee work to the committees. They meet the last Tuesday of the month in the School Library at 7:30 PM. Council positions are elected, but anyone interested is encouraged to attend. Contact **Greg Otsuka** at 944-5648 or [gregoryotsuka@gmail.com](mailto:gregoryotsuka@gmail.com) for info.

**DINING GROUP** A group for all ages which dines out once a month, usually on the 3rd Sunday, and patronizes restaurants with varied ethnic cuisines. We would love to have you join us!! Contact **Julie Lea** 764-3140.

**GIRL SCOUTS** Pilgrim Church is the home of four troops of Girl Scouts: Cadettes, Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Seniors, and Ambassadors. Contact **Judy Daniel** 588-2101.

**HOT MEALS** Successful outreach program working in teams to prepare and serve Saturday noon meals for area homeless. Each team commits to a three-hour shift (10 AM-1 PM) about four times a year. Interested in helping? Contact **Janet Taylor** 777-4052 or [jkstay@aol.com](mailto:jkstay@aol.com).

**MOMS IN TOUCH** Part of an international organization. All Pilgrim School mothers are invited to join us in the church parlor on Wednesdays, 9-10:30 AM, to pray for our children and school (childcare provided). Contact **Cathy Basler** 509-0988.

**PARISH LIFE BOARD** This group meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 7:30 PM, and is responsible for most of the hospitality, assimilation and outreach activities and projects that go on within the church. If you are interested in joining, please talk to **Anne Barsano, Shellie Volkens, Jim Volkens, Emily Haite, or Gloria Schwarz.**

**PROPERTIES COMMITTEE** Oversees the property of the congregation and coordinates its repair and general upkeep, including church, school, teacherages and parsonage. They meet the first Sunday of the month in the School Office at 9:30 AM (8:30 in the summer). For more information, contact **Ellen Twohig** 244-2944 or [twobe2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:twobe2@sbcglobal.net)

**PTL** The Parent Teacher League is a very active organization that supports the staff and families of Pilgrim Lutheran School. The PTL hosts many events for the families and staff through the year. Contact PTL President, **Bob Knapp** 612-3563 or [rkimages@me.com](mailto:rkimages@me.com).

**QUILTERS** The group welcomes anyone interested in fellowship and quilting (or other needlecraft). Gatherings are informal and do not adhere to a set schedule. For dates and locations of meetings, please contact **Gail Mendiola** 725-8028 or **Chris Wallis** 561-5419.

**SCHOOL BOARD** Oversees our Christian education programs, including Preschool, K-8, Before School Program, After-School Program (PAS) and sports programs, as well as other programs helpful for youth. Board positions and committees are elected, but anyone interested is encouraged to attend. They meet the third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM in the school Library. For more information, contact **Nancy Liljedahl** 271-9290.

**T.O.P.S.** (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets every Thursday from 6:30-8:00 PM in the church annex. Please join us for a friendly support program with helpful hints and discussions of current information regarding personal health. Contacts: **Millie Ostrander** 281-5762 or **Anne Barsano** 472-6037.

**WOMAN'S SOCIETY** An organization of women that meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12:30 PM. All women are invited to join this group for fellowship and fund raising activities.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE** Plans and creates meaningful worship for the needs of the congregation. They coordinate the activities of the choirs, ushers, acolytes, Altar Guild, organist, worship and communion assistants. They are also responsible for the creation, purchase and display of seasonal decorations in the church. They meet as necessary after the late church service in the Parlor. For more information, contact **Chris Wallis** 561-5419 or [cewallis1949@yahoo.com](mailto:cewallis1949@yahoo.com).



## Coffee Hour Teams

**JUNE** (After the 9:30 AM Service)

- 01** The Otsukas; The Williams
- 08** J Daniel; C Nigh
- 15** V Carlson; J Bodine
- 22** N Liljedahl; B Biery
- 29** S Lau; K Ruger



# Pilgrim Lutheran Church

## June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 2:30 pm - 8:00 pm Girl Scouts end-of- year celebration	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:50 am Moms in Prayer @ Parlor 10:10 am School Chapel @ Sanctuary	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 am - 10:15 am Sports Awards 6:30 pm Graduation	<b>7</b> 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time @ Parsonage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #4 @ Maring Hall
<b>8</b> Pentecost Sunday Pentecost Sunday	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 am - 10:15 am Academic Awards Assembly	<b>11</b> 9:00 am - 10:00 am Final Chapel 7:00 pm - 9:00 am VBS Volunteer Meeting	<b>12</b> 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Market Day pick-up @ Maring Hall 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Flag Day 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time @ Parsonage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #5 @ Maring Hall
<b>15</b> Father's Day Trinity Sunday	<b>16</b> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	<b>17</b> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	<b>18</b> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	<b>19</b> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	<b>20</b> 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Vacation Bible School	<b>21</b> 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time @ Parsonage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #6 @ Maring Hall
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 pm T.O.P.S. @ Annex	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:30 am - 9:30 am Prayer Time @ Parsonage 11:30 am - 1:00 pm Hot Meal Team #7 @ Maring Hall
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>					

Legend:

Church public event

School public event